

CHAPTER 09

1950 – 1959

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*** ALVARADO'S LAST DECADE ***

As the decade of the 1950's started, it had only been five years since the end of WWII. But there was still a "hoarding" mentality among the American people. Most Alvaradan's still considered themselves as "children" of the Great Depression, and as such, could still recall the hardships of the past. The great depression had taught Americans how to deal with shortages by using what they had wisely. Food, the most important commodity was not wasted, and people made ample use of "left-overs." Modern refrigeration changed this, one of the many new appliances that were not available, in quantity, before the war.

When the U.S. became involved in World War II, those who were not serving on the front lines had ample opportunities for employment, and became used to hearing the sound of money jingling in their jeans. They now had half of what many had been lacking during the depression...money. But there was still the other half of what was missing during World War II...consumer goods. Goods were not readily available, even if you had cash during World War II. Rationing for the front was the first priority. This made consumer goods very scarce.

When the war ended in 1945, there was not a sudden flush of consumer goods into the American marketplace. It was not like a tap that you could just open and consumer goods came gushing out. The pace picked up slowly, and the shelves were not flush with goods as they are today.

But recover we did, and by the beginning of the 1950's the momentum started building into the great society that is the United States today. Those who remembered the depression instilled into their first generation the thrift and conservatism taught by hard times.

Then there came on the scene a new breed of American, those back from the war who came back to marry (or were already married), and to start families. The children born after the war were known as "baby boomers," and they enjoyed a lifestyle unseen in the U.S. prior to the 1950's.

The children of the 1950's and 1960's enjoyed the prosperity of their parents, and upon many of them was lavished an ever increasing amount of consumer goods. This was the new affluent America, with the parents buying or building homes, new automobiles began to appear in driveways, teenagers wore the latest trends in clothes, and listened to 45 RPM records on their own Hi-Fi (Hi Fi stood for High Fidelity, which simply meant there were two speakers pumping out identical sounds...monophonic music).

This great explosion of pent up demand for goods would lead to a massive increase in the American economy and something called "inflation." It became the scourge of those people whose earning power was relatively flat, as prices seemed to increase every month. I recall my mother complaining in the mid 1950's that she could barely buy a week's grocery with a twenty-dollar bill for our family of five.

So this was Alvarado as we entered the 1950's.

Unfortunately I do not have census records for Alvarado for the year 1950, as NARA will not release these records until April 2022.

* **CORPORATE BUSINESSES** *

Sugar Mill / Campbell Chain / Pacific Telephone

SUGAR MILL:

John Ratekin, Superintendent of the Holly Sugar plant in Alvarado, told the people of Alvarado that there was no reason to hoard sugar, that this season's output (1950) would be double that of 1949. Indeed, by December 1950, the sugar mill at Alvarado had nearly a quarter million 100-pound sacks of sugar on hand. This was in addition to the dry and liquid sugar that they were furnishing canners and other food processors.

The Holly plant was not only producing sugar, but also "T-bones" as well. The plant's corrals were fattening about 2,000 head of 2 year-old Hereford steers for the beef market, and were also delivering to sugar beet growers tons of fertilizer from the corrals. These products were largely bartered to ranchers for straw for bedding the cattle.

Holly's 1950 output was expected to be the largest on record. Its five California plants alone would process over 900,000 tons of sugar beets. The Alvarado plant

with 300 employees began its season August 27, and continued until the middle of December. Alameda County had a total of 5,000 acres in sugar beets, with Washington Township accounting for 3,588 acres.

John Ratekin, Superintendent of the Holly Sugar Mill in Alvarado, said of the Alvarado sugar mill in 1954: "It is certainly not the smallest, but then it's not the biggest either." According to Ratekin, the Alvarado sugar mill produces 600,000 bags of sugar in a normal season. The sugar beets come from as far south as Coyote (between San Jose & Morgan Hill), but the principal supplies are harvested in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys, and in the Stockton area. The mill operates some farms, but depends primarily on purchasing its raw products.

At the beginning of 1955, the Treeview Annex was announced by the City of Hayward. The City of Hayward proposed to annex some 2,400 acres of prime Washington Township land in Decoto and Alvarado. The annex would stretch from the El Rancho Verde tract east of Mission Boulevard to nearly the little town of Baumberg on the west. (Baumberg is a town located between Mt. Eden and Alvarado near the Bay.)

Factories that would be taken in by the annex included the U.S. Pipe & Steel Foundry on Whipple Road, the American Pipe & Construction Company at the bend of Alquire Road (today's Industrial Blvd.), and the Holly Sugar Mill on Alquire Road.

Holly Sugar and the U.S. Pipe plant vigorously fought the Hayward takeover. Holly Sugar went as far as putting their legal staff to work for the Union City Incorporation. U.S. Pipe and Holly Sugar did not want any part of a large residential area in charge of their zoning, and their future environmental impact on the larger cities.

The fight would drag on for four years. American Pipe, which favored the Hayward annex, was ceded to the City of Hayward along with Hillview Crest and part of Fairway Park and El Rancho Verde housing tracts. American Pipe would later move to Tracy, CA.

U.S. Pipe was initially annexed into Hayward in the Treeview land grab by Hayward. But as with most of the land north of Whipple Road, it resided in Washington Township, and the City of Hayward was located in Eden Township. But U.S. Pipe so vigorously condemned the Hayward take-over that if you look at the Union City/Hayward City boundaries today, you will notice that U.S. Pipe has a curious wedge shape around it so that it would remain in Union City.

Hayward also gave up on trying to get the sugar mill in their territory. When Hayward re-filed their Treeview Annex, it had ceded U.S. Pipe and the sugar mill to the future city of Union City.

The final big change for the sugar mill in the 50's was the threat of a general strike at the sugar mill. Begun on April 26, 1957, the sugar beet workers went on "round the clock" picketing outside of the sugar mill as a result of a breakdown in negotiations. Sixty-two members of the AFL-CIO Sugar Refinery Worker's, Local 20630 began striking at 5:00 a.m., as the walkout of the state's sugar industry spread to seven of California's eleven processing plants.

The union sought a shorter workweek and a ten to twelve per cent hourly wage hike. The current schedule ran \$1.59 to \$2.28 an hour. The company offered pay increases of 4.5¢ to 9¢ an hour for off-season workers, and a 44-hour straight timework week this fall reduced to 40 hours in 1958.

On May 3, 1957, a picket force of about 40 men, which included several Niles steelworkers, turned out at the main gate of the strike-bound Holly Sugar Plant at Alvarado. Union officials asserted the increased activity was due to two incidents alleged to have happened recently. They charged that office workers from the Alvarado plant had been cleaning and loading tank cars with syrup instead of doing their regular jobs. The other incident involved a truck and trailer.

On May 10, a temporary restraining order was imposed in Alameda County Superior Court against mass picketing at the Holly Sugar Corp. refinery in Alvarado. Officers of the United Sugar Workers of California were ordered to appear in court on May 17, to show why this injunction should not be made permanent.

On May 17, 1957, an unfair labor practices complaint was filed with the National Labor Relations Board against the Teamsters and sugar workers unions. The companies charged that the unions were violating the secondary boycott provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act. One complaint named Oakland's Local 70 of the Teamsters Union, and C. Stulting, its former president and business agent. Stulting is accused of inducing members of his union not to handle the company's sugar at the Haslett Warehouse Terminal in Oakland.

On May 22, members of local 20630, employed at the sugar mill in Alvarado cast ballots. They were among the 1,200 workers on strike against 10 California beet sugar refineries and voted "by a substantial margin" to reject a new employer offer. The union spokesman added that the next step would be to extend to a consumer boycott.

On May 23, the latest company offers provided wage increases ranging from two to seven cents an hour in each of the two years of the contract, and overtime pay for work over 44 hours weekly this year, and 40 hours next year.

On May 27, 1957, sugar beet workers went back to work at the sugar mill in Alvarado. The two-year agreement called for hourly wage raises from 2¢ to 10¢ during each of the next two years. Overtime would be paid after 44 hours weekly during seasonal operations this year, and after 40 hours next year. The 48-hour workweek will remain in effect during seasonal operations.

But times were changing rapidly in quiet little Alvarado. The sanitation system was in the process of being upgraded, and readied to handle homes and industry and the flood control channel was almost complete.

Land for growing sugar beets in Washington Township began to quickly disappear. It was only a matter of time before the only sugar beets available would be from outside the township area. The sugar mill was marking time, and time ran out in 1968.

Here is the story of the Alvarado Sugar Mill's last superintendent from *The Daily Review*, September 12, 1968:

"Fifty years in the sugar making business will end for Louis R. Garcia, factory manager of the Holly Sugar Corporation's Alvarado factory when he retires September 30, 1968.

His career started August 15, 1918, when he was 14 years old, with the Alameda Sugar Company in Alvarado, site of the first commercially successful beet sugar plant in the United States.

Garcia's first job was carrying samples to the chemical control laboratory in the factory. He was then promoted to measuring the input of the factory of raw juices extracted from sugar beets by diffusion.

In 1925, the plant was closed because of a lack of sugar beets, and everyone was laid off. Holly Sugar Corp. purchased the factory in 1926 and reopened it in 1927.

When all California beet sugar plants went on eight-hour shifts in 1938, Garcia was made foreman of what is called the "beet-end" of the factory, to differentiate it from the "sugar-end" where the final consumer product emerges.

In 1935, when the Alvarado factory started a reconstruction program, Garcia was placed in charge of the pipe-work, and this program lasted three years.

In 1943 the factory was again shut down for lack of sugar beets. As a result Garcia was sent to Grand Junction, CO. to help tear down machinery from that plant for transfer to Tracy, where it was used in the erection of a Steffens waste plant.

In 1944, Garcia was made foreman of the "sugar-end" of the Tracy factory, and the following year he was promoted to Ass't Superintendent of the Alvarado factory. He stayed at Alvarado from February 1945 to 1954, when he was made Superintendent of Holly's Hamilton City, CA. factory.

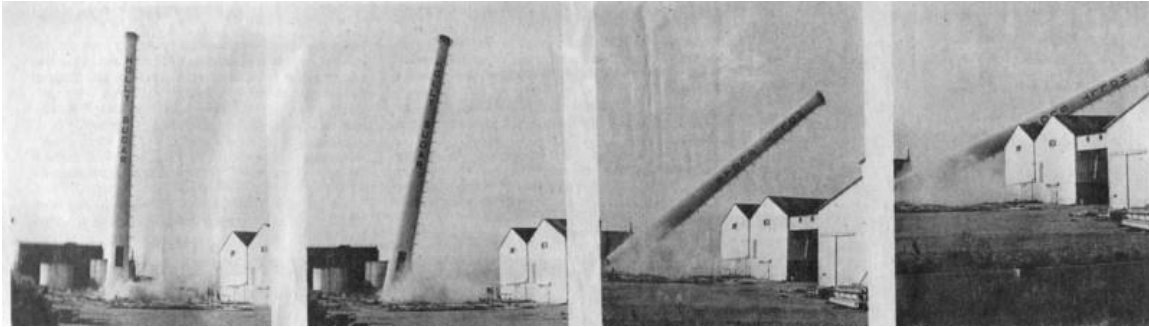
He returned to Alvarado as factory manager in February 1957, and has been in charge of dismantling much of the equipment for transfer to other Holly plants this year following the decision to close the factory.

The lack of sugar beets in the area, coupled with the rapid urbanization of former farmlands forced Holly to permanently shut down the operation of the factory last January.

A son, Louis Garcia Jr. is carrying on the family name in the industry. He is acting assistant factory manager at Holly's giant Carlton plant in California's Imperial Valley.

Garcia senior was born in Granada, Spain, September 26, 1903, and attended grammar school in San Lorenzo, and high school in Fremont. He is active in the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and Knights of Columbus. He and his wife, Hortense, live at 548 Garin Avenue, Hayward. Following his retirement they will reside at 2300 Sherman Drive, Union City, CA."

Holly Sugar's smokestack, which had stood in Alvarado since 1936, was dynamited and demolished on January 31, 1977 at exactly 3:00 pm. The 204-foot tall smokestack, which had been a landmark in Alvarado, and a reference point for pilots coming into the Oakland Airport for over 40-years, came crashing to the ground in almost a single piece.

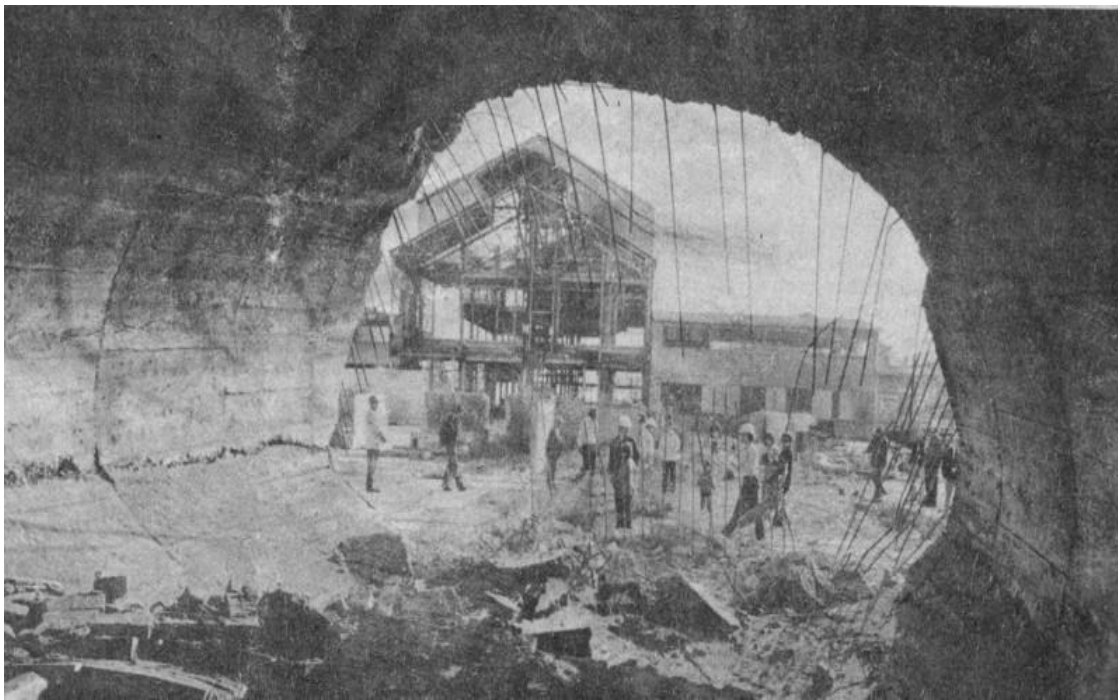


GOING

GOING

GOING

GONE!

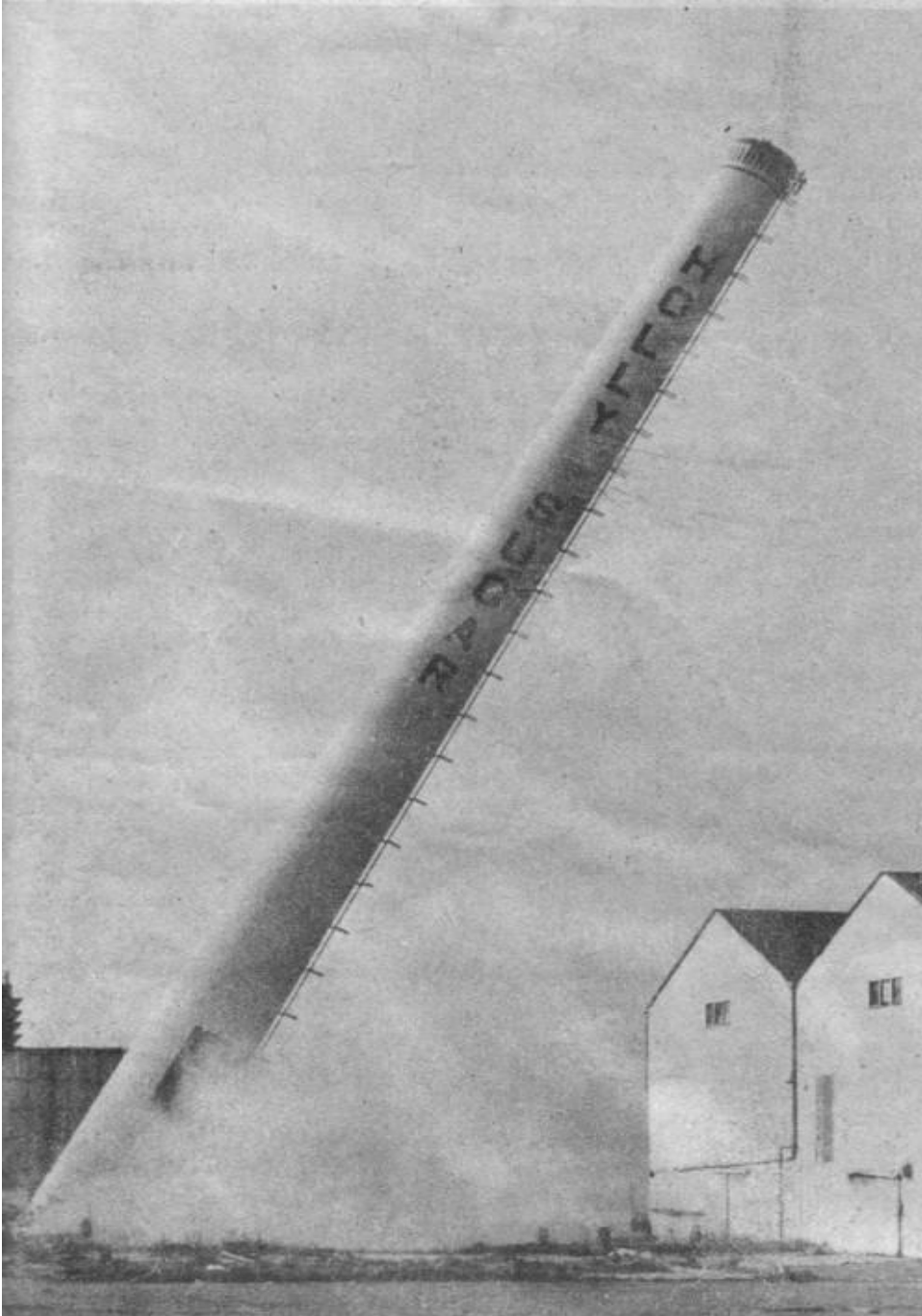


A view from inside the smokestack looking at the skeleton of the old mill...

Some 50 persons were within the gates of the 42-acre Holly Sugar Plant on Dyer Street near Whipple Road. Hundreds of other people were lined up to watch the demolition from Smith Street, Alvarado Niles Road, and Dyer Street.

By 3:20 pm souvenir hunters were pressing close trying to get remembrances to something they could not fathom, Alvarado without the Holly Sugar smokestack.

The explosion was not as loud as most onlookers had expected, and the stack stood upright for a moment or two after the detonation before it began toppling. From the time it began its fall until the time it hit the ground $4\frac{2}{3}$ seconds elapsed,



The demise of the smokestack in the hazy cool afternoon literally ended a major segment of Alvarado history. The site where the smokestack was located was once the site of the first commercially successful sugar mill in the U.S. The original plant was built in 1870.

Holly Sugar had operated this plant since 1926. The refinery, smokestack, brick office building, and warehouses were added when the plant was rebuilt and modernized in the 1930's.

Holly Sugar announced in 1968 it would phase out operations in Alvarado and move processing to its Tracy plant. Some Alvarado citizens tried to save the smokestack and the buildings for either a specialized shopping center or historical site.

CAMPBELL CHAIN CO.:

In October 1958 the Campbell Chain Co. received a permit for a \$695,000 plant to be built on Hesperian Blvd. as you left Alvarado heading north to Mt. Eden. The plant would be located on the east side of Hesperian just before the SP railroad tracks crossed Hesperian. Within a few short years the plant would morph into a \$2,000,000 project.

PACIFIC TELEPHONE:

Telephone:

In Sam Dinsmore's General Store:

For nearly 40-years the telephone switchboard for Alvarado was domiciled in a room in F.C. Harvey's, and later Sam Dinsmore's General Merchandise Store, on Smith Street.

In June 1946 history was made when the telephone switchboard, which had been at Dinsmore's Store over 40 years, was moved to Mr. & Mrs. Munger's home a half block away on Watkins Street. Mrs. Munger was in charge of the office and she had several assistant operators to help her.

Construction of a new telephone central office building for Alvarado, and conversion of the present magneto telephone to dial operation later this year, was announced in February 1948. The new central office would be located on the northwest corner of "W" Street and Marsh Road. It was of frame and stucco construction, one story in height and 21 X 25 feet in dimension.

Decoto and Alvarado telephone subscribers would have dial service to Hayward numbers beginning in mid-April 1954. The improved service would include telephone numbers with the prefixes of **LU** (**LU**cerne), **BR** (**BR**owning).

At the same time a central exchange for intertown dial service for Irvington, Mission San Jose, and Warm Springs was approved, but until installation is completed residents of other Washington Township communities would have to continue to call the Operator for all numbers outside their respective communities.

A \$3.3 million dollar project to expand telephone service and bring nationwide direct dialing here went into high gear in August 1956. That's when construction started on the first of two buildings that would consolidate the present telephone exchanges in Fremont, Newark, Niles, Alvarado and Decoto. Once the two buildings are ready for service, probably in 1958, telephones in the area will get new seven digit numbers beginning with **SY**camore or **GR**eenleaf. The **SY**camore exchange was built on Hiway 17 between Alder Road and Thornton Avenue. The **GR**eenleaf building was built in Decoto. For those of you who wonder where the original 471-XXXX number came

from for Alvarado and Decoto, it is because of the old **GR** prefix (the numbers '4' and '7' on your phone).

*** BIOS OF NOTABLE CIIZENS ***

Alameda County Water District / Bank/ Baseball Player / Butcher / Cannery Worker / Civic Booster / Doctor / Duck Club Caretaker / Farm Machinery / Farmer / Frieden Calculator / Laborer / Lawyer / Merchant / Post Mistress / Poultry Assn. / Salt Co. Employee / School Custodian / School Trustee / Shop Foreman / Sugar Mill Employee / War Hero / Water Works

ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT:

Leonard Silva:

Leonard Silva was born in Alvarado circa 1920 to Frank (Jr.) and Mary Silva. Leonard attended Alvarado Grammar School and graduated in 1933, and he graduated from Washington Union High School in 1937.

On July 11, 1941 Leonard was inducted into the Armed Forces for military training. In May 1943 he was listed as an Alvarado man actively serving in the U.S. Armed Forces with his brother Warren. Two months later he was listed as serving in Hawaii in the Medical Corps.

In June 1945 Leonard joined the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles along with George Pacheco of Alvarado, and Clarence Peyton and William D. Hurd of Centerville. Later Leonard and his wife would both join the Paul Rivers Post of the Alvarado VFW. Both would serve actively on committees in the organization.

In 1952 Leonard Silva would serve on the board of the Alvarado Sanitary District. He was reappointed to the board in 1956. Like the School Board there was no pay for service on the Sanitary Board.

Leonard worked for the Alameda County Water District his entire career, starting out at age 16 right out of high school. He worked his way up the ranks, working for the General Manager E.A. Richmond, another Alvarado lad.

BANK:

Warren & Irma Silva:

Warren Silva was born in Alvarado circa 1921 to Frank (Jr.) and Mary Silva. Warren graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1935 along with: Marjorie Maciel, Fasaye Tanaka, Mieko Terezawa, Lucy Merino, Misaya Matsumoto, Isabel Pinto, Tero Akinaga, Remedia Mateo, Osamo Akinaga, Marion Cordoba, Raymond Dias, Manuel Esteves, Edward Martinez, Wilbert Martin, Paul Rivers, Richard Munger, Bruno Orsetti, Albert Hinkley, Hiroshi Shimada, Cyril Flores, Edward Olivencia, Anthony Roderick, Clifford Dinsmore, Manuel Pine, and Abel Valle.

Warren graduated Washington Union High School in 1939. Warren was very active in school activities at Alvarado and Washington High, an activity he would continue throughout his years in Alvarado.

After Warren graduated from Washington High he played baseball for local sports teams. However WWII interrupted his love of baseball and in July 1943 he found himself in the U.S. Military Forces along with his brother Leonard. In October 1943 Sgt. Warren Silva was sent to Arizona to the 16th Bomb Operations Training Wing. When he returned home on furlough on October 15, 1943 he gave his sweetheart, Irma Borges, an engagement ring. Both were from Alvarado having graduated from Alvarado Grammar School and Washington Union High School. In June 1944 Irma announced to her friends that she and Warren would marry as soon as he comes home on furlough.

After the war the Silva's settled down in Alvarado and they had a daughter Carol. Soon thereafter Warren joined the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. In April 1950 Warren served on a Chamber committee to institute a new troop of Boy Scouts for Alvarado. Warren served on the Boy Scout Chamber committee that was headed by William Martinez along with fellow chamber members John Bond and William Machado. The initial charter for the troop showed 23 boys signed up.

Warren moved up the hierarchy of the chamber ladder becoming president of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce in 1952. In the summer of that year he added another job in his civic duties, when he accepted a seat on the Alvarado School Board to replace George Hocking. Warren joined Wilbert Hendricks and M.P. Goularte on the school board.

Warren continued to serve actively in the Alvarado Chamber by becoming a member of the Zoning Committee in November 1952. Alvarado would soon be tested as a sleepy backwater town that was awakening to the fact progress was coming our way whether we wanted it or not. The zoning committee was comprised of:

Warren Silva, Manuel P. Goularte, Elvin Rose, Mrs. Susan Lemos, Dr. J. Bettencourt, Joe Lewis, Mrs. Genevieve Dutra, Mrs. Mabel Rogers, and Tom Kitayama.

Warren was also active on behalf of the Alvarado Catholic Church. In 1955 he served on the committee for the annual St. Anne's Bazaar for the benefit of the church.

Mrs. Irma (Borges) Silva:

Irma Borges was born in 1923 in Alvarado to Manuel and Ethel Borges. Young Irma earned an early honor by named the second most beautiful baby in Alvarado-Decoto-Niles (Winifred Santos came in first).

Irma graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in June 1936. She then entered Washington Union High School where she graduated in June 1940.

In October 1943 Miss Irma Borges was proudly wearing an engagement ring from Sgt. Warren Silva, recently home on a furlough. Irma Borges and Sgt. Silva were both graduated from Alvarado Grammar School and Washington Union High School.

In the 1950's Irma took charge of the United Crusade Drive in Alvarado handing out kits to fund raisers and overseeing the campaign drives.

Irma was also active in the Alvarado Mother's Club selling special recipe books prepared by the mothers. On this project Irma worked with Mrs. Eldora Pinto and also with Mrs. Evelyn Silva, Mrs. Kay Silva, Mrs. Hilda Allegre, and Mrs. Alma Bielar.

The following year Irma became associated with the Volunteer Nurses of the Baby Conference of Alvarado well Baby Clinic. A group of Alvarado mothers performed duties to insure the health needs of the underserved children in Alvarado.

On September 27, 1956 the annual fiesta-bazaar for St. Anne's Church opened and ran for four days in the S.D.E.S. Hall on Watkins Street. Booths of foods, cakes, ham, games, and various handicraft items were on sale. The booths operated from 8:30 p.m. Joseph Martin is chairman for the event with the assistance of Henry Flores and Mrs. Irma Silva.

BASEBALL PLAYER:

Frederick Muller:

Fred Muller was born in Newark California on December 21, 1907, to Frederick and Evangeline Muller. Fred's father was the son of German immigrants, and Evangeline Muller who was the daughter of Walter & Frances Robie of Alvarado.

Fred went to Newark Grammar School and then went on to Washington Union High School. He played both baseball and football at the University of California and attracted enough attention that he was signed professionally and proved to be a bit of a right-handed home-run hitter in the minor leagues after breaking in with the Seattle Indians of the Pacific Coast League in 1928.

Prior to Fred's pro baseball career he played semi-pro ball for several teams from Alvarado. It is interesting to note that there were no Major League baseball teams west of the Mississippi River at this time so semi-pro ball here was like the Major Leagues on the east coast. Even Alvarado had their share of good ball players on their team's roster. In 1919 The Alameda Sugars of Alvarado had future big leaguer Fred Muller (1933 & 1934 Boston Red Sox) on their team.

In 1926 Fred Muller again played for Alvarado and this time in concert with Len Dondero who would play big league ball for the St. Louis Browns of the American League. Alvarado won the Washington Township baseball crown that year.

For the year 1927 the Amaral Brothers of Alvarado fielded a team that included Fred Muller, Len Dondero and "Spud" Degermark a pitcher who would go on to pitch for Bakersfield in the California State Minor League.

1929:

Besides playing semi-pro baseball Freddy Muller was a spinach and asparagus farmer in Alvarado. He met and married Dayle Langdon, daughter of Charles H. and Emma Langdon of the Creek Road in Alvarado. By 1940 Dayle's

mother and father had both passed away and Fred & Dayle went to live with her uncle on the Creek Road, Joel H. Langdon.

1931:

By 1931 Fred was beginning to make a name for himself with the Seattle Indians of the Pacific Coast League where he had been playing for a number of years. Muller had played a fair third base for manager Ernie Johnson, but he found his spot when he was moved to second base in 1930. His success at that position had at least three major league teams dickering for him.

1933:

Fred Muller was putting on a good show playing for the big lead scouts, while he was playing for the Seattle Indians. He made some beautiful stops during the Oakland Oaks/Seattle Indian series, and as usual displayed plenty of power at the plate. By the end of July Fred had hit a league leading 26 round trippers. The Seattle Indians second sacker was also batting .281, and had his contract picked up by the Boston Red Sox.

1934:

Alvarado welcomed home its outstanding hometown baseball star, Fred Muller, who had received promising prospects of breaking into the New York Yankees ball club of the American League next season. Oscar Levine, chief scout for the Yankee ball club, drafted Fred. Muller played with a New Jersey team last season, and was outstanding both in fielding and at bat. At the close of the season he possessed the highest batting average in the league and was quoted as being partly responsible for his team's winning the pennant.

1935:

From *The Oakland Tribune*, January 1935:

"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 was 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.

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 he 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 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." Fred did not have the year in 1935 that was foretold in the previous paragraph for the Oakland Oaks, and 1936 found him back in Seattle again. Fred played for Seattle in 1936, 1937 and 1938. He did not have the stellar years he had in '32, '33 and '34, but he had flashes of his old greatness."

Major League Baseball Stats 1933-1934 Boston Red Sox:

Year	Age	Tm	Lg	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA
1933	25	BOS	AL	15	53	48	6	9	1	1	0	3	1	0	5	5	.188
1934	26	BOS	AL	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000
2 Yrs				17	55	49	7	9	1	1	0	3	1	0	6	5	.184
<u>162 Game Avg.</u>				162	524	467	67	86	10	10	0	29	10	0	57	48	.184

Frederick W. Muller Major League Bio:

Positions: Second Baseman and Third Baseman

Bats: Right; Throws: Right; 5-10, 170lb

Born: December 21, 1907 in Newark Calif.

Died: October 20, 1976 in Davis Calif. @ age 68

High School: Washington Union High School, Centerville CA

School: University of California, Berkeley

Major League Debut: July 8, 1933 vs. St. Louis Browns

Last Game: May 13, 1934 vs. Chicago White Sox

Fred Muller's Minor & Major League Stats:

Year	Age	AgeDif	Tm	Lg	Lev	Aff	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA
1928	20	-7.6	Seattle	PCL	AA		139		468	108	24	8	8							.231
1929	21	-6.3	Seattle	PCL	AA		125		436	111	12	4	10							.255
1930	22	-6.4	Seattle	PCL	AA		144		467	128	24	7	13							.274
1931	23	-4.4	Seattle	PCL	AA		182		687	193	43	6	15							.281
1932	24	-3.0	Seattle	PCL	AA		185		682	192	49	8	38							.282
1933	25		2 Teams	2 Lgs	AA		132	443	443	132	24	7	21							.298
1933	25	-3.3	BOS	AL	MLB	BOS	15	53	48	6	9	1	1	0	3	1	0	5	5	.188
1933	25	-2.3	Seattle	PCL	AA		83		294	96	15	6	20							.327
1933	25	-3.2	Montreal	IL	AA		49		149	36	9	1	1							.242
1934	26	-2.3	BOS	AL	MLB	BOS	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000
1934	26	-2.2	Newark	IL	AA	NYY	91		297	87	14	7	16							.293
1935	27	-0.1	Oakland	PCL	AA	NYY	150		556	148	32	4	13							.266
1936	28	1.0	Seattle	PCL	AA		157		561	171	32	7	30							.305
1937	29	1.3	Seattle	PCL	AA		161		559	161	32	7	26							.288
1938	30	1.8	Seattle	PCL	AA		170		627	186	33	7	20							.297
1939	31	4.2	Toledo	AA	AA	DET	126		454	112	18	3	20							.247
1940	32	4.1	Portland	PCL	AA		68		244	57	10	0	3							.234
Year	Age	AgeDif	Tm	Lg	Lev	Aff	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA
MLB (2 seasons)					MLB		17	55	49	7	9	1	1	0	3	1	0	6	5	.184
Minors (13 seasons)					Minors		1830	6481	6481	1786	347	75	233							.276
All Levels (13 Seasons)							1847	6536	6530	1795	348	76	233	3	1	0	6	5	.275	

This *Oakland Tribune* article from April 1937 says it all:

"The Oakland Oaks lost to the Seattle Indians 8-5 last night. But there's one Indian from whom credit cannot be taken. He is Fred Muller, the Alvarado farm boy who decided to raise cauliflower instead of spinach this year. Fred stated before the game last night that he had raised enough spinach to make him a good hitter for years to come, and then decided that he would get into cauliflower raising. Muller was poison to the Oaks last night as he belted two homers, a single and a double. His second home run, in the ninth inning, tied the score at 4-4."

Meanwhile the Alvarado Eagles continued to excite Alvaradan's as they sailed through the Southern League in 1939 without a loss. They wound up the regular schedule defeating Golden State Bakery 11-5. Freddie Muller of Coast League fame umpired the game.

When the pro baseball season started in 1939, Fred found himself playing for the Toledo team in Ohio. Fred asked Toledo to try and make a trade so as to get him a berth with one of the Pacific Coast League teams next year. Fred was farming with Joel Langdon on Creek Road, and was glad to be back in the cool climate of Washington Township.

When the 1940 baseball season started Portland of the Pacific Coast League was dickering for Fred Muller, who insisted on playing on the west coast. Fred played his final year for Portland in the Pacific Coast League batting .234.

Freddie's career spanned 13 seasons with two of those seasons spent partially in the Major Leagues with the Boston Red Sox. Over his minor league career he had 6,481 "at bats" with 1,786 "hits," 347 "doubles," 75 "triples," 233 "home runs," and a lifetime batting average of .276.

His Major League batting stats were, 49 "at bats" with 9 "hits," 1 "double," 1 "triple," no "home runs," and a lifetime batting average of .184.

Although born in Newark, Fred had strong ties to Alvarado where he made his home for many decades. His mother Evangeline was the daughter of Fannie Robie, longtime Alvarado Grammar School Clerk of the School Board. Fred would spend many summers growing up in Alvarado and although a Newark boy he was no stranger in Alvarado even before his fame.

Fred met and married Dayle Langdon daughter of Charles and Forrest Langdon of Alvarado in 1929. Dayle's father was a farmer, and in the mid-thirties Charles had rented the old E.H. Dyers home next to the sugar mill. This burned down in 1935. Charles Langdon passed away and his wife Emma went to live with Joel Langdon on the Creek Road whose wife Forrest had also recently died. The 1940 census finds Fred Muller living with Joel Langdon, Emma Langdon, Mrs. Sawin (Joel's widowed mother), Fred, Dayle and their two children Thomas and Charles.

After leaving baseball, Muller moved to Davis, California, where he lived the remainder of his life. He purchased 3,000 acres of farmland and was raising crops of beans, peas, and grain. Later, he became supervisor of Andco Farms, a farming cooperative. After a long illness, Muller died on October 20, 1976,

in El Macero, California. He was survived by his wife, Dayle (Langdon) Muller, and children Dorothy, Charles and Tommy and his mother Evangeline.

BUTCHER:

William Beck / Tom Hobson / Montrey's Meats / Lustan Meats / Hing Chan / Quan Yut

William Beck:

Tom Hobson:

Alvarado Meat Co:

In April 1950 William Beck and Tom Hobson of Oakland purchased the Hellwig Meat Market on Levee Street and Maiden Lane in Alvarado. The new partners would call their store the Alvarado Meat Co.

ALVARADO MEAT CO.
Levee St. Phone: AL 55-701
(Formerly the Hellwig Meat Co.)

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~~~~~
Low Prices          Grade A Beef
~~~~~
CHUCK ROAST        ...lb    59¢
~~~~~
SIRLOIN STEAK     ...lb    69¢
~~~~~
RIB STEAK         ...lb    69¢
~~~~~
GROUND BEEF       ...lb    49¢
~~~~~
PORK STEAK        ...lb    57¢
~~~~~
Will cut and wrap for home at
Wholesale prices.
~~~~~

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Mentrey's Meats:

In September 1952 the old Hellwig Meat Market became known as Mentrey's Meats. The only other information I could find out about Mentrey's was that it was open all day on Sundays.

Lustan Meats:

Lustan Meats was now (Feb. 1953) the name for the former Hellwig's Meat Market on Levee Street and Maiden Lane. No other information about the principal was available.

Hing Chan:

Hing Chan, owner of the Alvarado Meat Market whose address was 1027 Levee Street (the former Hellwig Meat Market) sold to Quan Yut the former Hellwig Meat Market on August 26, 1957.

Quan Yut:

On August 26, 1957 Quan Yut did buy from Hing Chan the meat market formerly known as the Hellwig Meat Market at 1027 Levee Street in Alvarado. The sale included fixture, equipment and stocks in trade.

CANNERY WORKER: **Antone & Mabel Rodgers:**

Antone J. Rodgers was born in San Lorenzo circa 1897. He married Mabel M. Rose circa 1922 and had two sons, Robert E. born circa 1923 and Clifford L. born circa 1928.

Mabel Rose was the daughter of Manuel J. and Mary J. Rose of the Creek Road in Alvarado. She was born circa 1905 and was the sister of Lawrence and Manuel Rose, and sister to Aldina Andrade. Aldina and Manuel owned the Alvarado Produce Market, a grocery, service station, soda fountain and beer & wine complex as you entered Alvarado from the north.

Antone Rodgers worked as a laborer early on in Alvarado, and then he became an employee of a Hayward cannery.

In 1943 Tony became actively involved with the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department. Tony was also a member of the Jolly Elders, the Fremont and Newark Seniors Club, and the Niles Social Club. He was also a member of the Luso-American Fraternal Federation Council 13 – 22 (Alvarado Benevolent Society #22).

Mrs. Mabel Rodgers:

Mrs. Mabel Rodgers was one of the most active ladies in Alvarado social and civic organizations. She was a member of the Alvarado Grammar School PTA in 1935, and she was also a member of the Alvarado Eagles Ladies Auxiliary, in which she held official posts including President in 1948.

Mabel participated in the Ground Observer Corps during WWII by serving as a Tower Captain, and also by manning watches herself. Within a year she had registered over 218 hours manning the observation tower on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds. Plus she was also responsible for a crew of observers to man the tower around the clock on her assigned day.

In May 1943 Mabel Rodgers paid a visit to her son in Idaho, where he was attending radio school at the University of Idaho at Moscow for the Navy. Noticing how the other boys envied her son Bob for receiving a visit from mom, Mabel took it upon herself to write letters to 19 young men in the service. Her visit to the Navy camp at Idaho where her son Robert was stationed, brought her in touch with many lonely hearts far away from home.

Mabel was also active in the Portuguese fraternal and social societies being an active member of the SPRSI of Alvarado, there she also spent many terms in official capacities for this organization.

Mabel was also active in the UPPEC Council Bernice No. 131 of Alvarado. This was a Portuguese society for which Mrs. Rodgers served as President in 1948.

The civic side of Mabel Rodgers first became apparent when she served a ballot box official for the town of Alvarado. In this position she met most of the people of Alvarado during elections, and gave her a keen insight to the needs of the community.

In 1952 she stepped to the forefront of Alvarado public duties when she was on the zoning committee for the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. Here she worked with Warren Silva, Manuel Goularte, Elvin Rose, Mrs. Suzy Lemos, Dr. John Bettencourt, Joe Lewis, Mrs. Genevieve Dutra, and Ray Kitayama.

In December 1954 Mabel Rodgers was among the nominees for the coming years' Board of Directors for the Alvarado Chamber of commerce. Two years later in 1956, amid the turbulent times of the Hayward land grab, a Union City Chamber of commerce was formed to protect what was left of Decoto & Alvarado. Among those representing Alvarado was: Frank George, Joe Lewis, John Ratekin, Wilbert Hendricks, Mrs. Mae Santos, Mike Salido and Mrs. Mabel Rodgers.

Mabel was also a member of the Luso-American Fraternal Federation Council 13 – 22 (Alvarado Benevolent Society #22). In December 1958 Mabel Rodgers was elected Vice-President of the organization and served officially alongside Esther Gardetto, Mr. Antone J. Rodgers and Michael Gardetto.

Robert Rodgers:

Robert was born in San Lorenzo circa 1923 to Antone J. and Mabel Rodgers.

Robert attended the Alvarado Grammar School where he graduated in June 1936. The graduates at Alvarado grammar School for June 1936 were:

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

At an Alvarado Aerie of Eagles Christmas party, little Bobby Rodgers wowed the audience with a beautiful harmonica solo. Several years later Bob Rodgers and Joe Lewis, both Washington Union High School band members from Alvarado, were chosen to perform March 29, 1940 in Long Beach California as two of three members selected from our area to perform at the Music Educators National Conference. They accompanied Mr. Dwight Thornburgh, music instructor at Washington High, and his family who would chaperone them. A faculty member of the University of Minnesota led the symphony band.

In 1943 Robert was in the U.S. Military Service in Idaho, where he was attending radio school at the University of Idaho at Moscow for the Navy. Eventually Bob was sent overseas where he ran into Johnny Pimentel from Alvarado, when their ships crossed paths. In March 1944 Bob was back in the U.S. after having been overseas. He was a 3rd Class Radio Operator and was stationed at Treasure Island after his overseas duty.

After the war Robert settled down in Hayward with his wife.

Clifford Rodgers:

Clifford was born 1923 to Antone J. and Mabel Rodgers. Clifford attended the Alvarado Grammar School where he graduated in June 1941. The Alvarado Grammar School graduated 19 students on June 13, 1941. They were:

Bertille Amaral	Robert Benjamin	Ernest Bettencourt	Judy Hill
Jeanette Goularte	Emily Dominguez	Betty Hernandez	Henry Cheng
Robert Lopez	Stanley Lewis	Doris Martinez	Manuel Priego
Lorraine SA	Kay Sakamoto	Tatsuo Tanaka	Agnes Silva
Yatsuo Tao	Frank Pinto	Clifford Rodgers	

Like older brother Robert, Clifford showed a musical bent when he performed at the Alvarado PTA Founder's Day celebration in February 1939. Clifford did a vocal number with Mildred Martin, accompanied by Norman Bettencourt.

In 1943, Clifford worked at the California Conserving Company cannery in Hayward with his dad. Cliff would return to high school as a junior. When back at school Clifford was voted Junior Class President.

After graduation from Washington Union High School Clifford joined the Merchant Marine. After his tour of duty Clifford married and settled in Tracy California.

CIVIC BOOSTERS:

Mrs. Pauline (Allegre) Silva / Mrs. Ethyl (Perry) Borges / Edward Fantuzzi / Mrs. Mary Rivers / Mrs. Amelia (Martin) Silva / Anthony J. Vargas

Pauline Allegre, (Dutra then Silva):

Pauline Allegre was born circa 1917 in Alvarado to Domingo and Frances Allegre, she was the fourth of five children for the Allegre's. Pauline attended the Alvarado Grammar School.

She became a member of the Alvarado SPRSI, and in May 1935, she was named an officer in the organization along with Mrs. Aurora Lewis, Mrs. Emily Noia, Mrs. Sophie Mello, Mrs. Eldora Pinto, and Mrs. Mary Silva.

Also in that same year Pauline became the bride of Clarence Dutra of San Lorenzo at a ceremony held in Alvarado's St. Anne's Catholic Church on June 30, 1935. Clarence Dutra was the son of Mr. Henry & Mamie Dutra of San Lorenzo. They settled in San Leandro where they had a daughter Myrna Jean Dutra.

Pauline was single in 1948, whether as a widow or a divorcee I could not determine. By 1948 Pauline was remarried to Melvin J. Silva of Alvarado. They would eventually settle down on Alquire Road where Melvin was in the trucking business.

In December 1948 Pauline took interest in the Alvarado Girl Scout Troop. Pauline was the assistant to Troop Leader Mrs. Emily Noia. Pauline's daughter Myrna Jean Dutra was a member of the troop.

Pauline was also a member of the Alvarado Mother's Club, and participated in the examination of 250 student's eye health in January 1949. They found 18 children that needed further testing and possibly glasses. Besides Pauline, Mrs. Alvina Brune, head of the Mother's Club participated as well as Teresa Carlson, Emily Noia, Annie Flores, Bernice Manuel, Winifred Harper, Mary Santos, Marian Hocking, and Mary Spurlock.

Pauline also served on the Alvarado Council Bernice No. 131 of UPPEC, and in May 1950 she was chosen to be one of the three Directors of the organization along with Anna Hendricks and Mae Santos.

In September 1950, Mrs. Pauline Allegre Silva was killed when the jeep in which she was riding overturned on Dry Creek Road near Decoto. Her husband, Melvin J. Silva, escaped injury in the accident, 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, Victor Allegre of Hayward, and Melvin Allegre of Alvarado. She left a daughter Myrna Jean and son Melvin Joseph Silva Jr.

Mrs. Ethyl (Perry) Borges:

Miss Ethel Perry was born in 1902 in California. Ethel married Manuel Borges of the Creek Road in Alvarado. Manuel's father was Antone B. Borges.

In 1935 Ethel was on the Alvarado Grammar School PTA Council with Mrs. Mayme Santos, Mrs. Isabel Menezes, Mrs. Mabel Rogers, Mrs. Eldora Pinto and Miss Mary Hughes.

A public card party was held by the Mother's Club of the Alvarado Elementary School at the school on June 24, 1949. The President of the Mother's Club was Mrs. Alvina Brune, who was assisted by Mrs. Lorraine Silva, Mrs. Mary Silva, and Mrs. Ethel Borges. Also assisting in the card party were Mrs. Esther Gardetto and Mrs. Emily Noia.

Mrs. Borges was also active in the Alvarado Catholic Church. In September 1955 Ethel served as a committee leader for the annual St. Anne's Bazaar along with these other ladies:

Mrs. Henry Flores	Mrs. Mamie Roderick	Mrs. Marjorie Re
Mrs. Peter Pinto	Mrs. Mary Rivers	Mrs. Helen Goularte
Mrs. Aldora Pinto	Mrs. Manuel Perry	Mrs. Joseph Maciel
Mrs. Nora Vargas	Mrs. Theresa Sevee	Mrs. Mae Santos
Mrs. Eleanor Roderick	Mrs. Angie Vargas	Mrs. Madeline Soares
Mrs. Isabel Martin.		

It appears that sometime near 1960 the Borges' moved to the city of Newark, and no further articles were found.

Irma Borges:

See bio "[Silva, Warren & Irma](#)" in this work

Edward Fantuzzi:

Edward (Edorado) Fantuzzi was the son of Antonio and Eugenia Fantuzzi. They were all born in Italy, however I could not locate a date of entry into the U.S. for them. Ed was born circa 1921. In the 1930 census the three were living in San Mateo. By the 1940 census Antonio and Edward were living in Alvarado, Antonio and Eugenia having been divorced.

Ed Fantuzzi graduated from Washington Union High School in Centerville in 1940. In November 1940 Ed joined the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. In July 1941 he answered his call to duty and duly registered with the Niles Draft Board #75, having reached his 21st birthday. Registering with him were Angel C. Ledesma, Refugio P. Gonzales, Seraphine Daviner, Tony J. Roderick, Manuel C. Mello and Clifford Dinsmore.

In September 1941 (nearly three months before the attack on Pearl Harbor) a call went out for men to man an air raid observation post in a tent located near Hall Station. The men were asked to volunteer an hour or so a month and be ready to telephone to headquarters in case of invasion by airplanes. The men who volunteered were:

Joe Jacinto	Ed Fantuzzi	Joe Paris
Angelo Cosso	Tony Rivers	James Wasley
Peter Rose	E.J. Wilson	D. Diaz
Frank Silver		

In January 1943 Ed Fantuzzi became a member of the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department, joining the following men in the volunteer Fire Department:

J. C. Wasley	Anthony J. Vargas	Clyde Lewis
Tony Alexander	George Davis	Anthony Rogers
Joe Dutra	Edward Fantuzzi	Clarence Flores
Charles Baird	Mike Gardetto	M.F. Silva
M. E. Perry		

An observation tower was built on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds in 1943. Donations were asked to help defray the cost of the tower. The tower was built from an old tank house frame from the farm of Manuel Silva from the Creek Road. Ed Fantuzzi was one of the Alvaradan's that donated money to help move the tower to the Alvarado School grounds.

Edward Fantuzzi then took his physical for induction into the U.S. Army in San Francisco in February 1944. He was found to be 1-A, and fit for induction into the military. In April 1944 Ed Fantuzzi joined Benny Gonzales, Ascension Ledesma, Ed Lewis, and Ed Soares for induction into the military service.

In December 1946, after his return from the service, Ed married an Alviso district girl, Anita Orsetti, sister of Bruno Orsetti.

Ed joined the Paul Rivers Post of VFW in Alvarado. In 1954 he was elected into an officer's position in the organization. Anita Fantuzzi joined the Paul Rivers Post of the VFW in 1952 and she received her 5 years pin in August 1957.

Mrs. Mary Rivers:

Mrs. Mary Rivers was married to Joseph E. Rivers, who was born in the Azores (Portugal) circa 1871. He entered the U.S. in 1894 and was naturalized in

1901. Mary was born in the Azores circa 1881, and entered the U.S. in 1902. She was naturalized in 1903. Mary & Joe had eight children, Mary, Joe Jr., Rita, Lena, Minnie, Inez, Peter and Paul.

Joe Rivers was a farmer in Alvarado, and he passed away on April 30, 1921 at the age of 48, just shortly after the birth of his child Paul.

Mrs. Mary Rivers would be left with raising the eight children on her own. She did so with the love of a mother and her love of the Catholic Church.

Mary Rivers was devoted to good works; even with a growing family she found time for the benefit of St. Anne's Church in Alvarado. In 1936 she held a card party at her home on the Union City Road (later to be called "V" Street) for the benefit of the "hot dog" stand to be opened at the bazaar for St. Anne's Church.

She was active in the SPRSI Lodge of Alvarado, serving many terms as an officer of the Portuguese association.

In 1941 Mrs. Rivers was a member of the Alvarado Red Cross, which met every Wednesday at the Odd Fellows Hall to do patriotic sewing and knitting in support of the war effort in Europe. In 1943 she used that experience to recruit 16 Alvarado women for the Red Cross bandage work at Centerville.

In October 1941 Mrs. River's youngest Paul, went into the service with the Canadian Air Force. When the war broke out in the Pacific Paul transferred to the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve. Then in December 1942 Mrs. Rivers was informed that her son Paul had been reported missing in action on October 15, 1942, in the Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal).

George Oakes, publisher of the *Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper said of Mrs. Rivers in November 1944:

"Step up Mrs. Mary Rivers and take a bow as one of Alvarado's most worthwhile and patriotic citizens said the Editor. And why? Well because she is such a stout hearted and energetic person.

She lost her son (Paul Rivers) when he was reported missing almost two years ago in the Canadian Air Corps. And here is what you call faith. Do you know what she told the Editor? You'll see, maybe my boy will come home yet. Ain't that courage, which many a younger couldn't portray?

Then she has kept on her fine work in the Red Cross in the Township. And she has worked hard for St. Anne's Church. She even sold us a chance on a War Bond for the benefit of the fine local church.

And to top it off this smiling lady of some 65 summers has lately adopted a little girl from the Catholic Charities organization of San Francisco. She is Annabelle Velardi. You're indeed a lucky girl Annabelle to get such a fine home. Why don't more folks follow such a noble example?"

Alvarado established a new Veterans of Foreign Wars post on January 8, 1947, named in honor of Paul Edwards Rivers, the first serviceman from the community of Alvarado to lose his life in WWII. The new unit was named the Paul Edward Rivers Post No. 7906. Paul was an Alvarado Grammar School and Washington Union High School graduate.

In March 1957 Mrs. Mary Rivers was honored as one of the Gold Star mothers of Washington Township along with Mrs. Frances Allegre of Alvarado and Mrs. Mary Bernardo of Centerville.

On October 25, 1977 Mrs. Mary Rivers passed away.

Mrs. Amelia (Martin) Silva:

Amelia Martin was born in September 1896, to Manuel S. and Adalena Martin. She married Joseph Enos Silva ca. 1915, and they settled down on Haines Road (the dog-leg at the end of Whipple Road) near her sister and her father. They had four children, two sons: John born circa 1916, and Louis born circa 1919; and two daughters: Lillian born circa 1922, and Clarabelle born circa 1933.

Joseph Silva was a farmer on what was then called the "Haines Road," presumably because it was near the Haines Ranch. But just after Haines Ranch on Whipple Road was the ranch of William Hayes of Alvarado. William's ranch was the one ranch on Whipple Road that was odd shaped. It overlapped Whipple Road by some 800 feet. So rather than cut Mrs. Hayes' ranch in two with a straight road to the Sugar Mill Road (Alquire Road) they decided to make Whipple Road follow the outline of the Hayes ranch. This was the Whipple Road dogleg.



The Whipple Road dog leg is seen in the 1878 map above. The dog leg still exists today, although it is now unseen because of the rerouting of traffic and the I-880 freeway cutting through it.

The Whipple Road dogleg still exists today, but they are renamed Amaral Street and Amaral Court, paying homage to communities of Martin's that have lived there. Unfortunately Amaral Court does not go all the way to the old Sugar Mill Road (previously known as Alquire Road and today known as Dyer Street). Today Amaral Court dead ends at the I-880 Freeway.

As their children grew Amelia took more of an interest in the town of Alvarado. In 1944, Amelia volunteered for the War Chest to aid needy town residents resulting from the war, as well as for men in the service. Genevieve Dutra, our Postmistress, was in charge of collecting from local businesses, and Mrs. Silva was one of several citizens of Alvarado that volunteered to collect money for the worthy cause.

Then tragedy entered Mrs. Silva's life. Her husband of over three decades suddenly passed away in January 1946. Joseph E. Silva was 61 years of age when he passed. He was father of T-Sgt. John E. Silva, Louis Silva, Mrs. Lillian Fernandez and Miss Clarabelle Silva.

But Mrs. Silva continued to give to the town, becoming President of the Women's Auxiliary the Paul Rivers Post, No. 7906 in April 1948. Mrs. Silva continued to be active and prominent in the Alvarado auxiliary Post of the VFW for the remainder of her life. She was also active, and also prominent in the Alvarado Auxiliary of Fraternal Order of Eagles of Alvarado.

Mrs. Amelia Silva, 56, died in March 1956. Services were held in St. Anne's Church in Alvarado on March 27, 1956. Mrs. Silva left several children in the bay area, John Silva of San Lorenzo, Louis Silva of Hayward, Mrs. Lillian Fernandez of Hayward, and Mrs. Clarabelle Moura of Hayward. She also left two brothers, Manuel and Joseph Martin, both of Alvarado. As well as her children Mrs. Silva had been caring for and rearing, she also raised three Foster children; Frank and Bobby Velarde, and Miss Mary Ann Travers.

Mrs. Silva also served on the Alvarado Mother's Club (the forerunner to the Alvarado School PTA), and she was also a member of the Alvarado UPPEC, I.D.E.S., and S.D.E.S. societies

John Silva:

John Silva was born ca. 1916 to Joseph E. and Amelia Silva. In May 1943 John Silva was reported as being in the Armed Forces in service to our country. In January 1944 John visited his parents and his old friends in Alvarado while home on furlough from the service.

Louis Silva:

Louis Silva was born ca. 1922 to Joseph E. and Amelia Silva. Louis Silva became engaged, 22 to Doris A. Gonsalves of San Lorenzo, 19.

Mrs. Lillian Silva Fernandez:

Miss Lillian May Silva was born ca. 1919 to Joseph E. and Amelia Silva. Lillian was a member of the Echoes of Portugal Drill Team, and in June 1935 they performed at the Holy Ghost Parade in Santa Clara. Led by Lena Dutra of Decoto, the team consisted of: 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 and Thelma Silva.

A gathering of about 200 merrymakers met the Alvarado hall to tender their congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fernandes, who were wed July 21, 1938 in St. Anne's Church in Alvarado. Mrs. Fernandes, nee Lillian May Silva,

was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph E. Silva of Alvarado. Mr. Fernandes was the son of Mrs. Carrie Fernandes of Hayward.

The former Lillian Silva was together with husband Edward while he was on furlough from the Army Air Force. Meanwhile Lillian's brother Johnny was stationed at Fort Ord, while Lillian's other brother Louis is serving somewhere overseas.

Miss Clarabelle (Moura) Silva:

Miss Clarabelle Silva was born ca. 1933 to Joseph E. and Amelia Silva. In 1943 Clarabelle was a member of the Alvarado Girl Scouts joining the following girls in the Troop: Betty Ann Jacinto, Margarette Hulse, Joyce Layton, Joel Andrada, Sherry Davis, Delores Santos, Barbara Diangson, Eleanor Rose, Janet Layton, Betty Jane Silva, Madeline Hernandez and Dorothy Eudy.

The following year Clarabelle joined the Alvarado School Girls Club, and was voted president of the organization. Chosen to serve with her were Joelle O'Neill, and Delores SA.

Clarabelle was chosen to be the queen of the annual Alvarado Holy Ghost Festival in April 1948. Her maids of honor were Miss Genevieve Mello, and Miss Shirley Mello, both of the Alviso district. The bar girls were Marlene Andrade, Joyce Caldeira, and Margaret Pfau of Alvarado and Loretta Silva of Mt. Eden.

Mrs. Amelia Silva announced the marriage of her daughter, Clarabelle Silva to Melvin Moura of San Lorenzo on August 5, 1950 in Reno. They left for an undisclosed honeymoon location.

Margaret O'Neill:

Margaret O'Neill was born in California ca. 1914. In 1935 Margaret showed she was living in San Francisco with her 8-year old daughter, Joelle. In July 1941 the *Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper stated that Mrs. O'Neill was living with Joe E and Amelia Silva on the Whipple Road, when her impending marriage was announced.

In 1940 Margaret was the housekeeper for Frank Andrade (Sr.) on the Whipple Road. Margaret showed that she was married at this time, but no husband was shown living with her. Living with Margaret at this time was her 8-year old daughter Joelle. In July 1941 Frank Andrade (Junior) and Margaret O'Neill announced their intention to wed at St. Anne's Church in Alvarado on July 26, 1941

From the *Alvarado Pioneer*:

"Miss Margaret O'Neill, who has been making her home with Mrs. Joe Enos Silva of the Whipple Road, will become the bride of Frank M. Andrade, who manages the Wiegman Dairy. The wedding will be at St. Anne's Church, Sunday, July 26, 1941 after which a reception to some 200 friends and relatives will be held at the S.D.E.S Hall. The groom's brother, Henry Andrade will be best man.

Mrs. Amelia Silva Foster Children:

Frank Velarde:

Frank Velarde was born ca. 1936, place not known and no information available as to parents. The first article I could find on Frank in Alvarado was in April 1948, when Frank was part of the Alvarado Grammar School Traffic Patrol. The school took first place over other Southern Alameda County traffic patrols.

Frank was a member of the Alvarado 4-H Club in 1950, along with Clarabelle Silva, Beverly Spurlock, Marjorie Best, John San Filippo, Edward Maldonado, Joyce Caldeira, Mervin Pinto, Richard Pinto, and Norman Phillips.

On June 13, 1950 Frank Velarde graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School along with the following 8th Grade pupils:

Marlene Andrade, Anita Apodaca, Gloria Apodaca, Rosa Barrera, Marjorie Best, Natalie Cicairos, Amalia Concha, Eugene Concha, Cornelio Contreras, Frank Corrales, Beverly Davilla, Arnold Gardetto, Elaine Hocking, Sadako Kurotori, Esther Muela, Larry Roberts, Beverly Spurlock, Rosendo Villegas.

Frank graduated from Washington Union High School in June 1954.

Not much is known about Frank after the death of Mrs. Silva as the children were immediately removed from the home. Frank Velarde and his younger brother Bobby, were sent to San Francisco.

Frank Velarde passed away after 2010 at his home in a mobile home park between Lowry Road and the I-880 freeway just off Alvarado/Fremont Blvd.

Bobby Velarde:

Bob Velarde was born ca. 1941, place not known and no information available as to parents. The first information for Bobby in Alvarado was in November 1952, when he was in the fifth grade and Mrs. Griffin took Helen Moore, David Brune, Pat Vargas, Donna Sacramento, Frank Santos and Bobby to Irvington for a Folk Dance workshop. These pupils would then teach the rest of the children how to do these dances.

In June 1955 Bob Velarde graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School along with Anthony Gualco, Nellie Barrera, David Brune, Donna Sacramento, Louis Angelo, Mary Jane Rangel, Rosemarie Alvarez, Albert Cicairos, Helen Moore, Frank Soto, Connie Lopez, Gaspar Gonzalez, Hortense Preciado, Johnny Villegas, Betty Bielar, Robert Harvey, Irene Urrutia, and Jose Martinez.

After the death of Mrs. Silva, Frank and Bob Velarde were removed from the home and relocated in San Francisco. Bobby attended Balboa High in San Francisco and in his final year (1959) was a star halfback on the football team. In February 1959 Bobby was one of 79 players from the eight leagues in the peninsula nominated to play in the annual East-West Bay football game.

After graduating high school Bob went on to become a S.F. Muni bus driver. After retirement he, and his wife Pat, settled in Vancouver Washington.

Miss Mary Ann Travers:

Mary Ann was born in April 1943 to Mrs. Augustine Travers of San Francisco (no information on father). Mary Ann's name first appears in February 1953 in Alvarado when Mary Ann and Gloria Cheng started a knitting club in Alvarado.

Mary Ann was raised in the Catholic tradition like Mrs. Silva's daughters Lillian and Clarabelle. In April 1953, Mary Ann was a bar girl in the Holy Ghost festival for Queen Miss Frances Alvarez.

In October 1953 Mary Ann went to the Holy Family Novitiate in Mission San Jose to participate in the Rosary Procession and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the Holy Family Novitiate in Mission San Jose. The girls from Alvarado who marched in the procession were: Elaine Pinto, Betty Jean Pimentel, Carol Silva, Carol Andrade, Christine Silva, Joan Vierra, Sharon Alexander, Rosemarie Alvarez, Frances Alvarez, Frances Araya, Pat Flores and Pat Noia.

In March 1954 Mary Ann was voted as a member of the Student Body of Alvarado Grammar School. Mary Ann was voted in as Treasurer of the Student Body.

Rosemary Alvarez was the queen of the Alvarado Holy Ghost in May 1955. Myrna Jean Dutra and Mary Anne Travers were her side maids.

In July 1955 Mary Ann was again voted as a member of the Student Body of Alvarado Grammar School. Mary Ann was voted in as Secretary for the coming year.

Myrna Jean Dutra was the queen of the Alvarado Holy Ghost in April 1956. Mary Ann Travers and Elaine Pinto were her side maids.

After the death of Mrs. Silva, Mary Ann was removed to San Lorenzo. But Mary Ann did come for the May 1957 Holy Ghost as Alvarado's Queen. Her side maids were Elaine Pinto and Alice Andrade.

Mary Ann continued to reside in San Lorenzo and graduated from San Lorenzo High in June 1961. In October 1961 Mary Ann Travers, 18, was wed to Robert Yarnell, 21, of Hayward at St. John's Catholic Church in San Lorenzo.

Anthony J. Vargas:

Anthony J. (Antonio Joaquin) Vargas was born in the Azores to Joseph & Mary Vargas. Joseph & Mary had three children, two of them were born in Azores, Anthony in 1914 and Joseph in 1916. Manuel was born in the U.S. in 1923. Antonio Sr., Mary, Antonio J. and Joseph entered the U.S. in 1916. After arriving in the U.S. they settled in San Jose California.

In June 1935 Miss Aileen Arabella Lee, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony A. Lee of Alvarado, became the bride of Anthony J Vargas 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. The couple had a daughter Yvonne on July 1, 1945.

In May 1936, Anthony was one of ten aliens who were granted Naturalization Papers at Washington Union High School. Five of the ten new citizens were from Alvarado: V. Naharro, D. Diaz, Anthony J Vargas, Delmar Martinez, and Ivor Paulsen.

In November 1940, Anthony became a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. It did not take long for the Chamber to use Anthony's abilities and energy. In December 1941, Anthony was named as a Director of the new Alvarado Boy Scout Troop along with Charles Baird, Joseph Lewis, Anthony Rodgers, Frank Machado, James C. Wasley, Anthony Silva, Mike Gardetto, Julian Yabut, Manuel Perry and George Vargas.

The Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department was formed just after the start of the War. In January 1943 Anthony joined as a volunteer fireman. At the time, James C. Wasley, Principal of the Alvarado Grammar School, was the Fire Chief and President for the Fireman's Club.

Besides serving on the Fire Department during the War, Anthony also served as an observer on the Alvarado Observation Tower on the Alvarado Grammar School Grounds. The tower was used to scan the skies for intruding enemy planes (24/7) from early 1942 to mid-1943.

James Wasley, Principal of the Alvarado Grammar School and Chief of the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department, resigned his position at the school in September 1944 to take a position as the Principal of the Tennyson School. Anthony J Vargas was elected the new Fire Chief for the Alvarado Fire Department.

March 1950 was a big day in the East Bay; for in that month Hayward was to receive water from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir. A large celebration was planned for turning the valve open at the Hayward Memorial Park and starts the flow of the precious water. Also planned was a large parade in town. Alvarado Fire Chief, Anthony Vargas entered a float in the parade. He had a float arranged on a Cadillac convertible, which had a floral effect to give a beautiful background for the three pretty girls he selected to ride in the car. The three girls were Carol Hocking, Elizabeth Flores, and Jeanette Lagomarsino. Miss Flores was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Flores. Miss Carol Hocking was the daughter of School Trustee George Hocking and wife of the Creek Road. Miss Lagomarsino was the stepdaughter of Mr. Edward Vargas of Smith Street.

Besides his many civic and fraternal associations, Anthony also had time to promote his love of birds, especially canaries. He had some 75 canaries, all with a pedigree. He had a personal record of each one. Anthony took his canaries to various shows, like the big event that was held in the Pacific Building at 16th & Jefferson Streets in Oakland in December 1943. The show was part of the Oakland International Roller Canary Club. His Rollers are registered birds, which mean they have pedigreed records. This was Mr. Vargas' first entry in competition. He belonged to the International Oakland Roller Canary Club, which sponsored the exhibit of best birds in the West.

In January 1949, Anthony added homing pigeons to his hobby. He joined the Alvarado Homing Pigeon Club that month along with Elvin Rose, Vernon Perry, and the Sanchez brothers. They would join the veterans of the club Will Machado, Ed Vargas, Melvin Silva, George Vargas, Joe Perez, Frank & Tony George, and Manuel Silva. The club members drive their birds to various locations in the state and let them loose to fly home. Their time of flight is recorded and their average speed is calculated.

DOCTOR:

Dr. David Malig:

A new physician came to town in August 1950. Dr. David Malig was located in Alvarado next to the Alvarado Fire Department in the finest, newest, and up-to-date quarters that any physician would want. It was a new office throughout. The doctor was Dr. David Malig, whose main practice is in San Jose. He spoke Spanish and would prove valuable to many of the Spanish speaking of Alvarado. All people found that Dr. Malig had a grand standing with our Government as a doctor in the last World War. Dr. Malig, who as we said has, his main office in San Jose, but kept office hours in Alvarado on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Dr. Malig's wife is the sister of Mrs. Felix Diangson.

DUCK CLUB CARETAKER:

Frank M. Best:

Frank (Francis) M. Best was born in Wisconsin in 1875. His wife Bertha was born in Wisconsin in 1883. The couple eventually moved to Idaho where they had three children: a daughter Rilla, and two sons Ivan and Lloyd.

Frank Best was a hunter and a trapper in the early 1900's. He hunted mountain lions in Idaho and Washington, and also trapped beavers for ranchers in Montana. He spent a number of years working on the R.J. Ringling Ranch, and the A.B. Coows ranches in Montana. He also worked in logging drives, riding logs down rivers in Idaho and Washington in the early days.

After his wild younger days, Mr. and Mrs. Best settled in Alvarado as caretakers for duck clubs circa 1931. But Frank kept the travel bug, and in July 1934 Frank and Bertha motored through Montana, Washington and Oregon. They returned from Washington with their son Lloyd in tow.

The following year Frank, Bertha and Lloyd departed on a two-month extended tour through Oregon, Washington, Idaho and other northern states. A high point of interest was Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where the party enjoyed a Fourth of July celebration.

As the war in Europe looked more and more like it would also engulf the U.S., arrangements were made for Civilian Defense. To this end a string of Air Raid Lookouts were assigned in Washington Township. The township was split into four districts:

The Alvarado District would be headed by T.P. Harvey.
Chief Observers were: 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 June 1944 Mrs. Bertha Best returned from North Idaho, where she had been visiting one of her married children. At this time Frank Best was custodian of the Marsh Gun Club in Alvarado, where prominent East Bay men shoot ducks.

In June 1949 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Best left the Gun Club in Alvarado after being employed there for over 18 years. They left National City to visit their son, Lloyd Best for a week. Then they would head north for a visit to Idaho.

Francis (Frank) M. Best died in National City April 11, 1950 at the age of 76. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Best celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 18, 1950, with a large dinner at the home of one of their sons and family in National City.

Frank and his wife, until recently, had lived on the Alvarado Duck Club for almost 20 years, but due to ill health they both were forced to retire. While living on the club they spent their summers in Idaho and Montana camping and fishing.

Frank was survived by his wife, Bertha, two sons, Ivan Best of Alvarado, and Lloyd Best of National City. He also left a daughter in Montana, Miss Rilla M. Best.

Services for Mrs. Bertha Bell Best, 75, of Hayward, were held on February 21, 1957. She died February 19, 1957 at her home. She was the wife of the late Francis M. Best, who was caretaker for the Alvarado Duck Club. She had resided in Alvarado for 18 years and had lived in Hayward for the last two years.

FARM MACHINERY: **Emilio & Marjorie Re:**

Emilio Re was born in 1919 in San Leandro California to Giambattista and Anna Re. Both of Emilio's parents were born in Italy with Anna entering the U.S. in 1900 and Giambattista entering the U.S. in 1909. By 1940 the Re's had spent over twenty years living on Davis Street in San Leandro California. There they raised 10 children, eight sons and two daughters. The children were: Frank, Carmelita, Nathan, Emilio, Silvio (aka "Dutch"), Edward, Albert, Seraphine, Josephine and Eugene.

Emilio first comes to note in Alvarado in September 1939 when he and his brother Silvio double dated with Miss Marjorie Goularte and Miss Mary Pimentel of Alvarado. The four enjoyed a wonderful day at the Fair at Treasure Island.

By February 1941 Emilio was residing in Alvarado, and his engagement to Miss Marjorie Goularte, daughter of M.P. & Aldena Goularte, was made public.

On May 18, 1941, Manuel Goularte gave his daughter in marriage to Emilio Re. After their marriage they went up the Redwood Road to Eureka and when they returned they occupied one of the attractive new homes that had been recently built by John Varni on Smith Street.

By 1943, the Second World War saw two Re brothers taken into the military service, Edward and Frank. In March 1944 Emilio took his physical for the service and was accepted for military service. He was then scheduled to leave for military duty in mid-April 1944. Emilio chose to join the Navy, and by mid-April he left for training. His wife Marjorie carried on like a brave soul, like so many of our splendid ladies who had loaned their husbands to Uncle Sam.

Emilio was back in the Bay Area in August 1944, attending a Navy school in San Francisco. He was able to make the trip daily from Alvarado. Marjorie was naturally happy to have her husband back, if only for a short while. In December 1945 Emilio was at Camp Shoemaker expecting to get his discharge soon.

Shortly after his discharge Emilio was employed by the Faria Brothers of Ashland as a "field man." The Faria Brothers handled Allis Chalmers farm machinery.

In 1955 Emilio joined the Alvarado Alumni of Washington Union High School, class of 1940 for a buffet dinner and dance. The class of 1940 included some notable Alvarado personalities:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rodgers	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Joyce
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Pine	Mr. & Mrs. Emilio Re
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Silva	Mr. & Mrs. William Silva
Mr. & Mrs. E. Alameda	Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Silva
Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Pine	

After the dinner they were taken on a tour through the new facilities and later enjoyed dancing in the girl's gym.

Emilio was active in the Alvarado VFW and the Alvarado Catholic Church. Emilio served on the committee that put on the yearly St. Anne's Bazaar.

Mrs. Marjorie Goularte Re:

Marjorie was born to Manuel P. and Aldena Goularte of Alvarado circa 1923. The Goularte's had two daughters, Marjorie and Jeannette.

Marjorie attended Alvarado Grammar School and the only school activity I could find from her is a story she wrote to Aunt Elsie's Children Page in the *Oakland Tribune* published in July 1932 when Marjorie was nine years old. The story read

"One Monday night a friend from Niles came over to our house with a pair of lovebirds. I was happy to see them. Next morning I asked my mother what are we going to name them? She said, "Name one Alfred and the other Caroline."

By: Marjorie Goularte, Alvarado, age 9

Marjorie graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1936. There were some notable names from her graduating class. Here is the 1936 graduating class from Alvarado:

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, and John Ziegler.

Marge double dated with friend Mary Pimentel in September 1939 with two brothers from San Leandro; they were Emilio Re and Silvio Re. They spent a nice September 1939 day at Treasure Island enjoying the fair.

Emilio and Marjorie's dating grew serious and in February 1941 they announced their engagement. The same day Marjorie announced her engagement she placed an ad in the *Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper announcing the sale of her piano, which she stated was a very reasonable buy.

On May 18, 1941, Miss Marjorie Goularte, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Manuel P. Goularte, was wedded to Emilio Re at St. Anne's Church in Alvarado. Manuel Goularte gave his daughter in marriage, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Goularte stood up with the young couple at the altar. Their honeymoon trip was a drive going up the Redwood Road to Eureka. They also announced that when they return they would occupy one of the attractive new homes built by John Varni. In August 1941, the Re's moved into one of the newly built and newly furnished Varni cottages across Smith Street from Fred Wiegman's place.

Although Marjorie was married she kept her spot in the Alvarado Drill Team. The girls performed at the Alvarado Holy Ghost celebration on May 11, 1941, and afterwards they performed at Crows Landing, Newman, Santa Clara, Stevenson, Patterson, San Jose and Livingston. The girls in the Drill Team were:

Mrs. Delinda Pimentel, Captain
Miss Julia Pagan
Miss Florence Molina
Miss Ernestine Rabello
Miss Isabel Monte
Miss Lucille Fonseca
Miss Jeanette Goularte
Miss Beatrice Fields
Miss Betty Ann Medeiros

Mrs. Mary Re, Lieutenant
Miss Lorraine Alameda
Miss Evelyn Correia
Miss Doris Martinez
Miss Emile Mesquite
Miss Alexia Lezand
Miss Laverne Medeiros
Miss Jeanette Silveira
Miss Phyllis Cordoba

But soon the Second World War brought a serious overtone to life in Alvarado. One of the first things that were done in Alvarado was the formation of a Ground Observer Corps to scan the skies for enemy planes. At the beginning of 1943 donations were solicited for the erection of an 18-foot observation tower with a glassed in enclosure and catwalk around the perimeter.

Persons signed up as volunteers to man shifts on the tower 24/7. By the end of March 1943 Marjorie had received her 100-hour pin. Emilio and Marjorie stood a 2:00 am to 6:00 am shift on Monday mornings. Marjorie then followed this up with a 10:00 am to 2:00 pm shift with Emily Noia on Tuesdays.

Marjorie also was also a fundraiser the War Chest Drive in November 1943. The War Chest was set up to help individuals and families who were in need because of relatives fighting in the war. Marjorie served under Genevieve Dutra, Alvarado Postmaster who had over a dozen volunteers out canvassing the town for donations.

Besides raising money for the War Chest in November 1943, Marjorie was also busy setting up and manning a booth for St. Anne's annual bazaar. Marjorie joined Mrs. Eleanor Azevedo, Mrs. Manuel Borges, Clarence Flores, Joe Dutra, Henry Flores, Joe Goularte and wife, Tony Alexander, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Roderick on the Bazaar committee.

Marjorie's husband, Emilio, was taken into the military service in April 1944. Emilio joined the Navy and was stationed on the east coast initially, but was fortunate enough to be stationed in San Francisco at a Navy training school in August 1944.

Emilio was discharged from the service in 1946 and returned to Alvarado to join Marjorie. They celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on May 18, 1946.

Emilio and Marjorie joined the Paul Rivers Post of the Alvarado VFW. In April 1948 Marjorie was elected Chaplain of the Alvarado Auxiliary. In 1950 Marjorie was elected President of the Alvarado Auxiliary of the VFW. In 1957 Marjorie earned her 10-year pin.

Another activity Marjorie frequently took an active part in was seeing after the infirmed at the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital. There she would play games and serve refreshments to the sick and wounded.

In January 1967 Mrs. Marjorie Re was honored by the Union City Chamber of Commerce as the "Citizen of the Year" for her service to the community and to her service to her fellow citizens.

In October 1971 Mrs. Re was honored as one of ten nominees of the St. Rose Hospital Good Samaritan Award for humanitarian services to the community. This award covered all of Southern Alameda County, and Marjorie was cited for her work with the elderly and infirm in the Union City area.

FARMERS:

Joseph & Mary Amaral / Henry Andrade Sr. / Joseph G. Avila / Lloyd E. Bailey / Alfred Caeton / Manuel Caeton Sr. / Wah Sing Cheng / Weston B. Emery / George Enos / Antonio & Elizabeth Flores / Frank Goularte Sr. / Harvey T. Granger / Theodore P. Harvey / Tom Kitayama / Charles H. Langdon / Louie Lin / Manuel Martin Jr. / Manuel E. Perry / Manuel P. Rose / Raphael & Evelyn Silva

Joseph & Mary Amaral:

Joseph Amaral was born in Portugal in September 1867. He gave the dates of entry into the U.S. as both 1884 & 1887. Mary Amaral was born in California in February 1877. Joe and Mary were married in 1890.

They settled in Washington Township where Joseph farmed. It first appears he rented a farm on the Whipple Road near the farm of John Whipple. Later he would establish his own farm on the Creek Road.

Their children were: Mary (F – b. 1891), Virginia (F – b. 1894), Joseph Jr. (M – b. 1896), Manuel (M - b. 1899), Antone (M – b. 1902), Susan (F – b. 1905), Edith (F – b. 1909) and Victor (M – b. 1913)

Joseph Amaral spent his whole life farming and passed away in 1921. He was buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Fremont where his wife Mary M. and son Joseph E. were also buried.

Mary Amaral was active in the Alvarado Home Farm Center, the Alvarado SPRSI, and the Eagle's Lady Auxiliary of Alvarado, where she was honored as mother of the year in 1954.

Mrs. Mary M. Amaral of Alvarado died on December 25, 1954. She was the wife of the late Joseph Amaral, and mother of Joseph and Manuel Amaral, Mrs. Susie Davis and Mrs. Edith Pfau all of Alvarado. She was 77 years old.

Susie Amaral:

Susie Amaral was born circa 1904 to Joseph and Mary Amaral in Alvarado. Out of high school Susie joined the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. as a relief operator at the Centerville Telephone Exchange. By 1930 Susie had married George Davis. At this time Susie was employed as a clerk in an Alvarado grocery store.

See "**Davis, George & Susie**" in this work for more info on Susie Amaral.

Joseph Amaral Jr:

Joseph Amaral Jr. was born in 1896, to Joseph and Mary Amaral in Alvarado. Joseph Amaral Jr. farmed on the Alvarado Niles Road near his mother and his sister. Joe had married Helen Machado, who had a daughter Gertrude from a previous marriage. Helen worked in a pencil factory as a sorter.

Joseph passed away on November 8, 1975 in Union City California. He left his wife Susie Davis of Union City and Edith Pfau of Fremont. He was a member of the Eden Barracks of WWI.

Edith Amaral:

Edith Amaral was born in 1911 to Joseph and Mary Amaral in Alvarado. Edith attended the Alvarado Grammar School where she graduated in June 1925 with the following classmates: Minnie Rivers, Mabel Amaral, Edith Mello, Conception Gomes, Norma Peixotto, Rosalie Joyce, Genevieve Davilla, Bernice Boyd, Joe Lemos, Toshie Soto, Wilbert Hendricks, Mamie Vargas, Melvin Skow, Raymond Hinkley, Madeline Goularte, Helen Baird and Minnie Hizer.

In June 1932 Edith Amaral married Joseph Pfau, also from Alvarado. They settled down with Edith's mother on the Creek Road in Alvarado where Joe worked for the sugar mill. Later he would turn to farming and both he and Edith were active members in the local Farm Bureau and the Alvarado Home Farm Center.

Margaret Pfau:

Margaret Pfau was born to Joseph and Edith Pfau in February 1939. Margaret attended the Alvarado Grammar School and in February 1948, where she was a member of the Girl Scouts of Alvarado. In April 1948 Margaret was an attendant for the small queen in the Alvarado Holy Ghost celebration.

Manuel (Mike) Amaral:

Manuel Amaral was born circa 1900 to Joseph and Mary Amaral of Alvarado. Manuel lived on Amaral Court (the dog leg of Whipple road prior to the 1957 freeway) with his wife Alverta, son Arlen W. and daughter Vivian. He was a member of the Alvarado Eagles and a director of the Business Men's and Merchants Association of Union City. Manuel passed away on February 23, 1962.

Antone E. Amaral:

Antone E. Amaral was born in 1902 to Joseph and Mary Amaral of Alvarado. He was the husband of Constance Amaral, of Decoto. He was the son of Mary M. Amaral of Alvarado and brother to Joseph Amaral, Manuel Amaral, Susie Davis and Edith Pfau, all of Alvarado. He was past president of the Alvarado Eagles, No. 1695. Antone of Decoto passed away on March 25, 1947 at age 45.

Victor Amaral:

Victor Amaral was born to Joseph and Mary Amaral circa 1913. In June 1926 Victor graduated with the following classmates Madeline Avila, Julia Allegrotti, Minnie Gomes, George Goularte, Joe Ghigliazzi, Charles Hizer, James Logan, Alice Lemos, Mary Mateo, Viola Montarbo, Sophie Oliveira, Sara Olivencia, Manuel Pinto, Richard Silva, Leonard Silvey, and Ida Troche.

Virginia Amaral:

Virginia Amaral was born in 1894 to Joseph and Mary Amaral of Alvarado. Virginia married George Enos and they had one child, a daughter Martha. Martha would marry and become Mrs. Martha Faria.

Virginia was an active member of the Alvarado Farm Home Center, where she was feted for perfect attendance in 1942. Also in 1942 Virginia, along with her sister Susie Davis, were among the star knitters of warm clothes for our troops overseas during WWII.

In 1950 Virginia fractured both of her hips and it would be some time before she was able to walk again, although she got about the house fine. Last rites were given for Mrs. Virginia Enos, 59, on July 28, 1952 at her home on Alvarado-Niles Road. She was the widow of the late George Enos. Mrs. Enos was the mother of Mrs. Martha Faria and the daughter of Mrs. Mary M. Amaral, and sister of Susie A. Davis, Edith Pfau, and M. E. Amaral, all of Alvarado.

Henry Andrade, Sr.:

Henry Andrade was the son of John Andrade (Sr.), who was born Joao Andrade de Macedo of Candelaria, Pico, Azores in January 1849. John Andrade Sr. entered the U.S. in 1874. John Sr.'s wife was born Annie Francis Silveira from Velas, Sao Jorge, Azores in November 1865. She entered the

U.S. in 1880. Joao married Annie in the U.S. on December 1, 1883. John would farm a ranch in the foothills near the May Canyon Road. They had 13 children, ten of which lived to adulthood. Those children were:

John Andrade Jr.	Aug 1885
Joseph Andrade	Aug 1886
Antone (Tony)	Feb 1889
Mary	Aug 1890
Manuel	Feb 1892
Henry	Feb 1896
Leonora	Sep 1897
George	Mar 1899
Rose	ca. 1903
William	Ca. 1904

Joao Andrade de Macedo went by name John Andrade in the 1900 census, but changed the family name to Macedo in 1910 census. John Macedo Andrade Sr. would pass away in 1919, and in the 1920 census his widow, Annie, would use the family name Andrade thereafter, as would all of her children. Annie would pass away in 1934 and would be buried beside John Sr. in the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery on Mission Blvd. in Hayward.

Henry Andrade was born to John and Annie Andrade in February 1896 in Decoto, California. After his father passed away the Andrade brothers (Joseph, John Jr. and Henry) took over the family farm in Decoto.

In September 1921 Henry Andrade, then 24 years old, took out a marriage license to wed Carrie Goularte, 20 years old, of Alvarado. Carrie was living with her grandparents Frank P & Anna F. Rose in Alvarado. After their marriage Henry settled down on the family ranch to farm in concert with his brothers Joseph and John Jr.

Henry and Carrie had five children:

George	b. 1923
Norman	b. 1927
Ernest	b. 1929
Henry Jr. (Dick)	b. 1932
Marlene	b. 1937

The Andrade brothers were progressive farmers being one of the first in the area to employ an airplane crop duster in April 1935 to dust their 400-acre pea field. Each morning for three days the residents of Decoto were awakened at 5:30 a.m. by the thunderous roar of the crop dusting airplane. The airplane, operated by Independent Crop Dusting, Inc., of San Francisco, was dusting the pea field for pea aphid, a disease that presented a serious problem.

That same season the brothers had a grader belt installed on their lower ranch. Another grader would be installed later. The brothers could ship as much as three carloads of peas a day from their fields. They employed more than 300 pickers.

In November 1936 Henry escaped with minor injuries from a fire that destroyed a barn, three-prized Percheron horses, 100 tons of baled hay and harness. The loss was estimated at \$3,500. The fire appears to have been purposely set. The blaze was the fifth of a similar nature in recent months ascribed to a firebug.

Andrade, in trying to release the horses, was knocked down and badly bruised by the frightened animals. One of the several horses that escaped was badly burned. The Andrade Ranch operated by Henry Andrade of Decoto, and Joe and John Andrade of Centerville, consisted of 1,500 acres devoted to peas, oats, and barley and was the birthplace of the three brothers.

Just before the start of the war in 1940 the Andrade brothers became members of the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association at the Hall Station on the Alvarado Centerville Road at the Southern Pacific railroad tracks. Also members of this association at this time 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

During the war there was a shortage of labor in the vegetable fields with most men of military age now overseas. In September 1942 the long awaited importation of Mexican laborers began to top beets in Southern Alameda County. The men would stay at a bunkhouse on the Andrade property. The Mexicans had to decide if they wanted to cook for themselves or eat FSA (Federal Security Administration) food at a \$1.40 a day.

Near the end of WWII the Japanese still hoped to demoralize Americans with an ingenious contraption. Paper balloons with a bomb attached would be released into the atmosphere in Japan and would float on the trade winds to the west coast of the U.S. Here an ingenious device would release the bomb over the U.S. mainland. The bombs never killed anyone during the war, but the danger was real if someone unsuspecting picked one up to investigate. This happened to one family in Oregon, who lost several members of their family when one picked one up that had lain there for several years. Henry Andrade (by then he was living on Fair Ranch Road in Alvarado) reported that he had found something resembling a balloon in Cull Canyon in June 1945. After an investigation it was revealed that it was a meteorological balloon with a smashed instrument box.

Henry would farm on Fair Ranch Road from 1945 to March 14, 1956 when he passed away at the age of 60. He left his sons: George, Norman, Ernest and Henry Jr. (called Dick by everyone) and a daughter Marlene. Henry was a member of the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles, and the S.D.E.S. Society of Alvarado.

George Andrade:

George Andrade was born in 1923 in Decoto California to Henry and Carrie Andrade. He attended Decoto Grammar School and graduated from Washington Union High School in 1941.

Shortly after graduating from high school George entered the fighting in WWII. In 1944 he began training with the Air Corps in Texas after having been in the service for two years.

On February 16, 1947 George married Miss Leonora Oliveira of Hayward. The couple had three sons, George L., Mike and Bob.

They initially made their home on Fair Ranch Road near George's father. By 1949 the couple had moved to the City of Hayward and by 1956 the couple moved to Fremont where they made their permanent home.

Norman Andrade:

Norman Andrade was born in 1927 in Decoto California to Henry and Carrie Andrade. He attended Decoto Grammar School and graduated from Washington Union High School in 1945.

Norman and Violet Andrade were married in October 1948. They spent their first year of marriage living with George & Leonora Andrade on Fair Ranch Road at a home owned by father Henry Andrade. In February 1949 Norman and Violet moved to an apartment on Granger Street in Alvarado.

On July 29, 1950 Norman and Violet had their first child, a daughter, Kathleen. They later had another daughter, Debbie. Norman and Violet eventually moved to Cabrillo Park in Fremont. On July 4, 1968, Kathy Andrade announced her engagement to Wayne Cardoza of Medford Oregon.

Ernie Andrade:

Ernie Andrade was born in 1929 in Decoto California to Henry and Carrie Andrade. He attended Decoto Grammar School and graduated from Washington Union High School in 1948.

In June 1949 Ernie and Carol Andrade were married. They had a daughter Linda Andrade. Also living with them was Sharon Perry. They lived on Granger Avenue in Alvarado until September 1956 when they moved to Farwell Drive in Glenmoor Gardens.

Henry Andrade, Jr. (Dick):

Henry Andrade Jr. was born in Decoto in 1932 to Henry and Carrie Andrade. He attended the Decoto and Alvarado Grammar School's and graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in 1946 and Washington Union High School in 1950.

Dick attended Alvarado Grammar School where he was an adept baseball player. In November 1945 he elected president of the Alvarado school student body. In June 1946 Dick graduated from Alvarado Grammar School along with:

Lorraine McClain	Georgia Davis	Gilbert Villareal	Ann Paz
Marion Ichemoto	Glenn Bachelor	Elizabeth Jacinto	Letizia Paz
Sal Dominguez	John Ledesma	Vernon Machado	Robert Jones
Yoshio Hisaoka	Madeline Hernandez		

Then in November 1948 tragedy struck Dick Andrade. Dick came down with polio and spent twenty-nine days in an iron lung. But Dick proved to be tough

and resilient, although he never overcame his paralysis. He continued his studies at Washington High Union School and graduated on time in June 1950.

Offers of help came from throughout Washington Township. The S.E.S. Lodge No. 8 of Newark sponsored an Easter Ball April 8, 1950 at the Newark Pavilion to benefit Dick.

Dick continued to socialize with old friends and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Andrade gave Dick a birthday party in May 1950. They served cake and ice cream, pop, and afterward everyone enjoyed their new television set. The guests were:

Ernie Andrade	Carol Andrade	Violet Andrade
George Andrade	George Andrade Jr.	Vernon Perry
Rodney Hendricks	Joaquin Preciado	Elizabeth Flores
Marjorie Best	Joyce Caldeira	Jean Lagomarsino
Shirley Mello	Marlene Andrade	Johnny Gualco

In May 1956 Dick successfully completed the course for insurance sales and insurance brokering. Dick had limited use of his hands and fingers, but thanks to modern inventions he was able to employ a device to dial a phone and type. He was able to sell insurance from his home.

A nurse, Miss Isolde Mondon, was imported from Germany to help take care of Dick early on and after a period of years they married. Dick's father built a swimming pool behind the home as therapy for Dick so he could stand up in the waters and exercise his muscles. In June 1956 students of the Alvarado Grammar School took swimming lessons in Henry's pool.

In May 1960, Dick celebrated his 28th birthday by opening an insurance office in the former law offices of City Attorney, Anthony J. Garcia. The city and chamber agreed to set up free offices for Andrade adjacent to the new chamber quarters in exchange for Andrade's agreement to handle the city's insurance and to help answer phones and correspondence in city attorney's office.

Miss Marlene Andrade:

Marlene Andrade was born in Decoto in 1937 to Henry and Carrie Andrade. She attended Decoto and Alvarado Grammar School's and graduated from the Alvarado school in 1950 and Washington Union High School in 1954.

In May 1946 Marlene was the small queen in the annual Holy Ghost at Alvarado. Her maids were Jo-Anne Castro and Joyce Ann Caldeira. In April 1949 Marlene and Joyce Caldeira were maids to Queen Shirley Mello at the annual Holy Ghost festa held at Alvarado. Then in May 1950 Marlene was the Queen of the Alvarado Holy Ghost with Joyce Ann Caldeira as her attendant. There was no prouder father in Alvarado than Henry Andrade to see his daughter Marlene as Queen of the Holy Ghost!

Marlene was a member of the Alvarado Girl Scout Troop 67 with the following girls as her troop mates:

Aurora Sanchez	Virginia Araya	Marjorie Best
Joyce Caldeira	Elaine Hocking	Beverly Utile

Jeany Cheng Ellen Louie Margaret Pfau
Francis Wayland Beverly Spurlock

On June 13, 1950 Marlene graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School.

Those who graduated were:

Anita Apodaca	Gloria Apodaca	Rosa Barrera	Marjorie Best
Natalie Cicairos	Amalia Concha	Frank Corrales	Gene Concha
Cornelio Contreras	Arnold Gardetto	Elaine Hocking	Bev Davilla
Sadako Kurotori	Larry Roberts	Beverly Spurlock	Esther Muela
Frank Velarde	Rosendo Villegas		

In July 1957 Marlene Andrade was wed to Frederick Dohman of Hayward in St. Anne's Catholic Church in Alvarado. The happy couple spent their honeymoon in Los Angeles. They then came home to Alvarado where they moved into a home owned by the late Henry Andrade on Fair Ranch Road in Alvarado next to the family home.

Joseph G. Avila:

Joseph Avila was born in California circa 1876. In September 1906 he married Mary Flores, 30 of Alvarado, who was born ca. 1875. They had two daughters, Mary (Mamie) who was born circa 1908 and Madeline born circa 1913. A son, Joseph was born circa 1916 but died at the Hayward General Hospital in December 1925.

In late 1909, Joe was residing on "V" Street in Alvarado with wife Mary and daughter Mary who was two years old at the time. Also living with Joe and Mary were Joe's brothers: William, 32; John, 24; and Manuel 21. At this time Joe was farming.

In January 1912 George Althausser sold 47.5 acres of his property to Joseph & William Avila. In 1920 Joe would move into town and reside, for the rest of his life, on Vallejo Street. William Avila, Joe's brother, would make his home on the west end of this property just across the street from the Alvarado Grammar School on Smith Street. Both Joe and his brother William farmed the land.

Joe was active in the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce and he was among the crew that cleared and burned brush at the mouth of the Alameda Creek in the hopes of averting a flood in October of 1941. Joining him in the arduous task was:

Peter Rose	Manuel Perry	Clarence Flores	Alvin Bailey
James Wasley Sr.	James Wasley Jr.	Charles Baird	Frank Dutra
George Hellwig	Joseph Avila	Tony Alexander	A.J. Vargas
Dan Reilly	Gregory Perry		

In February 1946 Joe excavated the lower part of the Alameda Creek and lowered the creek bed by one and one-half feet. This was one reason he cited for the faster runoff and the fact that the creek was only half full of water that year.

Besides his work on Chamber matters Joe joined the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department in November 1944. In January 1946 the Alvarado Fire Department listed the following volunteers:

Anthony J. Vargas, Chief

Charles Baird, Ass't Chief

Manuel Silva, Lt.

Joseph Avila

Joe Goularte

Clarence Flores

Peter Pinto

Wilbert Hendricks

Manuel Perry

William Machado

Elvin Rose

Manuel Goularte

Edward Martini

Joseph Dutra

A.J. Cadero

Tony Alexander

Felix Diangson

Joe, and his wife Mary, were active in the Alvarado Catholic Church, especially the Holy Ghost. In 1948 he was one of the directors of Holy Ghost that year and he continued to support the festival for many years afterwards. Mary Avila was involved in St. Anne's annual church bazaar

Joseph Avila passed away in October 1966.

Miss Madeline Avila:

See "**Mrs. Madeline Woodward**" Chapter 1940 to 1949, page 36.

Mrs. Mary (Mamie) Avila:

Mary Avila was born circa 1908. Mary attended Alvarado Grammar School and graduated in June 1923. Her classmates were:

Victor Allegre

Ramona Hinkley

Vernie Machado

Alma Logan

Edward Vargas

George Vargas

William Vargas

Mr. A.B. Morris was the class teacher.

Mary would marry Tony Alexander and they had one child, a daughter Sharon. See "**Alexander, Tony**" for a more complete bio of Mary.

Lloyd E. Bailey:

Lloyd E. Bailey was the son of Angelo and Lottie Bailey of the Alhambra Valley (Martinez) in Contra Costa County. Angelo was a teacher in the district. Lloyd was born in January 1889. Lloyd attended the University of California at Berkeley where he studied agricultural methods.

Lloyd and his wife Valborg had three children, Lloyd Evan, Norman and Anita. Both Lloyd and wife Valborg had four-year college degrees. They lived and farmed on Orchard Avenue, which I believe is the old name for Beard Road in the Alviso District of Washington Township.

In November 1921, Lloyd stunned local area farmers with his modern methodology of farming, raising an astounding 200 sacks of potatoes from a single acre. On his 20 twenty-acre farm he averaged 150 sacks per acre. Bailey credited the careful analysis of the soil and replenishment of nutrients that he finds lacking. He had caught the local farmer's ears!

In 1934 Lloyd joined a group of local farmers to organize a cauliflower marketing association in the Eden-Washington Township area under the California Prorate Act. Lloyd felt that this association would be a benefit to local farmers. To this end a committee of local farmers came together

consisting of M.P. Williams of Centerville, Lloyd Bailey of Alvarado, Alden Oliver of Mt. Eden, and Richard C. Kennedy of Hayward to promote the concept.

Lloyd again showed his forward thinking in farming in September 1939 when he used an airplane to spray calcium arsenate from the air upon the tomato plants to keep worms from getting a hold of his luscious quality tomatoes. The first crop to be sprayed in this way was that of Lloyd Bailey's. But it was soon followed by F.C. Harvey, Ed Harvey, H.T. Granger and A. M. King of the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Assoc.

Lloyd's new potato sacks caught the eye of George Oakes, editor of *The Alvarado Pioneer*. The newspaper lauded Lloyd Bailey for his new logo on his potato sacks, which stood out in red and black attractive lettering printed on the bags with the name 'Alvarado' printed thereon. George felt that this brought more prominence to the town of Alvarado. Lloyd had some 55 acres of potatoes growing in 1939.

By 1940, Lloyd was one of the largest independent growers and shippers of produce in Washington Township. He eclipsed all records for shipping green tomatoes east in October 1940, when he shipped eighteen carloads back to Chicago. The tomatoes would arrive in a ripened condition after being on the road two weeks via Southern Pacific cars.

In September 1941, Lloyd Bailey planted about 400 acres to cauliflower, which was ready to be shipped to the Eastern Market in iced cars in November from the Centerville S.P. Station. Lloyd limited his tomato field to only 50 acres of tomatoes in 1941, as he figured that the high wages of the shipyards was offering would lure many employees away from their usual jobs on the farm. (He was right!) In fact all the growers in the Washington Township area were moaning over the shortage of farm labor, although you can't blame the Government either. It was just that National Defense had caused more jobs and higher wages to be available on Federal projects. This, of course, was just before the onset of WWII, and huge shipments of weapons and vehicles were being shipped to Europe and Russia at this time under Roosevelt's Lend-Lease Program.

When the War brought the U.S. onto the fighting stage labor shortages for farmers became rampant as all young able bodied men went into the Armed Services. Lloyd was no better off than all the other farmers in Washington Township. To this end the farmers of Washington Township embraced the national program of "braceros," or Mexican nationals.

But besides the labor shortages, there was also the rationing of all types of goods, from foodstuff, to rubber, to metal, and many other wartime needed products. On October 1942, Lloyd Bailey was appointed to the Washington Township Rationing and Price Control Board.

Lloyd, knowing the value of a good education sent his oldest son off to school at Bloomfield Hills Michigan in 1944. The school prepares students for life at a university. It was a high school of superb merit.

In December 1950 the engagement of Lloyd Evan Bailey to Miss Sue Inderbitzen of Sacramento was announced. The wedding was planned for 1951.

Norman S. Bailey, son of L.E. Bailey of Alvarado, graduated from the infantry school's basic infantry officer's course at Ft. Benning GA as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was a graduate of the University of California. He entered the Army in April 1955. He, and his wife Sharon, lived in Columbus GA.

Valborg Bailey, Lloyd's wife, took a civic interest in the welfare of the township's children. To this end she was elected a member of the Washington Township Child Welfare Club. Valborg continued with the organization into the 1950's hosting programs dealing with adoptions, foster homes, and in-house training programs. In May 1958, Valborg lent her support to the Jackie Foster Homes agency when she attended a luncheon at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland as a representative of the Alameda County Social Service Board.

Alfred Caeton:

Alfred Caeton was born in Hawaii in 1897, 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.

Alfred was married to Hazel Caeton and they had two children on the 1940 census, Loretta and Alfred Jr.

Al Caeton farmed on the old Orchard Avenue (Beard Road) in the Alviso District of Washington Township. In 1940 he was already an associate in the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association at the Southern Pacific tracks on Alvarado Boulevard. Joining him in the association at this time was: T.P. Harvey, F.C. Harvey, Wallace McKeown, Weston Emery, Ed Lebon, Herbert Young, Manuel P. Rose, Harvey Granger, Joel Langdon, the Soares Bros., Morrill King, and the Andrade Bros. The packinghouse at this time was under manager ship of David Caeton, Al's brother.

In June 1944, Al's brother David gave up his job as manager of the packinghouse. Al took David's place soon after that and had the dual role of manager and farmer for the vegetable association.

In 1946 Al Caeton was the Vice President of the growers association under the Presidency of Fred C. Harvey. By the mid-fifties the growers association began to dwindle away as farmland began to disappear in Alvarado and give way to homes.

Manuel Caeton, Sr.:

Manuel Caeton was born in the Azores (Portugal) circa 1873. In 1895 he married Arminda Caeton (born circa 1881 in the Azores), and they first settled in Hawaii where their first three of their sons were born, Alfred, Walter, and David. Manuel Jr., the fourth child, was born in 1905 in California.

Manuel settled in Oakland on the mainland where he was employed as a laborer in various jobs. He then moved to Washington Township, and by 1920 he was in the vegetable farming business on Beard Road in the Alviso District.

Manuel passed away January 12, 1955 in Centerville. Mrs. Arminda Caeton passed away November 22, 1974.

The four sons, at one time or another, were all associated with the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association located on the Alvarado Centerville Road just south of the SP railroad tracks at Hall Station.

The growers shipped cauliflower, lettuce, tomatoes and potatoes primarily, but they also grew and shipped chicory, broccoli, peppers, endive, green peas, fava beans, onions, celery and carrots.

Manuel Caeton Jr.:

Manuel Caeton Jr. was born in California circa 1905. The 1940 census shows Manuel Jr. as married but does not show his wife. His employment was as a laborer in the packinghouse at the SP track in Alvarado.

There was not much information on Manuel Jr. other than he was killed in a horrific head on collision with a bus on January 6, 1946 shortly after being discharged from the U.S. military.

Walter Caeton:

Walter Caeton was born in Hawaii circa 1899. Walter married Josephine Caeton and they had one son William in the 1930 census. Walter had worked for the Golden State Creamery for 19 years when he left his position to join his brother Dave at the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association in July 1940.

Walter Caeton passed away on April 12, 1950 leaving his wife Josephine, two sons, William and Walter, and a daughter Mrs. Joan Bell.

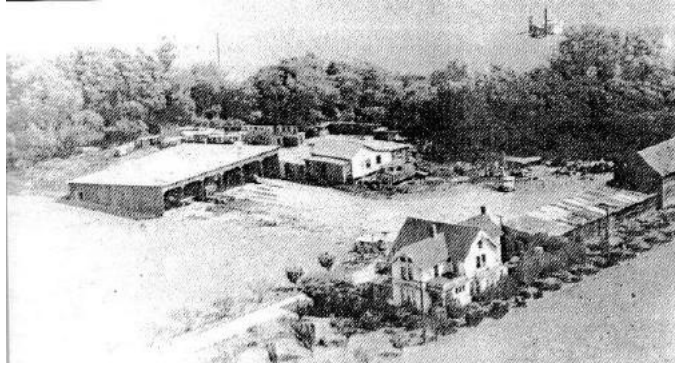
Wah Sing Cheng:

Wah Sing Cheng was born in China circa 1905. Wah Sing came from Canton, China, and entered the U.S. in 1919. Gum Hoo Cheng arrived four years later as a picture bride. Gum Hoo was born ca. 1907, and she and Wah Sing were married circa 1924. They had nine children: Mabel born ca. 1925, Milton born ca. 1926, Mary born ca. 1927, Raymond born ca. 1929, Josephine born ca. 1931, Florence born ca. 1932, Betty born ca. 1934, Jeany born ca. 1938, and Gloria born ca. 1944.

Wah Sing started farming in Centerville and Niles before moving to Newark in 1937. In Newark they resided on the old Jarvis Landing Road (before it was changed to just Jarvis Road).

Here Wah Sing grew sugar beets, tomatoes, cucumbers, bok choy, cabbages, cauliflower and corn. Wah Sing share cropped on land owned by Henry and William Patterson.

In 1945 Wah Sing and family moved into a large home on the old Creek Road (today's Alvarado Niles Road) where the Crowne Plaza and the Nimitz Freeway (I-880) is located today.



The farm of Wah Sing Cheng on the Alvarado Niles Road just east of the I-880 Cloverleaf where the Crowne Plaza Hotel is located today. The trees in the background is where the Alameda Creek ran behind their home. Photo from the book: "Union City through the Years," by Myrla Raymundo

Wah Sing and his wife did not participate in Alvarado social or civic organizations that I could locate. However they had an extensive family that touched many Alvaradan's. Here Wah Sing farmed until he passed away in 1952. His wife Gum Hoo lived until the age of 93.

Mabel Cheng:

Mabel Cheng graduated from Washington Union School in 1944.

Milton Cheng:

Milton Cheng graduated from Washington Union School in 1944.

Mary Cheng:

Mary Cheng graduated from Washington Union School in 1945. Those who graduated with her from Alvarado were:
 Norman Andrade Doris E. Martinez Clifford L. Rodgers Agnes Silva

In March of 1950 Mary was shown working and living in Oakland California.

Raymond Cheng:

Raymond Cheng is not shown as having graduated from Washington High School.

Josephine Cheng:

Josephine graduated from Washington Union School in 1948.

Florence Cheng:

Florence graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in June 1945. Those graduating with her were:

Clyde Davis	Leonard Dutra	Gilbert Faria
Tommy Gellerman	Bradley Martinez	Teddy Peterson
Frances Roderick	Dolores Santos	Joseph Silva
Eleanor Soares	Abel Villareal	Geraldine Warren

Florence Cheng graduated from Washington Union School in 1949.

Betty Cheng:

Betty graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in June 1947. Betty Cheng graduated from Washington Union School in 1951. Betty was married in June 1957 to Clarence Tom of Oakland. Milton Cheng gave away the bride.

Jeanie Cheng:

Nineteen Brownie Girl Scouts were invested at the Alvarado Grammar School in January 1948 under the leadership of Mrs. Emily Noia and Mrs. Emily Click. The girls receiving their pins were:

Sharon Alexander	Frances Alvarez	Virginia Araya
Carol Bowersox	Jeanie Cheng	Nancy Conrad
Myrna Jean Dutra	Patricia Flores	M. Hernandez
Grace Gillimay	Ellen Louie	Patricia Noia
Madeline Mata	Margaret Pfau	Aurora Sanchez
Geraldine Silva	Helen Vasquez	Patricia Vargas
Helen Villalobos	Rosemary Urrutia	Jo Ann Boon

Jeanie graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in June 1951. Those graduating with her were:

Leonard Barrera	Lupe Bueno	Joyce Caldeira
Norman Carpenter	John Corrales	Cyndy De Anda
Archie Delao	Vera Dominguez	Johnny Gualco
Albert Hernandez	Eddie Maldonado	Sammy Muela
Mervin Pinto	Andrew Pimentel	Conrad Preciado
Lupe Ramirez	Albert Rede	Mercedes Rigmaiden
Irene Silva	Josephine Villegas	Verlie Tolbertson

Richard Thomas.

In April 1955 Jeany Cheng was announced as the winner of the annual essay contest of the Auxiliary to Joseph & Stanley Bernardo Post, VFW, at Washington Union High School. Jeany was a senior at Washington High. She was treasurer for her class, secretary of the Girl's League, and a member of the California Scholastic Federation.

Jeanie Cheng graduated from Washington Union School in 1955.

Gloria Cheng:

Mary Ann Travers and Gloria Cheng started a knitting club at the Alvarado Grammar School. It started on Monday, February 2, 1953.

Gloria Cheng would have attended James Logan High School and would have graduated in 1960 or 1961.

Weston B. Emery:

Weston Buchannan Emery was born in Alvarado circa 1898 to Orman J. and Margaret Emery. Weston grew up in the family home on Smith Street with his sister Orma J. Emery. He graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in 1912 and Washington Union High School in 1916.

Weston joined the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association in 1928 near the inception of the association. He brought his vegetables to the packinghouse for the association that was located just south of the SP railroads tracks on Alvarado Boulevard. At this location the SP had built a large warehouse, which was triangular in shape and fit space of property perfectly. A railroad siding

was built so that the packing house could load their packed vegetables into the cars and then pack them with ice for the journey to the east coast and Canada.

Weston's farm was on Lowry Road just about midway between Union City Blvd. and Alvarado Blvd. Weston enjoyed a long relationship with the growers association and with such farmers as: T.P. Harvey, F.C. Harvey, Wallace McKeown, Ed Lebon, Herbert Young, Manuel P. Rose, Harvey Granger, Joe Langdon, the Soares Bros., Al Caeton, Morrill King, the Andrade Bros., Edward Harvey, George, and Richard Kennedy.

When WWII broke out Weston faced the same problems all of the farmers faced. There was a severe shortage of labor, not only in the fields, but also in the packinghouse, of which Weston was president. Be that as it may, the farmers were able to make it through WWII while still feeding America and our troops overseas.

Just before the war Washington Township was split into four districts to act as Air Raid Lookouts for enemy airplanes. The Alvarado district was headed by T. P. Harvey, Chief Observers were Andrew Logan, Joseph Jacinto and Robert Whipple; and Chief Assistants were Wes 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.

Besides being one of the leaders of the observation corps, Wes put in over 200 hours manning the tower that was erected on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds.

Meanwhile, Weston's wife Alicia also contributed to the war effort by gathering a group of 30 ladies for instruction in First Aid. The ladies met each Thursday and received instruction from a qualified Red Cross instructor.

Weston and Alicia had four children, Laura born ca. 1932; Donald born ca. 1934; William born ca. 1937; and Robert born ca. 1939.

George Enos:

George Enos was born in October 1874. George and his wife Virginia had two children, Paul and Martha. Unfortunately, Paul passed away in January 1923 at the age of nine years.

George was a farmer on the Creek Road, and both he and his wife were active in Alameda County Farm Bureau and the Alvarado Farm Center. Mrs. Enos actively participated in the Alvarado Farm Center meetings, which were intended to aid farm wives in preparing healthy meals and to impart household hints to women on the farm. Both George and Virginia would attend Farm Bureau meetings held in various parts of the state.

George Enos was a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce and in 1922 was elected to the Board of the Chamber. George and John Scribner submitted a petition to the Board of Supervisors (as members of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce) asking that the boundary between the Decoto and

Alvarado school districts be redrawn giving more students to the Alvarado school from the southern end of the Creek Road (Alvarado-Niles Road). John Sandholdt, Henry May and Harry C. Searles (of Decoto) wished to go on record as vehemently opposed to the plan.

Mrs. Enos was also a member of the Alvarado Grammar School PTA and during World War II she actively participated in the Centerville Red Cross program to knit garments for our soldiers overseas.

Mrs. Virginia Enos passed away on July 28, 1952 at her home on the Alvarado-Niles Road at the age of 59 years. She was the widow of the late George Enos who preceded her in death by a few years. Mrs. Enos was the mother of Mrs. Martha Faria; the daughter of Mrs. Mary M. Amaral, and sister of Mmes. Susie A. Davis, Edith Pfau, and Manuel E. Amaral, all of Alvarado.

Antonio & Elizabeth Flores:

Antonio L. Flores was born in the Azores (Portugal) in October 1841. He entered the U.S. in 1854. His wife, Elizabeth Flores was born in California in July 1857. Together they had twelve children, ten that lived to adulthood:

Mary, June 1871	Manuel, Feb 1875	Antonio, Sep 1877
Frank, Nov 1878	Louise, May 1882	Joseph, Feb 1884
Henry, Nov 1886	Minnie, June 1888	Thomas, Feb 1891
Clarence, Aug 1902		

In November 1897, Antonio L. Flores bought a lot on "V" Street from Manuel & Isabelle Foster in the town of Alvarado. In the year 1900, however they were still listed as living on a rented farm in the City of Alameda. The 1920 census shows Antonio living on "V" Street, and gave his employment as a self-employed farmer and that he owned his own farm.

Antonio Flores passed away in 1924. Elizabeth Louise Flores passed away November 12, 1951 in Alvarado at the age of 93 years. She left daughters Mrs. Louise Machado, Mrs. Mary Avila, Mrs. Minnie Rose and one son Clarence Flores all of Alvarado.

Frank Goularte, Sr.:

Frank Goularte Sr. was born in the Azores (Portugal) in 1878. He entered the U.S. in 1903. His wife Maria was also born in the Azores (Portugal) in 1880. She entered the U.S. in 1904 along with her two-year old daughter Mary. Frank and Marie were married in 1901. They had eight children, seven of which lived to adulthood: Mary, Manuel, Rosie, Avarista (Vesta), George, Frank Jr. and Joseph.

Frank Sr. began work in Alvarado as a laborer on the railroad. In 1920 he lived on "V" Street in old Union City, and he was managing a farm. By 1930 he was on his own farm on Fair Ranch Road. He would remain at this location for the remainder of his life. If the old farmhouse and barn would still be standing there today, it would be located on Santa Susanna Way, which is actually the old Fair Ranch Road renamed.

In 1955 Frank Jr. built his home next to father's property on Fair Ranch Road, where he and his wife May and children George and Michael resided. That

home is still there today, on Santa Susanna Way by two tall palm trees. It is only one of two houses that were on the original Fair Ranch Road, the other being G.B. Gualco's house on San Rafael Way which was built on Fair Ranch Road in 1933.

The extended Goularte family was very active in the Catholic Church in Alvarado, giving freely of their time.

In May 1957 Rose Goularte Hernandez of "V" Street Alvarado passed away at the age of 48 years. Rose was the daughter of Frank and Mary Goularte Sr. She left her sons, Robert Jr., Albert and Arnold, and daughters Mrs. Sophie Rivers, Mrs. Mercedes Bolivia, Mrs. Delores Delgado and Mrs. Madeline Renteria.

Harvey T. Granger:

Harvey T. Granger was born in Alvarado in November 1909 to Farley B. & Sue Granger. He attended San Leandro's Lincoln Grammar School graduating in 1923. After high school he attended the University of California at Berkeley, becoming a stellar performer on the Cal rowing squad. While at Cal he was a member of the Blade & Scabbard, the Golden Bear, and the Winged Helmet Honor societies.

After graduating college he worked with the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Society for several years before he married his college sweetheart, Miss Janet Stewart. Shortly thereafter the couple moved to the Alvarado/Decoto area and settled on a ranch on the Alvarado-Niles Road.

Harvey was listed as an associate farmer in the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association, which had their packing shed at Hall Station at the SP tracks on the Alvarado Centerville Road, about one mile south of the town of Alvarado. Here Harvey joined his two uncles, Edward S. & Frederick C. Harvey, and his two cousins George and Theodore P. Harvey, as associates in the growers association.

Harvey served a term as a school trustee in the Decoto school system.

During WWII Harvey spent 50 months on active duty, rising to rank of Captain. He then returned to his ranch and continued to farm in the area.

With Harvey's return to the Alvarado area the Granger's became one of the few families to have a 100-year presence in Alvarado, although the family was gone for two decades.

Theodore P. Harvey:

Theodore Harvey was born in 1904 to F.C. & Selma Harvey. He attended Alvarado Grammar School and after graduation from high school attended the University of California at Berkeley as an Agriculture Major. Here he met and fell in love with Miss Marguerite Virginia Galbraith, socialite daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Galbraith, a wealthy and respected surgeon from Piedmont.

Ted and Marguerite were married shortly after graduating from UC Berkeley on June 3, 1926. In July the Harvey's returned from their six-week

honeymoon on the eastern seaboard. In October of 1927, the Harvey's made plans build a home in the English style of architecture, which would be situated on the Alvarado Centerville Hiway and Fair Ranch Road just outside of Alvarado. An acre of ground was devoted to the garden, which was attractively fashioned with rustic bridges and pools. They took possession of their new home January 1928.



T. P. HARVEY HOUSE, ALVARADO, 1949

Mrs. Ted Harvey, an Oakland socialite, used their new home to entertain her friends from Oakland and Piedmont in the rustic atmosphere of her rural home. Mrs. Harvey also entertained at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco for special occasions, as when in December 1927, Mrs. Harvey held an afternoon tea for half a hundred people in honor of her younger sister, Eleanor, who would be leaving for Paris.

But Mrs. Harvey's entertaining did not only include Oakland society but also Alvarado society as well. Mrs. Harvey held a tea in June 1930 in honor of Miss Ruby Joyce, a bride-to-be, whose husband would be George Harvey, cousin of Ted Harvey. Those present included Mrs. Walter Robie, Mrs. Andrew Logan, Mrs. John Ralph, Mrs. Earl Hellwig, Mrs. August May, Mrs. Fred Harvey, Mrs. Milton Munger, Mrs. Morton Springer, Mrs. Edwin Richmond, Mrs. Everett Richmond, Mrs. Percy Brown, Mrs. Emma Hellwig and Mrs. Harold Bartlett. Also attending the tea were Miss Mildred Nauert, Jeannette Richmond, Flora McKeown, Rosalie Joyce and Master Frederick Joyce.

The Harvey's also traveled extensively, as they did in June of 1930, when they left for the Midwest. They made their headquarters for a time in Chicago, where they visited friends and relatives. They returned by way of Yellowstone Park.

But in 1939 a bitter divorce battle was on between Marguerite and Theodore, which made sensational news in the East Bay papers. Their union had produced one child, a daughter, Eleanor. Their marriage ended in a divorce.

On May 1, 1940, Theodore Harvey married Elizabeth Hebbner, 29, a San Mateo Nurse. This marriage produced a son, Robert Ingerman Harvey, and two daughters, Sarah Sue and Patricia Ann Harvey.

But on June 29, 1948 Mrs. Elizabeth Hebbner Harvey died suddenly when she was only 37 years old.

Ted Harvey then married Mrs. Margot Burns in 1949, who had two children by a previous marriage, Louis and Carol Burns. The union produced a son, Fredrick Chapman Harvey.

In May of 1952 Ted Harvey took his son Robert, who was 10 years old at the time, fishing on their property behind the Masonic Home in the Decoto hills. Here Ted Harvey suffered a heart attack and died at the age of 48 years.

T.P. "Ted" Harvey was one of the most successful farmers of Southern Alameda County. He was a prominent member of the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association that included over a dozen farmers in the Alvarado-Centerville area. His ingenuity was manifested in his farming techniques and farm tractors and harvesters of his own design.

Tom Kitayama:

Tsertomo (Tom) Kitayama was born on July 13, 1923, to Takeshi and Masuko Kitayama in the State of Washington. Tom was one of six children of the Kitayama's, the others being: Ray, born ca. 1924; Yoshiko, born ca. 1926, Kee born ca. 1927; Ted born ca. 1929; and Masako born ca. 1932. Takeshi Kitayama was a farmer in the small town of Pleasant Beach in Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, Washington.

Shortly after the beginning of World War II, the family was uprooted from their home and relocated to Camp Manzanar in the Owens Valley, which is located approx. 92 miles east of Fresno buried in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. Strangely the entire Kitayama family is listed as being interned in Manzanar except Tom Kitayama.

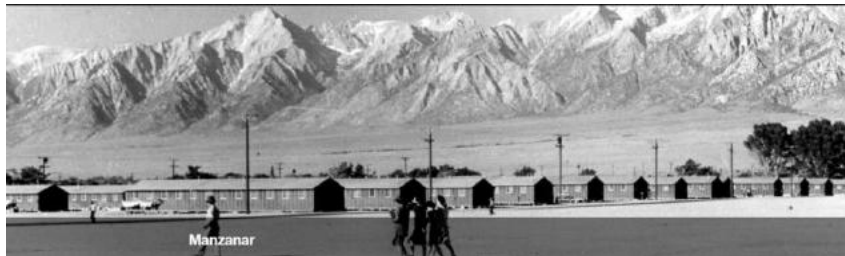


Photo from Union City History Museum "Oral History Book" by Myrla Raymundo

Tom Kitayama moved his family to California in 1947. Then Tom, and his brother Ray, the two eldest Kitayama brothers, came to San Francisco's East Bay and worked for the famous flower pioneers, Yoshimi Shibata of Mt. Eden, and Dan Shinoda of the San Lorenzo Nursery. They loved growing flowers, and three years later opened their own greenhouse on less than one acre. They were soon joined by their two younger brothers, Ted and Kee, forming the Kitayama Brothers in Union City California.

Former Union City Mayor Tom Kitayama occupied the positions of planning commissioner, councilman, and mayor of Union City for 32 years. He was considered as one of the prime moving force behind the formation of Union City.

When California began to experience incredible growth in 1956, Southern Alameda County developed quickly, and the cities of Fremont and Hayward began to eye the towns of Alvarado and Decoto for inclusion into their city boundaries. To preclude such an event, a citizen's committee composed of Tom Kitayama, John Ratekin, Oscar Dowe, Kenneth Garcia, Joseph Lewis and Elvin Rose, was formed. They petitioned for incorporation, and on January 13, 1959, the City of Union City came into being. Tom Kitayama became its first mayor - the first Japanese-American to hold public office in California - just 14 years after the end of World War II.

From *The Daily Review* of April 30, 1959:

"Mayor Tom Kitayama and his three brothers, Ray, Kee and Ted harvest, wrap and send out up to 25,000 carnation blooms a day. Most of the carnations are destined for Gregories Flowers distributing houses in San Francisco. This adds up to between five and six million flowers a year. From San Francisco the Kitayama carnations are shipped to points all over the U.S., Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

The blooms raised by the Kitayama's stack up pretty well with those grown anywhere else in the country. At a recent Denver convention of carnation growers, they were judged the best keeping flowers in the competition. A Kitayama vase of blooms also was named the second best in overall appearance, formation, texture and quality.

There were 63 employees, growing, pampering, grading and bundling the Kitayama carnations. Starting from scratch ten years ago, the brother team of nurserymen now has 350,000 square feet of soil planted in carnations, and more greenhouses are under construction.

Mayor Tom, who at 35 was the eldest of the four brothers, was a 1945 graduate of Washington State University with an agricultural degree. He specialized in floriculture study.

Following a stint with an agricultural experimental station in Pullman, Wash., after his graduation he took over a carnation nursery in San Leandro, then later moved to Alvarado.

In addition to having a steadily expanding nursery on their hands, Tom and Heidi Kitayama have five children, Tom Jr. 10, David 8, Dennis 4, Barbara 2, and newly born Monica.

Kitayama got into Union City politics, he said, largely at the insistence of his friends, and because of his interest in the development of the area in which he has placed his entire investment.

After getting on the council ballot, just a few days before the deadline, he never dreamed he would become mayor, he said. He was just hoping he could be among the top five, or, if not that, high enough in the balloting so that he could consistently run on the next election.

As it turned out, Kitayama polled the highest number of votes (701) among the 15 candidates in the January 1959 incorporation election, and was chosen by the other four winning candidates to be the city's first mayor.

How much time does it take to be the Mayor of Union City? At least three hours a day on the average, Kitayama judged, seven days a week. And to help run the nursery with his brothers? Another eight or nine hours a day."

Tom Kitayama will be remembered as the mayor with the longest political career in Union City with a 32 year political career. He was also a successful businessman who was the head of a multimillion-dollar empire growing and wholesaling fresh-cut flowers for 43 years.

He retired in 1991 and enjoyed his favorite pastimes, fishing and stamp collecting. He traveled with his wife Heidi everywhere, attended Lion's Club events, kept active as a member of the County Fair Board, served on different committees at Washington Hospital and other county activities. Although troubled with the adult onset form of Muscular Dystrophy, he was able to drive, which enhanced his retirement life. Kitayama continued to follow the politics in Union City and sometimes helped with city events.

Once dubbed the "King of Carnations", Kitayama was instrumental in the growth of Union City. An elementary school is named in his honor, and his nursery has been transformed into a beautiful residential community. He was amazed by the big changes in the city such as the Union Landing, new homes in Decoto, and the new school; most of all by the business that came to the city as a result of the growth of Silicon Valley.

His family now enjoys the fruits of his labor when he and his brothers first established the business that now has plants in Watsonville and Colorado, as well as fourteen wholesale outlets throughout the country.

Today, the 15 square-mile city of Union City is growing rapidly as new residents and companies turn to the attractive environment of the City of Union City.

Tom Kitayama passed away on June 5, 2007 leaving a monumental legacy behind him. He will always be remembered by the people in Union City.

Charles H. Langdon:

Charles H. Langdon was born in California circa 1870. His wife Emma A. Langdon was born in California circa 1874. They had three children: a son Vernon, and two daughters Dale and Billie. In 1910 they were living in Sierra County raising livestock.

After 1920 Charles and Emma moved to Alvarado where he was engaged in farming.

In 1935 the Langdon's were living in the old Eb Dyer home near the sugar mill grounds. The house and grounds were owned by the Dyer estate and contained about eight acres. The Holly Sugar Co had recently purchased the old estate 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.

On June 1, 1935, a fire started in the attic of the old building, presumably from a short circuit. Inasmuch as the place was outside the Alvarado Fire Districts limits, and it was far from a fire hydrant, the Alvarado Fire Department could do nothing but assist neighbors and volunteers in removing furnishings from the house. Virtually everything of value was removed from the house, which burned to the ground.

In November 1936, Charles was Vice-President of the Canning Vegetable Growers Association, and with L.S. Amaral, represented the organization at a meeting of the tomato growers of Southern Alameda County at Sacramento seeking a better price for this year's crop.

In February 1939 Charles and Emma Langdon moved into the Joel Langdon home on Creek Road following the death of Mrs. Forrest Langdon the month prior. Charles and Emma had lived in Hayward following the destruction of the Eb Dyer home near the sugar mill.

In early April 1939 Charles H. Langdon passed away at Alvarado. He was 70 years of age and a native of California. He left his wife, Mrs. Emma Langdon, three children and a brother Joel, with whom he operated a farm at Alvarado for many years.

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.

Louie Lin:

Louie Lin was born in China circa 1900. He entered the U.S. in 1922. The 1930 census showed Louie living on the Creek Road near George Davis and Joel Langdon. He was 29 at the time and he showed he was renting a farm. He also showed that he was married, but at this time he was living with a Chinese boarder.

The 1940 census shows Louie married to Lee Lin, who was born in China. Her date of entry into the U.S. is not known, as is her marriage date to Louie Lin. Their first child was a daughter, Ellen, who was born circa 1938. Their second child was Tim, born circa 1940. In 1940 Louie was farming on the Creek Road on a farm that he owned.

Ellen Louie:

Ellen Louie attended the Alvarado Grammar School. In January 1948 Ellen was in the Brownie Scouts under the leadership of Mrs. Emily Noia and Mrs. Emily Click.

Ellen graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in 1952 with the following classmates:

Ernestine Aranda	Tony Bueno	Rosalie Cicairos	Rita Cicairos
Irene Garcia	Robert Gonzalez	Isabel Hendrickson	Delia Delao
Arnold Hernandez	Andrew Leon	Ruben Lopez	Lupe Moreno
Marlene Pinto	Jesse Ramirez	Tino Rangel Jr.	Naomi Muela
Amparo Sanchez	Stella Santos	Geraldine Silva	Mary Soto
Eddie Vierra	Helen Villalobos	Mercedes Hernandez	

Tim Louie:

Tim Louie attended the Alvarado Grammar School in 1953.

Manuel Martin, Jr.:

Manuel Martin Jr. was born on February 22, 1886, to Manuel S. and Adeline Martin. In December 1906, Manuel Martin Jr. 21 and Maria Lemos 16, both of Alvarado took a license to marry. Manuel and Mary had one son Wilbert in 1919. Then on March 23, 1932 Mary Martin passed away at the age of 41 years.

Two years later, at the age of 47, Manuel Jr. announced his intention to marry Mary Amaral 45, of Hayward.

In 1936 Manuel would enter a decade's long association with the Alvarado Holy Ghost festa. In May 1936 he was part of the Holy Ghost committee under the presidency of Ernest Perry with the following committeemen:

M. P. Goularte	Seraphine Daviner	John Menezes
J. E. Lewis	Manuel White	Frank Goularte

During the war the Holy Ghost festival was suspended, but it started back up again in 1946. Volunteers worked to put the grounds back in order for the annual Alvarado event. Those who volunteered were: Frank Roderick, Manuel Martin Jr., John Menezes, Tony Lee, M. F. Machado, Joe Lezand, and Martin Phillips.

Manuel also served on the S.D.E.S. Society, this being the Portuguese Society that sponsors the annual Holy Ghost celebration in Alvarado. Besides Manuel on the officers listing were: Manuel Perry, Gregory Perry, Manuel Pinto, Jr., Emilio Re, Frank Goularte, Jr., Manuel Martin, Jr., John A. Silva, Frank George, Wilbert Hendricks, Raymond Freitas, and M.F. Machado.

In October 1956 Manuel joined Tony Lee, Manuel S. Hendricks and Manuel A. Silva, all of Alvarado, in receiving congratulations of their 50-year membership in the organization.

Manuel Martin Jr. passed on July 29, 1962. He was a member of the Alvarado Eagles, UPPEC, IDES and SDES Societies.

Wilbert Martin:

Wilbert Martin was born in 1919 to Manuel J. & Adeline Martin of Alvarado. He graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1935. Among the 26 graduates were: Marjorie Maciel, Misaya Matsumoto, Isabel Pinto, Remedía Mateo, Marion Cordoba, Raymond Dias, Edward Martinez, Isabel Pinto, Paul Rivers, Richard Munger, Bruno Orsetti, Warren Silva, Albert Hinkley, Cyril Flores, Edward Olivencia, Anthony Roderick, Clifford Dinsmore, Manuel Pine, and Abel Valle.

In May 1940 Isabel Pinto and Wilbert Martin gave notice of their intention to wed. On June 8, 1940 Isabel & and Wilbert were married at 2:00 pm at St. Anne's Catholic Church. The two had been classmates since attending Alvarado Grammar School. Wilbert was the son of Manuel Jr. and Mary Martin of Alvarado.

In September 1943 Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Martin moved into Alvarado after living at home with her parents for a number of years.

Mary (Mamie) Martin (Silva):

Mary was born in February 1891 to Manuel C. & Adalena Martin. Mary seemed to have preferred the name Mamie rather than her given name Mary. Mamie resided on Haines Road (the Whipple Road dog-leg) next to her sister Helen Silva and within two homes of her parents, Manuel & Adalena.

Mamie married Alfred Silva who was born in the Azores (Portugal) in 1892. He entered the U.S. in 1905. Alfred & Mamie had two children, Alfred born in 1913 and Adaline born in 1918.

Mamie was a member of the Alvarado Eagle Aerie, where she served as an officer. Although I could not find a death record for Mamie it appears she passed away between 1946 and 1952.

Helen Martin Amaral:

Helen was born in June 1893 to Manuel S. and Adalena Martin. She married Louis Amaral, and they settled down on Haines Road (the dog-leg at the end of Whipple Road) near her sister and her father.

The 1940 census shows six children for Louis and Helen, two daughters and four sons. Joe was born circa 1928, Carolyn was born circa 1930, Allan was born circa 1932, Vernon was born 1934, Helen was born circa 1935, and Bert was born circa 1937.

Helen was a member of the Alvarado Grammar School PTA in 1937. Helen Martin Amaral passed away on February 6, 1946 at the young age of 52 years.

Amelia Martin Silva:

See **'SILVA, MRS. AMELIA MARTIN'** below'

Manuel E. Perry:

Manuel Perry was born in California in 1906. He married Miss Veronica Machado of Alvarado who was born in 1909. Veronica was the daughter of

Frank E. & Louise Machado of Alvarado. On October 7, 1934 they became the proud parents of a baby boy, Vernon Perry.

Manuel listed his profession as farmer in the 1940 census. But other than farming Manuel was very active in the civic, fraternal and religious community in Alvarado. In 1941 Manuel joined the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce and immediately saw the need for a Sanitary District in Alvarado. Besides endorsing the idea of a sanitary district Manuel became an officer in the movement to establish a sanitary district along with Fred Wiegman, Clarence Flores, Manuel Borges, and A.E. Vargas.

In February 1941 Manuel Perry was elected a commissioner of the Alvarado Sanitary District along with Frank Machado, Clarence Flores, Joe Dutra, Antone Vargas, and Manuel Borges.

At the end of 1941 the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce held a meeting with William Lindsay of the Boy Scout Executive Council of the East Bay. All present were heartily in favor of forming a Boy Scout Troop in Alvarado, with headquarters at a clubhouse on the playgrounds behind the schoolhouse. Bob Whipple of Decoto, who had a Scout troop there, boosted the idea. Anthony Silva was elected Scoutmaster, and George Vargas as Ass't Scoutmaster. Manuel Perry was elected as a Director.

One year later at the beginning of 1943 Manuel joined the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department. The officers of the Alvarado Fire Department:

J. C. Wasley	Fire Chief
Anthony J. Vargas	Vice President
Clyde Lewis	Secretary-Treasurer
Tony Alexander	Sergeant-At-Arms

Other active firemen were:

George Davis, Anthony Rogers, Joe Dutra, Edward Fantuzzi, Clarence Flores, Charles Baird, Mike Gardetto, and M.F. Silva

Serving as commissioners were Fred Wiegman, John H. Ralph, Tony Lee, Joe Lewis, and Fred Joyce.

Manuel Perry was appointed as a trustee for the Alvarado Grammar School upon the death of his father-in-law, Frank E. Machado in September 1944. One of the first major tasks facing Manuel, and the two other trustees, George Hocking and Manuel P, Goularte, was the establishment of a permanent cafeteria for the students. At the same time they undertook to paint the outside and the inside of the school.

Manuel was also very active within the St. Anne's Catholic Church in Alvarado. In November 1943 Manuel took charge of a booth at the annual St. Anne's Bazaar held for the benefit of the church. Manuel used his smile and cheerful bidding voice to interest local people, as well as folks from Alameda and Oakland, for his wheel of fortune game. This was good for over \$200 clear for the church!

In 1955 Manuel was the General Chairman of the annual bazaar, and in 1956 he again served the church in the annual bazaar under the chairmanship of Joe Martin.

July 1956 saw Manuel again toiling for the benefit of the church, when he was elected President of the Alvarado S.D.E.S., the fraternity that along with the Church sponsors the annual Holy Ghost in Alvarado. In 1957 Manuel again served to bring the Holy Ghost to Alvarado when he served as a committee head.

Veronica Perry passed away on October 20, 1976. She was a member of S.P.R.S.I. Council #21 of Alvarado, and the St. Anne's Confraternity. Her husband Manuel preceded her in death but I was unable to locate an obituary or grave marker.

Manuel P. Rose:

Manuel P. Rose was born in the Azores (Portugal) on November 7, 1894. He entered the U.S. in either in 1902 or 1912. Evelyn Rose was born in California circa 1900. They were married circa 1916. They had two children, a son Joseph and a daughter Celeste.

Manuel became a farmer and bought a farm on Fair Ranch Road. He also farmed along the Hall Ranch Road. Today neither stretches of those roads exist under those names. The home ranch of Manuel was on Fair Ranch Road; the location of the ranch can be seen by driving south on Dyer Street from Smith Street to Santa Susana Road. There is an empty lot on the corner of Santa Susana and Dyer that was where the home and barn of Manuel Rose sat. At one time Santa Susana was Fair Ranch Road, but it was renamed in the late 1960's when residential homes took over farmland. The old Hall Ranch Road is today's Dyer Street from Alvarado Blvd. west to Union City Blvd.

Manuel Rose became a member of the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association located at the Hall Station just outside of Alvarado. When Joseph Rose came of age, he built his home on the west side of today's Alvarado Blvd across from where Fair Ranch Road used to end.

Manuel raised some of the best potatoes in Alvarado, and Alvarado potatoes were hailed as a superior product in the 30's, 40's and 50's. Besides selling his produce to the grower's co-op, he also used to sell his potatoes by the 100 pound sack in front of his home. People would come from as far away Oakland to buy Manuel's potatoes, for they knew the quality of potatoes, and he sold only the best potatoes from his ranch. This I knew because I would walk Fair Ranch Road every day from my house to Alvarado Blvd. where the high school bus would pick me up each morning and deliver me back each evening.

Manuel P. Rose passed on June 18, 1970

Raphael & Evelyn Silva:

Raphael Silva was born in Massachusetts circa 1904. Evelyn (Carmelita E.) Ahern was born in California circa 1912 to John J. and Mary Ahern. Raphael

and Evelyn were married circa 1933 and in 1935 had their first daughter Dolores while the couple lived on 7th Street in Oakland. On September 9, 1944 the Silva's had a second daughter Kathleen. Then on May 16, 1945 they had their third daughter, Willamena (Wilma).

In April 1948 Ralph and Evelyn Silva moved into their new home on Hesperian Boulevard. Their home was just at the bend in Hesperian Boulevard after you headed north out of Alvarado past the SP tracks. Their home stood just south of the Hayward city limits.

In April of 1950 Ralph went into the egg business selling his farm fresh eggs to people in Alvarado. When you mention the name Ralph Silva to Alvarado old-timers they would usually respond, "Oh, you mean the egg man."

Evelyn was long a time member of the Alvarado School Mother's Club. The Mother's Club (similar in function to the PTA) was an organization that helped raise funds for the betterment of the school and the children. When the two clubs merged (the Mother's Club and the Alvarado PTA), Evelyn became a member of the Alvarado PTA where she was very active in school affairs.

Evelyn joined the Alvarado SPRSI in May 1950. Initiated along with Mrs. Silva were: Mrs. M. Richmond, Mrs. Laverne Shestack, Mrs. Alice Gomes, Mrs. Adeline Martin, Mrs. Jean Bettencourt, Mrs. Marie Terra, Mrs. Mary Re, Mrs. Loretta George, Miss Myrna J. Dutra

The Alvarado United Crusade had many volunteers in the early 1950's to canvass the town of Alvarado seeking donations for this worthy cause. Among the volunteers were: Mrs. Irma Silva, Mrs. Hilda Allegre, Mrs. Sue Lemos, Mrs. Evelyn Silva, Mrs. Antoinette Pinto, Mrs. Alvina Brune, and Mrs. Eldora Pinto.

Evelyn also became active as a volunteer nurse for the Well Baby Clinic of Alvarado under the leadership of Mrs. Ambrose B. Loyola. The volunteer nurses performed the duties as required by the health department of the baby clinic in Centerville.

The Silva daughters became:

Mrs. Dolores Luddy

Mrs. Kathleen Pratt

Mrs. Wilma Spillers

FRIEDEN CALCULATOR:

William Martinez:

William Martinez was born ca. 1925 to Galo and Gertrude Martinez, who were both born in Puerto Rico.

Bill attended Alvarado Grammar School where he was active in sports, playing on the Alvarado basketball team in February 1939 with team mates, Mencho Paredes, Ernie Machado, Alfred Viana, Marcellino Ledesma, Vernon Amaral, Joseph Jacinto Jr., Walter Gardetto, Elliott Jardine, and Frank Lewis.

William did not graduate locally from high school, but he did earn his high school diploma by studying and achieving his diploma while in the Armed Forces.

In May 1943 William reported for training at Camp Farragut Naval Training base on Lake Pend Oreille, Northern Idaho. Lake Pend Oreille is about 60 miles south of the Canadian border, is about 148 square miles and about 1,150 feet deep.

William A. Martinez, Seaman 1c, was stationed aboard the battleship West Virginia and sent home the following letter (dated October 1945), showing a patriotic part in active fighting for our Alvarado boys in the South Pacific:

"The battleship West Virginia damaged so severely by the Japanese attack of December 7, 1941, that she sank in her Pearl Harbor berth, steamed proudly into Tokyo Bay in the naval force taking over Japan's greatest industrial area.

Crewmen crowded on the decks to see the Japanese home island, which had been their goal since the West Virginia returned to the Pacific. This was at the heart of the Japanese empire, with Mt. Fujiyama's cloud shrouded peak looming in the distance.

For the West Virginia this was a glorious moment; a grand reward for a year of bitter fighting during which she had participated in every major island invasion in the northward drive toward Japan. On the bridge was Captain Raymond W. Halsinger, USN, who has commanded the warship since late April. The West Virginia's executive officer was Commander John E. Fitzgibbon, USN.

Also aboard was Rear-Admiral Ingram C. Sowell, USN, who commanded a division of battleships in Vice Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf's squadron. The West Virginia was Admiral Sowell's flagship since the start of the Luzon invasion. His staff was headed by Captain George B.J. Stalling, USN.

The West Virginia was one of the U.S. Fleet's "old" battleships, commissioned on December 1, 1923. She bore the brunt of the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor. Two bombs and at least six torpedoes struck her, leaving her a flaming wreck as she settled to the bottom

Patched up with what plates were available, the West Virginia was raised and she steamed back under her own power to a West Coast Navy Yard. Battered and torn, she seemed suited only for the scrap heap. But the modern genius of our shipyards made a different story. Stripped to her main deck, the ship was rebuilt and she emerged from the yard practically a new vessel, equipped with the most modern weapons of warfare

Following a brief shakedown cruise off the West Coast, she set a westerly course under the Command of Captain J.W. Wiley, USN, to seek revenge upon the enemy that had so nearly ended their existence.

On this trip there was one memorable occasion, the ceremonies in conjunction with crossing the Equator. Just out of range of enemy

forces, pollywogs by the hundreds were initiated into the mysteries of the deep in the salty presence of King Neptune and his royal party.

The West Virginia's first chance for vengeance came with the opening of the Philippines campaign. Flying the same colors she had up on December 7, 1941, she led the column of battleships into Leyte Gulf and poured salvo after salvo into the Japanese forces before our troops went ashore. Here she shot down her first enemy plane, on the starboard beam.

But with the Leyte beachheads secured, an enemy threat was developing. Hoping to catch our forces off balance, a Japanese fleet was stalking the beachhead. This was the setting for the famous battle of the Surigao Straits."

By May 1946 all three Martinez sons were home and all were working at Friden calculator Co. in San Leandro. Ed & Bill worked in assembly and Gene worked in the plating department.

In December 1946 William Martinez joined the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles along with the following gentlemen: Manuel E. Benites, Centerville; Walter Fasolis, Alvarado; Alfred Lebon, Newark; Ernest A. Machado, Alvarado; Joseph A Brune, Alvarado; Harold Cardoza, Alvarado; and Manuel S. Souza Jr., Niles.

In February 1948 the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce met with their new officers installed. President of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce was Bill Martinez.



The U.S. Navy battleship USS *West Virginia* (BB-48) anchored in Sagami Wan, Japan, outside of Tokyo Bay, circa late August 1945. She is painted in Camouflage Measure 32, Design 7D. Mount Fuji is in the background.

Bill Martinez joined the Paul E. Rivers Post No. 7906, VFW in March 1953, joining with nine other new members.

After this nothing further was found for Bill Martinez in Alvarado.

LABORER:

Domingo & Lucy Cicairos:

Domingo Cicairos was born in Mexico circa 1910. His date of entry into the U.S. is not known. He married Miss Lucy Olivencia of Alvarado, who was born in Hawaii circa 1913. Lucy was the daughter of Foro & Alvira Olivencias, both of whom were born in Porto Rico. They settled in Alvarado where Lucy bore 13 children: Eight sons, Gilbert, George, Albert, Arthur (Tito), Daniel, Frederick, Richard and David. Lucy also had five daughters, Natalie (Sănta), Rosalie, Rita, Barbara and Dorothy.

The story of the Cicairos family is the story of one family pulling together, and in spite of the challenges of raising such a large family they succeeded in doing the family name proud!

Domingo worked as a laborer at the Leslie Salt Company as well as joining his family to work as a family labor force in the fields of Alvarado at harvest time. Lucy would also work in the cannery (Hunt Bros.) along with other Old Union City mothers like Mrs. Bueno and Mrs. Preciado.

Later, into the 50's, Lucy would work at Manuel Andrade's Alvarado Produce Market on Hesperian Blvd. as you left downtown Alvarado. Here she was joined by her oldest son Gilbert, who worked there in during school summer vacation.

Later in the 50's and early 60's, her sons Dan and Fred would do yard work during the summer and on weekends for various Alvarado families including Mrs. Heitmuller (nee Ossie Nauert), whose home was next to the IOOF Hall on Smith Street. They also did the yards of John Ralph on Vallejo Street, and for Mrs. T.P. Harvey on the Alvarado Centerville Road.

Lucy loved children, but she was a stern no-nonsense mother when it came to obeying the rules of the family and not besmirching the family's good name. She meted out discipline with the help of the oldest, Gilbert, who made sure the younger ones followed the straight and narrow.

Said of Lucy Cicairos in an article in the *Daily Review*:

"Mrs. Cicairos believes the larger the family the happier the family. She has no troubles and everyone in her family cooperates. When asked who named them all she said, "I named the first 12 and want my husband to name the next 13, then we can have a basketball team of 5, a football team of 11, and a baseball team of 9. I cook enough for my whole family," she concluded, "but I have to let the younger ones eat first, and the larger ones eat later. All in all I love kids."

The story of Domingo and Lucy Cicairos was played out by many families in the west side of Alvarado (Old Union City). It was a story of hard working families trying to build lives in Alameda County for the future of their children, and there were many stories of the struggles that went unnoticed and unreported. In the story of Domingo and Lucy Cicairos you will not find stories of their belonging to civic organizations or social organizations in town, for

theirs was a story of hard work to provide, thrive, and to give the young ones a chance at the American Dream.

Besides making sure that each child was educated at Alvarado Grammar School, Domingo and Lucy made sure that each child received their religious education at St Anne's Catholic Church in Alvarado.

LAWYER (RETIRED)

Alexander B. Hill:

Alexander B. Hill was born in California in 1899. He married Dorothy P. Hill, also from California who was born in 1903. They had one child, a daughter named Julia who preferred the name "Judy."

In the year 1930 we find that Alexander Hill was living in San Mateo and was a retired lawyer from his own private practice. Mr. Hill had friends in Alvarado, and by 1934 he had relocated to Alvarado. The 1940 census shows Mr. Hill and family living on the Leslie Salt Company Road west of old Union City on the levees.

In October 1944, Alex Hill was called on by the stock raising industry in Southern Alameda County to serve as a range supervisor. He was challenged with paying particular attention to greater usage of the semi-arid hill lands and he would also specialize in promoting rangeland conservation.

Alexander Blake Hill, Jr., 54, died on May 3, 1953. He left all real property except the ranch to his wife Mrs. Dorothy Patricia Hill. The interest in the Alvarado ranch was shared with his two brothers, and he would leave one-third interest to his daughter Mrs. Julia H. Decker of Alvarado.

Mrs. Dorothy Patricia Hill:

During the war Mrs. Pat Hill and daughter Judy took their turn manning the Alvarado Observation Post on the Alvarado School grounds. They spent four hours once a week from 6 pm to 10 pm scanning the skies for enemy airplanes.

But this was not the only contribution Mrs. Hill made to the war effort. In recognition of the more than 500 hours she had donated to the Washington Township Rationing Board, Mrs. Blake Hill of Alvarado was presented with an emblematic pin by George C. Roeding Jr., chairman of the board.

The following year Mrs. Hill was again recognized with a service award from the Office of Price Administration for her 940 hours of volunteer service to the organization, making her the top volunteer in Washington Township. Miss Nancy McKeown of Alvarado was second in volunteer hours with 568.

In April 1944 Mrs. Hill joined the Washington Township Gallon Donors Club, becoming one of ten persons in the township to donate a gallon of blood to the Red Cross for the war effort.

Three months later Mrs. Hill topped the list of Washington Township blood donors for donating blood nine times. Other Alvaradan's who donated blood was:

Viola Dinsmore	Donated seven times
Joseph E. Dutra	Donated five times
Mary A Silva	Donated twice
Mary Perez	Donated twice
Johnnie Smyrl	Donated twice
Vernie Perry	First time donor

Mrs. Hill was a member of the Child Welfare Club of Washington Township and in 1946 served as Vice President of the organization. At this time Mrs. Hill was also an active member of the Country Club of Washington Township.

Miss Julia "Judy" H. Hill:

Judy Hill graduated from Alvarado Grammar School on June 13, 1941. Judy then attended Washington Union High School in Centerville until her sophomore year.

She then enrolled as a junior in the Castilleja School for Girls at Palo Alto. Castilleja School was adjacent to and just east of Stanford University, and was the only independent school for girls in grades six through twelve in the State of California.

After graduating from Castilleja Judy embarked on a six-week tour of Hawaii with friends. Upon her return in September she enrolled at Radcliffe as a sophomore.

During the summer vacation of 1947, Judy left with her parents for a trip to Rainer National Park in the State of Washington. There Judy would join three of her classmates for a tour of the area. In June 1949 Judy Hill was graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology under the faculty of humanities and sciences.



February 4, 1938: When Judy Hill set out for school from her ranch home near Alvarado this morning she found the house completely surrounded by water from the Alameda Creek. So her father, Blake Hill, launched this raft and paddled her to the road (Marsh Road). The farms near Alvarado were flooded. Several of the families escaped in boats. (*Tribune Photo*)

Julia (Judy) Helen Hill of Alvarado married William Butterfield Decker in December 1949 at ceremonies held in Palo Alto. The reception was held at the Menlo Country Club where several hundred guests gathered. Mr. Decker was the son of Mr. & Mrs. William E. Decker from Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, who was completing his education at Stanford.

MERCHANT:

Manuel Priego / Mike Salido

Manuel Priego:

Manuel Priego was born in California in 1926, the step-son of Joseph Priego and wife Victoria Priego.

Manuel graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School on June 13, 1941. Among those who graduated with Manuel were: Bertille Amaral, Robert Benjamin, Ernest Bettencourt, Jeanette Goularte, Judy Hill, Emily Dominguez, Mary Cheng, Betty Hernandez, Stanley Lewis, Doris Martinez, Manuel Priego, Lorraine SA, Agnes Silva, and Clifford Rogers.

Manuel learned to play the accordion as a youngster under the tutelage of Henry Arbeta of Alvarado. In January 1941 Manuel joined Morris Davilla's orchestra, which was named "Phil and Her Sweethearts," as Phillys Cordoba sang with the orchestra. The other members were: Morris Davilla, trumpet; Walter Fasolis, accordion; Andy Gardetto, saxophone; Joaquin Naharro, drums and Marian Cordoba, guitar.

In July 1941 Alvarado fielded a boys' softball team with Ray Diaz as manager. The boys on the team were: Marion Cordoba, Frank Cordoba, Ernie Armosa, Manuel Priego, Joe Brune, Cip Diaz, Joaquin Naharro, Mike Salido and John Samarron.

Circa 1954 Manuel Priego took over his father's store, which the elder Priego had been renting out since 1946. The store's location was 1090 Levee Street, which today is the NE corner of Horner and Union City Boulevards.

The year 1957 saw the East Shore Freeway (aka "Nimitz Freeway," "I-880 Freeway") come through Alvarado east of town. With it was lost the "State Highway 17" designation for Alvarado, for the freeway was the new State Highway 17, and the route through Alvarado was downgraded to a County Highway. Autos that used to zip through Alvarado in a never ending stream in the morning and the late afternoon, now zipped past Alvarado on the freeway. Alvarado's downtown, which had seen a slow decline after WWII, now saw sales plummet at all gas stations, grocery stores, and general stores in town. Only two grocery stores survived, and for very specific reasons.

Matsumoto's Oriental Grocery Store still thrived as it served a niche Oriental clientele. The store still exists today across from the Union City Historical Museum. The other store that survived was Manuel Priego's Corner Grocery Store and Liquor Store.

Manuel Priego's little store was on the corner of Levee Street and Horner Street actually saw business improve, bucking the general trend. Manuel remarked that it was now much easier for locals to cross the street to do their shopping at his shop, as the corner of Horner and Levee Streets (Horner Street & Union City Blvd today) had always been a dangerous corner.

In October 1971 the *Argus* newspaper said of Manuel Priego's little store:

"The neighborhood corner grocery store, that lingering tie to the nostalgic past when neighborly advice, a sympathetic ear, or just friendly conversation was as much a part of grocery shopping as the cash register. Despite the advent of the elegant and spacious super markets and the mushrooming trend toward modern quick-stop convenience markets, the old-fashioned grocery store, still clings to scattered corner sites in older, residential areas.

Surprising to many, there is still a profit to be made with the philosophy that friendly service and personal rapport are good business.

Witness Manuel Priego. Priego has been operating a store at the intersection of Union City Blvd. and Horner Street for the past 17 years (since 1954).

"I don't think these stores will ever die," Priego says, leaning on the counter, bartender fashion. "Not as long as there is that loaf of bread someone forgot to buy or the six-pack that ran out too soon."

The secret of success in a small grocery, he confides, is friendly service and a liquor license. The shelves of liquor are obvious behind the main counter. But the friendly atmosphere is apparent too.

Priego says he tries to keep a variety of stock and the prices low to compete with super markets. But few of his customers, he adds, shop exclusively at his store. Priego's store closes around 7 p.m. "It's not wise," he says, "to stay open after dark and set yourself up for a robbery."

The Priego's used to live upstairs above the store. But they found that arrangement a problem in off-store hours. "I remember one night at 3 a.m. there was a knock on the door in the grocery downstairs," Priego says, "a regular customer, and good customer, of mine was banging on the door and asking me sell him a bottle of booze. Not only was that against the law after 2 a.m. but it's an invasion of my privacy." So the Priego's moved to a house out of town.

Mike Salido:

Mike Salido was born in California circa 1916 to Placido and Dolores Salido, immigrants from Spain. Mike had three brothers and three sisters. One of his sisters, Dolores Salido, was born circa 1912 in Hawaii. She would marry Fernand Paredes, who would eventually own the Alvarado Hotel. Placido Salido was born in Hawaii in 1913. Rosie, Vera and Joe, siblings of Mike Salido, were all born in California.

Mike married Mary Naharro, daughter of Victoriano Naharro of Alvarado. In 1939 they had a son Leroy. Mike started out in Alvarado by working for the Leslie Salt Company. Later he would become a merchant in town.

Mike joined the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce in January 1941. In October 1943 Mike undertook the challenge of reviving the Alvarado Boy Scout Troop and was named the Scoutmaster. In December 1943 Mike Salido was elected president of the Alvarado Chamber. Mike also served on the committee to raise funds for the War Chest in November 1943 under the leadership of Genevieve Dutra, Postmistress.

When Alvarado became threatened by annexation of the Alvarado Sugar Mill and the American Pipe Plant by the City of Hayward, Mike became very active in the Chamber to help thwart the threat.

In December 1956 Mike served on the Union City Steering Committee Board of Directors along with the following Alvaradan's: Frank George, Joe Lewis, John Ratekin, Wilbert Hendricks, Mrs. Mae Santos, and Mrs. Mabel Rogers

In February 1957 Oscar Dowe was elected President of the Union City Chamber of Commerce at a board of directors meeting. Mike Salido was voted in as Vice Present, Mrs. Florence Spencer as Secretary and Frank George as Treasurer.

Leroy Salido:

Leroy attended the Alvarado Grammar School and graduated in June 1953. In December 1963 Leroy became engaged to marry Barbara Kikes of Oakland.

POSTMISTRESS:

Mrs. Alvina (Santos) Brune:

Miss Alvina Santos was born circa 1920 in Alvarado, California, to Antone and Mae Santos. Miss Santos announced her engagement at the home of her parents in November 1939, to Tony Brune, who was the son of Antone (Tony Sr.) & Marie Brune. They were married in July 1940, and spent the Fourth in the Yosemite Valley on their honeymoon. When they returned they took up residence in Hayward.

Tony Brune Jr. worked in a lumberyard and in 1934 he was employed by the Nelson Planing Mill in Hayward. Tony and Alvina then moved from Hayward to Alvarado in January 1941. They then resided in the home which had been Dr. Hauber's, on Granger Avenue, which was bought by Mr. and Mrs. A. Santos and given as a present to their daughter and son-in-law.

In November 1941, a son David was born to the Brune's, thus completing four generations of the family in Alvarado at the time. The great grandmother, Mrs. Mary Foster Davilla was born in Alvarado 69 years ago. The grandmother, Mrs. Mae Davilla Santos and the mother Alvina Santos Brune were also born in Alvarado. Two years later the Brune's had another son, Donald.

Tony worked in the carpentering business until his retirement. After his retirement he built a duplex on an empty lot he owned on Granger Street.

Afterwards he built two apartments under his home. The home O.J. Emery had built for Dr. Hauber was raised to keep the main floor from being flooded. This was common in Alvarado to have elevated houses and a basement on the ground floor. Tony Brune built two apartments under the main floor of his home and rented them out.

In the late 1950's to its closing in 1977, Tony Brune ran the Shell Gas Station next to the Silver Dollar Café on the corner of Vallejo Street and the Alvarado Centerville Road. The station, as well as the Silver Dollar Café, was owned by Tony's father-in-law Antone Santos.

Mrs. Alvina Brune was very busy in civic affairs for the town of Alvarado. In January 1949 she headed the Mother's Club of Alvarado in testing the vision of the pupils at the Alvarado Grammar School where she was assisted by:

Teresa Carlson	Annie Flores	Bernice Manuel	Emily Noia
Pauline Silva	Winifred Harper	Marian Hocking	Mary Santos
Mary Spurlock			

Later in 1949 Alvina would be voted president of the Alvarado Mother's Club. At the beginning of 1950 Mrs. Alvina Brune and Mrs. A.A. Bettencourt of Alviso led the Red Cross Drive in the Alviso District and Alvarado.

In September 1952, Alvina joined Mrs. Irma Silva, the Alvarado chairman for the United Crusade, in campaigning for the United Crusade. Others in the drive were:

Hilda Allegre	Sue Lemos	Evelyn Silva	Aldora Pinto
Antoinette Pinto			

In 1953 Alvina served on the committee of the Alvarado Baby Clinic under Mrs. Isabel Loyola.

In June 1956 Genevieve Dutra, Alvarado Postmistress, retired after 20 years of service. Alvina Brune applied for the job and was accepted as the Postmistress for Alvarado.

On September 13, 1976 Tony Brune passed away in Alvarado. I have no date of passing for Alvina Brune.

POULTRY ASSN: **William Machado:**

William Machado was the son of Matthew and Virginia Machado of Alvarado. He was born ca. 1938. William and Elsie Machado were wed in February 1939. Elsie was from Niles. They would have two sons, Wayne and Dennis.

During the war William worked for the Hayward Poultry Producers Ass'n along with Manuel Rose, George Roderick, Emilio Re and Joe Pimentel.

William's other civic and religious duties in Alvarado were:

- Pulling a 6 PM to 10 PM shift on the Alvarado Air Raid Tower on the school grounds to spot enemy planes during 1942 and 1943 along with M.A. Silva Jr.

- He joined the Alvarado Eagles in 1944 along with Peter Pinto, Elvin Rose, and Joe Avila.
- In January 1946 William was a member of the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department on Smith Street.
- In April 1950 William worked with John Bond, Walter Oakey III, Harold Delgado, William Martinez and Warren Silva to form a Boy Scout Troop of Alvarado. 23 boys signed up.
- William served on the Alvarado Sanitary District Board of Directors. In September 1952 he decided not to run again for his expired term.
- In March 1956 William filed for reelection to the Board of Trustees of the Alvarado Elementary School. It was an election he won and he immediately immersed himself in the duties of building a new school to replace the one that had stood since 1925.
- William was elected to the combined Chambers of Commerce of Decoto and Alvarado to be known as the Union City Chamber of Commerce. Elected along with William was Frank Borghi Jr., Mrs. Charles Spencer, Oscar Dowe, and Bernie Joseph of Decoto; Frank George, Wilbert Hendricks, J. A. Ratekin, Fred Brown, and Mike Salido of Alvarado

Besides these civic duties William was a supporter of St. Anne's Catholic Church and the annual Holy Ghost Festa. On the social front William was an avid Homing Pigeon race enthusiast. William was a member of the Alvarado Homing Pigeon Club.

SALT COMPANY EMPLOYEE:

Gardetto Family / Antone & Minnie Perry / Gregory Perry / Peter & Antoinette Pinto / Frank Silva Jr. / Frank Silva Sr. / Frank Silveira

Gardetto Family:

Michael Gardetto was born in Texas in 1905. In 1940 he was living in Sam Mateo and working as a laborer for a rock & sand company. He married Esther Fasolis in 1929.

Esther Colombo was born in Italy in 1905. Her date of entry into the U.S. is not known. She married Mike Fasolis of San Mateo in the mid 1920's, and they had one son, Walter Fasolis in 1926. In 1927 Esther and Mike went through a contentious divorce proceeding culminating with a final decree in January 1929.

Esther then married Michael Gardetto. They had their first son Ferdinand (Andy) in January 1930, and their second son Arnold was born in Alvarado in 1937. The three boys, Walter, Andy and Arnold grew up together in Alvarado. Walter Fasolis was also known as Walter Gardetto in Alvarado thus sometimes causing some confusion.

Mike Gardetto:

Mike was an active member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. He was among the Alvaradans that helped initiate a Boy Scout Troop in Alvarado in December 1941. Mike was among the directors of the troop that also included Charles Baird, Joseph Lewis, Anthony Rodgers, Frank Machado, James Wasley, Anthony J. Vargas, Anthony Silva, Julian Yabut, Manuel Perry and George Vargas.

Mike was a member of the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department in January 1943. Mike attended drills and served on the firefighting line when the need arose in the town. He was also a member of the Fraternal Order Eagles of Alvarado and served as an officer of the organization in 1953.

Mrs. Esther Gardetto:

Esther had a decade's long tradition of supporting the Alvarado Grammar School. As early as 1935 Esther was supporting the Alvarado School PTA as an officer of the organization. In 1940 Esther chaired a fund raising card party by the PTA with the proceeds to go to the milk fund for undernourished children at the Alvarado School.

When WWII began Mrs. Gardetto was affiliated with the Alvarado Red Cross. She was one of the ladies of Alvarado that met each Wednesday at the Odd Fellows Hall to do patriotic sewing and knitting to benefit those in need overseas. Joining Mrs. Gardetto in this effort were the Mrs. Vargas, Mello, Robie, Rivers and Baird.

When the war involved the U.S. Mrs. Gardetto was one who answered the call put out by Mrs. Rivers of Alvarado to do Red Cross bandage work at Centerville. Among the women that answered the call were Mrs. Mary Rivers, Mrs. Hubert Jacinto, Mrs. V. DeVincenzi, Mrs. Joe Lewis, Mrs. F. Silveira, Mrs. Charles Baird, Mrs. E. Borges, Mrs. A. Perry, Mrs. J. Utile, Mrs. F. Machado, Mrs. Anthony Lee, Mrs. M. Perry, and the Misses Angie and Josephine Borges.

Esther also took her turn on the Alvarado Observation Tower located on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds. This tower was erected shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor to scan the skies for enemy planes. The tower was manned 24/7 for over a year. Mrs. Gardetto and her son Andy pulled their share of time on the tower.

Esther joined the Paul Rivers VFW Post of Alvarado and was elected as an officer of the organization in April 1948. This same year Mrs. Gardetto served as a voting booth official at the Alvarado Firehouse.

In 1949 Esther was active in the Alvarado Mother's Club, a club similar to the PTA, which has at its heart the welfare of the school and the children. Among the mothers who shared duties in the fund raising at this time were Mrs. Alvina Brune, Mrs. Lorraine Silva, Mrs. Mary Silva and Mrs. Ethel Borges.

The Gardetto Boys:

Esther and Mike had all their boys take music lessons, and from young ages all were talented musicians who performed about the Bay Area. Here are some highlights of their young careers and school activities.

In March 1935 radio enthusiasts enjoyed hearing local talent in the persons of Andy Gardetto and Walter Fasolis 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 was 7 years old and Walter was 9 years old.

The duo then displayed their talent at the Hayward Area Improvement Club banquet at Hayward on the evening of June 12, 1935. Five-year-old Andy sang while Walter rendered "La Espagnola" on his accordion.

In 1941 Morris Davilla of Alvarado organized an orchestra from local young folks. It was called "Phil and Her Sweethearts," as Phillys Cordoda sang with the orchestra. Other members are: Morris Davilla, trumpet; Manuel Priego, accordion; Walter Fasolis, accordion; Andy Gardetto, saxophone; Joaquin Naharro, drums and Marian Cordoba, guitar.

In March 1941, Walter and Andy Gardetto won the \$5.00 prize given at the Down Town Theater in Oakland. They were the first out of ten contestants, which put Alvarado on the map. Some time ago they had appeared on the State Theater program at Hayward and won first prize. They played the accordion and the saxophone. At one time they had also won at the Granada Theater.

Andy Gardetto played over the radio on Monday, April 21, 1941. He did very well and got a big hand on his accordion work. He played "Amapola" and "I Hear a Rhapsody."

Walter and Andrew Gardetto sang over the radio Saturday evening, December 20, 1941 on radio station KFRC. They were on the Amateur Hour.

Walter and Andy Gardetto had the honor to perform at the Oakland Tribune's 53rd Yardstick Dinner program at the Hotel Oakland on Monday night, April 27, 1942. The boys, aged 16 and 12, played the accordion and the saxophone and were both *Oakland Tribune* newspaper boys.

The musical duo of Walter and Andy Gardetto was broken up when Walter joined the U.S. Navy in April 1943, and was stationed in Idaho. Andy took over delivering the *Oakland Tribune* for his brother. Andy was attending Washington Union High School at that time. In August 1944 Walter was stationed in New Caledonia with the U.S. Navy.

On May 8, 1945, the Alvarado Grammar School had a VE-Day (Victory in Europe) program. Patriotic songs were sung, and Arnold Gardetto played "Taps." The principal highlights of World War II were reviewed, discussions were held on what students could do to help finish the war to a successful conclusion for the allies, and finally we listened to recordings of speeches of King George of England, Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and finally President Truman's VE-Day speech.

Seven local elementary schools joined together for a music festival at the Irvington School on Monday April 8, 1946. Representing Alvarado were the following musicians:

Arlen Amaral	Glenn Bachelor	Georgia Davis
Elizabeth Flores	Hannah Fontes	Arnold Gardetto
Tommy Gualco	Madeline Hernandez	Carol Hocking
Betty Jacinto	Lorraine McLean	Evelyn Muela
Mervin Perry	Vernon Perry	Melvin Pimentel
Dora Ramirez		

In June 1946 Walt Gardetto, Coxswain and tug master at Mare Island, was in charge of one of the twenty tugs that would guide the ships and barges through the docks. He was due to be discharged from the Navy June 8, 1946.

Mike & Esther Gardetto were proud to announce that their youngest son Arnold had joined the U.S. Marine Corp.

Antone & Minnie Perry:

Antone Perry was born in the Azores circa 1875 and entered the U.S. in 1896. He was married to Minnie Perry circa 1900, and they made their home, initially, on the Alvarado Decoto County Road. Later they would move to a residence on "V" Street in old Union City. They had four children, one daughter and three sons. The daughter, Ethel was born in 1902. The three sons were: Gregory, born in 1909; Raymond, born in 1912, and James born in 1915. Antone farmed in Alvarado although there seemed to be a period when he was employed in the salt works. Antone Perry passed away at his home in Decoto on September 27, 1951.

Mrs. Minnie Perry passed away on March 29, 1953. She was the mother of Mrs. Ethel Borges of Alvarado, Raymond Perry of Decoto, Gregory and James Perry, both of Hayward and was the devoted sister of Mrs. Anna Roderick of Alvarado. Mrs. Perry was the daughter of Mrs. A.S. Machado who passed away in 1926, Frank Machado was her brother.

Raymond Perry:

Raymond Perry was born in 1912 in Alvarado. He married Helen Perry circa 1934 and they had three children, a son Raymond born in 1937 and two daughters, Maryann born in 1938, and Sharlene born in 1939. Raymond and his family would later move to Decoto and there were no more Alvarado articles.

James Perry:

Jimmy Perry was born in Alvarado in 1915. Jim married Eileen Pock, 21 of Hayward in August 1940 in Reno.

Jimmy attended Alvarado Grammar School. In 1934, after he had graduated from high school Jim took employment at J. H. Ralph's Merchandise Store on Levee Street in Alvarado.

In September of that same year Jim joined the Alvarado Merchants Class B Baseball Team. The team was part of the Oakland League and played some stout opposition. The first game was played on the home diamond on September 9, 1934. Members of the team were:

Frank Vargas	James Perry	Hubert Jacinto	Louis Amaral
John Silva	Tony Rivers	Dale Laybourne	Art Silva
Manuel Amaral	Stanley Roderick		

In March 1935 Jimmy joined the Alvarado Eagles along with new recruits:
Stanley Roderick Louis J. Amaral Henry Marshall
Manuel Azevedo Joseph Allegre Gregory Perry
Joseph Jacinto was reinstated

During the war (May 1943) Jimmy worked in the Richmond Shipyard and was living in Richmond. His father suspected that Jimmy may be in the Army before long. However, as of November 1944 Jimmy was still employed at the Richmond shipyards being labeled as a key member.

After the end of the war Jimmy went to work in Hayward for the Hayward Rug and Upholstery Cleaners. He was made manager there and soon moved his family from Alvarado to Hayward. After this there were no further articles about Jimmy in Alvarado.

Gregory Perry:

Gregory Perry was born in Alvarado in 1909. In May 1931 a marriage license was issued to Gregory A. Perry, 21 of Alvarado, and Mary A. Mendoza, 22 of Sunol.

The 1940 census shows Gregory living on "V" Street in Alvarado with his wife Grace. They had a son Mervin who was born in 1934. The 1940 census shows that Gregory was employed at the salt works in Alvarado.

Gregory joined the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles in March 1935 along with James Perry, Stanley Roderick, Louis J. Amaral, Henry Marshall, Manuel Azevedo and Joseph Allegre.

In April 1941 Gregory joined the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce along with Adam Lewis and James Wasley Jr.

As war clouds loomed over the world the U.S. began to prepare for a possible war. As early September 1941 Alvarado was put on alert for possible incursions into our air space by a foreign enemy. To this end Washington Township was divided into four districts to act as Air Raid Lookouts. In Alvarado the Chief Observer was T.P. Harvey with the following observers:

Andrew Logan	Joseph Jacinto	Robert Whipple
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	Manuel Amaral

Several years into the war a need was found to raise money for the families of soldiers who are facing need with the breadwinner gone. To fill this need a War Chest drive in Washington Township got underway, which was headed by E. Enos, the purchasing agent of Leslie Salt. He chose Wilbert Hendricks to be the chairman in Alvarado and Frank George to assist him. Two other Alvarado men on the committee were Gregory Perry and Mike Salido.

Hardball was again played in Alvarado in 1946 thanks to Ed Naharro who bought baseball uniforms for a hometown team. Captain of the team was Joe Jacinto and the coach was Gregory Perry.

In July 1956 Gregory was elected Vice President of the Alvarado S.D.E.S. society. The society, which helps sponsor the annual Holy Ghost in Alvarado, also elected:

Manuel Perry	Gregory Perry	Manuel C. Pinto, Jr.
Frank Goularte, Jr.	Manuel Martin, Jr.	John A. Silva
Wilbert Hendricks	Emilio Re	Frank George
Raymond Freitas	M.F. Machado	

In 1958 Gregory acceded to the position of general chairman of the Alvarado Holy Ghost festa.

Mrs. Perry was also active in Alvarado serving on the Alvarado Grammar School PTA, and she was also active in the Catholic Church as a member of St. Anne's Confraternity.

About 1960 Gregory Perry and family moved to the City of Hayward and no further articles can be found for Alvarado.

Peter & Antoinette Pinto:

Peter was born in 1912 in the Azores (Portugal). He entered the U.S. in 1921, accompanied by his mother Custodia and older brother Manuel Jr. They came to Alvarado and lived with their father Manuel C. Sr., who had been in the U.S. since 1913. Peter's employment was as an engineer at one of the salt works in Alvarado.

During the 1930's Peter Pinto became known for his accordion playing ability, and as a member of his older brother's band, The Pinto Brothers Orchestra. They played many local venues such as the Alvarado Eagles, the Alvarado SPRSI, the Alvarado School PTA, the Holy Ghost Festa and S.D.E.S. dances, and then their long running gig at the Club Alabam on E. 14th St. near Ashland in the 40's.

In 1940 Peter 28, and Antoinette Rose 23, both of Alvarado announced their intention to wed. Antoinette was the daughter of Martin and Minnie Rose of Alvarado, and she was the brother of Elvin Rose.

Peter ran for, and won a seat on, the Alvarado Section of the Washington Township Sanitary Commissioners, and joined two other Alvaradan's on the Board, Clarence Flores and Joseph J. Jacinto.

Peter expanded his civic duties two years later when he became a volunteer fireman for the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department. Here he joined Anthony J. Vargas, Fire Chief, Charles Baird, Ass't Chief and Manuel Silva, Lieutenant.

The regular firemen in 1946 were:

Joseph Avila	Joe Goularte	Clarence Flores	Peter Pinto
Wilbert Hendricks	Manuel Perry	Joseph Dutra	Elvin Rose
William Machado	Manuel Goularte	Edward Martini	A.J. Cadero
Tony Alexander	Felix Diangson		

Peter also served as an active member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

Peter was very active in St. Anne's Catholic Church in Alvarado, particularly in the annual Holy Ghost festa. After the end of World War II (1946), the annual Holy Ghost festa resumed in Alvarado. A committee was put together to put the grounds at the S.D.E.S. Hall in shape. Peter volunteered to help.

In 1958 Peter & Antoinette Pinto realized the dream of having their daughter, Elaine Pinto, become queen of the Alvarado Holy Ghost. The religious festival began at 7:30 pm as a procession left the S.D.E.S. Hall on Watkins Street and went to the Peter Pinto home to pick up the queen, from there it wended its way to the home of Seraphine Noia, where the crowns were secured. After that, dancing was held at the S.D.E.S. Hall from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Antoinette Rose Pinto:

Antoinette Rose was born in Alvarado in 1918 to Martin & Minnie Rose. She attended Alvarado Grammar School where she graduated in 1931 and Washington Union High School where she graduated in 1935.

In October 1934 Antoinette joined in with other members of St. Anne's Children of Mary Society in Alvarado to attend an Alpha Sigma Society meeting. Attending with Antoinette were:

Erma Machado	Connie Gomes	Alice Gomes	Lillian Silva
Inez Rivers	Beatrice Machado	Alvina Santos	

The following month Antoinette was a member of the Echoes of Portugal Drill Team of Alvarado and paraded in Hayward for the Armistice Day Parade.

Joining Antoinette was:

Lena Dutra, Captain from Decoto

Beatrice Machado	Lillian Silva	Bernice Lezand
Delinda Pimentel	Elveira Perry	Isabelle Murriel
Mary Pimentel	Constance Gomes	Dolores Mello
Carrie Amaral	Pearl White	Lorraine Andrade
Evelyn Correia	Erma Machado	Dale Carey
Thelma Silva		

During World War II Antoinette received recognition for spending 182 hours on the Alvarado Observation Post on the Alvarado Grammar School Grounds. Volunteers served from two to four shifts on the tower once a week scanning the skies for enemy planes.

As her children became of school age Antoinette joined the Alvarado Mother's Club and later the Alvarado PTA. In June 1950 Antoinette served as Vice President of the Alvarado Mother's Club. In March 1956 Antoinette was elected as delegate on the slate of officers.

The United Crusade Annual Drive was gathering momentum in the early 1950's. Mrs. Irma Silva, of Alvarado, was the chairman for the United Crusade. She announced the names of members of her soliciting committee. The following ladies were on her fund gathering committee:

Hilda Allegre	Sue Lemos	Evelyn Silva	Alvina Brune
Aldora Pinto	Antoinette Pinto		

Mrs. Isabel Pinto Martin:

Isabel was born in Alvarado in 1922. She graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1935. Among those who graduated with her were: Marjorie Maciel, Raymond Dias, Edward Martinez, Wilbert Martin, Paul Rivers, Richard Munger, Bruno Orsetti, Warren Silva, Albert Hinkley, Cyril Flores, Edward Olivencia, Anthony Roderick, Clifford Dinsmore, Manuel Pine.

In May 1940, Isabel Pinto and Wilbert Martin gave notice of their intention to wed. On June 8, 1940, Isabel & and Wilbert were married at 2:00 pm at St. Anne's Catholic Church. The two had been classmates since attending Alvarado Grammar School. Wilbert was the son of Manuel Jr. and Mary Martin of Alvarado.

After their marriage Isabel went to work at the Leslie Salt #2 plant in Newark, and was later transferred to the Leslie Salt plant #1 in Newark.

Mrs. Hilda Pinto Allegre:

Hilda was born in Alvarado in 1923. She graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1937 and Washington Union High School in June 1941.

Her fellow graduates from Alvarado Grammar School were in June 1937:

Allen Amaral	Bob French	Bert Johnson	Joe Lewis
Raul Merino	Fujiko Akinaga	Marylyn Critchfield	Alexis Lezand
Victoria Marshall	Wilma Martin	Winifred Santos	Isabel Silveira

Mr. James Wasley was school Principal.

In March 1942 Melvin A. Allegre, 24 of Alvarado, and Hilda C. Pinto 19, of Alvarado announced their intention to wed. After their marriage Melvin joined the U.S. Marine Corps and received his initial training in Southern California, and then went onto Norman Oklahoma where Hilda visited him for several weeks. In December 1945, Melvin was in San Pedro awaiting his discharge after two years overseas.

Hilda served our country by pulling her shifts on the Alvarado Observation Tower based in the Alvarado Grammar School grounds. By February 1943 Hilda had amassed 185 hours of time on the tower.

Hilda was active in the Alvarado School PTA, serving as an assistant to President Mrs. Lavern Shestack. Other persons serving on the PTA at this time were

Mrs. Frank Sacramento	John Bond	Mrs. Evelyn Griffin
Mrs. Kay Silva	Stephen Graves	Mrs. Mary Spurlock
Mrs. Alice Mendes		

Hilda also earned the high gratitude and sincere thanks for her participation as a volunteer nurse in the Alvarado Well-Baby Clinic. Under the leadership of Mrs. Isabel Loyola of Alvarado, the ladies undertook the task per the duties required to bring health care to the underserved of Alvarado.

In 1955 Hilda served as an officer on the S.P.R.S.I, Council No. 21 of Alvarado. Serving with here were:

Helen P. Goularte	Miss Delinda Pimentel	Eleanor Azevedo
Mayme Roderick	Angie Vargas	Millie Richmond
Isabel Mondragon	Mae Santos	Anna Hendricks

Mary Borges
Mary Cardoza

Isabel Martin
Bernice Silveira

Rita Perry

Frank Pinto:

Frank was born circa 1927 in Alvarado. He graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1941, and Washington Union High School in June 1945.

Among those that graduated with Frank from Alvarado Grammar School in 1941 were: Bertille Amaral, Robert Benjamin, Ernest Bettencourt, Jeanette Goularte, Judy Hill, Emily Dominguez, Mary Cheng, Betty Hernandez, Stanley Lewis, Doris Martinez, Manuel Priego, Lorraine Sa, Agnes Silva, and Clifford Rogers.

During the war Frank served on the Alvarado Observation Tower located on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds. The purpose of the tower was to locate possible incursions of enemy planes and report them to a central location. By February 1943 Frank had accumulated 377 hours on the tower. By July 1943 15-year old Frank Pinto had been awarded the pin for 500 hours service on the Air Raid Observation post. No other person on the post had served as long.

Frank Silva, Jr.:

Frank Silva Jr. was born in California circa 1892. His wife Mary was born in California in 1891. Frank and Mary raised two sons, Leonard born circa 1920, and Warren born circa 1922. Both sons were natives of Alvarado.

Frank Silva worked for the Leslie Salt Co. and retired from that organization after working there for many years. Frank was a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, the Aerie of Eagles, and U.P.E.C. Council #16 of Alvarado.

He passed away October 8, 1967 at the age of 74 years.

Frank Silva, Sr.:

Frank Silva was born in Fayal, Azores (Portugal) in February 1869. Luiza Silva, his wife, was born in the Azores (Portugal) in April 1871. Frank entered the U.S. in 1880 and Luiza entered the U.S. in 1887. They were married in 1889 and they raised the following children in Alvarado: Manuel born in May 1891; Frank Jr. born in February 1893; Richard born in December 1896; Antone born in June 1898; Phoebe born in May 1900; Wilhelmina born in 1903; Joe born in 1898, and Mamie born in 1898.

Frank's occupation was farming and he originally resided on the Marsh Road, but later moved to Canal Street (Marsten Ave.) during his retirement. Frank was a member of the I.D.E.S. & U.P.E.C. Lodges of Alvarado.

Luiza Silva passed away on September 17, 1945 and her husband Frank A. Silva Sr. passed away on the following day. Both were interred in the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Hayward.

Frank Silveira:

Frank Silveira was born in the Azores (Portugal) circa 1887. He entered the U.S. in 1913. His wife Mary was also born in the Azores and her date of entry into the U.S. is unknown. Their daughter Lorraine was born circa 1921, Isabel circa 1922, and Jeanette circa 1926. Their son Norman was born in 1923.

Frank was a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. As such he served on many civic projects. One of the larger projects was erecting the Air Raid Observation Tower during World War II in March 1943. The frame for the tower was donated by Manuel Silva of the Creek Road. Frank worked on the team that tore down the frame that included Joe Maciel, Charles Baird, F.E. Machado, Manuel Rose, Seraphine Noia, and Martin Rose. The frame for the tower was then taken to the Alvarado Grammar School grounds where the frame for the tower was erected and a glassed in watch tower with an outside catwalk was put up.

Besides the Chamber of Commerce and the associated civic duties Frank also participated in activities for St. Anne's Catholic Church. After World War II Frank was one of 18 Alvarado men who cleaned up and made ready the S.D.E.S. Hall for the Holy Ghost for the first time since the war began in 1941. The benches were improved and a bandstand built, and the place where the barbecue was held alongside the SDES Hall was improved. Even the outdoor dining area was made more comfortable with palm fronds covering the eating area to make outdoor dining more comfortable in the afternoon sun.

Mrs. Mary Silveira:

Mary Silveira was one of sixteen ladies in the Alvarado Red Cross that regularly attended bandage-making sessions in Centerville in March 1943 to aid in the war effort.

Mrs. Silveira was also a member of the Paul Rivers VFW Post of Alvarado, where she served in an official capacity in 1953.

Miss Lorraine Silveira:

Lorraine Silveira was born ca. 1921 to Frank and Mary Silveira of Alvarado. Lorraine graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1934 with 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 Marion Ziegler.

In March 1941 Miss Lorraine Silveira announced her engagement to William Silva of San Leandro. On May 12, 1942, Lorraine Silveira and William Silva were married in Reno. Upon their return they would reside on Canal Street (Marsten Ave.) in Alvarado.

In February 1946, William and Lorraine Silva were greeted by the Silveira's at their home on Granger Ave. when William was discharged from the service. He and his wife stayed at the Silveira home for a time after his discharge.

Miss Isabel Silveira:

Miss Isabel Silveira was born ca. 1922 to Frank and Mary Silveira of Alvarado. Isabel attended the Alvarado Grammar School and graduated in June 1937

with the following classmates: Allen Amaral, Bob French, Bert Johnson, Joe Lewis, Raul Merino, Fujiko Akinaga, Alexis Lezand, Marylyn Critchfield, Victoria Marshall, Wilma Martin, Hilda Pinto, and Winifred Santos.

Miss Isabel Silveira was married in Alvarado on Easter Sunday March 1944. 18 months later Mrs. Isabel Hernandez (nee Isabel Silveira) gave birth to a son. The grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Silveira of Granger Avenue. The Godparents were Jeanette Ramm (the former Jeanette Silveira), and her brother, Norman Silveira, who was a paratrooper with the 11th Airborne Division, somewhere in Japan.

Norman Silveira:

See complete bio below **"Silveira, Norman"**.

Jeanette Silveira:

Jeanette graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in 1939 and the Washington Union High School in 1943.

Jeanette was a member of the Alvarado Drill Team girls, which made a great showing in the Alvarado Holy Ghost Parade in 1941. After the Alvarado Holy Ghost parade they drilled every Sunday at different festas. In the months following the Holy Ghost parade the Alvarado (and Decoto) girls went to Crows Landing, Newman, Santa Clara, Stevenson, Patterson, San Jose, and Livingston near Merced.

Shortly after graduating high school Jeanette met and became engaged to Hugh V. Ramm of Berkeley. In October 1945 they were married.

SCHOOL CUSTODIAN:

Serafine Noia / Norman Silveira

Serafine Noia:

Serafine Noia was born in the Azores circa 1904. He entered the U.S. in 1920. In October 1933 he obtained a license to marry Miss Emily D. Oliveira, 21, of Alvarado. They had two daughters, Patricia and Carol.

Serafine worked in the salt works at Alvarado as a laborer and later on as a pan operator. During the war Serafine went to work for the James Graham Co. plant in Newark, which was busy with defense work. After the war Seraphine became a bus driver and custodian for the Alvarado Grammar School. Seraphine filed his first papers to become a naturalized citizen in April 1931. Later he received his naturalized papers thus becoming a citizen of the United States.

Seraphine joined the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce and was one of the persons who helped erect the observation tower on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds. The tower was used after Pearl Harbor to spot and report potential enemy planes in our air space.

In May 1946 a committee was tasked by Manuel Goularte to tidy up the grounds about the SDES Hall on Watkins Street in preparation for the first

Holy Ghost festa since the end of the war. Seraphine Noia joined a host of other Alvaradan's in putting the grounds in top shape.

Serafine was a member of the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles, and in November 1952 he received his twenty-year pin.

Mrs. Emily Noia:

Mrs. Emily Noia was born ca. 1912 in California to Mrs. Mary Oliveira who later married Gaspar Pine of Alvarado. Emily received a marriage license in October 1933 to marry Seraphine Noia.

Emily was a member of the Alvarado SPRSI Council #21, and in May 1935 served as an officer in the lodge along with Mrs. Aurora Lewis, Mrs. Sophie Mello, Mrs. Eldora Pinto, Mrs. Mary Silva, and Miss Pauline Allegre.

During World War II Emily Noia stood a four hour watch on the Alvarado Observation Tower on the Alvarado school grounds. Every Tuesday between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM Emily stood a watch with Mrs. Marjorie Re. While on watch in the tower the ladies would scan the skies for possible enemy airplane intrusion into our air space.

In 1948 Emily became affiliated with the Alvarado Girl Scout Troop with Mrs. Emily Click, wife of the Alvarado School teacher. In February 1948 there were twenty young girls in the Alvarado Troop were:

The following year, in January 1949, Emily took part in the Alvarado Mother's Club professional eye examination of the children in the Alvarado School. Under the leadership of Mrs. Alvina Brune, they examined 250 students and found 18 children who were in need of corrective lenses. Emily continued to serve on the Alvarado Mother's Club (forerunner to the Alvarado PTA), and served as a committee leader.

Emily served as an election official for the 2nd Alvarado voting precinct in the October 1952 election. Emily joined Mary Borges as clerks in the election at the Fire House, while Mabel Rodgers was the inspector, and Isabelle Mondragon was the judge.

Alvarado established a well-baby clinic for needy families in the Alvarado area. Held under the auspices of the Volunteer Nurses the clinic was under the chairmanship of Mrs. Isabel Loyola with the following volunteers: Mrs. Alvina Brune, Mrs. Marie Falkowski, Mrs. Evelyn Silva, Mrs. Serafine Noia, Mrs. Leonard Silva, Mrs. Warren Silva, Mrs. Alma Bielar, Mrs. Hilda Allegre, Mrs. Estelle Rigmaiden, and Mrs. Lavern Shestack.

As well as all of her other activities, Emily Noia became an officer in the Paul Rivers VFW Post of Alvarado in 1953.

Norman Silveira:

Norman Silveira was born in California circa 1923 to Frank and Mary Silveira, both of whom emigrated from the Azores. Norman had three sisters, Lorraine, Isabel and Jeanette. Norman graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in 1938 and the Washington Union High School in 1942.

In April 1943 Norman left for service in the U.S. Military, and within a month Norman was stationed in the U.S. Army Medical Corp at Camp McCall in North Carolina. After completing his training he was assigned to the Glider Corps, also located in North Carolina. In February 1944, he came home on furlough and then left for his next duty station in the Glider Division in Louisiana. From there Norman went into the 11th Airborne Division in Japan.

Norman was one of the first to sign up for the Paul Rivers VFW Post of Alvarado where he would be very active for the coming decades.

In September 1948 Norman took out a marriage license to marry Miss Bernice Homen of Newark. They were married and in 1949 and they moved from Newark into one of the Naharro apartments between "V" & "W" Streets. From here Norman started a shoe repair shop in Alvarado. Norman and Bernice had two daughters, Norma Jean and Debbie. In 1949 Norman took a day job at a factory in San Leandro and handled his shoe repair business on evenings.



A photo of Norm Silveira as part of the Alvarado Grammar School Staff in the mid 1950's. Photo courtesy of Tim Swenson.

In 1952 Norman became a candidate for a seat on the board of the Alvarado Sanitary District and with Leonard Silva. They ran for the expired terms of Manuel Pinto and William Machado.

Besides his service on the Sanitary Board and the VFW, Norman also contributed to the betterment of the Catholic Church. After his return from the war he joined a group of Alvarado men to update the S.D.E.S. grounds for the first Holy Ghost since the war.

Norman would go on to become an employee of the Alvarado School District. I can recall Norman driving the bus and picking me up in the morning and dropping me off at our farm in the afternoon.

SCHOOL TRUSTEE:
Howard Graydon & Mary Spurlock:

Howard Graydon Spurlock was born in Buffalo Township, Morgan County, Missouri, in 1911 to Joseph and Ethel Spurlock. Joseph & Ethel had seven children, four girls and three boys. At the time Howard's father Joseph was working as a salesman in a dry goods store.

By 1920 Joseph, Ethel and the children had relocated to Otero County Colorado where Joseph Spurlock was working a farm. But by the 1930 census Ethel Spurlock had remarried to a gentleman named Roy Jones, and the Spurlock family was settled in Salina Kansas where Roy Jones was a farmhand on a grain and stock farm. Joseph Spurlock was 26 years the senior of Ethel Spurlock so it is likely that he passed away after 1920 and before 1930. At the 1930 census Graydon was nineteen years old and was not employed at this time.

The 1940 census finds Graydon Spurlock married to Mary Spurlock. They were living in Hamilton City California where Graydon was a tractor driver for the Holly Sugar Company. The Spurlock's had a three-year old daughter at this time named Beverly Ann Spurlock. Beverly was born in California, so the Spurlock's arrived in Hamilton before 1937.

The Spurlock's arrived in Alvarado in the fall of 1940. They moved into one of the Varni cottages, which sat alongside the south side of Smith Street east of New Haven Street. These homes still exist today on a small side street just after you pass New Haven Street, and before Smith Street veers slightly north to meet up with Alvarado-Niles Road.

Graydon had a younger brother, Leon that served in Italy in 1943, and who had been fighting at many fronts. In February 1944 Leon was recovering at Oak Knoll Hospital recovering from wounds suffered in the invasion of Tarawa in the Pacific. Graydon had done his part in the war donating blood ten times.

During the 1950's Graydon began to serve the Alvarado community, first as a reserve sheriff deputy and then he was elected to the Alvarado Elementary School Board of Trustees.

In March 1955 Graydon took up the call to defend Alvarado and Decoto from the land grab annexation of Washington Township property. Graydon joined with George Hocking and Elvin Rose to alert the people of Alvarado what had been done so far to thwart the Hayward land grab.

However, several months later Graydon and Mary Spurlock, and family, moved to Fremont and Graydon had to resign his position on the school board because he was now out of district. Graydon was also a commissioner of the Alvarado Fire District, which he also had to resign. Graydon was replaced as fire commissioner by Wilbert Hendricks.

Mrs. Mary Spurlock:

Mary Zimmerman was born in Shimer, Comanche, Kansas in 1912 to Fenton G. & Beatrice Zimmerman. Mary married Howard Graydon Spurlock sometime in the mid 1930's and they had their first child, Beverly Ann, in 1937 in Hamilton City, California. The Spurlock's added a second child a son named Darryl in June 1944 while the family was living in Alvarado.

Mrs. Spurlock became involved in the Alvarado Girl Scout Troop in January 1948 when she, along with Mrs. George Hocking, Mrs. Serafine Noia, and Mrs. Ed Click, attended a meeting that was held in Niles for the purpose of discussing the disbursement of Community Chest funds to new Girl Scout Troops.

In April 1948 the meeting of Washington Township Girl Scout Leaders Club was held at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Click of Alvarado on Granger Ave. Those present were Mrs. Davis of the Staff Office at Hayward; Mrs. Kay Kettman, Hayward, Washington Township District Chairman; Mrs. Lydia Orsetti, Alviso; Mrs. Pederson, Alviso; Mrs. George Hocking and Mrs. Graydon Spurlock of Alvarado.

Mary was a member of the Alvarado Mother's Club of Alvarado Grammar School. In January 1939 the Mother's Club held a clinic for eyesight testing of students of the school. Mary Spurlock joined with Marian Hocking, Mary Santos, Winifred Harper, Pauline Silva, Bernice Manuel, Teresa Carlson, Emily Noia, Alvina Brune and Annie Flores in testing 250 students and found that 18 children had defective eyesight, which will be taken care of.

In September 1950 Mrs. Mary Spurlock joined Mrs. Helen Roderick, Mrs. Antoinette Pinto, and Mrs. Kay Silva as officers of the Alvarado Mother's Club.

When the Mother's Club was merged into the Alvarado School PTA the nomination committee for officers consisted of Mary Spurlock, Eldora Pinto, Jane Dakin, Evelyn Silva and Zola Smith.

In May 1954, Mary was honored by being voted in as President of the Washington Union High School PTA. In 1956 Mrs. Spurlock was appointed Washington Township coordinator for the march on Polio. Her Alvarado team leader was Mrs. Bernice Silveira.

Besides raising two children and numerous community activities Mary had a unique hobby. Show birds! Ever hear of red, pink, orange, white and bronze canaries? Mary Spurlock raised them for show and that people with birdbrains call them "dimorphic canaries," which translates to mean; "a layer upon layer of color." Anyhow, Mrs. Spurlock and friends enter their birds in various bird shows, one of the biggest being the "California Color Breeders Show."

Miss Beverly Ann Spurlock:

Beverly Ann Spurlock was born in Hamilton City California circa 1937. Late in the fall of 1940 she was relocated to Alvarado with her parents. She attended Alvarado Grammar School. Here are some of her activities during this period of her life:

In October 1946 Beverly was part of Mr. Callery's orchestra at the Alvarado School. On June 13, 1950 the Alvarado Grammar School graduated the following pupils:

Marlene Andrade	Anita Apodaca	Gloria Apodaca	Rosa Barrera
Marjorie Best	Natalie Cicairos	Amalia Concha	Gene Concha
Cornelio Contreras	Frank Corrales	Beverly Davilla	Esther Muela
Arnold Gardetto	Elaine Hocking	Sadako Kurotori	Larry Roberts
Beverly Spurlock	Frank Velarde	Rosendo Villegas	

In November 1953, 87 contestants entered a baking contest at Washington Union High School. Mrs. Caroline Brown of Centerville walked off with top honors in the cake-baking contest. In the "teenage" division, Beverly Spurlock of Alvarado won first prize.

Beverly Ann Spurlock of Alvarado was elected queen of the Washington Township serving with her from Alvarado were Beverly Ratekin and Renee Stiarwalt.

Beverly Spurlock married Mr. Robert Berridge in June 1960. Beverly had graduated from San Jose State University and was employed as a teacher in the Mission San Jose Elementary School. Beverly was a member of Job's Daughters, Bethel 253 of Fremont.

SHOP FOREMAN:

Elvin Rose:

Elvin Rose was the son of Martin and Minnie Rose. Martin Rose was born in the Azores (Portugal) circa 1882. His date of entry into the U.S. is unknown. On September 24, 1914 he married Miss Minnie Flores at the Centerville Catholic Church. They had two children, Miss Antoinette Rose, born in 1917, and Elvin Rose born on June 29, 1918.

Elvin attended the Alvarado Grammar School and Washington Union High School where he graduated in 1935.

Elvin's first job was working in San Leandro for the Holly Sugar Company as a weigh master in the beet receiving section. He left that job after one year to work in the Hudson Lumber yard in San Leandro. It was here that Elvin met Orpha Jean Howlett.

In December 1939 he took out a marriage license to marry Orpha Jean Howlette. Later they would move to Granger Avenue, and the finally settled at their home next to the Alvarado Grammar School driveway on Smith Street.

After working at the Hudson Lumber Yard, Elvin went to work for the Standard Trailer Company where he was a shop foreman. He worked there until his retirement.

In 1940 Elvin joined both the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, and several years later he would join the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles. Then in 1946 Elvin became a member of the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department.

In 1946 Elvin became involved with the Alvarado Holy Ghost by helping a crew of 18 men improve the Holy Ghost grounds on Watkins Street. The Holy Ghost had been suspended during the war years and the grounds needed to be updated. The benches were improved and a bandstand built, and the place where the barbecue was held alongside the SDES Hall was redone. Arrangements were made to cover the outside dining area with palm fronds donated by Wilbert Hendricks.

During this same year Elvin became involved with the Alvarado Sanitary District. In August 1946 Elvin filed as a candidate for a position on the Sanitary Board of the Alvarado Sanitary District. He was elected to the board along with Fred Joyce Jr. and Manuel Goularte.

Elvin maintained his status on the Alvarado Sanitary District Board and saw the need to grow the plant with progress. In June 1950 Elvin stated that at present the old sewage disposal plant at the lower end of Veasy Street needed much improvement, such as the wooden tanks being repaired. Extension of the system, as well as necessary improvements were also badly needed. With this in mind, Mr. Rose presented to the chamber the plans of the Sanitary District Directors. Included in those plans was the necessity of floating a bond asking for \$30,000. Voters would be asked to vote on his bond so the sanitary district could then apply to the State for \$15,000 (or half the amount of the bond).

In 1952 Elvin Rose status had risen to the title of Fire Chief of the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department. With his duties on the Chamber of Commerce, the Sanitary Board and the Volunteer Fire Department Elvin Rose was kept very busy.

In October 1952 Elvin Rose proposed to give to the county a piece of land he owned north of Smith Street between Watkins Street and the Firehouse (the old Little Tijuana site) for use as a road. Rose stated that there is not a single side street from Watkins Street east to Fred Wiegman's Place (just east of the SP railroad tracks) a distance of some 600 yards. Rose proposed to give the county the right of way on a piece of property 350-feet north of Smith Street and 45-feet wide for use as a street.

This street would be put adjacent to the Alvarado Post Office and would open up that area and put the Post Office on a prominent corner. In the past old streets were allowed to be lost through lack of use. There are such streets located on old maps of Alvarado, and this one was called Castro Street, was still shown in some old Sanborn Fire Maps. However, nothing was ever to come of Elvin's offer, although it obtained some serious backing from townspeople.

Elvin was to become very involved in the Alvarado-Decoto Incorporation into Union City, as he was the President of the Alvarado Sanitary District. The Alvarado Sanitary District was to play a big part in the problems of uniting the two towns. In March 1955 Elvin was on the committee to acquaint the people of Alvarado what has been done to stop the Hayward "land grab" of valuable parts of Washington Township located in Decoto and Alvarado.

Alvarado was in possession on an antiquated sanitary system, which amounted to a single phase of effluent treatment that was nothing more than collecting liquid waste and allowing it to drain off into Alameda Creek and into the Bay. Suspended solids were occasionally collected and trucked off for disposal. This was, at that time, adequate for the small town of Alvarado, but it would not be adequate to serve the needs of an incorporated city.

Even without becoming a city, within the next few years Alvarado would be barred from dumping untreated effluent into the Bay with new pollution

controls looming in the future. Alvarado's only hope of a modern system was to try to merge the Alvarado Sanitary District with the Union Sanitary District of Fremont.

But this was not the only responsibility Elvin had with the Union City Incorporation. In December 1957 he was named to a committee, along with Oscar Dowe, George Hocking and Keith Whipple to draw up boundaries of the proposed new city of Union City and to present it to the Board of Supervisors.

In June 1958, the go ahead was given for another try to incorporate Alvarado and Decoto into Union City. Elvin Rose headed a petition of 41-persons to incorporate into the city of Union City.

On September 10, 1958 Elvin Rose, Chairman of the Incorporation Committee, presented the petition to incorporate to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. Upon declaring the required number of valid signatures had been gathered County Clerk Jack G. Blue declared the people of Alvarado and Decoto could vote for incorporation.

Jean Rose, Elvin's wife, was also a very busy person. Besides raising the couple's six sons, Danny, Dickie, Stanley, Dale, Marvin and Gordon Rose, she was also busy in church and civic affairs. She served as president of the UPEC Bernice No. 131 of Alvarado, the Mother's Club of Alvarado Grammar School, and later the PTA of Alvarado Grammar School.

Elvin Rose passed away on June 16, 2013.

Antoinette Rose:

Antoinette was born in Alvarado in 1917. Miss Rose was always close to the Catholic Church, having been a member of St. Anne's Children of Mary Society in 1934. She was also a member of the Echoes of Portugal Drill Team, which marched in festivals and gala events around the East Bay. In September 1940 Peter J. Pinto of Alvarado took out a marriage license to wed Antoinette.

See the entire bio for Antoinette at "[**Pinto, Peter & Antoinette.**](#)"

SUGAR MILL EMPLOYEE:

Fred Hafen:

Fred Hafen was born in Germany in February 1867. He entered the U.S. in 1897. Prior to 1900 Fred had already settled in Alvarado. Fred never married.

Fred worked at the sugar mill as a laborer and in the off-season he worked at general labor about Alvarado. He also worked in the salt works

In 1940 Fred became a staunch supporter of the Alvarado Sanitary District, pledging \$100 to see it get underway (a goodly sum at the time for a laborer). Fred was also a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

In January 1941 Fred was taken to a San Francisco hospital. Sam Dinsmore, his friend of 30 years, visited him two or three times a week. At the beginning of March 1941 Fred Hafen passed away. He was 71 years of age. Alvarado

would miss Fred Hafen who spent more than 40 years as a citizen of Alvarado. There were no local survivors although he had a niece in Bend, Oregon. He was interred at Albany, Oregon.

WAR HEROES:

Joseph Allegre / Paul E. Rivers

Joseph Allegre:

Joseph Allegre was born circa 1914 in Alvarado to Domingo and Frances Allegre. In March 1935, Joseph was initiated into the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles at the IOOF Hall in Alvarado. Inducted along with Joe were James Perry, Stanley Roderick, Louis J. Amaral, Henry Marshall, and Manuel Azevedo.

The next few years were happy times for Joe. He had a group of friends that liked to travel and liked the outdoors. They made several trips to Sonora for some snow fun and spills. The group of young men included in the trip with Joseph was Louie Amaral, Eddie Mateo, Lolly Amaral, Lester Silvey, Art Silveria, Cipry Dias, Frank Sargenti, Stanley Roderick, Lester Silvey, and Tony Correia, Frank Sargenti, Joe Allegre, Hubert Jacinto, Leonard Santos, Johnny Silva, Joe Montalbo, Frank Perez and Clifford Soares.

Then in April 1941, Joe Allegre and Lawrence Roderick received their draft induction notices from the U.S. Army. Both of them were graduates of Alvarado Grammar School.

Sgt. Joe Allegre of the Creek Road was reported to be in North Africa in 1943. Then in June 1943 Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Allegre received a telegram that their son, Sgt. Joseph Allegre, 29, was killed in action on the Island of Attu in the Alaskan Aleutians. A telegram from the War Department was received by Sgt. Allegre's widow in Berkeley. He was inducted in April 1941, and had returned home for a furlough April 1941. His brother, Melvin Anthony, was inducted just a weeks prior. He was the brother of Angie Vargas and Pauline Dutra.

Final rites were not given until October 11, 1948 when private funeral services were held in Alvarado.

Paul E. Rivers:

Paul Edward Rivers was born in Alvarado in 1921 to Joseph and Mary Rivers. He attended Alvarado Grammar School and Washington Union High School.

Paul was the youngest of nine children left in the care of Mrs. Mary Rivers, when their father died. While in high school, Paul served as President of his class in his junior and senior years, as Vice President of the Future Farmers of America, President of the Boy's Club, and a member of the Student Council. He was a star football and baseball player, and active in dramatics and public speaking. He graduated in 1939.

In a letter to his high school principal, A.J. Rathbone, Paul wrote from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada about the hospitality of the Canadians and life in

the Canadian Royal Air Force. Commenting the necessity of a good foundation in math for would-be pilots Rivers wrote:

"It's a pity to see a boy handle a plane smoothly and easily, then get washed out because he doesn't know his navigation," writes Rivers.

A visit to a German prison camp where a thousand Germans "seemed very pleased that they are out of it all," and flights over Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper Park are among the experiences related in the letter. "I also saw the Duke of Kent when he came to our station for inspection. He stopped and asked me if Canada was treating me well," the letter said.

Rivers said he would be glad to correspond with high school students as "letters from home are worth their weight in gold."

Paul transferred to the Marine Corps, and he was immediately sent overseas to the Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal). Paul went out on a flight on October 15, 1942 and never returned. In December 1942 Mrs. Mary Rivers was informed that Sergeant Paul E. Rivers, United States Marine Corps Reserve, nearest of kin, Mrs. Mary Rivers of 144 "V" Street, Alvarado, was reported missing in action in the Solomon's. Mrs. Rivers never gave up hope that her Paul would return home to her.

In January 1947, a new Veterans of Foreign Wars post was named in honor of Paul Edwards Rivers, first serviceman from the community of Alvarado to lose his life in WWII, was instituted in the Eagles Hall at Alvarado. The new unit was the Paul Edward Rivers Post No. 7906.

Edward M. Martinez of Alvarado, adjutant of the post has announced that Mrs. Mary Rivers, mother of Paul Rivers, would be the honored guest at the installation ceremonies.

WATER WORKS: **Milton P. Munger:**

Milton P. Munger was born to Homer and Laura R. Munger of Illinois in June 1881. Corrine Munger was born in Colorado ca. 1892. Over the years Milton lived in Iowa in 1900, in Arizona in 1910, and in Merced California in 1920 where he married Corrine Munger. In Merced he was managing a fruit farm.

The Munger's had four children: Milton P. Jr. born ca. 1913 in Arizona; John W. born in ca. 1914 in Arizona; Lucille (Peggy) born ca. 1919 in California; and Richard H. born ca. 1921 in California.

By 1922 he had relocated to Alvarado where, by 1930, he became employed as a fireman (a water boiler tender) at the Alvarado Water Works. His wife Corrine took a job at Sam Dinsmore's General Store working for the telephone company as a telephone operator, a job in which she was employed during the 1930 census. In 1940 her son Richard also worked for Sam Dinsmore as a telephone operator.

Milton Munger became involved in Alvarado civic duties almost immediately. He was chosen as Assistant Scoutmaster for the Alvarado Boy Scout Troop, which had just been organized with 12 boys. In 1941 Milt became associated with the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

Corrine Munger became associated with the Alvarado Rebekah's where she elected as an official in 1926. At that same time Mrs. Munger became an election official for Alvarado School election serving as an inspector for the elections. Mrs. Munger also served on the Alvarado Grammar School PTA; she was also involved actively with the Country Club of Washington Township, the Alvarado Presbyterian Church's Ladies Aid society, and the Alvarado Bridge Club.

During World War II she served as an Air Raid Observation Tower Captain, scheduling and making sure the tower was manned at all times as well as pulling her own shift on the tower. After receiving her 100-hour pin for duty served she spearheaded the drive to raise funds in Alvarado for the Fourth Victory Loan War campaign. She served along with Jack Blacow in raising funds in Alvarado.

The Alvarado Office of the PT&T had been housed at the General Store located at Smith and Vallejo Streets. Originally this was F.C. Harvey's store and in the late 1920's it became Sam Dinsmore's store.

In June 1946, the telephone switchboard was moved from Dinsmore's General Store to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Munger's home a half block away. Mrs. Munger had been an operator at the switchboard since the 1920's. The telephone company had been located at the same store for over years. Mrs. Munger was in charge of the office with her assistant operators. Soon a permanent building would be built on the corner of the Marsh Road and Canal Street and the need for operators would be done away with.

Milton P. Munger Jr:

Milton P. Munger Jr. was born ca. 1913 in Arizona to Milton P. and Corrine Munger. The only article about Milton Munger Jr was published in September 1946 announcing that Milton Jr. was attending a course of study at Penn State University on how to condition ships of the U.S. Fleet, which were temporarily out of commission. When he completed this course he would be the leading authority of this department on the West Coast. Milton was a 1931 graduate of Washington Union High School at Centerville.

In March 1946 Milton Jr. was reported working at Mare Island working at a testing laboratory and living in Berkeley.

John W. Munger:

John W. was born in circa 1914 in Arizona to Milton P. and Corrine Munger. John attended Alvarado Grammar School and in March 1926 took part in the Washington Township Better Homes and Gardens contest sponsored by the Country Club of Washing Township for grammar school students in the Washington Township area.

After graduating from San Jose State College John, 22, married Miss Harriett E. Jones, 20, of San Leandro. At that time the young decided to make San Jose as their residence.

In 1943 it was reported that John was working for the Pacific Telephone Company in Hayward. Three years later John and Harriett Munger moved to El Cerrito so that John could be closer to his work at Richmond.

Miss Lillian (Peggy) Munger:

Lucille (Peggy) was born circa 1919 in California to Milton P. and Corrine Munger. Peggy attended Washington Union High School where she graduated in 1936.

Peggy Munger was the honoree at a bridal shower given by the Misses Marian Ziegler and Linda Hellwig at the Ziegler home as one of the many events preceding her marriage on Saturday, August 26, 1939 to Robert Harmon Whipple of Decoto.

A few hours after their marriage at 3 o'clock, which took place in the lovely gardens of the Whipple Ranch at Decoto, Mr. Robert Harmon Whipple, and his bride, the former Miss Margaret Lucille Munger of Alvarado, were well on their way to their honeymoon, "destination unknown." On their return, however, they would be at home to their friends in Decoto as they were to live on the Whipple Ranch.

Richard H. Munger:

Richard H. Munger was born ca. 1921 in California to Milton P. and Corrine Munger. Richard attended the Alvarado Grammar School and he showed penchant for writing.

In July 1932 Richard wrote a piece of fiction and sent it to *The Oakland Tribune's* Aunt Elsie's Children Page for publication. Here it is:

"A Miracle:

One bright summer day Jim and Jack decided to go fishing. One their way a black cat crossed their path, but he didn't believe in bad luck and kept on going.

When they reached the river (which was a fast flowing one) they fixed their poles and got ready to fish. When they were ready, Jim said he was going to go out on the tree that bent over the river. Jack warned him he wouldn't be safe out there and he couldn't swim, but Jim didn't say anything and climbed out on the tree.

In a little while Jim caught a fish and became a little excited and fell into the river. Jack heard the splash, looked over and saw Jim in the river. In a second he knew what to do. He started to run downstream until he reached a small rowboat. He hopped in and started to row. Soon he reached Jim, who was just going under the third time.

As soon as he had Jim in the boat he started to laugh, because when Jim was in the water there was a great big fish on the line and the

hook stuck out. When Jim was in the water the hook became caught on his trousers. They had a good supply of fish that night.”
By: Richard Munger, Alvarado, age 11

But Richard was more than just a top-notch writer, he also had a flair for the dramatic. In June 1934 Richard showed his skills as a thespian in the Alvarado Grammar School production of the two act opera, “The Gypsy Troubadour.”

The operetta was under the direction of Miss Doris Kinne, music director for Alvarado Grammar School. The orchestra played several numbers and had a cast of players that included: Joan Boyd, Bernice Lezand, Marion Ziegler, Isabelle Pinto, Bruno Orsetti, Lillian Silva, Warren Silva, Angel Ledesma, Tony Fields, Isabel Maciel, Alvina Santos, Richard Munger and Bernice Daviner.

Richard was among 26 graduate at the Alvarado School in June 1935. His 25 classmates were: Marjorie Maciel, Fasaye Tanaka, Mieko Terezawa, Lucy Merino, Misaya Matsumoto, Isabel Pinto, T. Akinaga, Remedía Mateo, Osamo Akinaga, Marion Cordoba, Raymond Dias, Manuel Esteves, Edward Martinez, Wilbert Martin, Paul Rivers, Bruno Orsetti, Warren Silva, Albert Hinkley, Hiroshi Shimada, Cyril Flores, Edward Olivencia, Anthony Roderick, Clifford Dinsmore, Manuel Pine and Abel Valle.

Richard graduated from Washington Union High School in June 1939. He then enrolled at the University of California with the hopes of becoming an engineer.

Richard Munger received his officers commission in the U.S. Army Air Force in November 1942 at ceremonies held at Lake Field, Arizona. Richard’s mother, Corrine, made the trip to Arizona to watch her son receive his commission and escorted him back to Alvarado.

When it was time for Richard to fly back to Arizona he took a short detour over Alvarado and as he passed over his home on Watkins Street he dipped his wing as a signal to his mother on the ground. Richard had enlisted in the Air Corps last April after graduating from the Washington Union High School and completing two years at the University of California.

In September 1943 Richard visited Alvarado and his family from his base in Phoenix Arizona.

* **EASTSHORE FREEWAY** *

Restart after WWII / I-880 after Completion

Restart after WWII:

At the end of WWII, construction began anew on the proposed Eastshore Freeway. Work had started on the freeway prior to WWII, but it was suspended when the war

started. Work began on the freeway near the Oakland Army Terminal, south from the onramp of the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge.

By the summer of 1946, work began on the dual level overpasses (which collapsed in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake) between the Oakland Army Terminal and the city of Oakland. Phase one would be through the city of Oakland, then overland to San Leandro, extend past San Lorenzo Village, pass through Hayward, and then onto Alvarado on its way to San Jose.

The Eastshore Freeway was not the only mammoth road construction going on in the East Bay at this time. By January 1950, it was announced that within the next five years, a system of freeways would be completed through southern Alameda County, from Oakland through Eden Township to Alvarado and then to San Jose. From that freeway, east through Castro Valley it would join with U.S. 50, and from the west through Hayward, which would then extend to the Hayward-San Mateo Bay Bridge. That was a lot of freeway, and it would displace a lot of property, much now vacant that was adjacent to the routes.

February 1950, started the next journey of the massive freeway project. Promoters of residential and industrial development soon discovered the rolling hills and level expanse of the eight little towns that made up Washington Township. Quiet Washington Township was beginning to awaken to massive future investments as developers began to see the potential this freeway was bringing to the township.

But the township's infrastructure was lagging behind being able to supply water and sewer services on the scale of Hayward or San Jose, and of course, flood control was still a major problem at this time. But it was only a matter of time before Washington Township would be overrun with development and keen investors were on the hunt early.

The first feeder road to the East Shore Freeway (I-880) had been completed through Oakland, and the fast highway between Oakland and San Jose, to run through the heart of the township, became a specific factor in the plans for the eight little towns. The freeway would bring Metropolitan Oakland proper within 30 minutes of all parts of Washington Township, and would make possible country homes for city workers, as well as offer fast transit from industries here to shipping terminals in Oakland.

By January 1951, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution by the county highway department that authorized the completion of the Eastshore Freeway to Beard Road (Alviso District) near Alvarado. At this time the freeway construction was inching through Hayward, and the completion of the Oakland to Jackson Street phase.

This leg was important because it gave the north county a direct link to the San Mateo Bridge via Jackson Street. Then they would start on the Beard Road leg of the new freeway, which was not scheduled to begin construction until 1953.

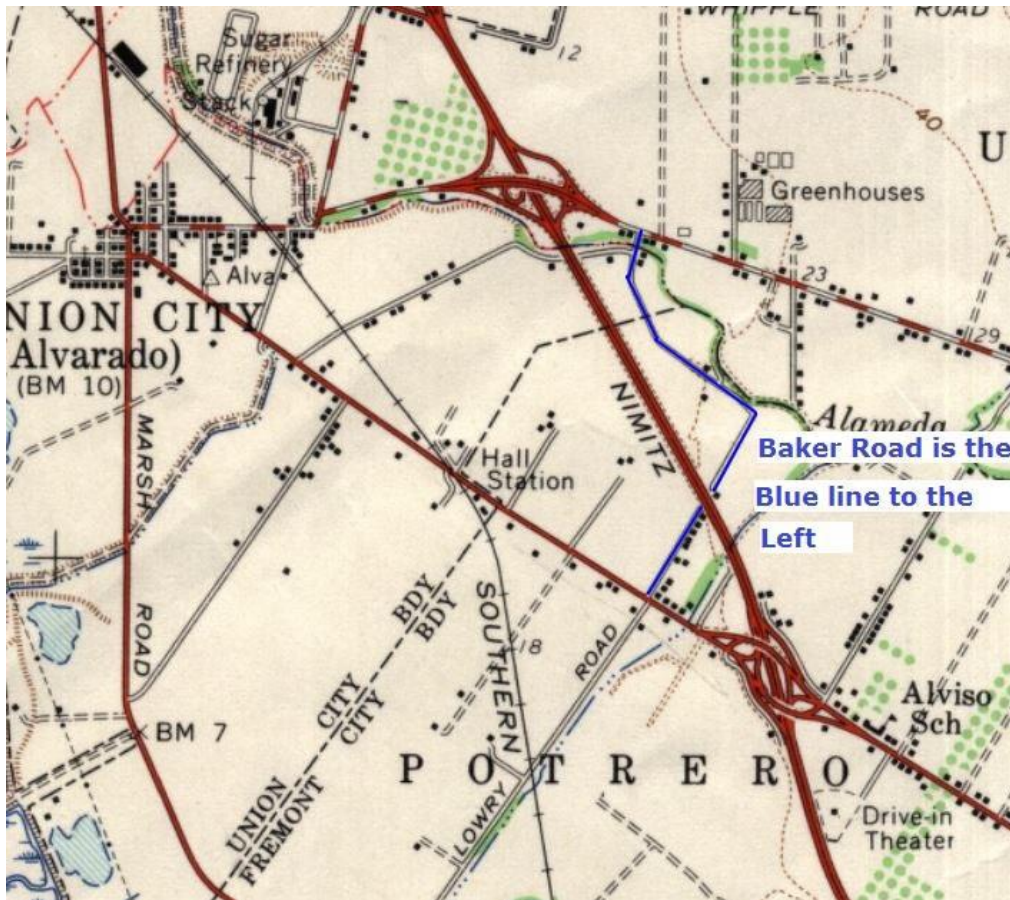
In 1954 the next phase became known as the "million dollars a mile" link for the East Shore Freeway between Oakland and San Jose. The 14-mile, four-lane section between Mt. Eden and Warm Springs was expected to cost \$14,000,000.

But there was a problem: Baker Road, which ran east of the Alvarado-Centerville Road, which was in line with Lowry Road, would be severed by the freeway. The

County Board of Supervisors and the California State Division of Highways each refused to build a bridge over the freeway allowing access from Baker Road west of the freeway to farms and homes on the east side of the freeway on Baker Road.

In July 1954, the construction of the Eastshore Freeway stretch that would link Jackson Street in Hayward to Warren Avenue between Irvington and Warm Springs was begun. Officials of Alameda County and Santa Clara County joined with State of California officials for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the proposed 14-mile link between Warm Springs and Hayward.

The construction project was scheduled to be completed in 1955 or 1956. When completed Washington Township would be linked to Oakland via a high-speed freeway.



This is a 1959 USGS map of Alvarado. The blue line is Baker Road. At one time Baker Road stretched from the Alvarado Centerville Road to Alameda Creek near the Alvarado Niles Road. In 1957 the Nimitz Freeway (I-880 Today) cut the road in two. Neither the State nor Alameda County wanted to build an overpass for this small stretch of road. So they realigned the west end of Baker Road so it matched up with Lowry Road, and then renamed that stretch of Baker Road as Lowry Road. On the east side of I-880 that portion of road was only accessible through a little bridge over the Alameda Creek at the Alvarado Niles Road.

In April 1955 construction was set to begin around Alvarado. The Alvarado-Niles Road was to provide for a complete traffic interchange at its junction with the Eastshore Freeway. North of the freeway it was to be widened up to four traffic lanes on an 80-foot right of way. South of the freeway, Alvarado-Niles Road was to be a divided highway with four lanes of moving traffic, two parking lanes and two

sidewalk areas. The right of way is to be 110-feet wide. Estimated cost of construction is \$600,000.

Whipple Road was to be widened to 92-feet. There were to be four moving lanes of traffic, parking lanes and sidewalks, in addition to a center divider. The "dog- leg" at Alvarado was to be eliminated and there would be a direct connection to the freeway on-ramp. Present traffic flow on Whipple Road (1955) was **480** cars vehicles per day. In twenty years it was estimated that figure would be increased to **12,000 to 15,000** vehicles a day.

The Whipple Road dogleg was created in the 1850's when Whipple Road ran west from the Hayward-Niles Road (Mission Boulevard today) to Alquire Road (today's Dyer Street). At that time there was a ranch owned by Williams Hayes, which was located on the east side of Alquire right in the path of the road, hence the dogleg was instituted to skirt the Hayes' property line and keep from cutting the Hayes' property into two pieces.

The first 5.5-miles of the freeway, from Jackson Street in Hayward to Beard Road between Alvarado and Centerville, were already in the 1954 budget for \$4,500,000.

By July 1956 the overpass that would carry traffic over the East Shore Freeway on Niles-Alvarado Road was in the process of construction. There would also be a four-way cloverleaf, which would connect the East Shore Freeway to Alvarado-Niles Road.

A major loss to the cloverleaf was the home and barns of Wah See Cheng. Today their home would be located on the east cloverleaf of I-880 at the Alvarado-Niles Road and the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

As the freeway moved south the long bridge over the Flood Control Channel between Lowry Road and Beard Road was approved in December 1956. In November 1957 the state opened this section of the freeway. The final section of the big road through Washington Township was from Beard Road to Warm Springs, and it was expected to open in September 1958.

The new City of Fremont now faced a quandary. When the freeway was scheduled to open in their city, the old State Highway 17 would revert to a county road. To plan for signage for the off ramps through the City of Fremont the county needed for the City of Fremont to identify the name of the main artery going through the center of their city.

At a meeting of the Fremont City Council, the councilmen shied away from selecting a new name for Highway 17 between Alvarado and Warm Springs. The highway now had five names within the city limits of Fremont: Main Street and Broadway within the town limits of Centerville, Centerville-Irvington Road, Warm Springs-Irvington Road and Alvarado-Centerville Road.

The State Division of Highways had asked that a single name be chosen to be placed on Freeway interchange signs at Beard and Dixon Landing Roads. Councilman tended to prefer Fremont Boulevard, but decided to wait until they got public reaction to the change before making it legal.

I-880 after Completion:

The end of bumper-to-bumper traffic on Alvarado's main streets brought mixed reactions from local businessmen. Some said that not only cars and trucks, but the dollars on which the merchants depended upon for a livelihood were bypassing the town on to the new link to the East Shore Freeway one mile to the east of downtown Alvarado.

In December 1957 Alvarado merchants and businessmen had an opportunity to assess what the new freeway had done to the bypassed downtown business district. Most of Alvarado's 20 business establishments were taverns, service stations, restaurants, and small grocery stores on Levee Street, Smith Street, Horner Street, and the Alvarado Centerville Road. But now traffic sped past Alvarado on four lanes of freeway.

Here are some comments from the businessmen of Alvarado and how the new freeway affected business:

Antone Santos:

Antone Santos had opened his service station in 1927. He said he pumped 800 gallons of gasoline a day until the freeway opened up, now he pumps 300 gallons a day. His Shell gas station was on the corner of Vallejo Street and the Alvarado Centerville Road next to the Silver Dollar Cafe & Tavern (which Mr. Santos also owned).

John Matchitelli:

John was the operator of the retail Mobil service station on the original site of our county's first courthouse (roughly across from the Alvarado Hotel). He said he now pumps only half as much gasoline.

Ambrose Loyola:

Ambrose also said his Flying "A" gas station had its volume cut in half, although his auto repair business was not affected. His station was located on the right side of Levee Street as you entered Alvarado from Mt. Eden on Hesperian Blvd.

Elmer Andrade:

Elmer said his Chevron gas sales were down 30 per cent, but sales are up at his little grocery store, bar, and soda fountain attached to his station. His station was located on the left side of Levee Street as you entered Alvarado from Mt. Eden on Hesperian Blvd.

Matchitelli, Loyola and Andrade's service stations are all within a stone's throw of each other at the bend in Hesperian Boulevard as you enter Alvarado from Mt. Eden. Mr. Santos' station was next to the Silver Dollar leaving town toward Centerville.

Fernando Paredes

Fernand at the Alvarado Hotel said restaurant and bar sales were way down, but not nearly as bad as during the depression.

Walter Oakey:

Mr. Oakey, at the bank, said he has not noticed much difference. Within a few years, however, the bank would move to Decoto across from James Logan High. This would leave the town of Alvarado without a bank for the first time since 1902.

Quan Yut's:

Quan Yut's meat market (formerly the Hellwig's Meat Market) said sales have gone down.

Manuel Priego:

Manuel Priego's little store on the corner of Levee Street and Horner Street has seen business improve, bucking the general trend. Mr. Priego remarked that it is now much easier for locals to cross the street to do their shopping (from "V" Street on the west end of Alvarado).

Other local grocery stores also suffered. **J. Jacinto's** at the corner of Vallejo Street and Horner Street; **Sam Dinsmore's** at the corner of Vallejo Street and Smith Street; and **Tony Lee's** at the corner of Watkins and Smith Street; had all seen grocery sales drop.

Ben Matsumoto's Japanese specialty grocery store near Alvarado School was not as affected as other small grocery stores have been because his customers still come to his store.

Finally in August 1958 Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz (one of our World War II five star military leaders) officially bestowed his name to the former East Shore Freeway.

The Eastshore Freeway's first official designation was State Hiway 17, which when completed would take you to Santa Cruz. Its second designation was as the "Nimitz Freeway," and finally today it is known as "I-880."

* **ALVARADO STREET NAMES** *

When Alvarado and Decoto were about to incorporate into Union City, plans were made to rename some Alvarado Streets. This had to be done to avoid the problem of having two different streets in the same city with the same name. Most of these changes would come from the old Union City District, Where 10th, 15th, 17th, and 19th Streets were changed to avoid confusion with Decoto Street numbered streets. The map shown below is the names of the streets in old Union City as they had been known in the nineteenth century.

10th Street:

This was Union City's western most street and was the cradle of Union City. Here was located the Water Works, the sanitation tanks, the old Horner Flour Mill, the George Tay Stove Foundry, and Union City's first homes. Over the years it has been known as "U" Street, Union City Road, and finally was renamed Veasy Street in 1959 to honor the builder of Alvarado's first hotel Horace M. Vesey (mistakenly identified as A.M. Veasy in the History of Washington Township by the Country Club of Washington Township in their 1904 book.).

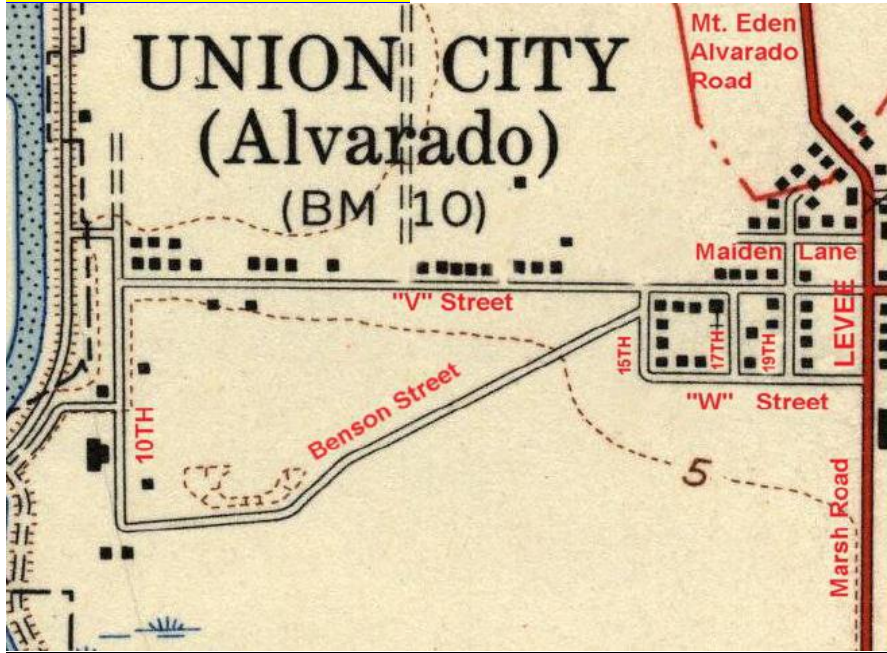
15th Street:

15th was located between "W" Street on the south and "V" Street on the north. Benson Road (from the west) dead-ended on 15th Street. In 1958 this street was renamed Bulmer Street to honor Alvarado's first merchant, Captain Henry H. Bulmer.

17th Street:

17th was located between "W" Street on the south and "V" Street on the north. It was at the corner of 17th and "V" Street where the Presbyterian Church had stood since 1860. For most of its life 17th Street was a gravel road and was not always shown on old maps of Alvarado/Union City. In 1958 it was renamed Brooklyn Street to honor the ship that sailed into San Francisco Bay on July 31, 1846, carrying Mormon Saints from New Jersey. Chief among them was John Horner.

OLD UNON CITY:



19th Street:

19th was located between "W" Street on the south end and Maiden Lane on the north, with V Street running between the two. In 1958 19th Street was changed to Brier Street to honor W.W. Brier, the first Presbyterian Minister for Centerville and Alvarado. He was also the first superintendent of schools for Alameda County.

"V" Street:

"V" Street ran from Levee Street in the east to 10th Street on the west. Today this street is known as Horner Street.

"W" Street:

"W" Street ran from Levee Street/Marsh Road in the east to 15th Street in the west. "W" Street was also known as Canal Street for a length of time. In 1958 the name was changed to Marsten Avenue (probably a misspelling of Marston).

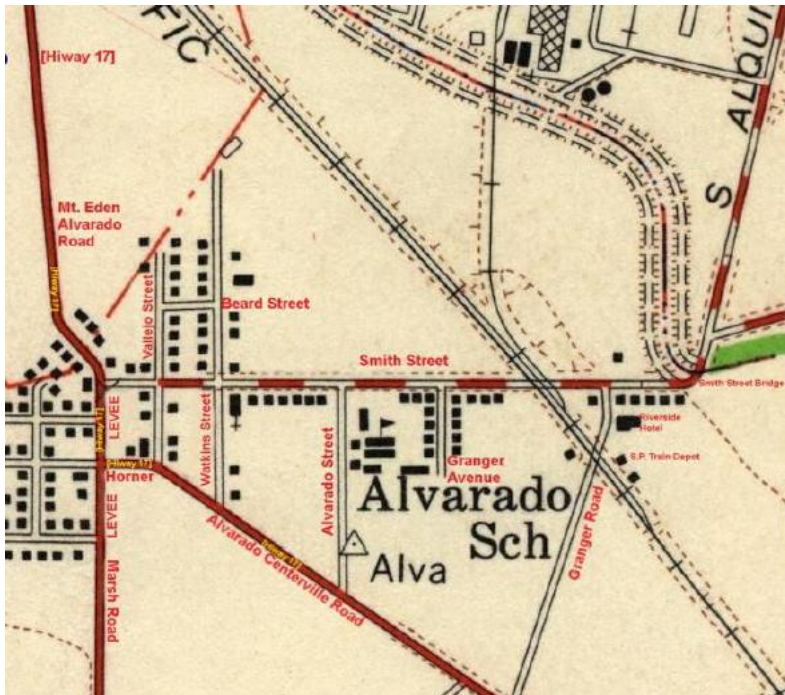
Maiden Lane:

Maiden Lane was a dead-end street running from Levee Street in the east to a dead end in the west. It was connected to "V" Street by an extension of 19th Street. Today Maiden Lane is closed to traffic from Levee Street (Union City Blvd) and is only accessible from Brier Street (19th Street).

Benson Road:

Benson Road began at the southern terminus of 10th Street heading east toward downtown Alvarado, at its mid-point the road swung northeast to end on Bulmer Street a few yards south of "V" Street. Benson Road was named in honor of Captain Richard Benson, who owned the landing at Union City. Capt. Benson took over John Horner's Landing. Here he built up a pretty little lake on the property. He then sold it to Captain Richard Barron, from which the name "Barron's Landing." Benson Road still exists today but terminates a few yards short of Bulmer Street.

OLD DOWNTOWN ALVARADO:



State Hiway 17:

Old Hiway 17 (a State highway)) went through Alvarado and was made up of several stretches of roads and streets. Hiway 17 (prior to 1957) started at the end of the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge and headed south through Washington Manor in San Lorenzo/San Leandro and onto Hesperian Blvd., which took it past Mt. Eden on its way to Alvarado. In Alvarado it turned into Levee Street, and when it met Horner Street, it made a 90-degree turn SE onto Horner, which turned into the Alvarado Centerville Road once it past Vallejo Street. If you were to follow old Hiway 17 once you left Alvarado you would find that the highway took you through Centerville, Irvington, Warm Springs, Milpitas, and would eventually take you to Berryessa Road/E. Hedding Street in San Jose, hence some parts of it was known as the Old Oakland/San Jose Hiway.

Hesperian Boulevard (Mt. Eden-Alvarado Road):

The Alvarado portion of this highway began at Alameda Creek (just under one mile north of Smith Street and Union City Blvd, or just south of S. Pepsi Dr.), where Washington Township began and ran south to the entrance of Alvarado where the old drawbridge stood over Alameda Creek in front of the old Alvarado Hotel. The jog you had to make to enter Alvarado was where this bridge once stood; however, this has

now been straightened to the point where it is almost no longer recognizable. Today this is part of Union City Boulevard.

Levee Street:

Levee Street began just after the Alvarado Drawbridge (just NW of the old Alvarado Hotel) and ran south through downtown Alvarado to today's Marsten Avenue. It was called Levee Street because at one time the Alameda Creek came into downtown Alvarado to within several yards of Maiden Lane, and ran parallel to Levee Street for a short span before turning north and heading out of downtown Alvarado. Today this is part of Union City Boulevard.

Marsh Road:

Marsh Road ran from Marsten Avenue south to Jarvis Avenue in Newark. It has also been called the Newark Road or the Alvarado-Newark Road. It was named Marsh Road because it ran along the marshes of Alvarado to Newark. Today this stretch of road is part of Union City Boulevard and ends at the bridge over the Flood Control Channel near the east end of Lowry Road. Across the channel the road becomes Ardenwood.

Smith Street:

This street was named for Henry Clay Smith, who founded the town of New Haven in 1851. In 1853, New Haven had its name changed to the town of Alvarado along with the formation of Alameda County. Smith Street ran east-west from the southern terminus of Alquire Road (today's Dyer Street) to Levee Street. When the I-880 Freeway came in, Smith Street was realigned to meet up exactly with the Alvarado-Niles Road. Prior to this there had been a bridge over the Alameda Creek at the end of Smith Street called the Smith Street Bridge. To get over the banks of the Alameda Creek Smith Street at this point, the bridge was raised some 10 to 15 feet in height to clear the banks of the Alameda Creek. At this point you had to make a 90-degree turn from Smith Street to get onto Alquire Road. Some one hundred feet south from the Smith Street Bridge, the Alvarado-Niles Road ended on Alquire. When you were atop the bridge you could look down onto the roofs of the row of houses along Smith Street (the Varni tract of homes). It happened more than once where an auto failed to negotiate the sharp turn at the bridge and ended up in the Tony Jardin's front yard. Today the banks of the creek have been brought level to surrounding countryside and the houses you see to your right, as you near Dyer Street were the homes that you once looked down on from the Smith Street Bridge.

Horner Street:

Horner Street existed for only one block prior to 1958. It started at the east side of Levee Street and extended to the west side of Vallejo Street. In 1958 "V" Street had its name changed to Horner Street. When the Alvarado Centerville Road was closed off behind the Alvarado School, that portion of the old Alvarado Centerville Road was renamed Horner. So today Horner Street runs from Veasy Street in the West to the dead-end at the Alvarado School on the east.

Vallejo Street:

Probably named for Jose de Jesus Vallejo, who received a land grant known as the "Arroyo de la Alameda" grant in 1842, by Governor Juan Alvarado. The Arroyo de la Alameda grant consisted of Niles, Decoto, Mt. Eden, and part of Alvarado. The Alvarado portion was that portion which lays north of Alameda Creek. Jose Vallejo was the older brother of General Mariano Vallejo of Sonoma, who was overthrown in the first action of the Bear Flag Republic revolt in 1846. Vallejo Street extended

north of Smith Street to near the old creek bed of the Alameda Creek south, and south to the Alvarado Centerville Road.

Watkins Street:

The early days of Alvarado had very little to say about Watkins. In researching I found only one person named Watkins worthy of any notoriety. This was Joseph S. Watkins, who served as Public Administrator for the Alameda County Court of Sessions at Alvarado from 1853 to 1854. In 1855 he was elected as an Assemblyman to the California State Legislature. Watkins Street was fairly well deserted until 1924, when F.C. Harvey, John Ralph, and O.J. Emery moved homes from Vallejo Street to Watkins Street. At that time Watkins Street was a quagmire during the winter, so our intrepid entrepreneurs petitioned the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to have the county take over the care and maintenance of this street. Watkins Street ran north from Smith Street to near the Alameda Creek on the north and south to the Alvarado Centerville Road.

Beard Street:

There existed between Vallejo Street and Watkins Street (north of Smith Street) a short street with no homes; Beard Street. This street was named after John L. Beard, ex-state senator who died in 1903, and whose farm was located behind the Alviso Grammar School near the Alameda Creek. In 1958 this street name was changed to Tay Street. George Tay was the namesake of the George Tay Foundry, which produced stoves and heaters in Alvarado from 1870 to about 1906 in the old Horner Flour Mill.

Alvarado Street:

Alvarado Street ran from Smith Street on the north, to the Alvarado Centerville Road on the south. Alvarado Grammar School was located on the east side of Alvarado Street. In 1958 the street name was changed to Fredi Street in honor of Father Fredi, St. Anne's Catholic Church's first priest.

Granger Road:

This is the first road east of the S.P. Railroad tracks running south from Smith Street. This road allowed access to the farm of Farley B. Granger Sr. In the late 1870's the South Pacific Coast R.R. laid its tracks from Mt. Eden to Newark directly on Granger's property. The railroad built their depot at the corner of Granger's road on the east side of the railroad tracks. Granger then built his Riverside Hotel on Granger Road about 100 yards east of the railroad depot. Later Granger Road was renamed New Haven Street.

SOUTH-SOUTHEAST ALVARADO:

Hop Ranch Road:

Hop Ranch Road runs west from Alvarado Niles Road to the Alameda Creek. Two gentlemen, Benedict and Sherk, gained some notoriety for raising hops along the Alvarado Niles Road. In 1888 Jacob B. Sherk purchased 62 acres of land from J.C. Whipple west of the Alvarado Niles Road and began to farm hops. The road leading to his farm was known as the Hop Ranch Road. Eventually the county recognized this road and took over its care and maintenance.

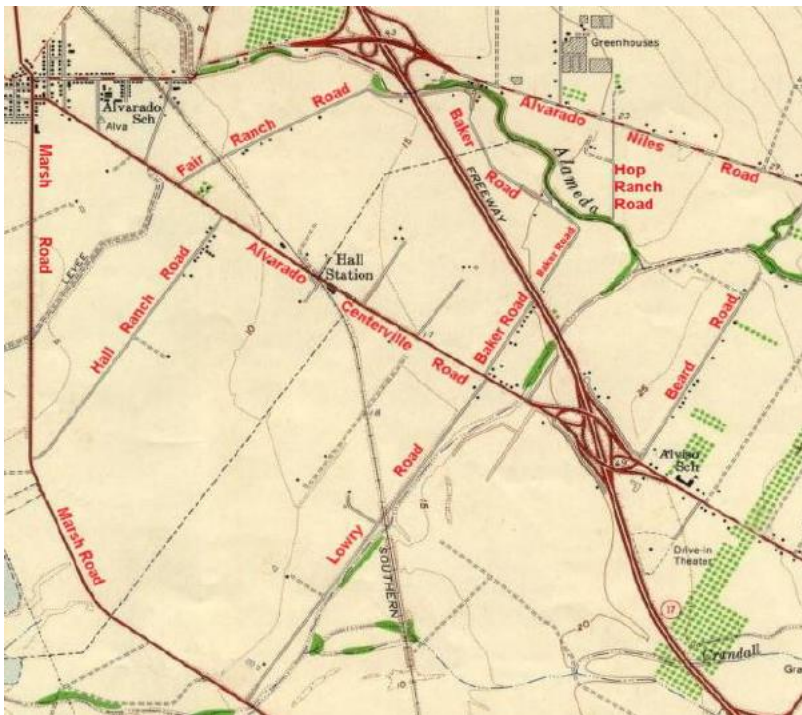
Beard Road:

Beard Road runs east of the old Alvarado Centerville Road just south of the new flood control channel. The old Alviso Grammar School was located very near Beard Road.

The road was named in honor of John L. Beard, ex-state senator and rancher on Beard Road.

Lowry Road:

In my research I was not able to locate a prominent person named Lowry. There were however, several persons named Lowrie around Beard Road and Lowry Road. The Lowrie's owned a large ranch where the I-880 cloverleaf for Fremont Boulevard sits today. Also chief among the Lowrie's was Elizabeth Lowrie, wife of Ezra Decoto Sr. Lowry Road runs west from Alvarado Centerville Hiway to the old Marsh Road. At the turn of the 20th century Lowry Road was known as McKeown Road. Today there is a small snippet of the old Baker Road, which parallels Lowry Road on the east side of Alvarado Blvd. It was renamed Lowry Road when the freeway was put through.



Baker Road:

Baker Road ran south from the Alameda Creek at Alvarado Niles Road towards main flood channel where it turned abruptly to the west to parallel Lowry Road to meet up with the Alvarado-Centerville Road. When the Eastshore Freeway was put through it severed Baker Road. The part of Baker Road west of the freeway was renamed Lowry Road.

The part east of the freeway remained Baker Road, probably for Abijah Baker who owned land in this area. The outlet for the Baker Road was via a bridge over the Alameda Creek to the Alvarado-Niles Road. Today Almaden Blvd. represents what the old Baker Road used to be.

Alvarado Niles Road:

First called the Creek Road (or Crick Road as we hicks used to call it), it was just that, a road that ran near the north bank of the Alameda Creek between the Sugar Mill Road and Decoto Road.

Eventually the road pushed further south, and after many years of negotiating, it was finally put through the California Nursery at Niles. The road then became known as Nursery Road for a period of years, before finally being changed to Alvarado Niles Road.

Fair Ranch Road:

Fair Ranch Road ran east of the Alvarado Centerville Road, over the S.P. tracks, and onto the west bank of the Alameda Creek levee (there existed a single lane gravel path on the western bank of the levee) to Baker Road. Named for the "Fair Ranch" of James G. Fair, ex U.S. Senator from Nevada, part owner of the famed Comstock Mine; who was a San Francisco multi-millionaire that in the late 1870's built a railroad from Oakland to Santa Cruz.

This railroad passed through Alvarado and Newark. Fair was described in John Sandoval's book "The History of Washington Township" as a hard drinking coarse man. He purchased several hundred acres of land east of the Alvarado Centerville Road (of which the Casa Verde Tract is part) under the name of the "Pacific Land Investment Company."

After his railroad was built he sold this land to the Alameda Sugar Co. where they would raise sugar beets on the tract. In about 1910 the Alameda Sugar Company began to sell off portions of its "Fair Ranch" as small farms (one of which my father bought in 1932) under the tract name of "The Alameda Sugar Fair Ranch." The road, which eventually ran through this tract, was called "Fair Road" on some maps, but was identified as Fair Ranch Road on most.

When the Casa Verde Tract was built (in the late 1960's), Fair Ranch Road was cut into pieces and the severed parts were renamed. The original "Fair Ranch Road" that is still so named, exists today only from Alvarado Blvd. east to the just before the S.P. tracks, where it dead-ends. East of the S.P. tracks there are snippets of the old Fair Ranch Road still in existence today, but they are named Santa Susanna and San Rafael Way.

Only two houses remain today from the old Fair Ranch Road. One is the home built by Frank Goularte Jr. on Santa Susanna Way in the 1950's. The other home is my father's home at 3146 San Rafael Way he built in 1932. Another address of note is the vacant lot at the corner of Dyer Street and Santa Susanna Way; this was where the home of Manuel P. Rose was located.

Hall Ranch Road:

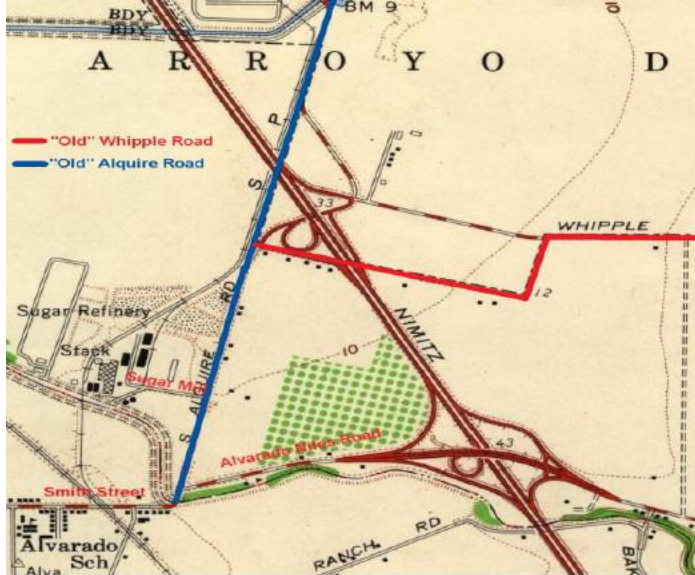
Hall Ranch Road started out as a farm road west of the Alvarado-Centerville Hiway for the John Hall farm. Through the years it continued to lengthen towards the Bay until finally it connected to the Marsh Road on the west. The road was named after John Hall, prominent Alvarado rancher and breeder of fine horses.

When the S.P.C.R.R. line went through his property he was placated by the railroad putting up a little shed where the train could stop to pick up passengers. This became known as the "Hall Station," or "Hall's," which still appears on maps today.

Hall Ranch Road became part of Dyer Street with the realignment of Smith Street to meet Alvarado Niles Road. Dyer Street (then Alquire Road) was lengthened south through the Varni Bros. property across the old Fair Ranch Road through the

property of Manuel P. Rose, where, when it was parallel to Hall Ranch Road turned west over the S.P. tracks, across the T.P. Harvey property to Alvarado Blvd. where it was linked up Hall Ranch Road. Hall Ranch Road was then renamed Dyer Street.

NORTH-NORTHEAST ALVARADO:



Alquire Road:

The earliest known reference to this road was the "Road to Haywoods," on some 1850's maps. Alquire Road then acquired the name of the "Sugar Mill Road." After the start of the 20th century it was renamed "Alquire Road."

I could not locate anything on the name Alquire in Alvarado. However, there was a family that lived on the old Sugar Mill Road (since at least 1867) whose name was Allquire.

Alquire ran from the Smith Street Bridge north past the Sugar Mill and made a bend to the east where it connected to today's Mission Boulevard at Holiday Bowl. When Alvarado & Decoto incorporated the Alvarado part of the road name was changed to Dyer Street and was extended south to join with Hall Ranch Road. The other part of Alquire Road was changed to Industrial Blvd. Alquire Road near Mission Blvd. was sometimes referred to as the "Alvarado Road."

Whipple Road:

Whipple Road ran west from Mission Blvd. to Alquire Road. When Whipple neared Alquire it took a jog south and then west again until it hit Alquire Road. This was done to keep from cutting the William Hayes property in two. This became known as the "Whipple Road Dog-leg."

When I-880 came in, it cut the southern portion of the dogleg into two pieces. Whipple Road was straightened so that it became an onramp to the freeway. The dogleg pieces were renamed Amaral Court and Amaral Street on the east side of the freeway. On the west side of the freeway old Whipple Road dogleg was made into an onramp for traffic heading south on the freeway. In the old days the dog-leg portion was sometimes known as "Haines Road."

*** FILIPINO COMMUNITY ***

Filipino Celebrations in Alvarado / Early influential Filipinos of Alvarado /

Filipino Celebrations in Alvarado:

The Alvarado Filipino Community grew substantially in the 1950's. Alvarado garnered a warm reputation among the Filipino community for hosting the first Filipino Independence celebration in Southern Alameda County on July 4, 1946. The warm reception given by the people of Alvarado and the contribution of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce melded the town of Alvarado and the Filipino Community together in a strong bond of friendship. Alvarado became the home to the Filipino community of Southern Alameda County and Contra Costa County and their celebrations. Many of the citizens of the Filipino community became avid civic supporters of the Alvarado community and contributed much to the betterment of our little town.

Here are some of the events and the people who made the Filipino community of Alvarado a vibrant force in our town:

1950:

On February 19, 1950 the Filipino Community of Alvarado held an election at the Eagles Hall and chose the following new Officers:

- President: Alex Biete
- Vice-President: Pasifico Yerro
- Secretary: Manuel Quiray
- Ass't Secretary: Frank Macahilas
- Treasurer: Geronimo Sape
- Ass't Treasurer: Anastacio Regalado
- Auditor: Servillano Masinda
- Advisor: Frank Sacramento
- Sgt-At-Arms: Benny Cipriano Joe Tabilog

There was a wonderful big Fourth of July celebration of the Filipino Community at Alvarado on July 4, 1950, that brought together thousands of people to celebrate their Independence Day at the SDES Hall on Watkins Street. Funds were raised in donations to a Popularity Baby Contest.

The chairman of the baby contest was Dorothy Regalado, assisted by Mrs. Isabel Loyola, who was in charge of the Alvarado Pioneer newspaper office at Alvarado. The contest closed on June 24, and the winner would be named BABY MISS PHILIPPINES of the July 4th celebration. The entrants were:

- Judy Loyola Patricia Armenio Cynthia Diangson
- Christina Sacramento

Filipino 4th of July:

PROGRAM:

On the occasion of the Fourth Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Philippines, July 4, 1950 a celebratory program was then given by the Filipino Community of Northeastern Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Part One:

BARBECUE – PICNIC - DANCING

Star Bangled Banner

Part Two:

Mrs. Felix Diangson, Master of Ceremonies

1. Entrance of the Royal Court
2. Coronation of Her Baby Majesty, Queen Cynthia Diangson by the Honorable Art. C. Phillips, Mayor of Hayward.
3. Presentation of Garlands to the Queen's Court by Mrs. Mercedes E. Gamatero, President, Filipino Women's Club of San Francisco.
Miss Luzon: Judy Jane Loyola
Miss Mindanao: Patria Ann Armenio
Miss Bisayas: Valentina Silvia Sacramento
4. Reading of Her Baby Majesty's Message by Miss Grace Matsumoto.
5. Folk Dance: "Salakot" – Mrs. Lourdes Alemania
6. Song: Miss Betty Juromat Miss Catmon
7. Address: Mayor Art C. Phillips
8. Folk Dance: "Carlonsa"
9. Song: By Harold Speetzen, Secy of the Washington Township Chamber of Commerce
10. Introduction of the Guests: Mrs. Felix Diangson
11. Address by the Guest of Honor: Mrs. Estela R. Sulit, Exec. Ass't, Philippine Consulate General.
12. Folk Dance: "Twinkling" Jennie Raras & Henrietta Villaruz
13. Closing Remarks: Alex Biete, President of the Filipino Community of Northeastern Alameda & Contra Costa Counties.

Finale: Philippine National Anthem

Dancing

1953:

Filipino Fiesta, February 23, 1953:

The Catmon Organization of California had a fiesta in commemoration of "St. William, Our Patron Saint," according to Ambrose Loyola of Alvarado. The Officers of the fiesta besides Mr. Loyola were:

Secretary	Pauline Arnejo
Ass't Secretary	Isabel B. Loyola
Treasurer:	Sergio Rojas
Ass't Treasurer:	Isabel B. Loyola
Sgt-At-Arms:	Sergio Arnejo

Program 9:00 PM:

Sung By All: The Philippine National Anthem and the Star Spangled Banner

Invocation: Father Thomas Gilbert

Duet: Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Villarante

Folk Dances: Music by Bobby Diangson Gehrett

Salacot Dances: Miss Helen Agraviador

Lawis Kawayan:	Miss Erlene Agraviador Sharon Calderon Walter Diangson	Linda Monticillo Artie Calderon
Boa Coconut Dance:	Connie Cipriano Ann Agali (Ugale?) Tina Sacramento	Donna Sacramento Jayne Sacramento Teresa Enciso
Aringgingding- Ginding Dance: South Sea Island Dance:	Judy Jane Loyola Zenaida Lou Loyola	Ben Ugale Jr.
Guest of Honor:	Judge E.A. Quaresma	
Guest Speaker:	Hon. Jose P. Tabora, Vice Consul of the Philippines Consulate of S.F.	
Closing Remarks:	Tommy Branzuela	
Committees:	Mrs. Demetrio Nuniza, Chairman Ben Estenzo Danny Branzuela Pastor Roole Pete Branzuela Aki Pontillas Annie Roble	Pablo Moide Emil Pontillas Anasrasio Monticillo Paul Nuniza Mary Estenzo Edna Branzuela Mrs. G. Monticillo
Program Chair:	Isabel B. Loyola, Chairman Felomena Gurrea, Co-Chair	
Members:	George Monticillo	Matty Arizo

1954:

Independence Day Celebration, July 4, 1954:

Alvarado's Filipino community had a double reason for celebrating on July 4th. In addition to our own Independence Day, the date will also mark the ninth year of Independence for the Philippines. Officials of both nations will be on hand for the festivities, which include a program of island dances.

1956:

Filipino's Celebrate July 4, 1956:

The Filipino Community of Alvarado celebrated July 4th (Philippines Independence Day) here at the I.D.E.S. Hall. This marked the ninth year the Filipino Independence Day has been celebrated at Alvarado on the East Bay.

Master of Ceremonies:	Cristin Taclindo Jr.	
Filipino Dances & Songs:	Donna Sacramento Christina Sacramento Luz Loyola Mrs. Leo Galispe	Jayne Sacramento Johnny Agraviador Judy Loyola
Filipino Comm. Pres.:	Mrs. Victor Ranoa	
Vice President:	Mrs. Emily Sacramento	
Secretary:	Mrs. Isabel Loyola	
Ass't Secretary:	Mrs. Anna Sape	
Treasurer:	Anastacio Regalado	
Ass't Treasurer:	Dan Agraviador	
Advisor:	Geronimo Sape	
Auditor:	Frank Sacramento	
Sgt-at-Arms:	Eddie Tubang	Pablo Perez
Trustees:	Ambrosio Loyola	Geronimo Sape

Anastacio Regalado

1958:

1958 Filipino Queens:

Six candidates competed to reign as queen of the July 4, 1958 celebration by the Filipino Community of Alvarado and surrounding communities. This Independence Day also marked the 12th anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines. The queen was to be selected on June 21st after tabulation of ballots. The voting benefited the building fund of the community. Candidates were:

Juanita Rose Seville	17, of Oakland
Donna Sacramento	16, of Alvarado
Sandra Bernido	15, of Hayward
Eleanor Ranoa	14, of Irvington
Carmen Avuncular	17, of Pleasanton
Durlyn Mangiben	16 of Oakland

The July 4th celebration was held at the S.D.E.S. at Smith and Watkins Streets in Alvarado.

Alvarado Filipino Community, July 4, 1958:

In a two-day celebration the Filipino community of Alvarado and vicinity, and some 2,000 people commemorated the 12th anniversary of the Philippines Independence and the 182nd anniversary of the U.S. Independence. Highlight of the even was the naming of the Queen and here court:

Chairman:	Mrs. Isabel Loyola
Festival Queen:	Durlyn Mangiben
Miss Luzon:	Eleanor Ranoa
Miss Visayas:	Sandra Bernido
Miss Mindinao:	Donna Sacramento

Early Influential Alvarado Filipinos:

Frank Macahilas / Felix & Domenica Diangson / Frank & Emily Sacramento / Ambrose & Isabel Loyola / Anastacio & Dorothy Regalado

Francisco (Frank) C. Macahilas:

Frank Macahilas was born in the Philippines circa 1912. Frank had stated that he had been in Alvarado since 1935. In 1940 the Alvarado census listed Frank as living on Hiway 17 in Alvarado with his nephew. At that time Frank was a laborer on a farm. By October 1941 Frank became involved in Alvarado civic affairs when he donated 2½ pounds of linguica to help feed the people of the town that helped burn the brush at the mouth of the Alameda Creek. Frank was one of several Alvarado merchants who donated food and drink for the town effort.

In April 1943 the *Alvarado Pioneer* wrote this article in their paper about a letter written to them by Frank during WWII:

“Dear Sir:

I have been on this rock for a year next month and I longed and missed lots of news from our hometown, but I didn’t realize it before until this day. I think it wise to get hometown news like most of the boys here in Hawaii. I have been in that town for the last eight years and it seems tome that it’s now my birthplace to me. So please send me every copy of the Alvarado Pioneer and I’ll certainly appreciate

your kindness. But you can count me as one subscriber and let me know the price to subscribe for a year.

Respectfully yours,
Francisco Macahilas
18th Infantry Co. K"

Frank was back in Alvarado after the war, and with his business partner D. Carrillo and Mrs. Bolima of Mt. Eden, appeared before the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce seeking their help for a Filipino Independence Day celebration to be held in concert with the American Independence Day Celebration. The Chamber of Commerce suggested a parade for the 4th of July in which the citizens of Alvarado would join and show our debt of gratitude to the fine work of the Filipino-Americans, who helped fight alongside our boys overseas, and at home did a fine job in raising food in the fields, buying War Bonds, helping the Red Cross, etc.

Over the next several years Frank Macahilas, along with Felix Diangson of Alvarado and Frank Bolima of Mt. Eden would help plan and execute the joint American and Filipino's Independence Day on July 4th. Frank would also serve as an officer in the Alvarado Filipino Community organization of 1949.

Frank was doing business in Alvarado at 1045 and 1055 Levee Street, between Maiden Lane and "V" Street. Here he ran a pool hall, a restaurant and a tavern where also games of chance played, which led to Frank having to pay fines on occasion. His partner in this business was Dalmecio Carrillo. After 1958 nothing further was found for Frank in Alvarado.

Felix & Domenica Diangson:

Luneta Café:

1437 Smith Street:

Felix Diangson was born in the Philippines in 1900. His wife Domenica was born in the Philippines in 1909. Felix entered the U.S. in 1923 and Domenica in 1926. By 1940 they had two children, William born in 1929 and Barbara born in 1931. In 1930 the Diangson's were living in a boarding house in Cowell, Contra Costa County, where Felix was employed as the headwaiter and Domenica as a waitress. The boarding house served some eighty men who were employed at a local cement plant. By 1940 the Diangson's were in Alvarado where Felix was the proprietor of a restaurant and bar.

In December 1941 Felix Diangson was one of the founding members of the Alvarado Filipino Community that organized the Luneta Social Club of Alvarado. The mission of this club was to, "promote the general welfare of members of the Filipino race through education, economics and athletics; and to further Justice in cooperation with organizations local to the town of Alvarado."

In August 1947 a fire in Alvarado destroyed the Filipino Club at 1087 Levee Street and damaged an adjoining house at 1154 V Street. Damage to the Filipino Club was estimated at \$10,000. Felix Diangson of Alvarado was owner of the Filipino Club. Felix also owned the Luneta Café on Smith Street across from the Firehouse. This property he retained after the Filipino club was destroyed by fire.

The Diangson's were staunch supporters of the Alvarado Filipino Community and the Alvarado Community was a whole. During World War II they raised much-needed funds for the War Chest, the Red Cross and War Bonds. After the war they helped bring the Filipino Community Center to Alvarado. They were also very active in the annual Filipino Independence Day celebration (on July 4th), which was held in Alvarado.

The Diangson's were active supporters of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, the Alvarado Filipino Community and Mrs. Diangson was the Alvarado representative for the United Crusade. The Diangson's operated the Luneta Café next to Matsumoto's Store on Smith Street.

Frank & Emily Sacramento:

Frank Sacramento was born in the Philippines and fought alongside our American troops during WWII to expel the Japanese from the Filipino homeland. Frank came to Washington Township where he met Miss Emily Benitez of Centerville. Manuel and Ardora Benitez were the parents of Emily, Manuel was from Spain and Ardora was from Portugal. Manuel Benitez preferred to go by the name Manuel Machado, and his garage in Alvarado was known as Manuel Machado's Garage, which stood on the corner of Horner Street and Union City Boulevard. In 1943 Manuel purchased the Richfield Gas station at the entrance to Alvarado from Mt. Eden. Manuel switched the station to Golden Eagle Gas and his daughter Emily Sacramento ran the station for her father.

In 1947 Frank and Emily would open the Tanay Café, which was located in the big building once known as the Reliance Garage, but was later known as the Machado Garage. The location contained a modern restaurant with two pool tables and a poker table.

The Sacramento's became very civic oriented about in both the Filipino Community of Alvarado and the town of Alvarado itself. In January 1948 Frank and Emily were elected officers of the Filipino American Community Society of Alvarado with Frank being elected as Vice President and Emily serving as Ass't Publicity Director. For his efforts in helping to promote the Filipino Community in Alameda County Frank Sacramento was voted President of Filipino Community in March 1949.

Emily Sacramento served in an official capacity in the Alvarado Mother's Club, which like the PTA helped the students and school in Alvarado. In March 1954 when the Mother's Club was merged into the Alvarado PTA Emily served as the first Vice President.

Over his years in Alvarado Frank Sacramento earned a reputation as an excellent barber, a trade he carried on in the town.

Ambrose & Isabel Loyola:

Ambrose and Isabel Loyola are first mentioned in Alvarado in September 1949 when Lou Loyola celebrated her second birthday. At that time Ambrose was the proprietor of the Automotive Service Garage on Levee Street in

Alvarado, where he had maintained his mechanic business for almost four years.

Ambrose Loyola was born in 1909 in, I believe, the Philippine Islands. He was a veteran of WWII serving both in New Guinea and in the Philippines where he met and married Isabel Loyola.

In June 1950 he took over the management and proprietorship of the Mohawk Gas Station at the entrance to Alvarado from Mt. Eden (975 Levee Street). Here Ambrose would sell gas and oil products and also automobile accessories (batteries, tires, etc.). In conjunction with this he also maintained his auto mechanic business in the service station bays. Ambrose would later switch from Mohawk gasoline and oil products to Flying "A" products.

The Loyola's were active in Alvarado Filipino activities including the annual Filipino & American Independence Day (both celebrated on July 4th). In addition Isabel was active in the Catmon Organization of California in connection with their annual fiesta in commemoration of "St. William, Our Patron Saint," where she served in an official capacity.

Isabel was a member of the Alvarado Mother's Club, an organization similar to the PTA, which helped raise funds for the benefit of the children at the Alvarado Grammar School. In 1953 Isabel was chairman of the Volunteer Nurses of the Baby Conference of the Alvarado Baby Clinic. Later, when the Mother's Club merged with the PTA Isabel became a member of the Alvarado PTA. Mrs. Loyola was also active as a reporter for local news in the *Alvarado Pioneer*, Alvarado's local newspaper.

In April 1953 both Ambrose and Isabel Loyola joined the Alvarado Paul E. River Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Anastacio & Dorothy Regalado:

Anastacio first comes to light in Alvarado in 1943 when he donated \$3 for the construction of an observation tower to watch for enemy airplanes during WWII. In June 1946 Anastacio was part of the movement to hold a Filipino Independence Day in Alvarado in concert with the American Independence Day on July 4, 1946. He joined with Mrs. Felix Diangson, Mrs. Pacifico Sarabia, A. Delfin, Alex Biete, Frank M. Bolima, Frank Macahilas and Mrs. Don Agraviador in putting together the Filipino portion of the joint United States and Filipino peoples Independence Day celebration. Anastacio continued to participate in this joint celebration until at least 1956.

In May 1949 Anastacio was elected to the post of Treasurer in the Filipino Inter Community of America along with Alex Biete, President, Frank Sacramento Vice President and Miss Pilar Lozado Secretary. In September 1949 Anastacio attended the Filipino Fraternal Organization in Seattle for a convention along with Mr. & Mrs. Omalza of Centerville, Mr. and Mrs. Sid Segundle of Irvington, and Mr. Segundo Bacul of Irvington.

In May 1950 Mrs. Dorothy Regalado was named as the chair in the baby contest race held as a fund-raiser by the Southern Alameda and Contra Costa Counties Filipino Organization.

Anastacio was the proprietor of a Pool Hall and Barbershop located two doors down from Central Bank on Levee Street. Anastacio was a supporter of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

*** FIRE DEPARTMENT ***

The Alvarado Fire Department faced the issue of the uncertainty of the future in light of the Alvarado-Decoto incorporation battle. Up to the time of the incorporation the Alvarado Fire Department had been strictly a volunteer force.

The story of the Alvarado Fire Department changes drastically after the incorporation of Union City in January 1959. My history goes only up to 11:59:59 on the day of January 13, 1959. At 12:00:00 midnight (January 14, 1959), on that evening the town of Alvarado ceased to exist, and the Alvarado District of Union City was born. And so stopped my history, my beloved town of Alvarado was no longer, and the sleepy little town of Alvarado was dragged kicking and screaming into the 20th century (and beyond).

Now back to the Fire Department. 1950 opened with Anthony J. Vargas as Fire Chief. In 1952 Elvin Rose was Fire Chief and would guide the Fire Department through the rest of the decade. Fire commissioners of note during this period were Wilbert Hendricks and John Ralph.

In March of 1953 the Firemen's Association elected new officers. They were:

President:	Joe Goularte	
Vice-President:	Joe Rose	
Secretary-Treasurer:	Tony Alexander	
Sgt-At-Arms:	Serafine Noia	Manuel Perry

*** FLOODS ***

Alvarado continued to have its string of floods during the 1950's. The last flood to hit Alvarado was in April 1958, when the flood control project was nearing completion. But between the years 1950 to 1958 there were still some disastrous floods that inundated our town.

1950:

The first flood of the decade broke out in November of 1950. Fifty families were evacuated from their homes on November 19, 1950, with several hundreds of thousands of dollars damage done to buildings, crops, and livestock around the Alvarado Area.

The town of Alvarado was hard hit when it was inundated during the early hours of November 19, 1950, when a dyke in the Patterson Slough gave way two miles south of Alvarado along the old Marsh Road. The Patterson Slough is a tributary of the

Alameda Creek, which branches off to the west near Hop Ranch Road. Today that is main flood channel along Lowry Road.

The flood in Alvarado resulted when debris carried by the Alameda Creek piled under the Southern Pacific Railway Bridge on Lowry Road. About 125 feet of Lowry Road, which formed the Patterson Slough dyke, gave out. As of November 20, the Marsh and Lowry Roads were the only ones still blocked by slides and floods.

On November 21, the floodwaters still covered 20 blocks of Alvarado's southeast residential district, with about fifty families homeless. Sheriff Deputies and Coastguardsmen, rescued scores stranded in their homes after the Lowry Road dyke was washed out. Still under water was three miles of Marsh Road between Alvarado and Newark. Lowry Road was also closed by the washout.

Most of the families who were evacuated their homes found shelter with friends and relatives. Father James J. Concannon said he had offered the shelter of St. Anne's Church to the evacuees, but received no requests for shelter.



A photo of a Coast Guardsman rescuing Mrs. William Jimenez and Geraldine Regalado, and a neighbor girl from Mrs. Regalado's residence at 1136 17th Street off "V" Street in Alvarado. 17th Street was changed to Brooklyn Street in 1958.

Letters to the Forum – *Oakland Tribune* Editorial Section – November 27, 1950

"Editor: It seems to me that the money to be spent on the lavish and beautiful street decorations for Christmas (in the City of Oakland) would find a spot much closer to the Savior's heart if it were used to help replace the belongings lost by so many hundreds of people in the terrible floods that have washed away or ruined things. I saw groups of children huddled on the street corners of Alvarado, and dozens of houses with water two feet above their doorsills. Shall we be as the Pharisees and make a grand and colorful show-off or turn these funds to meet a need this year?"

Margaret Truesdale Gibbs, Oakland

Two weeks later on December 4, 1950 the town was again visited by another flood, when a new levee break south of Alvarado gave way and sent water pouring into the north section of town after sheriff's officers had reported the flood conditions of the Alameda Creek pretty well in check. The new break flooded much of the farmland around Alvarado as well as several blocks within the city.

The main cause of the flooding was caused when debris backed up Alameda Creek at the railroad bridge adjacent to Lowry Road, one mile south of town. A huge "clam shell" crane was attempting to clear the debris that was backing up water the creek at the railroad bridge over Lowry Road. When the crane broke down, water poured around the bridge and over Lowry Road into surrounding farmlands. A total of 18 families were evacuated from the area before another scoop arrived and cleared the danger.

1951:

In July 1951 seven farmers from the Lowry Road area filed a \$120,000 damage suit, and an injunction against Southern Pacific, Pacific Gas & Electric, and two individuals for flood damage to their lands last November and December.

Plaintiffs in the action filed by John T. Wentz, and the law firm of Hynes & Bowser were; Thomas Accinelli, Teodora Accinelli, M. Tachella, Rina Tachella, Remigio Cerruti, John Bellomo, John Fazio and Nick Fazio. They own 76 acres of farmland in the section southwest of the intersection of Lowry Road and Highway 17, a mile and a half southeast of Alvarado.

The petition charged that an alleged inadequate bridge over Patterson Creek, brush cut by PG&E., and a dam built by Henry H. and William D. Patterson, caused the creek to overflow its banks during heavy rainfall last winter and flood their property.

It asked for compensation for damages to lands, crops, buildings, trees and shrubs; and asks for an injunction to prevent the railroad from maintaining the bridge in its present condition, or from rebuilding one that would cause continued obstructions, and asked that PG&E be enjoined from placing or leaving brush in the creek channel. It also asked that the Patterson's be enjoined from maintaining a dyke across the east channel of the creek without providing adequate overflow ditches.

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Massive amounts of snow in the Sierras and a lot of rain in the Bay Area made for interesting times on New Year's Eve, 1951. Two to six inches of snow remained on Mt. Hamilton. In the East Bay the temperature got down to 25 degrees on the morning of December 31, 1951. But in Alvarado homes and roads were flooded to a depth of three inches and a brisk wind whipped high tide waters over levees as rain-swollen creeks overflowed.

### **1952:**

As the weather eased into the New Year, the effect of the flood seemed to be minor this year. Then a severe storm lashed out in Bay Area on January 11, 1952, and into the morning of January 12. Rain and then a thunderstorm deluged the area, closed highways, disrupted communication, and caused extensive property damage.

The rainfall measured 1.56 inches before midnight on the January 11, with another .37 inches by 10:30 a.m. on the morning of the January 12. In the Southern Alameda County region, 12 homes were evacuated between Alvarado and Centerville as rampaging water flowed down Alameda Creek and continued to rise. Further floods were threatened when the Calaveras Dam, reaching the limit of its 31½ billion gallon capacity, overflowed for the first time since 1941.



With water within a foot of the top of Lowry Road dyke and water seeping through, the Alameda County Flood Control Department was hard at work dredging debris from the creek in an effort to keep the water flowing southward. Alvarado was threatened with flood if the dyke broke.

On January 13, the levees gave way. Coast Guardsmen had to abandon their efforts to rescue residents in Alvarado when strong currents swept their boats off the roadway. Then they sent for an amphibious vehicle from Government Island.

Alvarado residents on the west side of town (the old Union City section) had to be evacuated, the first of which was Manuel Cardoza, 76, a paralyzed man who resided at 428 "V" Street. He and his wife Inez, were brought out in a small boat furnished by Elmer Sheppard of Castro Valley and four volunteers.



January 13, 1952: Coast Guardsmen from Government Island, Alameda, evacuate a women and child from a flooded home on "V" Street in Alvarado last night, as an unidentified man steers the boat through an opening in a nearly-covered fence bordering the residence.



January 14, 1952: Water as far as the eye can see, such was a familiar scene in many Bay region lowland communities today as the weekend storm extended into yet another day. This photograph was taken in the Southern Alameda County town of Alvarado, where high water forced many to flee. This picture was taken on "V" Street looking west toward the Bay. The buildings seen on the far left of the photo are structures on Veasy Street.

Two other women, Mrs. Joe Brune and Mrs. Mary Silveira, were rescued before the Coast Guard had to abandon first rescue attempts because of swift currents, which prevented them from using their boats. They were attempting to reach three youngsters alone in a home in the flooded north section of town. They were Adelia Delao, 13, and her brothers, George 5, and Danny 3, of 1050 10<sup>th</sup> Street (Veasy Street today).

On the night of January 15, a dyke at Alvarado-Niles Road and Alquire Road gave way. County road crew and sheriff's deputies filled in the break with 40 truckloads of gravel and dirt.

But later that day the flow of water at the Alameda Creek eased somewhat and some families were able to return to their homes. By the next day Alvarado was still partly under water with about 20 homes still evacuated. The Alameda Creek still was flowing over Marsh Road (Union City Blvd), and the Oakland-San Jose Highway (Alvarado Blvd), but they were passable.

In the town of Alvarado the peak flow of the weekend flood was greater than anything they had experienced the year before, but the overall amount of flooding was not as great because the levee adjacent to Lowry Road held this year. Also the Southern Pacific Railroad trestle adjoining Lowry Road was kept free of debris this past year.

Mrs. Mary Gastelum, cafeteria manager of the Alvarado Grammar School served a breakfast of bacon and eggs, toast, fruit juice, hot chocolate, hot coffee to some of the evacuees living in the school. The school was a great resource in caring for the families that been flooded out of their homes. The families slept in the auditorium and ate in the Grammar School cafeteria.

Morale was great among the families, and the children treated their evacuation as an adventure. School officials and the Red Cross did all they could to make the stay as pleasant for the families as they could.

### **1955:**

Flood control engineers kept a minute-to-minute watch on Niles Canyon gauges of Alameda Creek at noon, December 23, 1955, and every man in the Sheriff's Department was alerted to stand by for an order to evacuate 500 families from Alvarado.

The creek, rising steadily in Niles Canyon, had already overflowed Hiway 17 between Alvarado and Centerville at the "Four Corners." There were minor levee breaks near Holly Sugar Company, and dykes were weakening along Nursery Road (Alvarado-Niles Road), reports from the area said.

On the morning of December 24, some 100 people from Alvarado awoke to water as the pounding tides opened a 50-foot hole in the levee built to protect the community from the Bay. The flood, which reached depths of four feet minutes after the levee broke, came less than 16 hours after water swept though 100 homes in the nearby Niles area causing the evacuation of that area.

While the flood in the Niles Area hit unexpectedly, the one at Alvarado had been feared since early last evening. Residents had spent the night waiting to see if the

levee would hold, with most of them packed up and ready to leave on a moment's notice. Sheriff's officers reported that the evacuation was orderly, with most of the flood victims leaving in their own cars. The south part of Alvarado, "V" Street and west of Highway 17 (Levee Street), were covered with water. Highway 17 was reopened at noon as the floodwaters receded.



Antonio Gonzales of Alvarado wades through his flooded yard carrying a chicken to dry land in the area.



Top left: Antonio Gonzales wades through his flooded yard carrying a chicken to dry land in the area.

Top Right: Evacuee on "V" Street in a boat, looking west towards the Bay.

Bottom Left & Right: Evacuee taken on a boat to an ambulance on "V" Street.

Nothing but the tan muddy water moved on Christmas Day over a fifteen-square mile stretch of flooded farmland close to the Bay in Southern Alameda County. From the air only orderly ranks of utility poles and an occasional fence line marked much of what had been rich farmland in the Alvarado area.

Miles-long fingers of the muddy water that poured through at least three breaks in the levee system reached as far east as the foothills at Niles. Many miles of access roads were flooded and dozens of farming community families were evacuated by the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. Damage could have been much worse but a partially completed county flood control project along Lowry Road west to the Bay spared that area a repetition of the 1952 flood.

The cause of the record-breaking floods was simply record shattering rainfall. Launched by almost 2½ inches of downpour in four days, the near catastrophe got its real impetus from a 3-inch cloudburst Thursday night and Friday morning. Alameda Creek rose nearly 20 feet. By mid-afternoon Friday (December 23<sup>rd</sup>) it was touching the underside of the 1937-model concrete bridge, which carries Highway 9 (Mission Boulevard) south of Niles.

Friday morning about 10:00 o'clock, the levee which separated the creek from the Pacific Coast Aggregates gravel pit at Centerville gave way. The pit is 80 feet deep. It filled up in four hours, and then started spilling toward Machado's Corners (Decoto Road & Alvarado-Centerville Road) and Crandall Slough (Patterson Ranch near the end of the old Marsh Road), following the slope of the ground.

Watermen believe this may have saved Alvarado and other down-stream communities from even worst fates. When the levee broke, the water level at imperiled Bell Ranch Bridge (near today's Decoto Road & Paseo Padre Parkway), a mile downstream, dropped two-feet.

**WEATHER**

|                       |           | HI | LOW | RAIN        |
|-----------------------|-----------|----|-----|-------------|
| Dec 21st              | Wednesday | 65 | 54  | 0.82        |
| Dec 22nd              | Thursday  | 66 | 57  | 1.92        |
| Dec 23rd              | Friday    | 65 | 56  | 0.72        |
| Dec 24th              | Saturday  | 64 | 54  | 0.59        |
| Dec 25th              | Sunday    | 61 | 54  | 0.60        |
| Dec 26th              | Monday    | 58 | 45  | 0.07        |
| Dec 27th              | Tuesday   | 58 | 38  | 0.02        |
| <b>Total for Week</b> |           |    |     | <b>4.74</b> |
| Total for Season      |           |    |     | 10.75       |
| Last Year, to Date    |           |    |     | 6.44        |

Readings by: Roland Bendel, Decoto

By January 1, 1956, more than 100 families in Southern Alameda County had registered for flood relief with the American Red Cross. Locally, notices in Spanish and Portuguese were posted at the Alvarado Elementary School to inform those who did not understand English.

**1958:**

The people of Alvarado awoke on the morning of April 3, 1958 to no water or no power. Flooding had inundated the farmland south of the town of Alvarado, however, with levees threatened with failure emergency crews worked at high speed to channel the muddy floodwaters towards the Bay. One Levee broke at mid-morning, but emergency equipment was rushed to the scene and the break was filled with gravel, concrete, and other material they could find on hand.

On April 4, people around Alvarado kept a careful watch on the levees and banks of the swollen Alameda Creek, which had spilled out to cover 50-square miles of low lying farmland between Alvarado and Newark. The waters have isolated the Coyote Hills NIKE Anti-Aircraft Missile installation and prevented delivery of food to the troops.

Meanwhile water service was restored to 425 Alvarado residents. They were without fresh water for six hours yesterday after a water pipe across Patterson Slough, an arm of the Alameda Creek, was carried away by high water.

With more than an inch of rain predicted between 2 a.m. and 8 p.m. on April 5, County Surveyor Olof Anderson said his department's 160-man force expects more "trouble". Meanwhile the Army rushed soldiers to meet a threatened levee break on Alvarado-Niles Road between the Eastshore Freeway (I-880) and Alquire Road (today's Dyer Street at Alvarado Landing). Alvarado proper was not threatened by the break, but farm homes in the area are in the path of the break.

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Recent Rainfall Stats: | Inches: |
| 24 hours to 7 a.m.     | .53     |
| Total to Date          | 34.10   |
| Normal to date         | 18.26   |
| To date last year      | 11.77   |
| Season Normal          | 20.16   |
| This storm (10 days)   | 6.28    |

This was Alvarado's last major flood. Its destruction was mitigated by the fact the flood control channel was largely complete by this time, and the Lowry Road banks of the levee remained solid and intact. This saved considerable damage for the town of Alvarado.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **FLOOD CONTROL** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Flood control was like the weather, everyone talked about it, but little was done about it. For some years the Chamber of Commerce and Alvarado citizens paid to have the brush cleaned from the mouth of the Alameda Creek bed and hauled-away to be burned. Individuals would shore up their part of the levee protecting their land, but not much else was done because of the expense of doing it right.

As Alvarado got further in the 1950's, the town of Alvarado's hand was forced to act because of the fear of annexation into either Hayward or Fremont. The people of Washington Township had seen the handwriting on the wall. The East Shore Freeway was headed our way, and with it would come an ocean of people to settle in the open areas. But the open areas were not ready for them. Not in flood control, not in sanitary systems, and not in fresh water to drink.

**1950:**

As had been done many times in the past, the Chamber of Commerce called for a meeting at the Fire House on the June 22, 1950, to discuss a permanent flood control and drainage program for Alvarado. The Alvarado Chamber of Commerce had

seen flood control through a new light, one might say, after citing the importance of flood control in civil defense. Without flood control, roads would be flooded creating traffic hazards and slowing relief of Eastbay housing projects of personnel. In the past, surveys of flood conditions emphasized actual and potential damage to agriculture. Surveys had overlooked the possible flooding of highway during a time of emergency said the chamber secretary, Mr. Leslie H. Maffey.

### **1952:**

Meetings dragged on, another flood came and went, and the people of Alvarado met again to discuss flood control. Finally, in January 1952, a cost figure was thrown out to the people on what flood control would cost in the Tennyson-Valle Vista-Alvarado area. The cost of a viable flood control system was set at \$3.8 million at a meeting held before 200 persons who attended a flood control meeting in Tennyson.

It was then decided that flood control work could be completed by zones. The Alvarado Chamber of Commerce objected into being included in Flood Control Zone 3 in the Alameda County Flood Control Program, and insisted that they should be included in Flood Control 5. At an open meeting of County Supervisors in Hayward City Hall the Alvarado Chamber delegates, speaking on behalf of their organization, declared that all of Alvarado should be included in Zone 5, on which engineering studies have not yet been done. They pointed out that the boundaries of Zone 3 would divide Alvarado at the Smith Street Bridge and the Alameda Creek. This would be at today's Dyer Street and Alvarado Niles Boulevard, and would exclude extensive flooded areas south of the southern boundaries of Zone 3.

On January 24, 1952 Zones, 1, 2, 2a, 3 and 4 of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, were established by official action of the County Board of Supervisors. The go-ahead signal for approval of the disputed Zone 3 as a flood control district was given by the County Board of Supervisors at a special meeting held in the Hayward City Hall.

The boundaries of the disputed Zone 3 were defined as: On the north extending from the Mateo Bay Bridge Boulevard (Hayward entrance to the San Mateo Bridge) to Clawiter Road to Depot Road (Mt. Eden & Baumberg), along Rancho line near Harder Road, following the natural drainage line north of Jackson Street, crossing Winton Avenue, through Hayward near the center of the city, to Second and Fairview Avenues, around to the natural divide in the hills.

The zone boundaries would follow the ridgeline on the east where Dry Creek crosses the highway at Decoto, and on the south along the Alvarado-Niles Road, following the property lines south of Alvarado, jogging north following along Alameda Creek to the Bay.

Warren Silva of Alvarado questioned why Alvarado was included in Zone 3, when two-thirds of the floodwater comes down Alameda Creek. The drainage ditch contemplated for Zone 3 was designed to handle the excess water in Alameda Creek, which flows into the ditch north of Alvarado. This would keep Alvarado dry, said Engineer Crowle.

With the establishment of Zone 5, Alvarado would be further protected by a dike to be constructed to the east of town. The board of supervisors authorized the flood control district's engineering staff to proceed with all speed in completing

engineering in the south of Zone 3, so that Zone 5 and other zones could be established at the earliest practical time.

In August 1952 preliminary plans for a \$3.5 million project to protect Alvarado from floods, and carry all storm drainage waters in southern Hayward, Tennyson, Valle Vista areas to San Francisco Bay was completed and designated as Zone 3. The project included a system of levees from Valle Vista Road, past Alvarado and out to San Francisco Bay, enlarging existing and installing new underground storm drains, a pumping station and collection system in Alvarado, constructing a "great many" storm water inlets and man-holes, and continuous and permanent maintenance of all improvements.

### **1953:**

In April 1953, the cost of taming the Alameda Creek was put at \$3.7 million (Or \$11 a home per year for a 31 square mile area reaching from South Hayward to Alvarado). The following month the Board of Supervisors approved the plan for the establishment of Zone 3A of the Alameda Flood Control District. Zone 3A consists of a 31 square mile area generally extending from C. Street in Hayward on the north to a line just south of Alvarado and San Francisco Bay on the west to the ridge line of the hills in the east. Principal communities in the zone are Mt. Eden, Baumberg, Alvarado, a portion of Hayward, and the Highland, Fairview, Tennyson, Valle Vista and Hillview areas.

Bond issues totaling \$5,756,000, which would finance storm drainage and flood control in the southern part of the Hayward and areas south of Hayward were approved in special elections held on October 14, 1953. In zone 3-A, largest and most important affecting the Hayward area the measure carried by a margin of 449 over the two-thirds required for a win. The vote in Zone 3-A was Yes 1,060, No 285.

### **1954:**

Engineers of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District recommended on December 22, 1954, that County Supervisors accept the \$27,257 bid of Souza Brothers and McCue, Yuba City contractors, for construction of the Alvarado levee between Marsh Road and the main channel outlet of Zone 3A. The two-mile channel will follow the old Plummer Slough levee west from Marsh Road for about a mile, then turn north to a junction with the old Alameda Creek channel west of Alvarado. The levee work includes about 44,000 cubic yards of embankment and the installation of corrugated metal pipes and tide gates for local drainage. Engineers said it would do much to protect Alvarado from future flooding from floodwaters from the south. The Plummer Slough levee was completely destroyed in many places by the 1950 and 1952 floods.

### **1955:**

On June 9, 1955 the Alameda County Flood Control District awarded a \$464,487.28 contract to Charles T. Hover, San Francisco contractor. The contract called for improvement of the main outlet channel between San Francisco Bay and Alvarado Zone 3A. Five contractors submitted bids ranging to a high of \$723,259.96. Work will include over 1,000,000 cubic yards of excavation for an extensive channel improvement from Alvarado to a point 2,500 feet cut into San Francisco Bay, a large tide gate structure to prevent bay salt waters from intruding too far inland and installation of a four-foot diameter welded steel siphon nearly 600 feet long under the new channel to transport salt water between adjacent salt ponds.



On July 19, 1955, voters of the 71-square mile area extending from a line just south of Alvarado to the PG&E Road (Stevenson Blvd in Fremont), the voters in the Zone 5 flood control district approved the bond sale of \$3,989,000 by a margin of 1,048 to 393.

After another disastrous flood for the citizens of Newark and Alvarado this past winter, there was a sharp upturn in the outlook for Alameda Creek flood victims with twin promises of immediate Federal aid out of Washington and the county's pledge to clear timber and debris from danger spots in the creek between Nilés and San Francisco Bay.

At the same time farmers damaged by the recent flood became eligible for Federal loans as the Agriculture Department designated Alameda County as one of 37 California counties in an emergency loan area. Property owners along the creek had to sign agreements to make minor levee repairs and maintain them in the future as a condition to the Army Corps of Engineers taking over major repairs.

### **1956:**

In June 1956 the County Supervisors set 11:00 a.m., July 10, for the opening bids for construction of the Alvarado levee between Hiway 17 and Marsh Road (adjacent to Lowry Road). Cost of the levee, designed to protect Alvarado from floodwaters from the south was estimated at \$40,000. It was another unit of the Alvarado protection levee on which construction began last year.

Despite the progress being made in drainage and flood control programs some 50 members of the Fremont Taxpayers League were told yesterday that swollen water from the Alameda Creek could flood their land again next Christmas.

The group gathered at the Alviso School and shot anxious questions at Herbert Crowle, Alameda County Flood Control District Engineer, Supervisor Chester Stanley, and County Surveyor Wallace Boggs. Louis Amaral served as chairman of the meeting.

"We can't do a 100 percent flood control job," said Crowle. "That is going to cost \$5,000,000, (and must be) appropriated by Congress. What we can do is improve the carrying capacity of the creek." He said the present channel clearing of trees and debris from the "splits" north and Alvarado upstream to Nilés should be completed by the rainy season, but that will only improve the carrying capacity of the creek by 10 percent. "Only a Federal project will completely prevent flooding", declared Stanley. "You'll get wet again before you get dry." "To widen and straighten the creek yourself would cost \$1.75 or \$1.80 on your tax rate. You can't afford it," Stanley emphasized.

But the flood control program inched forward. In October 1956 bids were opened for an estimated \$100,000 flood control project south of Alvarado. Plans called for the improvement of Patterson Creek from Coyote Slough to the Coyote Hills south of Alvarado.

### **1957:**

In April 1957 Alameda County Flood Control Zone 3-A had sold \$600,000 in bonds to finance projects northeast of Alvarado, which would develop a 1,500-acre site for



heavy industrial use. The money was used to complete the main outlet channel in the zone from Alquire Road (today's Dyer St. and Industrial Avenue) to San Francisco Bay, with a portion of the money going to open a line for Mt. Eden.



The map shown above shows the course of the old Alameda Creek (dark blue line) from Niles Canyon to its outlet near Alvarado on the San Francisco Bay. Note its tortuous course as it twists and turns, any of which could cause a break in the levee during high water. The double brownish-red line indicates the flood control channel from the mouth of Niles Canyon past the Dry Creek, and its sudden turn westward near Hop Ranch Road. The old Alameda Creek bed is abandoned at this point and a new flood control channel was built between Alvarado and Baumberg and exited out into the Bay west of Alvarado. The main flood control channel follows Lowry Road west of I-880, across Union City Boulevard and out into the Bay. Although the flood control program had many individual programs not shown here, the two main channels indicated form the pillars of flood prevention in South Eden and Washington Townships.

In August 1957 a contract for the improvement of the channel of Patterson Creek south of Alvarado was awarded to Associated Dredging Co. of Sausalito by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The low bid \$56,666, was the lowest of the five bids entered. The work was to be completed by January 1958. The work included excavation of a half mile of the creek bed through the Coyote Hills.

The Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District had its eye on the approaching winter rainy season and the floods it sometimes brings. But the district, just short of its eighth year of work, was better prepared than ever to control floodwaters streaming out of the hills.

Alameda Creek, the major source of trouble in the 1955-1956 floods, always had been a potential threat for flooding.

In the same areas, levees had been set up to protect adjoining properties and provide areas to take flood flows and drainage south of Hayward.

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\* **TELEPHONE** \*

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The telephone was first mentioned in Alvarado in December 1908, when mention was made of repairs being performed on telephone lines in Alvarado.

The earliest telephone directory I could find for Alvarado was in the year of 1916. It is reproduced below:

Alvarado Telephone Directory:  
F.C. Harvey, Agent

| <u>Name:</u>                   | <u>Place:</u>               | <u>Phone No.</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Alameda County Dairy           | Dairy                       | 13               |
| Alameda Sugar Company          | Beet Refinery               | See Hayward Dir  |
| Alvarado Laundry               | Laundry                     | 19W              |
| Bank of Alameda County         | Comm'l Bank                 | 10               |
| Bontelho, G.G.                 | Undertaker, Livery Stable   | 8                |
| Boysen, N.W.                   | Riverside Hotel             | 3J               |
| California Salt Company        | Salt Manufacturer           | 9                |
| Continental Salt Company       | Salt Manufacturer           | 6                |
| Dyer, Olive I.                 | Residence, Sugar Mill Rd.   | 14               |
| Emery, Orman J.                | Carpenter, Smith Street     | 3W               |
| Farley, Edward L.              | Lumber Yard                 | 11               |
| Granger, Farley B., Jr.        | Residence                   | 3R               |
| Harvey, Fred C.                | Residence, Vallejo Street   | 18               |
| Hellwig, George P.             | Residence                   | 7J               |
| Hellwig & La Grave             | Butcher                     | 7W               |
| Japanese Assoc. of Alameda Co. | Japanese Society, Smith St. | 1                |
| Judkins, T.C.                  | Lime Works                  | 16               |
| Kagimoto, T.                   | Sano Hotel                  | 12J              |
| Luna, Joe                      | Residence                   | 5W               |
| Matsumoto, K.                  | Japanese Grocery Store      | 12W              |
| Norris, Albert                 | Postmaster, Smith Street    | 15W              |
| Rose, J.G.                     | Gen'l Mdse, Smith Street    | 5J               |
| Sano, T.                       | Residence                   | 2R               |
| So. Pacific Train Depot        | SP Agent Phone              | 4                |
| Watanabe, M.                   | Residence, Smith Street     | 19J              |
| Wiegman, F.                    | Residence                   | 3M               |
| Williams, J. McCoy             | Residence                   | 17               |

Going through my database I found the following phone numbers after 1916 up until 1949 when dial phones came in and the Alvarado Exchange was brought in:

|                      |                     |     |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Ralph & Scribner     | General Merchandise | 13W |
| Peyser, J.B.         | Alvarado Hotel      | 41  |
| Van Vleet, T.S.      | Residence           | 32  |
| Alvarado Meat Market | Butcher             | 23  |
| Davilla, Antone      | Soda Fountain       | 46  |
| Bruhn, Paul          | Alvarado Hotel      | 48  |

|                         |                           |      |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------|
| Skow, Chris             | Alvarado Garage           | 28W  |
| Texaco Gasoline         | Auto Service Station      | 60   |
| Anderson, Christina M.  | General Insurance         | 45J  |
| Manuel Machado's Garage | Auto Repair               | 28J  |
| Pacific Telephone       | 1305 Smith Street         | 20   |
| Marquez, Helen          | Residence                 | 1    |
| Rodgers, Bob            | Creek Road                | 80   |
| Pinto, Manuel Jr.       | Pinto's Orchestra         | 45M  |
| Novo, John              | Union Meat/Bi-Rite Market | 63   |
| Goularte, M.P.          | 1821 Smith Street         | 32W  |
| Naharro, E.             | Alvarado Theater          | 77   |
| New Manila Pool Room    | Billiards                 | 74   |
| Schmidt, W.H.           | Holly Sugar Co.           | 16   |
| Andrada, Frank          | Grading & Leveling        | 78   |
| Alvarado Fish Market    | Alex Orcullo              | 67J  |
| Santos, Mrs. Antone     | Vallejo Street            | 110W |
| Paredes, F.             | Alvarado Hotel            | 28W  |
| Riverside Hotel         | Mrs. Estelle Rigmaiden    | 38   |

In 1946 PT&T announced their new vacuum tube equipment that promised to speed long distance calls. Their long distance expansion program was now in full swing. The new equipment would boost the number of telephone calls wires could carry. The new service was being carried out at dozens of places up and down the Pacific Coast. This new service would be offered at their Alvarado switchboard based in Sam Dinsmore's Store on Smith Street.

Shortly thereafter, history was made when the telephone office, which has been at Dinsmore's Store for over 40 years, was moved to Mr. & Mrs. Munger's home a half block away on Watkins Street. Mrs. Munger was in charge of the office, and she had several assistant operators to help her.

The telephone company continued to progress in Alvarado with the announcement of the construction of a new telephone central office building for Alvarado. The new office would herald the switch from the magneto telephone system to dial operation later in 1948. The new central office would be located on the northwest corner of "W" Street and Marsh Road. It would be of frame and stucco construction, one story in height and 21 X 25 feet in dimension.

In June of 1948, the installation of dial phones began in Alvarado. With the new dial phones came a new numbering system. In Alvarado that system was the prefix **AL**varado (**AL**), then 55, then a three-digit extension. Our phone number (the Gualco's) was **AL**varado 55-838. It was not necessary to dial the **AL** or the **55**. You could reach anyone in town by just dialing the three-digit extension. We had a party line with three different phone numbers on the same line. Each family on the line was assigned a ring code. Two long rings might be family "A," two short rings might be family "B," and a long and a short ring might be family "C." Any of the three families could pick up the phone and listen, which led to things such as, "Bertha, I know you are listening to my conversation, hang up the phone!" Party lines did not always make for the best of friends.

Of course with innovation comes expense. In 1950 PT&T went to the PUC to ask for a 10% increase in toll charges and phone rates in Northern California. They also asked the PUC to abolish the basic 5¢ pay phone rate.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\* SOCIAL, CIVIC & RELIGIOUS ORG'S \***  
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*4-H / Argonaut Club / Benevolent Society No. 32 / Birthday Club / Boy Scouts / Chamber of Commerce / Fraternal Order of Eagles / FOE Ladies Auxiliary / IDES Lodge / Japanese-American Citizens League / Library / March of Dimes / Mothers Club / Pixie Cootiette Club / Post Office / Presbyterian Church / PTA / Red Cross / SDES Lodge / SPRSI / St. Anne's Catholic Church / St. Anne's Church Holy Ghost / UPEC / UPPEC / United Crusade / VFW / Well Baby Clinic*

**4H:**

In November 1949, Mervin Pinto was elected president of the Alvarado 4-H Club, an organization that had been recently established at the Alvarado Grammar School under the direction of the Agricultural Extension Department of the University of California. Other officers elected were: Eddie Maldonado, vice-president; and Marjorie Best, secretary. The adult leaders were Manuel Pinto, Mrs. Gladys Best, and F.M. Phillips.

About two hundred and fifty 4-H members and their leaders spent a day in April 1950 touring Industrial Oakland. The group moved in three sections. Each section moved through the International Harvester Company, the Coca-Cola Plant, and the Carnation (milk) Plant, and then made a cruise of the bay, leaving Oakland at the foot of the Broadway. They ate their sack lunch at Lake Merritt. The group from Alvarado was represented by:

|                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Clarabelle Silva | Beverly Spurlock | Marjorie Best    |
| Frank Velarde    | John San Felipo  | Edward Maldonado |
| Joyce Caldeira   | Mervin Pinto     | Richard Pinto    |
| Norman Phillips. |                  |                  |

Among prizewinners in the 1955 Alameda County Fair in the 4-H department of Home Economics clothing and textiles from the Alvarado area were:

Clothing & Textiles:  
 Sue Harvey, second prize (2)  
 Sue Harvey, third prize

Home Furnishings:  
 Carol Andrada, third prize  
 Bob Harvey, second prize  
 Bob Harvey, third prize

The Alvarado 4-H Club was reorganized in Alvarado Elementary School in September 1957. Selected to head activities were:

|                    |                                        |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Leader:            | Gordon Winslow                         |
| Community Leader:  | Frank Andrada                          |
| Ass't Com. Leader: | Marilyn Silva, Ass't Community Leader. |

Members of the 4H were:

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| President:      | Chris Silva  |
| Vice President: | Carol Noia   |
| Secretary:      | Melvin Silva |
| Treasurer:      | Kathy Silva  |
| Reporter:       | Gerri Pretty |

|               |                 |                     |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Song Leaders: | Tina Sacramento | Judy Quadros        |
| Game Leaders: | Donna Campos    | Joe Castaneda       |
| Sgt-at Arms:  | Bunny Silva     | Betty Jean Pimentel |

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Group leaders: |               |
| Cooking:       | Wanda Pretty  |
| Sewing:        | Angie Vargas: |

### **Argonaut Club:**

A group of Washington Township pioneers held their first meeting in 1876. William Barry of Niles, and William Morris Liston of Alvarado were the first to suggest an organization of the Society of Pioneers of Washington Township. This club was separate from the Washington Township Pioneers, although you had to be a member of that society to be a member of the new society. Later, this society would become known as the Argonaut Club, a last member standing club.

The first meeting followed printing of a notice in *The Independent* newspaper of Irvington on November 11, 1876. George Bond was elected president; C.C. Scott and Wm. Liston were elected vice-presidents, L. E. Osgood was made treasurer, and William Barry secretary.

All persons in Washington Township before March 26, 1853, and sons of pioneers over 21 were eligible to join the new club. The Annual banquets were held at the Gregory House in Centerville.

In about 1887 this club became known as the Argonaut Club. The newly named Argonaut Club held their first banquet at the Riverside Hotel at Alvarado in 1890. Henry Dusterberry of Centerville, the "last man" died in 1920.

### **Benevolent Society, Council No. 32 of Alvarado:**

The Benevolent Society met at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Tony Rodgers to nominate officers on June 2, 1955. Present were:

|                      |             |                          |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Jeanette Bratton     | Manuel Rose | Mr. & Mrs. Mike Gardetto |
| Mr. & Mrs. Joe Perry |             |                          |

The Benevolent Society, Council No. 32 of Alvarado elected officers for 1956-57 on July 12, 1956. They were:

|                       |                    |            |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| President:            | Esther Gardetto    |            |
| Vice-President:       | Manuel P. Goularte |            |
| Secretary:            | Mabel Rogers       |            |
| Treasurer:            | King Lemos         |            |
| Master of Ceremonies: | Tony Rogers        |            |
| Marshall:             | Aldina Goularte    |            |
| Guard:                | Mike Gardetto      |            |
| Past President:       | Jeanette Bratton   |            |
| Trustees:             | Manuel P. Rose     | Lena Lemos |
|                       | Joseph V. Perry    |            |
| Convention Delegate:  | Mabel Rogers       |            |

### **Birthday Club:**

The Alvarado Birthday club, one of the oldest social organizations in Washington Township, was organized just after the turn of the new century. Their first meeting in

the new decade was held on January 23, 1950. The persons remaining who attended that meeting were: Mrs. Edgar Tainton, of Oakland; Mrs. Ed Richmond, of Centerville; and Mrs. Walter Robie, of Newark. All had previously resided in Alvarado. Also in attendance was Mrs. August May, of Alvarado. Apparently the birthday club did not solicit new members, and as each member passed on the rolls of the active dwindled.

### **Boy Scouts:**

The Alvarado Chamber of Commerce announced in April 1950 that they would again sponsor the reorganized troop of Boy Scouts in Alvarado. John H. Bond was named representative to the Southern District Scout Committee by Walter Oakey, Chamber of Commerce President. The troop was designated as Troop 1 of Alvarado. The Chamber has announced the appointment of the following committee.

|                     |                   |                 |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Scoutmaster:        | Harold B. Delgado |                 |
| Committee Chairman: | Tony Alexander    |                 |
| Committee Members:  | William Martinez  | John Bond       |
|                     | Warren Silva      | William Machado |

Twenty-three boys signed up in the charter.

### **Chamber of Commerce:**

The Chamber of Commerce changed dramatically in the 1950's. With the specter of the incorporation of Alvarado & Decoto, and with the struggle against Fremont and Hayward at our borders, the Alvarado and Decoto Chambers were drawn together for the common good.

The Chamber of Commerce's primary mission was to insure a good business climate for the businessmen of Alvarado. But this took on many elements, and the Chamber had committees and well-versed businessmen to handle the challenges.

The Boy Scouts was one of the projects the Chamber took on. Another major project headed by the Chamber was the Alvarado Sanitary District. The Chamber put their full weight behind bond measures to upgrade and keep the sewer district operational.

The Chamber also looked closely at the County property tax rate, advising Alvaradan's about property tax measures. It must be remembered that at this time that Alvarado was under the rule of the County Board of Supervisors in Oakland, and they had one Supervisor who represented Alvarado (among other towns and cities). The Chamber was a local body with the expertise to help Alvaradan's decide on bond issues and tax questions.

In January 1953, an election was held to install new officers for the Chamber. Those elected were:

|                      |                       |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Past President:      | Warren Silva          |                 |
| President:           | George "Chick" Vargas |                 |
| Vice-President:      | Warren Silva          |                 |
| Secretary-Treasurer: | Leslie H. Maffey      |                 |
| Directors:           | William Gianola       | Angelo De Kidos |
|                      | Domaso Diaz           | Manuel Borges   |
|                      | Susie Lemos           |                 |

In May of 1954, in one of the most chamber-like meetings ever held in Washington Township, a handful of the members of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce gathered to sing the praises of Alvarado in front of the Washington Township Chamber of Commerce. Routine reports were presented with examples of Alvarado's excellence in qualities that ranged from the cooking of beans to possession of the most desirable features for buying a home. Figures quoted that showed the estimated influx of residents into California was now fixed at 1,000 persons per week. The Alvarado Chamber of Commerce members agreed that a good share of these 1,000 people could be expected to choose locations in Alameda County, and they felt they could make no better choice than a residence in Alvarado! After 100 years Alvarado was still adept at the blowing of the horn!

A new list of directors to serve for the year 1954 was presented at the December 15, meeting of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. Named were:

|                  |                   |               |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Warren Silva     | Mrs. Mabel Rogers | John Ratekin  |
| Mrs. Susie Lemos | Leslie H. Maffey  | Henry Leidsen |
| Manuel Borges    | Domaso Diaz       | Bill Gianola  |

The year 1955 brought a whole new challenge to the Chamber of Commerce, as well as for all of Washington Township. Hayward planned to annex 2,400 acres of land in southern Eden Township and northern Washington Township. Washington Township would lose land along the Whipple Road, including U.S. Pipe & Steel Foundry, American Pipe & Construction Co., and our beloved Holly Sugar Mill. Washington Township would also lose Hillview Crest, and parts of El Rancho Verde and Fairway Park.

In the beginning all the towns in Washington Township expressed solidarity in expelling the threat in the north. But behind the curtains, six of the eight towns in the township held meetings to expedite their plans to incorporate. Newark was first to incorporate as the City of Newark. Mission San Jose, Warm Springs, Niles, Irvington, and Centerville meanwhile, were plotting to incorporate as the "super city" of Fremont, which they did.

This left Alvarado and Decoto on an island to fend for themselves against the octopus grab of the City of Hayward from the north, which was later joined by the new octopus from the south, the City of Fremont. Initially the Alvarado and Decoto Chambers (and local citizen groups) tried to fight off the threats individually, but after some period of time they realized that they had to join forces or be eaten individually by either invaders from the north, Hayward; or the invaders from the south, the new City of Fremont.

In January 1955 Henry Leidsen was seated as president of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. Installed with him were Joe Lewis, V.P.; and Leslie Maffey, Secretary-Treasurer. One of the first duties for Mr. Maffey was to check with John Thomas, County Planning Engineer, to determine if the Chamber of Commerce could assist the county in further zoning Alvarado. But that was laid to rest when the opinion was expressed that planning and zoning must await completion of pending flood control project. Also at this time Tom Kitayama was named as replacement for John Ratekin on a township incorporation study committee. Ratekin asked to be relieved because of his other duties.

Later in 1955 the Chamber felt more information and public meetings were needed on incorporating into the city of Union City. To assure information on progress



toward city-hood, the chamber approved the appointment of a special "prodding" committee to elicit public action from the newly created Union City Steering Committee. Members of the Alvarado committee were Warren Silva, Henry Leidsen and Leslie Maffey.

Finally, the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce went on record in favor of a joint installation of new officers with the Decoto Chamber of Commerce sometime in January 1956, at which time the Alameda County Board of Supervisors would be invited, said President Henry Leidsen. He said the invitation would be extended to the supervisors "to show them the two chambers were working together toward the realization of Union City." The joint installation was recommended by the Union City Steering Committee as a step toward merging the two chambers into a single body to be known as the Union City Chamber of Commerce. Leidsen said the two chambers would remain separate for the time being, but would meet together "every two or three months."

Earl Strathman, County Administrator, was guest speaker following a joint installation of Alvarado and Decoto Chamber of Commerce members held January 17, 1956, at McIntyre's Restaurant in Niles. Mr. Strathman told of the challenges facing Union City and stated they are the same problems that were faced by Newark and Fremont in their bids for incorporation. He promised county assistance whether the decision in Union City is for incorporation or annexation.

LeRoy Broun, acting Master of Ceremonies, also served as installing officer. Seated in Office for Alvarado were:

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| President:           | Henry Leidsen |
| Vice President:      | Joseph Lewis  |
| Secretary-Treasurer: | Leslie Maffey |

Taking office for Decoto were

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| President:                      | Frank Borghi Jr.   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President: | Kenneth Garcia     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: | Jesse Perry        |
| Secretary:                      | S. Robert Infelise |
| Financial Secretary:            | Bernard Joseph     |
| Treasurer:                      | Jack Faletti       |
| Parliamentarian:                | Harold Schoenfeld  |

In May 1956, Mrs. Mae Santos took a swipe at several problems in Alvarado. Mae was part of the Alvarado Beautification Committee of the Chamber. Her first swipe hit at the Washington Township Garbage Company, which was parking its garbage trucks behind its offices in Alvarado, and complaints were being made about the odor and the insects. County Supervisor Chester Stanley was informed about the condition and was asked to have the garbage trucks removed. Stanley declared, "It'll take 30 or 40 days to get an ordinance through, but we'll do it."

Mrs. Santos' second swipe was aimed at Alvarado in general. Mrs. Santos presented a map with all the unsightly areas and buildings marked with red. It was thickly measled. She was pessimistic about the clean up campaign. "We can't do anything with a group like this. We need power behind us otherwise the clean up is impossible"

One of the buildings designated as unsightly is an old livery stable on Hiway 17. The Chamber decided to write a letter to the unnamed owner and tell him to remove the building, "or we'll do it for you."

In August 1956, the eventual formation of a Union City Chamber of Commerce moved another step toward realization when members of the Decoto Chamber and the Alvarado Chamber voted unanimously to form such a body by merging. The Chambers had more than just unification on their minds. There was still the incorporation of Decoto and Alvarado into the City of Union City. Also coming up at this time was the question of two new high schools to cost \$4,000,000 in the Washington Union High School district. Voters would have their say on October 16, 1956, on the bond proposal. If approved, one high school will be built near Decoto and a second to on a site to be chosen later.

Seven Alvarado and five Decoto residents were elected directors of the Union City Chamber of Commerce on January 30, 1957.

The new directors are:

From Decoto:

|                  |               |                    |            |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|
| Frank Borghi Jr. | Bernie Joseph | Mrs. Chas. Spencer | Oscar Dowe |
| Bernie Joseph    |               |                    |            |

From Alvarado:

|              |                   |                 |             |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Frank George | Wilbert Hendricks | John A. Ratekin | Mike Salido |
| Wm. Machado  | Fred Brown        | Joe Lewis       |             |

Oscar Dowe was elected President, others elected were Mike Salido, Vice Present; Mrs. Florence Spencer, Secretary; and Frank George, Treasurer.

In March 1958, new officers were installed for the Union City Chamber of Commerce.

They were:

|                 |                |                                   |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| President:      | Kenneth Garcia | Decoto Fireman                    |
| Vice President: | J. A. Ratekin  | Holly Sugar Co. executive         |
| Treasurer:      | Frank George   | Alvarado, oil company distributor |
| Secretary:      | Leslie Maffey  | Alvarado School District Supt.    |

New members of the board were outgoing President Oscar Dowe, Henry Rivera, Charles Spencer, and Mrs. May Watkins.

Others who served on the Chamber in the 1950's or were active on committees were:

|                |                    |                 |            |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Angelo DeKidos | Dan Riley          | Manuel Goularte | Elvin Rose |
| Ray Kitayama   | Dr. J. Bettencourt | Genevieve Dutra | John Ralph |

### **Christmas Seals:**

The annual Christmas Seals drive began November 17, 1952, and ran through to December 25, 1952. Mrs. J.R. Whipple, chairman, had been active in Christmas Seal work since 1914; her aide in Alvarado was Miss Mildred Nauert, who had been active in Christmas Seals for almost 30 years. Assisting Miss Nauert in Alvarado would be Mrs. Ted Harvey, Mrs. Manuel Pinto, and Mrs. Genevieve Dutra. It was reported that during 1951 that Tuberculosis brought 112 deaths and 677 new cases into Alameda County.

Mrs. Genevieve Dutra led the 1958 Christmas Seals sales team for the Alameda County Tuberculosis and Health Association in the Alvarado area. Christmas Seals helped fund the search for a cure of tuberculosis.

### **Community Chest:**

The Washington Township Community Chest goal was to raise \$7,525 between September 25 and October 10, 1950. Walter Oakey was named to head the drive for Alvarado. This organization would eventually be replaced by the United Way.

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

The Alvarado Fraternal Order of Eagles (F.O.E.) was a very active organization during the 1950's. They held many events annually: dances, picnics, and fund raising events. Near the end of the decade the Eagles realized that their hall, which had stood in Alvarado since 1859, was nearing the end of its life without costly repairs and upgrades.

#### Officers for the Alvarado Eagles in June of 1950 were:

|                 |                           |               |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| President:      | Raymond Cunha (Irvington) |               |
| Vice President: | Ed Silva                  |               |
| Chaplain:       | Ray Wiand                 |               |
| Treasurer:      | Charles Baird             |               |
| Secretary:      | John Menezes              |               |
| Conductor:      | Glenn Bachelor            |               |
| Guards:         | Edwin Mello               |               |
|                 | Kenneth Bratton           |               |
| Physician:      | Dr. W.L. McWhirter        |               |
| Trustee:        | John A. Ratekin           |               |
| Delegates:      | John A. Ratekin           | Ray Wiand     |
|                 | William Silva             | Tony Dutra    |
|                 | Arthur Soito              | Raymond Cunha |

#### Officers for the Alvarado Eagles in June of 1955 were:

|                 |                           |            |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------|
| President:      | Raymond Cunha (Irvington) |            |
| Vice President: | Elmer Posey (Hayward)     |            |
| Chaplain:       | Wilbert Hendricks         |            |
| Treasurer:      | Charles Baird             |            |
| Secretary:      | Joseph Lewis              |            |
| Conductor:      | W.E. Silva                |            |
| Guards:         | Sylvester Gallo           |            |
|                 | Michael Gardetto          |            |
| Trustee:        | John A. Ratekin           |            |
| Delegates:      | Raymond Cunha             | W.E. Silva |
|                 | Joseph Martin             |            |

#### Officers for the Alvarado Eagles in June of 1956 were:

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| President:      | Elmer Posey (Hayward) |
| Vice President: | Donald Lang           |
| Chaplain:       | Joseph Martin         |
| Treasurer:      | Charles Baird         |
| Secretary:      | Joseph Lewis          |
| Conductor:      | Philip Silva          |
| Guards:         | Sylvester Gallo       |

Trustee: Michael Gardetto  
Irvin Williams

Through the decade many served on committees, as delegates, and some new members were taken in. Here are the names of persons who contributed to the Post:

|                 |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| John Torquemada | Manuel P. Rose  | Anthony J. Vargas |
| C.W. Baird      | Fred Costa      | Jack Navarro      |
| Eddie Sameroy   | Antone S. Monte | J.S. Dutra        |
| Manuel Abreu    | Serafine Noia   | Manuel J. Gaspar  |
| Frank Senn      | Sid Gallo       | Serafine Serpa    |
| Harold Faria    | Del Diaz        |                   |

### **Eagles Ladies Auxiliary:**

Officers for the Alvarado Eagles Auxiliary in June of 1950 were:

|                 |                   |               |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Past President: | Mrs. Aurora Lewis |               |
| President:      | Adeline Quadros   |               |
| Vice President: | Alvina Leal       |               |
| Chaplain:       | Helen Goularte    |               |
| Secretary:      | Suzie Davis       |               |
| Treasurer:      | Alice Menezes     |               |
| Conductress:    | Mary Maddox       |               |
| Guards:         | Ann Kotchalka     | Tessie Maciel |
| Trustees:       | Mabel Rogers      | Mamie Silva   |
|                 | Esther Gardetto   |               |

Officers for the Alvarado Eagles Auxiliary for 1953 were:

|                 |                          |             |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| President:      | Leontine Costa (Decoto)  |             |
| Vice-President: | Dorothy Ratekin          |             |
| Chaplain:       | Esther Gardetto          |             |
| Conductress:    | Nellie Richmond          |             |
| Inside Guard:   | Isabel Mondragon         |             |
| Treasurer:      | Alice Menezes            |             |
| Outside Guard:  | Mary Dutra (Centerville) |             |
| Pianist:        | Wilma Silva              |             |
| Lodge Mother:   | Mabel Rodgers            |             |
| Secretary:      | Susie Davis              |             |
| Past President: | Mary Mattos              |             |
| Trustees:       | Adeline Quadros          | Alvina Leal |
|                 | Aurora Lewis             |             |

Officers for the Alvarado Eagles Auxiliary for 1955 were:

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| President:      | Alvina Leal      |
| Vice-President: | Ina Newfield     |
| Chaplain:       | Laura Gallo      |
| Conductress:    | Nellie Richmond  |
| Inside Guard:   | Isabel Mondragon |
| Treasurer:      | Alice Menezes    |
| Outside Guard:  | Annie Perry      |
| Pianist:        | Wilma Silva      |
| Lodge Mother:   | Mabel Rodgers    |
| Secretary:      | Susie Davis      |
| Past President: | Mary Mattox      |

|           |                  |            |
|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Organist: | Florence Wallace |            |
| Trustees: | Madeline Lang    | Mary Smith |
|           | Amelia Silva     |            |

Officers for the Alvarado Eagles Auxiliary for 1956 were:

|                 |                    |                |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| President:      | Laura Gallo        |                |
| Vice-President: | Madeline Lang      |                |
| Chaplain:       | Mildred Posey      |                |
| Conductress:    | Dorothy Tracy      |                |
| Inside Guard:   | Millie Richmond    |                |
| Treasurer:      | Alice Menezes      |                |
| Outside Guard:  | Mrs. Lonnie Tomzak |                |
| Secretary:      | Susie Davis        |                |
| Trustees:       | Hortense Maciel    | Leontine Costa |
|                 | Mrs. Pat Newfield  |                |

Through the decade many served on committees, as delegates, and some new members were taken in. Here are the names of persons who contributed to the Post:

|                 |                 |             |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Catherine Silva | Laura Meyer     | Mary Smith  |
| Annie Baird     | Dorothy Ratekin | Mary Amaral |
| Alice Beard     | Dorothy Serpa   | Mary Rose   |
| Jackie Lewis    | Carole Griffith | Teresa Agna |
| Maria Faria     | Martha Faria    |             |

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

(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. Joe Martin was president.

**Japanese-American Citizens League (JACL):**

A Southern Alameda County organization, it included many Alvarado Japanese-Americans who contributed to its success.

The Japanese-American Citizens League of Southern Alameda County held a barbecue picnic outing at the Sunset Beach in Watsonville on Saturday, April 8, 1950. Taking reservations from the Alvarado area was Grace Matsumoto.

Ace Handa and Yosh Hisaoka were the official delegates of the Southern Alameda County Chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League, which would be held at a Northern California-Western Nevada district meeting in Richmond in February 1956.

The Southern Alameda County Japanese American Citizens League held its 15<sup>th</sup> installation dinner at the International Kitchen in Niles in January 1957. Fremont City Manager Robert F. Coop was the installing officer and Mayor John L. Stevenson was the speaker of the evening, according to Ray Kitayama, Chairman.

Officers to be installed are: Henry Kato,

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| President:                 | Henry Kato        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres: | Fred Mizota       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres: | Kiyoshi Katsumoto |
| Recording Secretary:       | Jane Yamauchi     |

|                     |                       |                |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Corresponding Sec:  | Eleanor Motozaki      |                |
| Treasurer:          | Kay Mayeda, Treasurer |                |
| Historian:          | George Yonekura       |                |
| Athletic Manager:   | Kaz Kawaguchi         |                |
| Publicity Chairman: | Yoshio Hisaoka        |                |
| Social Chairman:    | Chuck Shikano         |                |
| Board of Directors: | Mrs. Dorothy Kato     | Harold Fudenna |
|                     | Ray Kitayama          | Ace Handa      |

### **Library:**

The opening of the Alameda County Library Branch in Alvarado at its new location took place December 19, 1952. Situated adjacent to the Alvarado Fire House, on Smith Street, the new building would also house the new Post Office facilities, which were to be moved at the first of the year. The building was constructed by Joe E. Dutra, with Mrs. Genevieve Dutra assisting in the planning. Mrs. Eldora Pinto was the attendant for the library. The old library building was located behind Central Bank on Smith Street.

### **March of Dimes:**

Mothers in Washington Township began preparing for the January 1956 March on Polio, the biggest single activity for the 1956 March of Dimes. The Washington Township coordinator was Mrs. Graydon Spurlock of Alvarado; the Alvarado team leader was Mrs. Norman Silveira.

Two daytime shows were used by Alvarado School students to raise money for their March of Dimes drive for February 1957. A total of \$24 in proceeds was received from a movie showing and a puppet show. Both entertainment programs were secured with student body funds through their finance committee, headed by Rose Tenorio.

### **Mothers Club:**

The Alvarado Mother's Club was similar to the PTA, but different in that the membership was limited only to the ladies of children. Their mission was very close to the PTA in that the organization improved the Alvarado Grammar School, and also enhanced the environment of the school for the children. Being separate from the PTA, but with the same mission gave the school a larger measure of help. The club held whist parties, bazaars, rummage sales and other fund raising events to purchase needed equipment for the school and also paid for summer recreation coaches at the school for sports and activities during the summer vacation.

On Friday, June 2, 1950, a tea party was given at which gifts were given to teachers who are leaving at the end of this term. Those teachers were: Mrs. Betty Culbertson, Miss Shirley Everett, Mrs. Patricia Alferts, and Miss Charlotte Young (Jung). Miss Jung had taught at Alvarado Grammar School since the early 1920's, and was the only teacher left who taught at the school when the new building was erected 1925.

The Mother's Club of Alvarado installed their officers for the coming year at their meeting on June 16, 1950, at the Alvarado Grammar School cafeteria. Officers installed were:

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| President:      | Mrs. Helen Roderick   |
| Vice-President: | Mrs. Antoinette Pinto |
| Treasurer:      | Mrs. Kay Silva        |

Secretary: Mrs. Lorraine Silva  
 Publicity Chairman: Mrs. Bernice Diaz  
 Friendship Chairman: Mrs. Emily Noia

Mrs. Mae Santos was the installing officer and presented Mrs. Alvina Brune with a past presidents pin. The members of the club presented Mrs. Brune with a lovely two strand pearl necklace.

Officers seated in April 1953:

|                     |                       |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Past President:     | Mrs. Eldora Pinto     |                       |
| President:          | Mrs. Laverne Shestack |                       |
| Vice President:     | Mrs. Frank Sacramento |                       |
| Secretary:          | Mrs. Marie Falkowski  |                       |
| Treasurer:          | Mrs. Kay Silva        |                       |
| Sunshine Chairman:  | Mrs. Hilda Allegre    |                       |
| Publicity:          | Mrs. Gladys Best      |                       |
| Well Baby Clinic:   | Mrs. Isabel Loyola    |                       |
| Hospitality:        | Mrs. Alvina Brune     |                       |
| Visiting Mother:    | Mrs. Mae Santos       |                       |
| May Card Party Com. | Mrs. Amelia Silva     | Mrs. Margaret Andrade |
|                     | Mrs. Helen Roderick.  |                       |
| Parks AFB Visiting: | Mrs. Laverne Shestack | Mrs. Jean Rose        |
|                     | Mrs. Marie Falkowski  | Mrs. Hilda Allegre    |
|                     | Mrs. Alma Bielar      |                       |

Others who were active in Mother's Club activities between the years 1950 to 1954 were:

|                   |                       |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Mary Spurlock     | Mrs. Irma Silva       | Mrs. Evelyn Silva |
| Mrs. Amelia Silva | Mrs. Margaret Andrade | Mrs. Helen Perry  |
| Mrs. Wilma Silva  |                       |                   |

In April 1954, the Alvarado Mother's Club voted to join the Alvarado PTA at a monthly meeting Thursday. A resolution was presented and passed dissolving the Alvarado Mother's Club.

The first life membership pin ever to be awarded, and the first Founder's Day program ever to be celebrated in Alvarado would mark the first meeting of the combined Alvarado PTA and the Alvarado Mother's Club on February 1954.

As of this date, February 1955, the Alvarado Mother's Club ceased to exist.

### **Pixie Cootiette Club:**

Pixie Cootiette Club 634, held meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Eagles Hall, corner of Smith and Vallejo Streets in Alvarado, with Fuzzy Wuzzy Pup Tent 3, Military Order of the Cootie, according to Margie Collier, President.

The Military Order of the Cootie of the United States was a non-profit Veterans Service Organization. They were known as "The Honor Degree of the VFW," and their members were comprised of the officers and leaders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Membership in the MOC is in recognition of outstanding service to the VFW and its programs.



Founded in New York City on September 17, 1920, the MOC was based on the principals of good humor and fun. The Cooties have provided social and entertainment programs to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. as an Ancillary unit within the organization.

### **Post Office:**

At the end of December 1952, the Post Office was relocated from behind Central Bank on Smith Street to its present location adjacent to the old Alvarado Fire House. The building also included the library as it did before. Mrs. Eldora Pinto was the Alvarado Librarian. The Postmistress at this time was Mrs. Genevieve Dutra. The building was constructed by Joe E. Dutra, with Mrs. Genevieve Dutra assisting in the planning.

San Leandro's Post Office came of centennial age May 3, 1953, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Post Office there. It takes some precedence over Alvarado, whose Post Office would become a centenarian on August 8, 1953\*, but neither can claim distinction as the first in what is now called Alameda County.

That honor goes to the area's first settlement, Mission San Jose, where a Post Office was opened April 9, 1850, three years before Alameda County was created. The mission was then in Santa Clara County.

\*Three other Post Offices preceded San Leandro in Alameda County:

|               |                             |                  |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Livermore:    | Robert Livermore Ranch      | July 28, 1851    |
| Costa Contra: | Oakland                     | November 6, 1851 |
| Union:        | Union City (later Alvarado) | November 6, 1851 |

The resignation of Alvarado's Postmaster, Mrs. Genevieve Dutra after 20-years of service, was given on March 1, 1956. Mrs. Dutra said 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, operates the Bearcat Café in Centerville.

Mrs. Dutra's sole assistant, Miss Alice Menezes, said she would also resign. Alice also had 20 years of service with the Post Office, and was a niece to Mrs. Dutra. Both women were eligible for federal retirement benefits.

Examinations for the position of Postmaster at Alvarado were scheduled for June 1956; it was announced by Angie Vargas, acting Postmaster. The deadline for filing an application was June 25, 1956. Application forms were available at the Alvarado Post Office on Smith St. Former Postmaster Genevieve Dutra resigned her post in March, and Mrs. Vargas has been acting in her place since then.

The new postmistress of Alvarado was Mrs. Alvina Brune. Mrs. Brune is a niece of former Postmistress Mrs. Genevieve Dutra.

Reports from 13 Postmasters of Southern Alameda County show postal receipt increases 1958 over the previous year, 1957. Only four communities, Alvarado, Newark, Niles and Warm Springs showed decreases.

Washington Township Receipts:

| <u>Town</u> | <u>Previous Year's Receipts</u> | <u>Most Recent Year</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|

|                     |              |             |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1) Centerville      | \$57,807.53  | \$66,224.60 |
| 2) Niles            | \$46,536.47  | \$45,531.46 |
| 3) Newark           | \$43,720.45  | \$42,759.71 |
| 4) Irvington        | \$27,600.00+ | \$40,788.00 |
| 5) Decoto           | \$21,046.33  | \$25,386.81 |
| 6) Mission San Jose | \$14,818.00  | \$14,918.03 |
| 7) Alvarado         | \$7,127.15   | \$6,908.44  |
| 8) Warm Springs     | \$3,481.26   | \$3,375.86  |

### **Presbyterian Church:**

The historic Presbyterian Church of Alvarado, which was located at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and "V" Streets was sold to the Unity Chapter of the Church of God & Christ, a Pentecostal Church with headquarter in Memphis, Tenn. The new pastor was the Reverend Milton Mathias of San Jose, Calif.

The church was headed locally by Mrs. Estelle Rigmaiden as missionary, who extended a cordial welcome to all to attend the first services on November 9, 1952. A program of investments in the old building was made before a formal parade and dedication program initiated the services at the end of November.

In February 1957 an intensive evangelistic campaign was carried out at the former Presbyterian Church. A two-day non-stop prayer session led by Evangelist Mattie Thomas of San Mateo, with the assistance of Estelle Rigmaiden, Alvarado Missionary and Evangelist, Church Pastor G. G. Hannah of San Jose, and Richard Rigmaiden, Jr., of Alvarado. The effort was made to save the Church from defaulting on its obligations.

In March of 1957 the story of the struggle to dissolve the \$2,300 mortgage against the tiny Church of God in Christ in Alvarado was revealed by one of the eight-member congregation. The church building, located at Brooklyn and Horner Streets, was the former Presbyterian Church, and was purchased several years ago by the group under the guidance of Rev. M. Mathias, now of San Jose.

Over the past several months, the tiny group has held bake sales, candy and popcorn sales, and periodic fund drives to assist with making monthly payments on the debt. Tomorrow marks the end of a current campaign to raise \$300 toward this obligation.

### **PTA:**

The Alvarado PTA was an organization of parents and teachers whose mission was to aid the school in purchases of needed equipment, paying for the testing of children's hearing and eyesight, and programs for children's growth.

The Alvarado Mother's Club voted to join the Alvarado PTA at a monthly meeting in April 1954. A resolution was presented and passed to dissolve the Alvarado Mother's Club. The nominating committee for the election of the new PTA officers was chosen as follows:

|                    |                   |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. Mary Spurlock | Mrs. Eldora Pinto | Mrs. Jane Dakin    |
| Mrs. Evelyn Silva  | Mrs. Zola Smith   | Mrs. Gladys Hersey |
| Mrs. Emily Noia    | Mrs. Alice Mendes |                    |

Officers for the school year of 1954 were chosen in September 1954. They were:

|                   |                  |                |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| President:        | Laverne Shestack |                |
| Sewing:           | Mary Silva       |                |
| Sunshine:         | Jean Rose        |                |
| Cafeteria:        | Mary Gastelum    | Dorothy Vargas |
| Recreation:       | John Bond        |                |
| Membership:       | Bernice Silveira |                |
| Health:           | Marie Falkowski  |                |
| Finance:          | Kay Silva        |                |
| Budget & Finance: | Hilda Allegre    |                |
| Founder's Day:    | Jane Dakin       |                |

Officers for the school year of 1955 were chosen in March 1955. They were:

|                 |                  |               |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Past President: | Laverne Shestack |               |
| President:      | Shirley Banworth |               |
| Assisting:      | Bernice Silveira | Leslie Maffey |
|                 | Rene Stiarwalt   | Hilda Allegre |
|                 | Gladys Hersey    | Bernice Diaz  |
|                 | Margaret Cardoza |               |

Officers for the school year of 1956 were chosen in May 1956. They were:

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| President:             | Mrs. Renee Stiarwalt    |
| First Vice-President:  | Mrs. Bobbie Dowling     |
| Second Vice-President: | Mr. Leslie H. Maffey    |
| Secretary:             | Mrs. Marie Rose         |
| Parliamentarian:       | Mrs. Bernice Silveira   |
| Auditor:               | Mrs. Shirley Krikorian  |
| Historian:             | Mr. Stephen Graves      |
| Delegates:             | Mrs. Antoinette Pinto   |
|                        | Mrs. Josephine Tenorio. |

Officers for the school year of 1958 were chosen in May 1958. They were:

|                        |                       |                    |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| President:             | Mrs. Florence Chavis  |                    |
| First Vice President:  | Mrs. Frank Sacramento |                    |
| Second Vice-President: | Mr. Leslie Maffey     |                    |
| Other Officers:        | Mrs. Raymond Dias     | Mrs. Leonard Silva |
| Mrs. John Griffin      | Mrs. Jean Rose        | Mrs. Peter Pinto   |
| Mrs. Joseph Rose       | Mrs. Norman Silveira  |                    |

Others who were active in the PTA campaigns were:

|                     |                        |                     |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Mrs. Manuel Pinto   | Mrs. Frank Sacramento  | Mr. John Bond       |
| Mrs. Evelyn Griffin | Mr. Stephen Graves     | Mrs. Alice Mendes   |
| Mrs. Mary Spurlock  | Mrs. Zola Smith        | Mrs. Peggy Clark    |
| Miss Mary Hughes    | Mrs. Joseph Lewis      | Mrs. Mae Santos     |
| Mrs. Eldora Pinto   | Mrs. Vincent Fontejon  | Mrs. Gladys Hersey  |
| Mrs. Alma Bielar    | Mrs. Shirley Banworth  | Mrs. Rita Urrutia   |
| Mrs. Wilma Silva    | Mrs. Inez St. Julian   | Mrs. Dolores Vierra |
| Mr. Manuel Goularte | Mrs. Margaret Cardoza  | Mrs. Marie Rose     |
| Mrs. Isabel Bond    | Mrs. Gertrude Corchero | Mrs. Helen Boetel   |
| Mrs. Mayme Santos   | Mr. James Stiarwalt    | Mr. Bill Silva      |
| Mr. Ray Corchero    | Miss Rene Stiarwalt    | Mr. Joe Rose        |
| Mrs. Dorothy Wright | Mrs. Mildred Priego    | Mrs. Joseph Rose    |
| Mrs. Georgia Miller | Mrs. Georgia Paul      | Mrs. Ruby Taylor    |

## **Red Cross:**

The Red Cross Drive opened to a good start on March 3, 1950, with pep talks held at the International Kitchen. Chosen to lead the drive in our area were Mrs. Alvina Brune of Alvarado, and Mrs. A.A. Bettencourt of Alviso.

A report on Red Cross disaster work revealed that more than \$600 was spent among Alvarado residents resulting from floods caused during heavy January 1952 rainstorms. More than 100 persons from Alvarado were sheltered, clothed, and fed at the time flood waters threatened their homes, with food costs alone totaling \$350. Diapers for babies and washtubs for bathing were provided to maintain health standards and avoid epidemics.

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

(Sociedade do Espiritu Santo)

The S.D.E.S. Lodge held various fund raising ventures, mostly whist parties and dances. The S.D.E.S. Lodge owned the hall on Watkins Street and sponsored the annual Holy Ghost festa. Persons named in articles this decade were:

|                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Manuel Pinto Jr.      | Manuel Morreira       | Henry Flores          |
| Emilio Re             | Clarence Flores       | Manuel Soares         |
| Frank Goularte Jr.    | Manuel Borges         | Peter Pinto           |
| Elvin Rose            | Warren Silva          | Joseph Martin         |
| Tony Alexander        | Frank Roderick        | Frank Pinto           |
| Manuel Perry          | Gregory Perry         | John A. Silva         |
| Wilbert Hendricks     | Frank George          | Raymond Freitas       |
| Tony Dutra            | Serafine Daviner      | Joseph Dolin          |
| Manuel Rose           | Alfred Silva          | Mrs. Amelia Silva     |
| Warren Silva          | Tony Dutra            | Mrs. Henry Flores     |
| M.F. Machado          | Mrs. Emilio Re        | Mrs. Peter Pinto      |
| Mrs. Helen Goularte   | Mrs. Eldora Pinto     | Mrs. Manuel Perry     |
| Mrs. Joseph Maciel    | Mrs. Nora Vargas      | Mrs. Ethel Borges     |
| Mrs. Theresa Sevee    | Mrs. Mae Santos       | Mrs. Eleanor Roderick |
| Mrs. Angie Vargas     | Mrs. Madeline Soares  | Mrs. Isabel Martin    |
| Mrs. Isabel Mondragon | Mrs. Vernie Perry     | Mrs. Eleanor Azevedo  |
| Mrs. Mary Flores      | Mrs. Mary Fontejon    | Mrs. Mary Rivers      |
| Mrs. Mayme Roderick   | Mrs. Serafine Daviner |                       |

## **S. P. R. S. I.:**

(Sociadade Portuguesa Rainha Saint Isabel: S.P.R.S.I. is a women's Portuguese fraternal benefit society organized in the State of California).

New officers were installed on March 19, 1950. They were:

|                 |                |                |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| President:      | Mary Silva     |                |
| Vice-President: | Mae Santos     |                |
| M.C.:           | Helen Goularte |                |
| Marshal:        | D. Pimentel    |                |
| Inside Guard:   | Mary Luiz      |                |
| Secretary:      | Mayme Roderick |                |
| Treasurer:      | Clara Flores   |                |
| Directors:      | Aurora Lewis   | Madeline Rocha |
|                 | Mary Rivers    |                |
| Past President: | Angie Vargas   |                |

There was an initiation of ten new candidates on May 5, 1950. They were:

|                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. M. Richmond      | Mrs. Laverne Shestack | Mrs. Evelyn Silva     |
| Mrs. Alice Gomes      | Mrs. Adeline Martin   | Mrs. Jean Bettencourt |
| Mrs. Marie Terra      | Mrs. Mary Re          | Mrs. Loretta George   |
| Miss Myrna Jean Dutra |                       |                       |

The S.P.R.S.I. of Alvarado initiated new officers in March 1953, they were:

|                 |                   |             |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Past President: | Mae Santos        |             |
| President:      | Helen P. Goularte |             |
| Vice-President: | Delinda Pimentel  |             |
| Secretary:      | Mayme Roderick    |             |
| Treasurer:      | Angie Vargas      |             |
| MC:             | Mary Luiz         |             |
| Marshal:        | Eleanor Azevedo   |             |
| Guard:          | Millie Richmond   |             |
| Trustees:       | Mary Rivers       | Mary Silva  |
|                 | Clara Flores      |             |
| Pianist:        | Elizabeth Flores  |             |
| Flag bearers:   | Anna Hendricks    | Helen Perry |

The S.P.R.S.I. of Alvarado initiated new officers in June 1954, they were:

|                        |                   |                 |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| President:             | Helen P. Goularte |                 |
| Assisting her will be: |                   |                 |
| Delinda Pimentel       | Mary Silva        | Mary Rivers     |
| Isabel Mondragon       | Mayme Roderick    | Angie Vargas    |
| Mary Luis              | Eleanor Azevedo   | Nellie Richmond |
| Elizabeth Flores       | Anna Hendricks    | Helen Perry     |

Nine new members were initiated on June 4, 1954:

|                   |                   |               |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Jennifer Mendonca | Adele Allegre     | Ruth Bond     |
| Sharon Alexander  | Marlene Rogers    | Ellen Pinto   |
| Maria Jerome      | Lorraine Morreira | Theresa Sinee |

S.P.R.S.I. Council 21 of Alvarado nominated officers on February 23, 1955. They were:

|                         |                   |               |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Past President:         | Delinda Pimentel  |               |
| President:              | Eleanor Azevedo   |               |
| Vice-President:         | Isabel Mondragon  |               |
| Secretary:              | Mayme Roderick    |               |
| Treasurer:              | Angie Vargas      |               |
| Mistress of Ceremonies: | Hilda Allegre     |               |
| Marshal:                | Helen Perry       |               |
| Door Guard:             | Anne Hendricks    |               |
| Directors:              | Helen P. Goularte | Mary Borges   |
|                         | Mae Santos        |               |
| Pianist:                | Isabel Martin     |               |
| Refreshments served by: | Evelyn Silva      | Emily Noia    |
|                         | Dorothy Vargas    | Mary Silveira |
|                         | Elsie Machado     |               |

Other members who were active in the 1950's were:

|                  |                   |                |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Mrs. Anna Amaral | Mary Ann Monteiro | Lorraine Soito |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|

Frances Allegre  
Oat Noia  
Janelle Silva  
Gerry Perry  
Ann Pimentel

Mrs. Joe Goularte  
Albina Cerruti  
Marian Higholt  
Lorraine Morreira  
Ann Flores

Pat Flores  
Mrs. Joe Alexander  
Bernice Silveira  
Loretta George

### **St. Anne's Catholic Church:**

The old St. Anne's Catholic Church, which still stands at the corner of Watkins and Smith Streets, continued its tradition of serving the Catholics of Alvarado, raising funds for the benefit of the Church, and a sponsor (along with the I.D.E.S.) of hosting the Alvarado Holy Ghost. Chief among the priests serving the community in the 1950's were Father James. J. Concannon, and Father Thomas P. Gilbert.

During the 1950's the Church raised funds for activities through whist parties and the annual Church bazaar. Persons who served on committees for the whist parties and the annual bazaar in this decade included:

Manual Perry  
Manuel J. Pinto Jr.  
Clarence Flores  
Manuel Borges  
Warren Silva  
Frank Roderick  
Mrs. Henry Flores  
Mrs. Peter Pinto  
Mrs. Aldora Pinto  
Mrs. Nora Vargas  
Mrs. Mae Santos  
Mrs. Madeline Soares  
Mrs. Mamie Silveira

Manuel Rose  
Manuel Morreira  
Manuel Soares  
Peter Pinto  
Joseph Martin  
Frank Pinto  
Mrs. Mamie Roderick  
Mrs. Mary Rivers  
Mrs. Manuel Perry  
Mrs. Ethel Borges  
Mrs. Eleanor Roderick  
Mrs. Isabel Martin  
Mrs. Amelia Silva

Manuel Martin  
Emilio Re  
Frank Goularte  
Elvin Rose  
Tony Alexander  
Tony Dutra  
Mrs. Marjorie Re  
Mrs. Helen Goularte  
Mrs. Joseph Maciel  
Mrs. Theresa Sevee  
Mrs. Angie Vargas  
Mrs. Irma Silva

### **St. Anne's Catholic Church: Holy Ghost:**

A tradition observed in Washington Township since 1869, was re-lived in May 1950 as Alvarado celebrates its annual Holy Ghost festival. Alvarado's festival of the Holy Ghost is the first of the traditional religious and social celebrations of the Portuguese in this area.

The Alvarado festival is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter, and would be followed by similar festivals at Centerville, Mission San Jose, and Newark in Washington Township. Alvarado's first Holy Ghost was first celebrated in 1926 with the dedication of the new St. Anne's Church.

The history of the event dates back to the days of Queen Isabel of Portugal, a good ruler with two passions in her life, care of the poor, and the adoration of the Holy Ghost. Birth of the celebration dates to a year of famine, the story relates.

A religious procession to the church, to pray for food, was halted by the queen while she placed her own crown on the head of a small child, to teach that all are equal in the eyes of God. As she set the crown on the head of the child, a ship bearing food was seen entering the harbor. Thereafter the king declared the day one of celebration.

The festival (festa) vows to combine religious and social observances. Queens are chosen through a succession of years of service. A little queen rules each year beside the major queen. As the years pass, she progresses through her role of attendant to side maid, and from side maid to queen. A queen must be unmarried, and must have served the required years in attendant roles before she is eligible to reign.

The Holy Ghost this year was held on May 6 and 7, 1950. Marlene Andrade was the queen and Joyce Caldeira was her attendant. This year's acting officials were:

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| President:      | Matt Machado    |
| Vice-President: | Martin Phillips |
| Marshall:       | John Silva      |
| Secretary:      | John Menezes    |
| Treasurer:      | Tony Lee        |

|                 |                 |                    |               |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Assisting were: | Manuel Goularte | Frank Goularte Jr. | Joe Avila     |
|                 | Alfred P. Silva | Frank Goularte     | Manuel Martin |

The Alvarado Holy Ghost Fiesta was held at the SDES Hall in Alvarado on Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3, 1953. The usual religious procession of the Queen with the crown to the church for religious rites will be observed in the usual faithful manner.

The St. Anne's Church is the destination of the Sunday morning parade leading through town, with the Queen and entourage leading the way. On this year's committee for the preparations of the dance and celebration are: This year's royalty:

|             |                 |                    |               |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Queen:      | Frances Alvarez |                    |               |
| Maids:      | Marlene Pinto   | Rose Marie Alvarez |               |
| Bar Girls:  | Betty Pimentel  | Mary Ann Travers   | Alice Andrade |
|             | Elaine Pinto    |                    |               |
| Baby Queen: | Carol Andrade   |                    |               |
| Maids:      | Judy Quadros    | Darlene Dolan      |               |
| Bar Girls:  | Dianne Diaz     | Pamela Perry       | Bunnie Silva. |

The festa started with the Queen going to the home of Matt Machado on Saturday evening at 8 p.m. for the crown. A dance followed. On Sunday a parade took place at 10 a.m., followed by a mass be held at St. Anne's Church at 11 a.m.

Following the regular barbecue, a dance was held in the afternoon and also an auction. The Pinto Brother's Orchestra played for both dances.

In 1954 the festa started on Saturday night, May 15 with a procession. It began at 7:00 p.m. from the home of Mr. & Mrs. M. C. Pinto, Alvarado, parents of this year's queen, Marlene Claire Pinto.

The procession traveled from the Pinto home to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Silveira, (Granger Ave.) where Frances Alvarez, who was last year's queen, joined the retinue and presented the lesser crown to Queen Marlene. This crown is of sterling silver and simpler in design than the one to be used in the formal coronation the following day.





Pictured above are the 1954 Holy Ghost Queen, Marlene Claire Pinto, and her court. On the queen's left side is Myrna J. Dutra the 1956 queen. On the queen's right side is Elaine Pinto, the 1958 queen. Behind and to the right of the queen is Rosemary Alvarez, the 1955 queen. To the right side of the little boy in the foreground is Adele Allegre. (Apologies to those I cannot identify or identified incorrectly)

The 1955 annual Holy Ghost S.D.E.S. Festival was held Saturday and Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> in Alvarado. A parade was held at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, followed by dancing. A parade at 9:30 a.m. was held Sunday, with the crowning of the queen, which was followed by a "sopas-and-meat lunch" and dancing to the music of Pinto's Orchestra.

Supervising arrangements were:

Joseph Dolin  
Frank Pinto  
Manuel Martin

Manuel Pinto  
Manuel Morreira

Frank Goularte  
Matt Machado

Queen:  
Side Maids:  
Cape Holders:

Rosemary Alvarez  
Myrna Jean Dutra  
Jerry Souza  
Steve Silva

Mary Ann Travers  
Jennifer Mendonca

Bar Girls:  
Bar Boys:

Elaine Pinto  
Melvin Silva

Alice Andrade  
Donald Martin

Baby Queen:  
Side Maids:  
Cape Holders:  
Bar Boys:

Darlene Anne Dolin  
Doreen Anne Janeiro  
Georgeanne Amaral  
Dennis Machado

Laura Helen Cabral  
Gregory Silva  
Edward Gomes

The royal court for the Alvarado I.D.E.S. Holy Ghost celebration in 1956 consisted of Myrna Jean Dutra, reigning queen, Mary Ann Travers and Elaine Pinto were her maids.

The two-day Holy Ghost festa for 1957 opened Saturday at 7:30 p.m. with a procession, which was followed by a 9:00 p.m. dance at the S.D.E.S. Hall, 846 Watkins St. Alvarado. At 9:30 a.m. Sunday, a parade moved to St. Anne's Catholic Church on Smith Street, Alvarado where the queen was crowned. The traditional carne and sopas followed.

|               |                         |                    |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Queen:        | Miss Mary Ann Travers   |                    |
| Side Maids:   | Miss Elaine Pinto       | Miss Alice Andrade |
| Bar Girls:    | Betty Jean Pimentel     | Carol Silva        |
|               | Christine Silva         | Judy Quadros       |
| Cape Bearers: | Darlene Miller          | Melinda Silva      |
| Middle Queen: | Miss Laura Helen Cabral |                    |
| Side Maids:   | Paula Amaral            | Jacqueline Soares  |
| Bar Girls:    | Joanne Silva            | Rose Mary Silva    |
|               | Susie Silva             | Susie Pettas       |
| Cape Holder:  | Kathleen Bento          |                    |

Festa committee heads are:

|               |                   |               |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Manuel Perry  | Frank Goularte    | Manuel Martin |
| Jack Silva    | Wilbert Hendricks | Frank George  |
| Matt Machado  | Tony Alexander    | Ray Freitas   |
| Ernie Quadros | Lee Anne Re       | Peter Pinto   |

The 1958 Holy Ghost kicked off at 7:30 p.m., April 16<sup>th</sup>, when the procession left the S.D.E.S. Hall on Watkins Street and went to the Peter Pinto home to pick up the queen, from there it will went to the home of Seraphine Noia where the crowns were secured. After that, dancing was held at the S.D.E.S. Hall from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

|               |                    |                 |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Queen:        | Elaine Pinto       |                 |
| Middle Queen: | Donna Rae Corchero |                 |
| Baby Queen:   | Rhonda Rose        |                 |
| Maids:        | Alice Andrade      | Betty Pimentel  |
|               | Jo Ann Silva       | Linda Ornellis  |
|               | Claudia Corchero   | Darlene Andrade |

Chairman of the festa was Gregory Perry, Manuel Pinto and Manuel Martin, Jr.

### **UPEC:**

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.

### **UPPEC:**

The Alvarado Council Bernice No. 131 of UPPEC held their regular meeting May 12, 1950, with a very good attendance. There were nominations of officers, which are as follows:

|               |                   |                |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Ex-President: | Mabel Rodgers     |                |
| President:    | Angie Vargas      |                |
| MC:           | Helen Perry       |                |
| Marshal:      | Helen Goularte    |                |
| Guard:        | Delfina Diaz      |                |
| Directors:    | Pauline Silva     | Anna Hendricks |
|               | Mae Santos        |                |
| Dean:         | Mae Martin        |                |
| Treasurer:    | Genevieve Dutra   |                |
| Pianist:      | Mrs. Harold Faria |                |

The committee consisted of:

|                    |               |                   |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Harold Faria       | Harold Faria  | Mrs. Harold Faria |
| Miss Loretta Faria | Virginia Enos | Delfina Dias      |
| Jesse Perry        |               |                   |

The UPPEC nominated new officers on May 24, 1956. They were:

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Past President:         | Isabel Mondragon |
| President:              | Helen Goularte   |
| Vice President:         | Melly Richmond   |
| Secretary:              | Aldora Pinto     |
| Treasurer:              | Martha Faria     |
| Mistress of Ceremonies: | Helen Perry      |
| Marshall:               | Anna Hendricks   |
| Door Guard:             | Rose Freitas.    |

Others who were active in the decade were:

|                        |                        |                     |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Antone Rogers          | Mrs. Antone Rogers     | Mrs. Dorothy Serpa  |
| Mrs. George Santos     | Mrs. Helen Alameda     | George Vargas       |
| Mrs. Nora Vargas       | Miss Alice Menezes     | Mrs. Isabel Menezes |
| Miss Myrna Dutra       | Melvin Silva Jr.       | Tony Borges         |
| Mrs. Tony Borges       | Frances Allegre        | Tessie Maciel       |
| Mrs. Frank Richmond    | Mrs. Rita Mello        | Mrs. Frances Perry  |
| Mrs. Del Dias          | Dorothy Serpa          | Laurence Rose       |
| Mrs. Laurence Rose     | Bud Silva              | Mrs. Amelia Silva   |
| Wilbert Hendricks      | Mrs. Wilbert Hendricks | Joe Perry           |
| Mrs. Joe Perry         | Manuel Pinto           | Mrs. Manuel Pinto   |
| Mrs. Lorraine Morreira |                        |                     |

UPPEC Council Antonio Fontes of Alvarado sponsored a dance at S.D.E.S. Hall on November 10, 1956. The next meeting of the UPPEC would be held on October 12, 1956, and all members who have belonged for fifty years or more would be honored including:

|                   |                     |                 |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Tony Lee          | Manuel S. Hendricks | Manuel A. Avila |
| Manuel Martin Jr. |                     |                 |

### United Crusade:

The year 1952 saw Mrs. Irma Silva lead the United Crusade Drive in Alvarado. She was assisted in her campaign by:

|                    |                |                   |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Mrs. Hilda Allegre | Mrs. Sue Lemos | Mrs. Evelyn Silva |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|

Mrs. Alvina Brune  
Mrs. Warren Silva

Mrs. Antoinette Pinto

Mrs. Eldora Pinto

The 1954 fund drive was headed by Mrs. Felix Diangson.

### **VFW:**

The Paul Rivers Post, No. 7906, VFW of Alvarado was one of the most active social organizations of Alvarado in the 1950's. They held dances, dinners, and picnics for their members and families. Their charitable works included the Korean's Children's Relief fund, the Cancer Fund, the Hospitalized Veterans Fund, and help for a needy family in Alvarado.

Over the decade many people in town made the VFW Paul Rivers Post a success. Here are list of officers over the decade:

Officers of the Paul Rivers Post, VFW, and the Auxiliary for 1955 were:

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Post Commander:        | Norman Silveira   |
| Senior Vice Commander: | Norbert E. George |
| Junior Vice Commander: | Robert O. Lind    |
| Chaplain:              | William Silva     |
| Quartermaster:         | George R. Cronick |
| Surgeon:               | Jesse Jacinto     |
| Advocate:              | Lester Madeiros,  |
| Adjutant:              | Frank Sacramento  |
| Service Officer:       | Edwin Mello       |
| Legislative Officer:   | John Aguilar      |
| Patriotic Instructor:  | Stanley Lewis     |
| Publicity Chairman:    | Edward Fantuzzi   |
| Trustees:              | Eugene Rose       |
|                        | Leonard Silva     |
|                        | Ernest Machado    |

Auxiliary Officers:

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| President:             | Bernice Silveira |
| Senior Vice President: | Laverne Shestack |
| Junior Vice President: | Beatrice Lopez   |
| Treasurer:             | Kay Silva        |
| Secretary:             | Bernice Diaz     |
| Conductress:           | Isabel Loyola    |
| Chaplain:              | Emily Sacramento |
| Historian:             | Lorraine Silva   |
| Patriotic Instructor:  | Billie Jacinto   |
| Musician:              | Wilma Silva      |
| Banner Bearer:         | Beatrice Rose    |
| Guard:                 | Helen Anderson   |
| Color Bearers:         | Mary Silveira    |
|                        | Marjorie Re      |
|                        | Ruby Stockinger  |
|                        | Jeanette Bratton |
| Trustees:              | Katherine Luna   |
|                        | Lorraine Silva   |
|                        | Mary Vargas      |

Officers of the Paul Rivers Post, VFW, and the Auxiliary for 1957 were:

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Post Commander:        | Bob Lynn (Mission San Jose)     |
| Senior Vice Commander: | Milton Castro (Centerville)     |
| Junior Vice Commander: | Walter Amiably (Hillview Crest) |
| Chaplain:              | Frank Sacramento (Alvarado)     |
| Quartermaster:         | George Cronick (Hayward)        |
| Post Advocate:         | Leonard Silva (Alvarado)        |
| Surgeon:               | John Aguiar (Newark)            |
| Three-Year Trustee:    | Jesse Jacinto (Centerville)     |

Auxiliary Officers:

|                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| President:             | Ruby Stockinger (Mission San Jose) |
| Senior Vice President: | Emily Sacramento (Alvarado)        |
| Junior Vice President: | Lorraine Silva (Mission San Jose)  |
| Chaplain:              | Marjorie Re (Alvarado)             |
| Treasurer:             | Kathleen Silva (Alvarado)          |
| Secretary:             | Bernice Diaz (Alvarado)            |
| Guard:                 | Helen Anderson (Alvarado)          |
| Gold Star Mothers:     | Mrs. Mary Rivers (Alvarado)        |
|                        | Mrs. Frances Allegre (Alvarado)    |
|                        | Mrs. Mary Bernardo (Centerville)   |

Through the decade many served on committees, as delegates, and some new members were taken in. Here are the names of persons who contributed to the Post:

|                  |                    |                   |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Earle Medeiros   | Marcellino Ledesma | Alejandro Aranda  |
| Ambrose Loyola   | Salvador Paniagua  | Refugio Gonsalves |
| Robert Hernandez | William Martinez   | Robert Ramirez    |
| Edward Silva     | Alfred Labon       | Bradley Martinez  |
| Harold Delgado   | Ed Fantuzzi        | Gene Rose         |
| Raymond Dias     | Edward Mello       | John Shestack     |
| Milton Castro    | Bob Chavis         | Bert Alvarez      |
| Ray Corchero     | Bob Lind           |                   |

Through the decade many ladies served on committees, as delegates, and some new members were taken in. Here are the names of ladies who contributed to the Post Auxiliary:

|                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Irma Silva       | Helen Fontes     | Lucy Martinez    |
| Isabel Loyola    | Sally M. Ramirez | Patricia Gomes   |
| Mildred Silva    | Emily Noia       | Laverne Shestack |
| Mary Vargas      | Marjorie Lebon   | Jeanette Bratton |
| Clara Jacinto    | Wilma McGee      | Bernadine Simas  |
| Gerry Perry      | Laura Gallo      | Doris Paredes    |
| Frances Allegre  | Connie Maciel    | Mary Goularte    |
| Mary Rivers      | Mary B. Rivers   | Angie Vargas     |
| Aldora Gonsalves | Anita Fantuzzi   | Mary Aguiar      |
| Mary Pine        | Beatrice Rose    | Mary Perez       |
| Margaret Gamardo |                  |                  |



## **Departing Roswell, New Mexico:**

At the controls of the plane was Harvey W. Rogers, 41 of Lafayette, CA, Transocean's Chief Pilot and one of America's most experienced pilots. Captain and pilot on the airplane was Herman E. Hum, 41, of Daly City. Co-piloting the flight was Fred W. Patchett, 37, of Burlingame. The flight attendants on board were Ms. Velma Sandridge, 27, of Oakland, and Mrs. Lucille Munro Chapman of El Paso, Texas.

There were 30 service members aboard, 3 S/Sgt's and 27 airmen between the ages of 18 and 24 years of age from throughout the U.S.

After departing Roswell, the flight progressed in a routine manner, and at 2:51 in the afternoon, when in the vicinity of Winslow, AZ., the Defense VFR flight plan was changed to IFR, but still flying at least 500 feet over the top of the clouds. At 6:19 PM, the flight reported to be over the Newark, CA compass locator, and fan marker at 8,000 feet where it held for 11 minutes.

At 6:27 PM, Oakland Approach Control cleared Flight 942 for a straight-in approach, to descend in the holding pattern to cross the Newark compass locator at 3,500 feet, and to report leaving each 1,000-foot level. Lastly, it reported in at 6:36 PM, it reported being at 3,500 feet leaving the Newark compass locator inbound.

However, as the aircraft neared Oakland at an altitude of 3,500 feet in a drizzling rain, it suddenly rolled to the right and, in a near vertical position, struck the ground with its right wing tip at 6:38 PM. The aircraft cart-wheeled across an Alvarado barley-field, one fourth of a mile northeast of the intersection of Alquire Road and Whipple Road on the ranch operated by Frank and Rick Andrada. The Transocean airplane disintegrated into a ball of flames and flying metal shards. All aboard the airplane perished in the crash and subsequent fire.

The aircraft had a total time of 5,976 hours on the airframe. It had seen duty with the U.S. Army Air Force in the Second World War with tail number 45-623. After the war, the plane was leased to Pan American Airways (the actual plane is pictured above), and was registered as N889942, "Clipper Bostonian." At some point Pan-Am terminated the lease and the plane was subsequently leased to Transocean.







### **Comments about the Crash:**

Robert Lemos, 26, of Creek Road (Alvarado Niles Road), said he was driving on Whipple Road when he saw the plane, landing gear down, in a steep left bank. He watched in horror as it smashed into the plowed field and exploded almost immediately. He ran to the plane but was unable to help because of the intense heat.

William Silva, 31, of Whipple Road, who also saw the crash, later found pieces of ice up to eight inches long and three inches thick with "smooth rounded inner sides." Presumably, the ice came from the leading edge of the wing and was broken off by de-icers.

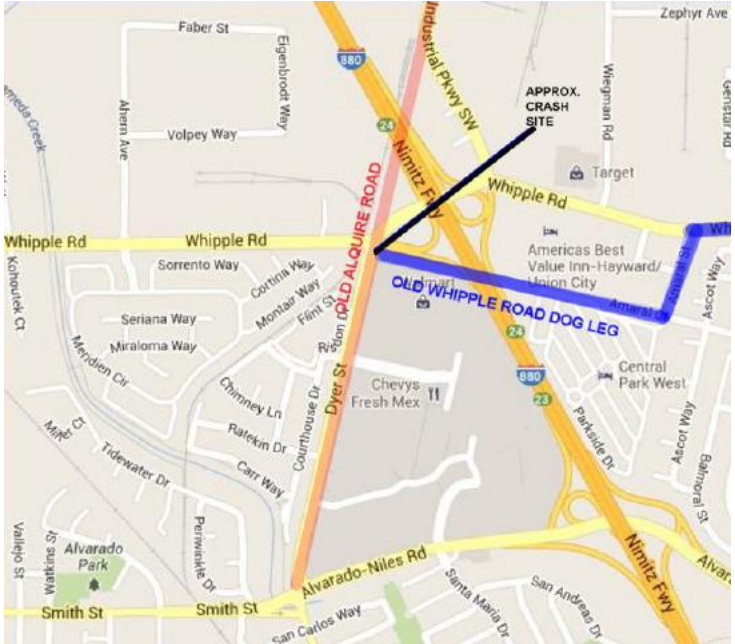
Ambulances appeared at the scene shortly after a report had been made that survivors were seen at the crash sight. However, the ambulances soon bogged down in the mud, which turned into a quagmire as more people and vehicles slogged through the field in the rain. Tractors pulled the ambulances out. The victims were taken to Fairmont Hospital, where they too were pronounced dead.

Mrs. Henry Andrade, of Fair Ranch Road, one of the first on the scene reported seeing, "Men with their clothes on fire, some on the ground, some trying to get up, staggering, then falling back into the flames."

### **March 29th, Newspaper Account:**

"Authorities continued to sift through debris, which was all that remained after the Transocean Air Lines DC-4 crash, which claimed 35 lives in a muddy barley field near Alvarado. Airline officials discounted the possibility of pilot error by saying Harvey W. Rogers, 41, of Lafayette, who was at the controls: "He was not only our chief pilot but our best pilot."

Those dead included 30 Air Force men enroute to Guam from Roswell, New Mexico, and the plane's crew of five. The DC-4 was approaching Oakland Airport for a landing at the time of accident, no clues as yet."



The map above shows the location of the crash site in Rick & Frank Andrada's barley field. The location given in news reports indicates that the crash occurred one-quarter mile NE of Alquire and Whipple Roads. This map of Alvarado (from 1997) shows the old Whipple Road (the bold blue line with the dogleg) as it would have been in 1953 and Alquire Road, which is Dyer Street today (orange line). The intersection of Alquire and "Old" Whipple Roads is where the bold blue line and the bold black line converge. The crash occurred within several hundred feet of today's Whipple Road and Industrial Parkway SW. The Nimitz Freeway shown in this map (1997) did not exist at the time of the crash.

**Aftermath:**

Investigators determined that the prevailing meteorological conditions had possibly resulted in an accumulation of ice on the aircraft's control surfaces, which may then have become immobilized and caused the flight crew to lose control of the plane. However, officials were unable to conclude such.

The crash spawned lawsuits, one of which, Nolan vs. Transocean Air Lines, made it to the Supreme Court. The decision of the court, in February 1961, led to the application of "conflict of law" principles to the capacity to sue in the State of California. Transocean Air Lines entered bankruptcy in 1962.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\* ALVARADO GRAMMAR SCHOOL \***  
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*Alvarado School Staff / 1923 Time Capsule Photo / School Trustees of the 50's / Student Graduation, Alvarado and Alviso / School Activities / School Plays / Alvarado's New School / Washington Township Schools / WUHS Other Student News / Alvarado-Decoto School District Merger / James Logan High*

The new decade of 1950 saw the Alvarado School ensconced in its small town ways. There were approximately 1,300 people in Alvarado proper (Alvarado school district population) in the early 50's, and the old school still served us well. The District Superintendent and Principal of the only school in town was Leslie H. Maffey. He would lead the school district through a massive change, not only as the Principal of the school, but also as a member of the PTA, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Union City Steering Committee to incorporate Alvarado and Decoto.

The year of 1955 saw the City of Hayward attempt, and then finally succeed, in grabbing land within Washington Township. The City of Hayward annexed land in Decoto that housed part of Fairway Park, part of El Rancho Verde, and all of Hillview Crest. Those parts were all within Washington Township and belonged to the Decoto School District, but were now part of the City of Hayward. This led to years of infighting between the Decoto School District and the La Vista School District (southern Hayward around Holiday Bowl) for students in the disputed areas. Hayward also annexed all Washington Township land north of Whipple Road and about 11 square miles of Leslie Salt tidal ponds and marsh to the west of Alvarado. By 1955 Leslie Maffey was faced with building a new school, helping Alvarado and Decoto incorporate, and unifying two school districts into the New Haven School District.

### **Alvarado School Staff:**

#### **1956 Administration:**

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Leslie H. Maffey    | Superintendent             |
| John Bond           | Vice Principal and Teacher |
| Mrs. Dolores Vierra | Secretary                  |

#### **1956 Teaching Staff:**

|                        |                    |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. Virginia Moy      | Eleanor Stassak    | Mrs. Eva Hicks     |
| Mrs. Evalene Griffin   | Mrs. Sharon Hersha | Mrs. Gladys Hersey |
| Mrs. Shirley Krikorian | Mrs. Zola Smith    | Steven Graves      |
| Mrs. Jane Dakin        |                    |                    |

#### **1956 Special Staff:**

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mrs. Mary Gastelum  | Cafeteria Manager |
| Mrs. Dorothy Vargas | Cafeteria Ass't   |
| Tony Alexander      | Custodian         |
| Antone Borges       | Custodian         |
| Norman Silveira     | Bus Driver        |

Other staff members of the Alvarado School that were mentioned in 1950 to 1958 newspapers were:

|                        |                        |                      |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Betty Culbertson  | Miss Shirley Everett   | Mrs. Patricia Alfors |
| Mrs. Louise Thomas     | Miss Vivienne Poole    | Mrs. Francis Huff    |
| Mrs. Robert Latimer    | Mrs. Florence Meeker   | Mrs. Evalene Griffin |
| Mrs. Gladys Dunham     | Miss Margaret Tetzlaff | Ms. Ann Tietzen      |
| Mrs. Bertha Odegard    | Frank Koehler          | Mrs. Mary Perez      |
| Mrs. Mary Louise Smith | Damaso Dias            | Mrs. Isabel Lucas    |
| Mrs. Hilda Widdop      | Serafine Noia          |                      |

On June 2, 1950, a tea party was given at which gifts were given to Miss Charlotte Jung, who retired at the end of this term. Miss Jung had taught many Alvarado children in the primary grade during her tenure. Miss Jung was first mentioned as a teacher in 1923. A photo in the time capsule of the Alvarado Grammar School built in 1924, shows the Miss Jung and her class of students. Miss Jung never married and passed away in April 1963.

### **1923 Time Capsule Photo:**



**SCHOOL DAYS**—This photo of fourth and fifth grade pupils, taken in 1923, was found when workmen unearthed the cornerstone of the Old Alvarado School while demolishing the structure to make way for a new plant. The photo shows Wilbert Hendricks (second row, fourth from left), present clerk of the trustees, and the teacher, Miss Charlotte Jung (back row), who still resides in Alvarado.

A newspaper clipping showing the Alvarado Grammar School children of the fourth and fifth grades of 1923; the teacher was Miss Charlotte Jung. This photo was one of the items that were included in the time capsule of the cornerstone of the new 1924 Alvarado Grammar School.

### **School Trustees of the 50's:**

George Hocking, Manuel P. Goularte, Wilbert Hendricks, Warren J. Silva, Graydon Spurlock, William E. Silva, William Machado, and George Vargas.

### **Student Graduation, Alvarado & Alviso:**

#### **Alvarado Grammar School Graduating Class, June 13, 1950:**

The graduates were as follows:

|                  |                  |                    |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Marlene Andrade  | Anita Apodaca    | Gloria Apodaca     |
| Rosa Barrera     | Marjorie Best    | Natalie Cicairos   |
| Amalia Concha    | Eugene Concha    | Cornelio Contreras |
| Frank Corrales   | Beverly Davilla  | Arnold Gardetto    |
| Elaine Hocking   | Sadako Kurotori  | Esther Muela       |
| Larry Roberts    | Beverly Spurlock | Frank Velarde      |
| Rosendo Villegas |                  |                    |

#### **Alvarado Grammar School Graduating Class, June 8, 1951:**

|                   |                    |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Leonard Barrera   | Lupe Bueno         | Joyce Caldeira     |
| Norman Carpenter  | Jeany Cheng        | John Corrales      |
| Cyndy De Anda     | Archie Delao       | Vera Dominguez     |
| Johnny Gualco     | Albert Hernandez   | Eddie Maldonado    |
| Sammy Muela       | Mervin Pinto       | Andrew Pimentel    |
| Conrad Preciado   | Lupe Ramirez       | Irene Silva        |
| Verlie Tolbertson | Mercedes Rigmaiden | Josephine Villegas |
| Richard Thomas    | Albert Reed        |                    |

#### **Alvarado Grammar School Graduating Class, June 13, 1952:**

|                  |                    |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ernestine Aranda | Tony Bueno         | Rosalie Cicairos   |
| Rita Cicairos    | Delia Delao        | Irene Garcia       |
| Robert Gonzalez  | Isabel Hendrickson | Arnold Hernandez   |
| Andrew Leon      | Ruben Lopez        | Mercedes Hernandez |
| Ellen Louie      | Lupe Moreno        | Naomi Muela        |
| Marlene Pinto    | Jesse Ramirez      | Tino Rangel Jr.    |
| Amparo Sanchez   | Stella Santos      | Geraldine Silva    |
| Mary Soto        | Eddie Vierra       | Helen Villalobos   |

**Alvarado Grammar School Graduating Class, June 1953:**

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

**Alvarado Grammar School Graduating Class, June 1954:**

|                   |               |                |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Sharon Alexander  | Joe Aranda    | Carol Burns    |
| Cruz Figueroa Jr. | Tadao Hisaoka | Rudolph Horton |
| Harold Kuratori   | Angel Ledesma | Alma Lopez     |
| Henrietta Melena  | Richard Pinto | Diane Ramirez  |
| Mary Rigmaiden    | Alvin Silvey  | Lupe Torres    |
| Patricia Vargas   | Joan Vierra   |                |

**Alvarado Grammar School Graduating Class, June 1955:**

|                  |                   |                  |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Anthony Gualco   | Nellie Barrera    | David Brune      |
| Donna Sacramento | Louis Angelo      | Mary Jane Rangel |
| Robert Velarde   | Rosemarie Alvarez | Albert Cicairos  |
| Helen Moore      | Frank Soto        | Connie Lopez     |
| Gaspar Gonzalez  | Hortense Preciado | Johnny Villegas  |
| Betty Bielar     | Robert Harvey     | Irene Urrutia    |
| Jose Martinez    |                   |                  |

**Alvarado Grammar School Graduating Class, June 13, 1956:**

Featured speakers for the graduating class were:

|                 |                 |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Mike Vierra     | James Stiarwalt | Loretta Soares |
| Alex Villalobos |                 |                |

**Alviso Grammar School Graduating Class, June 9, 1950:**

Mrs. Mayme Roderick, retiring school trustee, handed out diplomas. The graduates were:

|              |             |            |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Joseph Abreu | Rina Ciarlo | Leon Mings |
| Bill Emery   | Bob Hailey  |            |

**Alviso Grammar School Graduating Class, June 1951:**

|                      |              |                   |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Patricia Bettencourt | Remo Cerruti | Margaret Corchero |
| Joseph Dias          | Geo. George  | Nellie Gomez      |
| Linda Hermosa        | Herman Rocha | Juanita Rocha     |



Marlene Rogers

Novita Roderick

Maxine Smith

**Alviso Grammar School Graduating Class, June 1952:**

Catherine Accinelli

Dino Ciarlo

Brenda MacInstosh

Cordelia Mings

Robert Orsetti

George Passadore

Marie Passadore

John Perry

Warren Rogers

Glenda Silva

Deary Sudberg

**Alviso Grammar School Graduating Class, June 1953:**

Robert Emery

Alvin Faria

Elvera Garcia

Jimmy Nunes

Norma Orsetti

Fauleta Sudbury

**Alviso Grammar School Graduating Class, June 1954:**

Mary Alvarez

Marlene Azevedo

Georgia Brown

Nicholas Fletcher

Thelma Freitas

Richard Gomez

Jane Kato

Bonnie King

Pat Lynch

Lela Orsetti

Jean Rogers

Barbara Stone

**Alviso Grammar School Graduating Class, June 1955:**

Joanne Accinelli

Manuel Bettencourt

Arturo Calderon

Mary Duran

Anthony Faria

Helen Goularte

Riley Hailey

Emily Kato

John Leon

Dianne Orsetti

Paul Orsetti

Andrew Passadore

Anthony Pimentel

Gene Prevette

Richard Reina

Carolyn Smith

**School Activities:**

**Student Body:**

**Alvarado Student Body Officers Elected June 9, 1950:**

Officers elected for Alvarado Student Body:

President, Andrew Pimentel; Vice-President, Sonny Hernandez; Secretary, Rita Cicairos; Treasurer, Joyce Caldeira; Parliamentarian, Mercedes Rigmaiden; News Reporter, Ellen Louie; Sgt-At-Arms, Eddie Vierra; Clerk, Vera Dominguez; Judge, John Corrales; Athletic Monitor, Leonard Barrera; District Attorney, Johnny Gualco; Ass't District Atty, Conrad Preciado

**Alvarado Student Body Officers Elected February 1953:**

President, Manuel Vasquez; Vice-President, Barbara Jones; Secretary, Rosemary Urrutia; Treas, Beverly Ratekin; News Reporter, Louis Rigmaiden; Parliamentarian; Patricia Flores; Sgt-at-Arms, Bobby Velarde; Athletic Monitor, Frank Angelo; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep, Patricia Noia; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep, Angel Ledesma; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep, Anthony Gualco

**Alvarado Student Body Officers Elected May 1954:**

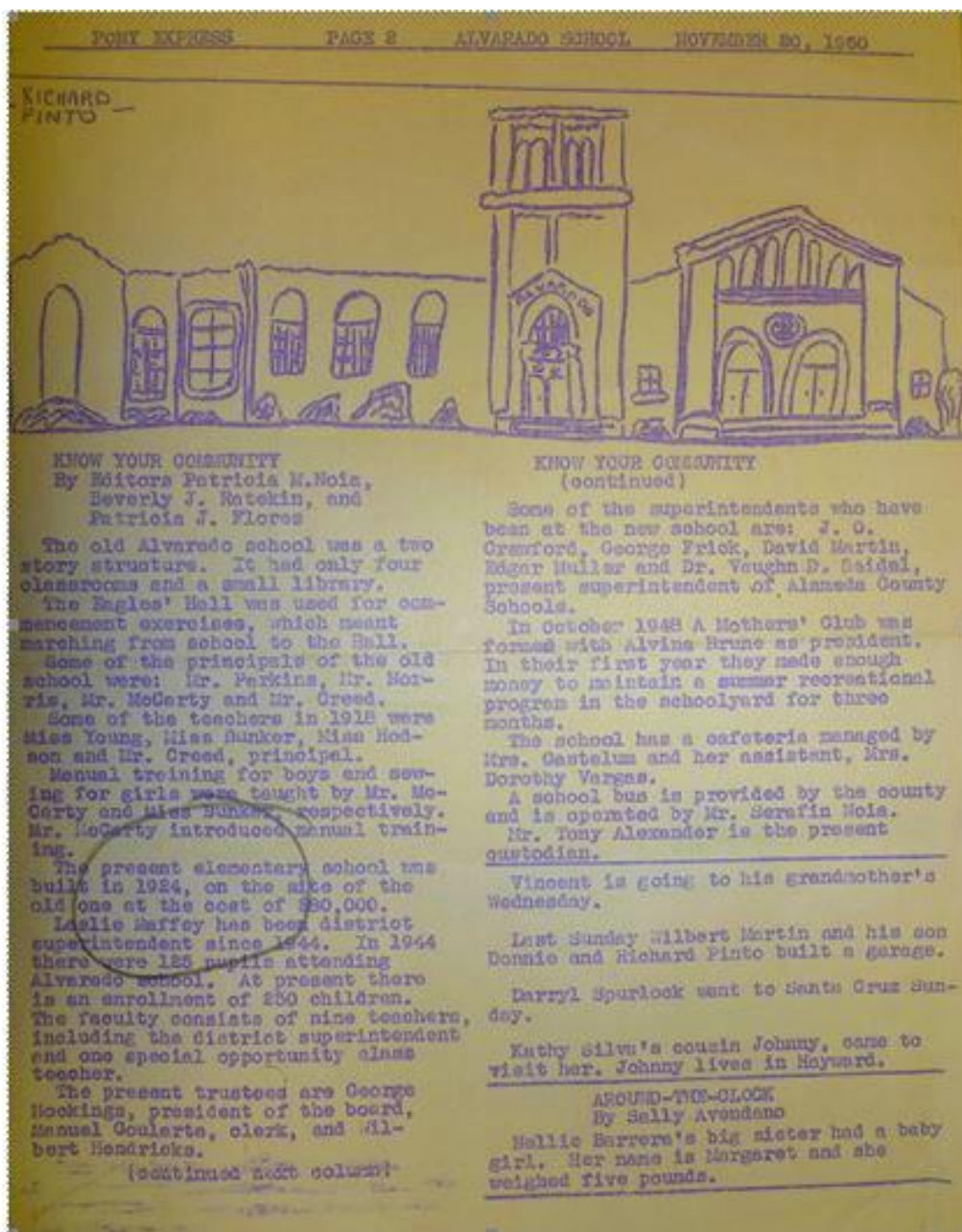
President, Cruz Figueroa; Vice President, Tadao Hisaoka; Secretary, Carole Burns; Treasurer, Mary Ann Travers; Parliamentarian, Patricia Vargas; Sgt-At-Arms, Bobby Velarde; Reporter, Mary Rigmaiden, Monitor, Albert Cicairos

**Pony Express, Alvarado School Newspaper:**

Editing the "Pony Express," the student newspaper at Alvarado Grammar School, this year was Patricia Flores, Patricia Noia, Patricia Vargas and Carole Burns.

Reporting duties were carried out by Joan Vierra, Lucille Rigmaiden, Frances Alvarez, Priscilla Dutra, Carole Banworth and Carolyn Smith. Beverly Ratekin and Joan Vierra would proof read, while Sharon Alexander and Tadao Hisaoka would undertake mimeo-graphing. Rosemary Alvarez and Sally Avendano were in charge of files.

Other staffers were Mary Rigmaiden, Richard Pinto, Arnold Munize, Junior Melena, Donna Sacramento, Barbara Cicairos, Frank Angelo, Frances Alvarez, Lupe Torrez, Angel Ledesma, Helen Vasquez and Frank Santos.



Shown above is the November 20, 1950 issue of the Alvarado Grammar School newspaper, "The Pony Express." The masthead was designed by Richard Pinto and the editors were: Patricia M. Noia, Beverly Ratekin, and Patricia J. Flores



## School Plays:

### Alvarado Grammar School Graduating Class of June 1950:

On June 13, 1950 the Alvarado Grammar School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade pupils would graduate. Comedy plays would be given by the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades and the graduating class. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders gave the play entitled: "Junior's Lucky Number."

The characters were:

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Junior:      | Andrew Pimentel |
| Patsy:       | Jeany Cheng     |
| Mrs. Walker: | Rita Cicairos   |
| Don:         | Johnny Gualco   |
| Buzz:        | Mervin Pinto    |
| Joan:        | Jesse Ramirez   |
| Nancy:       | Ellen Louie     |

|            |                    |             |
|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Prompters: | Mercedes Rigmaiden | Irene Silva |
|            | Archie Delao       |             |

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Ass't Director: | Joyce Caldeira |
|-----------------|----------------|

|                  |                  |                    |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| The graduates:   |                  |                    |
| Marlene Andrade  | Anita Apodaca    | Gloria Apodaca     |
| Rosa Barrera     | Marjorie Best    | Natalie Cicairos   |
| Amalia Concha    | Eugene Concha    | Cornelio Contreras |
| Frank Corrales   | Beverly Davilla  | Arnold Gardetto    |
| Elaine Hocking   | Sadako Kurotori  | Esther Muela       |
| Larry Roberts    | Beverly Spurlock | Frank Velarde      |
| Rosendo Villegas |                  |                    |

The graduates gave a play entitled, "The Life of the Party."

The characters:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Wilbur:          | Arnold Gardetto  |
| Betty Lou:       | Marlene Andrade  |
| Connie:          | Marjorie Best    |
| Mrs. Maxwell:    | Sadako Kurotori  |
| Mr. Maxwell:     | Eugene Concha    |
| Bernadine Smith: | Natalie Cicairos |
| Mary Brown:      | Elaine Hocking   |
| Judy Martin:     | Beverly Spurlock |
| Jack:            | Frank Velarde    |
| Bob:             | Corney Contreras |
| Frank:           | Frank Corrales   |
| Cliff:           | Rosendo Villegas |

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Announcer: | Gloria Apodaca |
|------------|----------------|

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Ass't Director: | Larry Roberts |
|-----------------|---------------|

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Prompter: | Esther Muela |
|-----------|--------------|



Two school plays from the early 1950's. The first is just about 1950 and shows me on the left, my life-long friend David Brune in the center, and Jose Martinez on the right. The bottom photo is circa 1954 and shows a Thanksgiving play. On the far right is Ronald Andrade, center right is David Brune, and the Pilgrim on the left was a young man named Kyle. The Indians, far left is Jose Martinez, standing in front of him is me, the young man with a nice looking shirt was Gaspar Gonzales, and the Indian talking to the Pilgrim was Bobby Velarde. What you might note here is this was fully functioning stage. You can see the footlights were raised to highlight the person on stage. There was a curtain on the back that could be parted, and an apparatus that could be raised and lowered with stage sets. To the right and left of the stage were a set of wings that could be moved. Behind the wings were staging areas on the left and right that could be reached separate doors. When we graduated we came down the aisle in double files, the left

file going to the left door and up into the left wing staging area, and the right file went to the right door and up to the right wing staging area. Then both files came on stage. The stage was some five or six feet above the auditorium floor, I couldn't really tell being just over four and a half feet tall at the time. In the back of the auditorium above the dual doors that led into the auditorium was a room that could be used as projection room with cut outs to show movies. But I never saw this used. We watched movies from a 16mm sound projectors brought in on a cart.



*Alvarado auditorium stage showing the wings with the back curtain drawn, and a set saying "Our Ray of Hope" hung from back stage apparatus. Note that the footlight are up on the fore stage. This is an unknown Kindergarten class or year.*

## **Alvarado's New School:**

The school year beginning September 1956 at Alvarado Grammar School showed 265 students attending classes. In one year that attendance was expected to jump 13.2% to 300 students. Alvarado School was overcrowded, and the trustees were considering a building program to increase classrooms and to add a cafeteria at the present school site; at this time the school cafeteria was separate from the school.

In February 1956, plans were formulated for a \$169,000 bond issue election on May 18, by the Alvarado Grammar School Board of Trustees. The Trustees met with the Citizens Advisory Committee to discuss the proposed expansion of the school at Alvarado. Bond funds would be used to finance construction of an additional two classrooms and a cafeteria. A portion of the bond would be used to acquire additional acreage at the present school site (the Varni Bros. property between the school and the Alvarado-Centerville Road).

By April 1956 it was decided that a new school should be built to replace the present one at a cost of \$400,000 to \$450,000. The board voted unanimously to condemn the existing facilities as unsafe and held a meeting following a gathering of the citizen advisory board.

Some 80 persons attending a mass meeting at the Alvarado School on April 12, 1956, and approved the trustee's plans to build an entirely new school plant. The meeting had been called to sound out public reaction to a \$169,000 bond issue election to be held on May 18, which would help finance the school along with that much or more in state aid. There was no opposition expressed by the attending citizens.

The Alvarado Chamber of Commerce gave its unanimous endorsement to the May 18, \$169,000 bond issue to build a new Alvarado Elementary School. Leslie Maffey, School Superintendent, told members "not a single piece of reinforcing steel" is present in the brick walls of the present structure. He also pointed out that the roof merely sits on top of those walls. "We'll have to pray hard that no severe earthquake comes along until a modern school is built," said Maffey.

On May 18, 1956 Alvarado voters approved a \$169,000 bond to finance a building expansion for the Alvarado Elementary School 159 - 23.

The Alvarado School District then sued John and Claire Varni, Alvarado produce farmers, for six acres of land adjoining the proposed expansion of Alvarado School at Hiway 17 and Alvarado Street in October of 1956. Leslie H. Maffey, school superintendent, said the district plans to build an 11-room classroom structure, with an administrative wing and a multipurpose room costing \$437,000. Maffey said that the work would be financed with a state loan after using money from two bond issues, one for \$169,000 and the other for \$30,000, which was recently approved. The district would qualify for state aid by acquiring the Varni property in order to meet the minimum requirement of a ten-acre site. The school had a present 4.33-acre site.

Some 420 registered voters were eligible to cast ballots from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday, January 25, 1957, to decide the fate of the school bond election. A two-thirds majority was required for passage. Alvarado Elementary School District

Superintendent Leslie Maffey explained that the board of trustees had authorized the election to "catch up" on construction to house the 350 students expected next fall. If voters approve, construction on an 11-classroom school, administration and multi-purpose building, estimated to cost \$452,000, could begin early next summer. At present, Maffey said, 145 of the school's 300 pupils are housed in three temporary classrooms, and the school auditorium.

School district residents overwhelmingly approved money propositions to build a new school. They voted 120 to 20 (of 420 eligible voters) to permit the district to float new bonds to finance the construction.

Four Alvarado School District representatives went to Sacramento on Monday, February 24, 1957, to request \$400,000 in state construction funds. The delegation was headed by District Superintendent Leslie Maffey, Wilbert Hendricks, and two representatives from Hale & Jacobson, architects.



Note the old school in the background with the bell tower.

Ground was broken for the new school on December 4, 1957. The first shovel full of earth was turned over by Board Clerk Wilbert Hendricks. On hand to observe the brief noon hour ceremonies were other trustees, William Machado, George Vargas, and school Supt. Leslie Maffey, school employees, architects, and representatives of the contractors.

By August 1958 wrecking crews were tearing down the old Alvarado Grammar School to make way for a new plant being constructed at the rear of the site. The bell tower

that housed the old school bell was the only whole piece of the school that was built in 1924 that was still standing. The archway and bell tower were the next thing on the wrecker's crew to bring down. While wreckers were busy, construction men were hard at work putting up new quarters for Alvarado students. The new school would have 13 classrooms and would open in September.

At the end of August the destruction of the old Alvarado Grammar School was finally completed, and they reached the time capsule placed in the building in 1924. Mr. Leslie Maffey, Principal and Delores Vierra, Secretary opened the capsule and among the major finds was: The class picture of the Fourth and Fifth Grades taught by Charlotte Jung, who still resided in Alvarado, and who had retired in 1950. Among the students in the picture was Wilbert Hendricks, who now heads the school's board of trustees. Another picture in the capsule was the Alvarado girl's baseball team, champs of the Washington Township Girl's League for the years 1922 - 1924.

The new building would also have a time capsule. In addition to the 1958 mementos, the contents of the 1958 capsule would be buried in the concrete base of the monument, which would support the old school bell, which was later sorrowfully stolen from its base.

### **Washington Township Schools:**

The nine elementary schools would present certificates of graduation to 229 students in 1950 as compared to 212 in 1949, and the Washington Union High School would graduate 149 as compared to 145 in 1949.

#### **NAME OF SCHOOL                      NO. OF GRADS 1950**

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Alvarado              | 20  |
| Alviso                | 5   |
| Centerville           | 22  |
| Decoto                | 55  |
| Irvington             | 34  |
| Mission San Jose      | 8   |
| Newark                | 32  |
| Niles                 | 43  |
| Warm Springs          | 10  |
| Washington Union High | 149 |

#### **School Name:                      1950-51                      1951-52                      Pct. Inc/(Dec)**

|                       |     |     |       |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Alvarado              | 213 | 232 | 8.9%  |
| Alviso                | 95  | 102 | 7.4%  |
| Centerville           | 353 | 411 | 16.4% |
| Decoto                | 635 | 893 | 40.6% |
| Irvington             | 334 | 367 | 9.9%  |
| Mission San Jose      | 86  | 97  | 12.8% |
| Newark                | 411 | 459 | 11.7% |
| Niles                 | 566 | 642 | 13.4% |
| Warm Springs          | 96  | 91  | -5.2% |
| Washington Union High | 761 | 728 | -4.3% |

#### **Township School Attendance, May 1955:**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <u>School Name:</u> | <u>Attendance:</u> |
| Alvarado            | 238                |

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Alviso           | --    |
| Centerville      | 1,014 |
| Decoto           | 1,529 |
| Irvington        | 781   |
| Mission San Jose | 411   |
| Newark           | 1,033 |
| Niles            | 756   |
| Warm Springs     | 101   |
| Washington High  | --    |

### **Projected School Growth for 1956 to 1957:**

| <b>School District</b> | <b>'55-56</b> | <b>'56-57</b> | <b>Increase</b> | <b>Pct.</b>  |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Alvarado               | 265           | 300           | 35              | 13.2%        |
| Alviso                 | 93            | 130           | 37              | 39.8%        |
| Centerville            | 1,362         | 1,514         | 152             | 11.2%        |
| Decoto                 | 1,729         | 2,095         | 366             | 21.2%        |
| Irvington              | 1,197         | 1,800         | 603             | 50.4%        |
| Mission San Jose       | 443           | 650           | 207             | 46.7%        |
| Newark                 | 1,283         | 1,500         | 217             | 16.9%        |
| Niles                  | 888           | 1,000         | 112             | 12.6%        |
| Warm Springs           | 115           | 125           | 10              | 8.7%         |
| Washington Union High  | 1,533         | 1,870         | 337             | 22.0%        |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>8,908</b>  | <b>10,984</b> | <b>2076</b>     | <b>23.3%</b> |

### **Other Student News:**

Washington Union High School's "good citizen" of 1955 is Ellen Louie, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Louie Lin of Alvarado. Ellen was named as the local winner of the annual contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. At a meeting of all senior girls, three were nominated by their classmates for the award. A panel of faculty members made the final selection.

An entire program by the Washington Union High School's Dance Band was presented at a student assembly on February 24, 1956. The band, which was directed by William Cook, had played at school dances and rallies and in the annual variety shows. Local talent included in the band were Dino Ciarlo, Alviso; Joseph Monte de Rey, Hillview Crest, and David Brune from Alvarado.

Tino Rangel, Washington Union High School senior from Alvarado, was chosen to receive the first annual "Athlete of the Year" in May 1956. The presentation was made by Judson E. Taylor, Ass't Principal and Rotary member at a meeting of the Niles Rotary Club. The award was sponsored by Len Smith, a former W.U.H.S. athlete, who now operates Len's Sport Shop in Centerville. Rangel's selection was based on several factors besides athletic ability, including "citizenship, scholarship and moral, and inspirational qualities." Rangel has been active in sports since his freshman year. He lettered multi times in football, basketball and baseball. He also served as Junior Class President.

### **Alvarado-Decoto School District Merger:**



As the probable incorporation of Alvarado and Decoto into the City of Union City came closer, thought was being given to the merger of the Decoto and Alvarado School Districts. On July 22, 1958, the Decoto School District's Board of Trustees held a meeting at Barnard School for a large audience of citizens to hear results of a University of California service center study on the feasibility of unification.

If the State Board of Education approves a unification request by September, it would be possible to create a unified district by July 1959, providing local voters approved it. Otherwise unification would be held up until 1960.

So far the Decoto and Alvarado boards had not committed themselves on what form, if any, of unification they favor. But there was strong pressure to merge the two districts into a unified district. It was believed such a merger would boost chances of the area's latest move to incorporate as a separate city.

The County Committee was currently studying other proposals, which would put the two school districts in a unified district with either Fremont's five elementary districts, or in a super district including all of Washington Township.

Whether the Fremont districts and Washington Union High School District, which covers the entire township, would decide to hold off unification for at least another year at the July committee meeting was not yet known. But Newark residents and school trustees were expected to seek a committee vote on creation of a separate Newark Unified District. If Decoto-Alvarado were to join Newark, and the County Committee to recommend formation of the two new unified districts, the Fremont districts could be forced to unify themselves at the same time.

Washington Township school districts were jockeying for position as the unification battle headed for a July 23, 1958 showdown. As matters stood at that time it appeared that the nine elementary districts that make up Washington Union High School would be split up into more than one unified school district unless something drastic happened between then and now.

Although high school trustees had gone on record as opposing any move for unification, except one that included the whole area, bids for "home rule" by individual districts was gaining strength. There had been a noticeable change in attitudes of superintendents since the unification study started a little more than a year ago. Then viewpoints about unification ranged from hot to ice cold.

Now, nearly all superintendents agreed that unification would provide the best education for the tax dollars spent, but they disagree violently on how many unified districts should be formed and when.

Newark School Supt. Jack MacGregor predicted his board would seek a vote of the county committee on school district organization on formation of a separate Newark unified district. He points out that a Newark citizens committee first asked for the unification study after concluding that unification was the best way to give Newark its own high school.

Besides the 11 members of the committee, only Newark and Washington Union High School can vote on the question, and MacGregor felt there was a good chance of succeeding. If the committee recommends unification at the July 23rd meeting, a unified district could be created by next July 1, if Newark voters approve.

On the local front, Decoto and Alvarado Trustees indicated that they might combine to seek an Alvarado-Decoto unified district within the boundaries of the unincorporated Union City area.

### **July 23, 1958 Meeting:**

With help from neighboring educators from the north (northern townships), Washington Township schoolmen voted last night to make one unified district for all schools in Decoto, Alvarado, Newark and Fremont. This proposed district would have to be ratified by the vote of Washington Township people in a special election. Six of the 10 school districts voted against the proposal, but a majority of the Augmented County Committee on School District Organization put the recommendation across 11 – 8.

### **Township Schools:**

A battle of figures started in the wrangle over Washington Township school unification. Union City Chamber of Commerce President Kenneth Garcia took on Centerville School District Supt. Tom Maloney for “misrepresenting the facts” in comparing basic tax rates.

Maloney hit the proposed township unification by claiming it would mean Centerville taxpayers would have to up their \$1.13 tax rate if it merged with the higher priced districts like Decoto, which will charge a rate of \$2.15 for elementary education this year.

Garcia added in the rate charged by Washington Union High School and other school taxes and came up with \$3.17 per \$100 assessed valuation, as Centerville’s total education tax compare with \$3.98 for Decoto. Technically this is true because the tax paid by a unified school district would probably top the total rate paid for all education.

But whether you use a basic tax rate or the total rate, the difference is the same, in this case Decoto pays 80 cents more than Centerville, and will pay about \$1 more next year because of a tax increase. Garcia also maintained that Decoto residents pay more taxes because they offer a better program such as music, shop, recreation and the like.

Maloney on the other hand charged that Decoto residents want to have Fremont residents help support their schools through unification, but are unwilling to help pay city taxes by annexing to Fremont.

Decoto trustees with Alviso, Niles and Washington Union High School voted in favor of unification. The other six township districts, Newark, Centerville, Mission San Jose, Warm Springs, Irvington and Alvarado banded together to beat the proposal.

Protests against unifying Washington Township’s 10 school districts were expected to come thick and fast at a public hearing. County committee members could not change their July 23<sup>rd</sup> vote if they wanted to, since legally their authorization has already been taken and this would only be a procedural meeting.

Wrangling like this is not unusual among the towns of a township-wide matter, as each town looked to get the most bang for their buck. But when all was said and done, we ended with three school districts, New Haven for Alvarado/Decoto; Fremont

Unified for Warm Springs, Mission San Jose, Niles, Irvington, and Centerville; and the Newark District for Newark.

The ten school districts mentioned above were: Alvarado, Alviso, Centerville, Decoto, Irvington, Mission San Jose, Newark, Niles, Warm Springs, and Washington Union High School.

### **James Logan High:**

In the mid 50's it became apparent that Washington Township would suffer run-away growth in the coming decades. Washington Township was the last oasis of open space between super metropolises of Oakland/Hayward north of the Township line and Santa Clara County to the south of the Township line.

In February 1956, J. V. "Pop" Goold, district superintendent, suggested a timetable for a bond issue to finance construction of a second high school in Washington Township, which he hoped would be placed on the fall ballot. The new school was expected to be built in the Decoto area. Once the approval of the bond issue was won, Goold recommended immediate steps be taken to locate and purchase a site.

On May 14, 1957, the Washington Union High School Trustees voted to purchase 49.9 acres of land at \$5,124 an acre for construction of a high school in Decoto. The property, purchased from the estate of Mrs. Jeanette Decoto May, was located on Alvarado-Niles Road and "H" Street.

Now the tug of war began, Washington Union High School had been the reigning power of education over the eight towns in Washington Township since Alameda County had abandoned its policy of allowing certain achieving graduates of local grade schools to choose to attend any high school in the county. For example in the 1890's Nina Dyer, daughter of Ebenezer Dyer, chose to attend Oakland High where she had many friends. Some Alvarado students at this same time (who qualified) chose to attend Hayward High rather than Washington High.

The township's eight towns always felt a togetherness for their sister towns as they would all meld into Washington High. The entire township pupils attended this one high school, including Hillview Crest, about half of Fairway Park, and half of El Rancho Verde, all of whom had been annexed into the City of Hayward, but still had to attend Washington Union High in Centerville.

Now all the towns had to make choices as they were forged into cities with separate governments, but with the same boundary lines. During this period of mass confusion, towns wrestled with the idea of a unified district encompassing the same area as the old Washington Union High School, or looking into unifying certain areas for economy of scale.

The first die was cast by the new City of Newark, who chose to withdraw from Township unified school district and form their own school district. Alvarado, Decoto, Niles, and Alviso Grammar School Districts looked at unifying at one point, but it soon fell apart and the schools eventually settled into the districts we know today, New Haven, Fremont, and Newark.

Next came the thorny issue of splitting students between the new James Logan High School and Washington Union High Schools. Schools receive revenue based on the

number of students who attend classes, hence the more students you keep in your district the more revenue your school received.

In October 1958, Supt. J.V. Goold came up with the recommendation that students within the Alviso, Alvarado, Decoto and Niles elementary district would be sent to the Logan School in Decoto. The administrator estimated enrollment at the Decoto plant would be about 1,100 students. Only freshman, sophomore and juniors would attend the Decoto plant under the plan that would allow senior students finish their terms and graduate from the Centerville school.

This student split would put only 1,100 students at James Logan, which has a capacity for 1,600, and would leave 2,300 students at Centerville. One person who viewed this as unfair commented, "in other words, you would be running one school at two thirds capacity and the other at over-capacity."

Trustees were not entirely satisfied with Goold's proposed split, and instructed the administration to make a detailed study of the districts and the number of students in various classes within each district.

Frank Borghi, from Decoto, mentioned another problem that would be created by having Decoto seniors continue at the Centerville School. He noted that buses would have to bring seniors from Decoto to Centerville, when there would ample room for them in a school virtually in their back yard. Administrators were told to have the detailed study ready for the next board meeting at WUHS.

Eventually these problems would be ironed out and James Logan High School would open in the fall of 1959. The last graduating class of Washington Union High School as a unified body of Washington Township took place in June of 1959.

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\* **MEMORABLE EVENTS** \*  
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**January 1950:**

**Morris Davilla Murder:**

Morris Davilla, 35, of 984 V Street, Alvarado, was found murdered behind the Bear Cat Tavern in Centerville. Joe E. Dutra, brother-in-law to Morris, and owner of the Bear Cat Café, discovered his body. Mr. Davilla was employed at the tavern and had worked that night. Authorities sought an ex-con who was in the bar that night for questioning. Mr. Davilla left a wife, two natural, and two adopted children. His mother, Mrs. Mary Davilla, and four sisters, Mrs. Isabel Menezes, Mrs. Clara Jacinto, Mrs. Mae E. Santos, and Mrs. Genevieve Dutra, survive Mr. Davilla. All are from Alvarado.

Police arrested Robert MacCauley Osborne, 51, and ex-contractor from Richmond who confessed, "I pulled a gun on him and told him I wanted the money. He reached for something under the bar so I shot him." Osborne, the number one suspect in the cold-blooded robbery slaying, had insisted since he gave himself up Friday night that he had been "too drunk to remember anything." Yesterday he prefaced his

confession by telling the interrogating Sheriff's Deputies: "Well I've been thinking this over since last night and I've decided to quit lying."

Students of the Alvarado Elementary School today expressed sympathy for one of their classmates in a practical way. About \$50 was presented in lieu of flowers to the family of Beverly Davilla, 13, adopted daughter of Morris Davilla, who was murdered in a tavern robbery at Centerville. The Student Body Association donated \$25 from the treasury and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, of which Beverly was a member, gave a benefit show to raise the remainder of the money. Students in charge were Frank Corrales, Natalie Cicairos, and Andrew Pimentel.



A.B. Dekidos has a garage known as the Union City Garage at the foot of V Street in Alvarado, which is big enough inside to house a couple of garages in the Township. Really, if you view the four big rooms with brick walls formerly housing the huge pumps, which the water company used in pumping millions of gallons of water daily from below the surface, you would be surprised at the modern touch to modernize it to house a very big business. A tow car is busy pulling in cars, and a repair crew is busy.

Mr. Dekidos Jr.'s brother-in-law, Dr. Bettencourt owned the property. Dr. Bettencourt had also modernized his buildings and homes on V Street and Levee Street, and has shown himself to be a progressive man who has brought an importance to the Alvarado area. Dr. Bettencourt is a dentist in Hayward.

**February 1950:**  
**Marsh Road Bridge:**

The Alameda County Road Department is being requested today by the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce to name the new Marsh Road Bridge in honor of the McKeown family, pioneer settlers of this area. The bridge, to be completed this month, is being built at a cost of \$105,000, and eliminates a low portion of the highway, which is annually closed due to floods.

The first McKeown to settle in Alvarado was Joseph, who came from Ireland in 1855 to establish a carriage shop. He was later joined by his brother, James who eventually became the operator of the 100-acre McKeown ranch located at the corner of Marsh Road and Lowry Road, site of the new bridge.

Three of the children of James still reside on the ranch, Wallace, Nancy, and Flora McKeown, and another daughter, Mrs. Johanna Elizabeth Harvey also lives in Alvarado.



**Dick Andrade Contracts Polio:**

Residents of Alvarado do not have far to look to see the results of their contributions to the March of Dimes, as it works to help polio patients in Washington Township. Due to the organized fight against polio, Henry (Dick) Andrade Jr., has not only recovered sufficiently to continue his school studies at home, but hopes to receive a Washington Union High School diploma in June.

Henry was stricken in November 1948, and spent 29 days in an iron lung at Fairmont Hospital. Eventually after prolonged physical therapy treatment he was able to return home, where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Andrade, had installed all the necessary gadgets to continue his treatment. Henry was a graduate of Alvarado Grammar School. While at high school he was president of the Freshman Class. Henry was known as Dick Andrade to his friends.

#### **April 1950:**

##### **Antone Dutra Passes:**

Antone S. Dutra, born in August 1858, died at his home in Alvarado on the morning of April 20, 1950. Antone S. Dutra was the beloved husband of the late Mrs. Maria Dolores Dutra, and loving father to Mrs. Mary Roderick, Madeline, Frank, Joseph and Manuel Dutra, all of Alvarado, Mrs. Rosie Rose and Antone S. Dutra Jr. of Centerville, Mrs. Della Hendricks of Decoto, grandfather of Leonard Dutra of Alvarado, and great-grandfather to Marlene, Warren, Marylyn and Clifford Rogers of Newark. Antone S. Dutra was a native of Portugal, aged 92 years, and was a resident of the United States for 72 years. Mr. Antone S. Dutra's body will rest in Centerville next to his wife Marie Delores Dutra.



##### **Frank Best Taken by Death:**

Francis (Frank) M. Best died in National City April 11, 1950, at the age of 76. Frank Best was a hunter and a trapper in the early 1900's, when he hunted mountain lions in Idaho and Washington, and also trapped beavers for ranchers in Montana. He spent a number of years working on the R.J. Ringling Ranch in Montana. He also worked in logging drives, riding logs down rivers in Idaho and Washington in the early days.

Frank and his wife, had until recently, lived on the Alvarado Duck Club for 20 years, but due to ill health they both were forced to retire. While living on the club they spent their summers in Idaho and Montana camping and fishing. He was survived by his wife, Bertha, two sons, Ivan best of Alvarado and Lloyd Best of National City. He also leaves a daughter in Montana and a sister in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

#### **May 1950:**

##### **Cicairos Family Numbers 13 Children:**

The proudest mother working on the asparagus pack this year is Mrs. Lucy Cicairos. Lucy is the proud mother of 12 children: Gilbert 17, George 16, Natalie 14, Rita 13, Rosalie 12, Barbara 11, Albert 9, Arthur 7, Daniel 6, Frederick 5, Dorothy 3, and Richard 9 months. Mrs. Cicairos would later add a thirteenth, David.

Mrs. Cicairos believes the larger the family the happier the family. She has no troubles and everyone in her family cooperates. When asked who named them all she said, "I named the first 13, and I want my husband to name the next 12, then we can have a basketball team of 5, a football team of 11, and a baseball team of 9. I cook enough for my whole family," she concluded, "but I have to let the younger ones eat first, and the larger ones eat later. All in all I love kids."

#### **June 1950:**

##### **Ambrose Loyola Service Station:**

Ambrose Loyola, well-known businessman of Alvarado, will take over the management and proprietorship of the Mohawk Gas Station in Alvarado. Mr. Loyola now operates, and has done so for almost four years, the garage at 972 Levee Street, where you can get complete automotive service. He will continue to manage both places as the garage is situated just across the street from the gas station. The station will handle Mohawk gas and oil products, as well as car accessories and general gas station merchandise. Later in the 50's Mr. Loyola would handle "Flying A" gasoline.

**August 1950:**  
**Dr. David Malig:**

Alvarado has a new physician. He is located next to the Alvarado Fire Department in the finest, newest, and up-to-date quarters that any physician would want. It is a new office throughout. The doctor is Dr. David Malig, whose main practice is in San Jose. He speaks Spanish and will prove very valuable to many Spanish speaking residents around here, who will find out that he has a grand standing with our Government as a doctor in the last World War. Dr. Malig, who as we said has his main office in San Jose, will keep office hours in Alvarado on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.



**John Ralph Jr. Retires:**

The closing chapter of one of Alameda County's oldest general merchandising concerns is expected to be written soon, following the announcement by John Ralph, Alvarado's veteran merchant and civic leader that he is planning to retire. The concern has been known to traveling salesman of varied items including hardware, clothing, groceries and practically anything else a household needs, since it was established not long after Alameda County had its first official headquarters at Alvarado in 1853.

The first proprietor was a man named J. J. Stokes. James Johnstone Stokes was born in England in 1816, and arrived in the U.S. in 1829. Mr. Stokes arrived in San Francisco in 1849, and kicked about the mining country in several ventures before settling down in Union City in 1859, and engaged there in merchandising. He moved to Alvarado and purchased the building adjoining his present store, which was destroyed by fire in 1876. In the following year Mr. Stokes built the one that Mr. Ralph now occupies.

Subsequent owners have been I. V. Ralph, uncle of John Ralph, Charles Perry, Ralph & Harvey, the Ellis Brothers, Ralph & Scribner; and for the past few decades John Ralph. Ralph has been active for many years in the Chamber of Commerce, and was also a member of the Fire Commission. He will continue to reside at his home on Vallejo Street, but will spend "more time" at his summer place in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

**November 1950:**  
**West Coast Meat Buys Hellwig Meats:**

The West Coast Meat Company of Castro Valley applied to the Alameda County planning commission for a use permit to operate the old Hellwig Meat Packing plant on the Marsh Road, and the retail market on Maiden Lane, in conjunction with the



slaughterhouse. The permit, filed with the county planning engineer, asks permission to use existing buildings and to build new structures as business expands.

West Coast Meat Company will be moving its Castro Valley operation to Alvarado when the sale of the old Hellwig Meat Company is final. West Coast Meat was put in an untenable situation when a new elementary school was placed in their area, and they were denied permission to expand their Castro Valley plant. The transfer is expected to be completed by next summer.

#### **July 1951:**

##### **Mrs. Vivian Logan Killed by Train:**

Mrs. Vivian Logan, 52, was killed instantly when a train struck her car. Mrs. Logan, a member of a pioneer ranching family here, was killed at a crossing of the Southern Pacific Railroad at Logan Road, located on property owned by the family. She was the wife of Andrew Logan, high school trustee and employee of the Holly Sugar Mill. The location is roughly halfway between Lowry Road and the Hall Station. Friends said that she must have gone over the crossing a thousand times before. Although there are no signals at the crossing, there is an unobstructed view in either direction for hundreds of yards.

#### **March 1952:**

##### **Mrs. Evalene Griffin Eats Bait:**

The old joke about the old fisherman who caught no fish and had to eat his own bait is no joke. Not to Mrs. Evalene Griffin, of San Leandro, who is a fifth grade teacher at Alvarado Grammar School in Alvarado. Mrs. Griffin and her husband are ardent fishers, and they recently returned home almost empty handed from a fishing trip to Rio Vista.

All they had was what was left of the bait. No Fish. But Mrs. Griffin recalled what happened when they stopped en route to Rio Vista to buy bait. They were supplied with frozen prawns.

"My," observed Mrs. Griffin, "these look good enough to eat."

"They are," the salesman, declared, "they're perfectly fresh and plenty good to eat."

And they were too.

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Death Takes Ted Harvey:

The body of Ted Harvey, prominent Alvarado vegetable shipper and rancher, was found about 12:15 p.m. in the hills high above Decoto following a nightlong search by relatives and sheriffs deputies. Harvey, and his son Bobby, 10, had gone fishing Saturday afternoon along Dry Creek, which passes through his ranch. The boy returned home about 5:30 p.m. after the father told him he would be along shortly. When Harvey failed to appear, his wife Margot, and his son searched the hills all day Sunday. The Sheriffs Department was notified about 6:00 p.m. last night and the organized search inaugurated under the direction of Capt. Richard Condon. His body was found alongside the creek where he had fallen after an apparent heart attack. He was found just a short distance from the site of the crash of the United Airline plane last fall, which claimed the lives of 52 persons. A native of Alvarado, Mr.

Harvey was the son of the late Frederick C. (F. C.) and Selma Harvey. Mr. Harvey was the husband of Margot Harvey and father of Eleanor Jeanne, Robert Ingerman, Sarah Sue, Patricia Ann and Frederick Chapman Harvey. Also surviving are his stepchildren Louis and Carole Burns.

June 1952:

Cows Invade Alvarado:

An impromptu cattle round up was staged here yesterday morning when a herd of some 25 cows wandered from their pasture on the Marsh Road, a mile south, and strolled in for a Monday morning look at town. Residents were awakened as the sometimes-galloping herd turned right and left on V Street, wandering wherever they desired. They were rounded up and herded back into their pastures.

September 1952:

Pinto Bros. Band:

From the *Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper:

"If you want to hear some darn good music, then lend an ear to the Pinto Bros. Band, which plays every Saturday night at the SDES Hall in Alvarado. I heard them last Sunday at the Newark Pavilion, and I mean those guys (and the gal at the piano) really do something with those instruments. They played their rendition of "Auf Wiedersehn Sweetheart," and I mean they put all other big time orchestras to shame. Their style was bee-you-tee-full. They play the American and Chamarita dances at Alvarado each Saturday night, and I mean they can really play that Chamarita. They know just how to put the rhythm into it to make it easy to dance to. So drop on down next Saturday night and give'em an ear. (I'll even have to admit that Eddie Manuel, their drummer boy, does a better job of "cutting" at those drum sticks than he's used to doing at meat chopping.)

October 1952:

Elvin Rose Proposed New Downtown Road:

After the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce meeting on Thursday evening, October 16th, Alvarado Fire chief Elvin Rose told of the conditions along Smith Street on the west side, where there is not a single north street from Watkins to Fred Wiegman's. Fred Wiegman's was located north, across the street from New Haven Street, east of the SP railroad tracks.

The reason is because old streets had been allowed to be lost through lack of use. We got the information that a street could be put through alongside the Post Office that would open up a new area, and would put the Post Office prominent on a corner. Elvin Rose owns this abandoned road area, and he made the promise to give the Supervisors a 350-foot length of property for a street extending north from Smith Street. President Warren Silva said he personally would endorse this move for such a new street, and thought the chamber should endorse it also.

This fellow Rose deserves a big cheer for this offer. What if he does sell some lots for home at the end of the street? He has made a big contribution to the importance and development of the new Post Office area. This is always considered a prominent part of any town. Rose went further, he said he would fill in the low parts of the road, but would not go to a big expense in this. We agree with him. Soon Supervisor Stanley is to be asked to attend the next meeting in October, but nothing came of this, and there is still no street lying next to west side of the Post Office.

December 1952:

Mrs. Rigmaiden Retired from Volunteer Work:

Estelle Rigmaiden of Alvarado has volunteered as a Gray Lady. Gray Lady's duties consist of working at Hospital Wards, shopping for the bed patients, and arranging and giving parties. The hours for the volunteers are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. one-day a week. Mrs. Rigmaiden operates Rigmaiden Rooms (formerly the Riverside Hotel), and recently was involved in the purchase of the Presbyterian Church by the Unity Chapel Church of God and Christ, of which she is a missionary.

February 1953:

John Menezes Passes:

John M. Menezes, beloved husband of Isabel, father of Mrs. Alberta Nunes of Centerville and Miss Alice Menezes of Alvarado, passed away on February 5th. A native of the Azores, he was a long time Alvarado resident, local barber, and longtime official of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

March 1953:

Jess Jacinto now Plays in Lubbock TX:

Jess Jacinto, star infielder acquired by the Big Springs Broncos from Lubbock, Texas, has signed his 1953 contract. Jacinto hit .314 for the Lubbock team in the West Texas-New Mexico League play last year. He will probably play second base here. He winters in his hometown in Alvarado, California and will leave there for Texas March 24th.

April 1953:

Alameda County 100 Years Old:

Alameda County is 100 years old today, and so is the town of Alvarado. It was on April 28, 1853 that Governor John Bigler signed the bill that mapped its current boundaries.

May 1953:

Alameda County Centennial Celebrated:

Local preparations for the June 6th Centennial Celebration, and designation of the first County Courthouse building in Alvarado, were taken into the final stages in May 1953 by the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. The Alvarado Chamber would work with the county committee to supply any facilities needed here and to secure a speaker's platform. A committee to obtain decorations was named. On the committee were Manuel Borges, Damaso Diaz, George Vargas and Leslie Maffey. The County Committee members from Alvarado were Warren Silva, John Ratekin and Frank George.

July 1953:

American Pipe & Const. Co. Welcomed to Alvarado:

The Alvarado Chamber of Commerce honored officials of American Pipe and Construction Company during a groundbreaking ceremony for their new \$750,000 Alvarado plant here. Three months of site preparation by East Bay Excavating Company has now been completed and construction is ready to commence on the building between the future freeway and Alquire Road north of Holly Sugar. Manufacturing began on a small scale in the late summer, gradually increasing to full production later next year when the entire present plant at 85th Avenue and San Leandro Boulevard, Oakland, will be transferred to this site.

September 1953:

Simeon Buchanan Passed Away:

Simeon Augustus Dunn Buchanan, 82, died last night in a Hayward Sanitarium where he had been staying during a yearlong illness. Mr. Buchanan, a descendant of a pioneer Alvarado-Newark area family, was a native of Alvarado and was a partner in a general store in Newark for many years with the late supervisor, Ralph Richmond. Following his retirement 20 years ago, he had been living on his farm on Lowry Road, Alvarado. He was the brother of Mrs. Margaret W. Emery, the uncle of Weston B. Emery, Mrs. Orma Decker, all Alvarado natives. He was a bachelor.



"Big Stink" Continues in Township:

Things were at a standstill in the Washington Township stink probe, with the Chamber of Commerce having asked the County Board of Supervisors to investigate. For about two weeks, odors varying in strength from merely nauseating to overpowering, the smell has wafted around Alvarado, Newark, Niles, Centerville and Irvington. A reaction with paint pigments have given a brown stain to many residences, which doesn't add much cheer to the residents. Later the problem would be traced to raw effluent discharged into the Bay by the City of Sunnyvale, and canneries that were emptying their untreated waste into the South Bay.

February 1954:

Hot Rodders Elude Police:

Fifty radio-equipped hot rods apparently made a clean get away late last night as units from the California Highway Patrol and Hayward Police Department converged to assist sheriff's deputies in stopping a hot-rod gathering. Some 200 teenagers, according to the report for help radioed by sheriff's deputies, were racing 50 hot rods up and down the highway on Marsh Road between Alvarado and Newark.

March 1954:

Mrs. Jennie Decoto Passes:

Mrs. Jeanette Decoto May, aged 83, died yesterday in her Alvarado home at 947 Vallejo Street. She was the widow of the late August May, prominent Alvarado banker and pioneer. Mrs. May was the daughter of Ezra Decoto Sr., pioneer settler in this area for which the town of Decoto is named. Mrs. May was well known and loved in Alvarado for social and charity work.

April 1954:

Four Newspaper Now One:

Four Washington Township newspapers were consolidated under one management, according to an announcement made by George Oakes, publisher of the Washington News and the Alvarado Pioneer; and Stuart Nixon, publisher of the Township Register and the Newark Express. The four newspapers, and the Milpitas Star, also published by Oakes, would become one corporation, Washington Township Newspaper Inc. The *Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper would cease to exist.



Polio Vaccine Moves Forward:

In recent action taken by trustees of the Alvarado and Niles school district, the polio vaccine field trials have been approved for primary school children of the district,

subject to the approval of their parents. The vaccine will not be administered to any child without the prior written approval from his parents.

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**Board of Supervisor Wavers over Holy Ghost Permit:**

For 20 minutes Tuesday, the highest governing body in Alameda County, the Board of Supervisors, devoted lengthy and verbose attention to a request from the I.D.E.S. Lodge of Alvarado. The lodge wants permission to hold a parade next month for the annual Holy Ghost festa.

There was no question about whether or not the permit would be granted. It's all a matter of protocol. The supervisors fell to arguing over whether the request should be channeled first to the Sheriff's Department, and, if that department approved it, then on to the supervisors, or vice versa.

The weighty matter was finally left hanging as Supervisors Harry Bartell and Clifford Wixson voted against granting the permit until the sheriff has had a chance to make sure there'll be no traffic jams in Alvarado.

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Seven Newspapers Attend township C of C Meeting:

The Washington Township Chamber of Commerce gulped a collective gulp last night as it sat down to do business with no less than seven newspapers represented. The poised pencils almost outnumbered the eleven C of C members aboard, scribbling notes for the Oakland Tribune, the *Washington News*, the *Niles Register*, the *Hayward Review*, the *Alvarado Pioneer*, the *Newark Express*, the *San Jose Mercury-News Herald* and the *Milpitas Star*. Nothing hot was going on. The coverage indicates that Southern Alameda County is a big and bustling beat.

May 1954:

Mrs. Aurora Lewis "Mother of the Year":

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. Mrs. Mabel Rogers, past mother of the year, and Mrs. Mary Amaral, honorary mother, shared the limelight with Mrs. Lewis.

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**Alvarado Polling Precincts:**

ALVARADO POLLING PLACES:

Precinct 1: Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall, Vallejo Street, Alvarado.

Precinct 2: Firehouse, Alvarado.

Precinct 3: Alviso Grammar School, Alvarado.

**June 1954:**

**Alvarado "Blowing of the Horn":**

If there's one thing Alvaradan's like, it's Alvarado. At a recent meeting of the Washington Township Chamber of Commerce, the talk was sweet (naturally) to the ears of any Chamber of Commerce leader.

The secretary began the meeting with a recent report on the recent county traffic patrol meet at Livermore for school traffic squads. Talk turned to refreshments, and it was reported that Alvarado had been asked to furnish the beans.

The speaker, from Alvarado, waxed eloquent that the Alvarado beans "were the best beans there."

"Further," he added, "all the officials waited for lunch until they brought out the bean pots with the Alvarado label on them, and then they all got hungry, because the Alvarado beans were the best!"

The meeting progressed and the talk turned to the population exodus to California. In general conversation it was agreed that (1) California is the best state; (2) Alameda is the best county. The Alvarado speaker added, "That Alvarado was the best place to live in the county."

All the members from Alvarado agreed they didn't want any mushrooming development like some other areas of Washington Township are seeing. "Alvarado's quieter, and we like it better that way," they all nodded.

Reports went on and the speaker turned to recap a recent Associated Chamber of Commerce meeting in Livermore. He rhapsodized over the dinner, and the quality of the barbequed steak served.

"Was it Alvarado Steak?" came a sarcastic comment from the back of the room.



**November 1954:**  
**Central Bank Now First Western Bank:**

The Central Bank and the San Francisco Bank, which recently became one great bank, will now be known as First Western Bank and Trust Company. The personnel at

all of the offices will remain the same. Nothing will be changed except the name. Within a few years the First Western Bank at Alvarado would close its doors and move to Decoto, leaving Alvarado without a bank for the first time since 1902.

**January 1955:  
Man Drives Car into a Train:**

Manuel L. Barbosa, a barber from San Leandro, and his wife were caught in a dense fog while driving Hiway 17 near Alvarado last night. Barbosa thought he was following the white line around a curve. The line turned out to be a railroad track, where it ran across the road. The car got stuck, the train whistle blew, and Mr. & Mrs. Barbosa fled into the fog. The car was wrecked by a Southern Pacific freight train.



**Death Takes Mrs. Margaret Emery:**

Mrs. Margaret W. Emery, 89, a member of a pioneer family in southern Alameda County, died January 31<sup>st</sup> in Oakland. Mrs. Emery was the wife of the late Orman J. Emery. She was survived by her children, Mrs. Howard O. Decker, of Concord, and Weston B. Emery of Alvarado. Mrs. Emery resided in Alvarado on Smith Street for many years.

**February 1955:  
Farms Start Disappearing into Subdivisions:**

How long can farmers hold out in the fast developing Southern Alameda County suburban area? Farmers themselves kicked the subject around and came out confused. An Alvarado farmer said there wouldn't be an acre to harrow in five years. Another suggests a poll by the Farm Bureau to determine how many farmers want to convert to real estate and get out.

But it took a couple of local ladies to suggest: (a) some farmland should be preserved in order for our future children to remember what a cow looks like, and (b) green fields furnish healthy surroundings and in case of disaster, an open space for dispersal of city residents.

Consensus: They'll beat many a plowshare into a patio ornament before 1960.



**Decoto Subdivision Wants into City of Hayward:**

Backers of the Treeview Annexation to Hayward were today mapping plans for a concentrated drive to obtain voters signatures on petitions beginning March 4<sup>th</sup>. That date, 21 days from the publication of legal notices, is the first day petitions calling for an election on the annexation issue can be circulated legally.

The proposed annexation, largest in history, would add 2,400-acres or half of Hayward's present size to the city, if successful. Signatures of 25 percent of the registered voters will bring the issue to a vote. A simple majority will pass it.

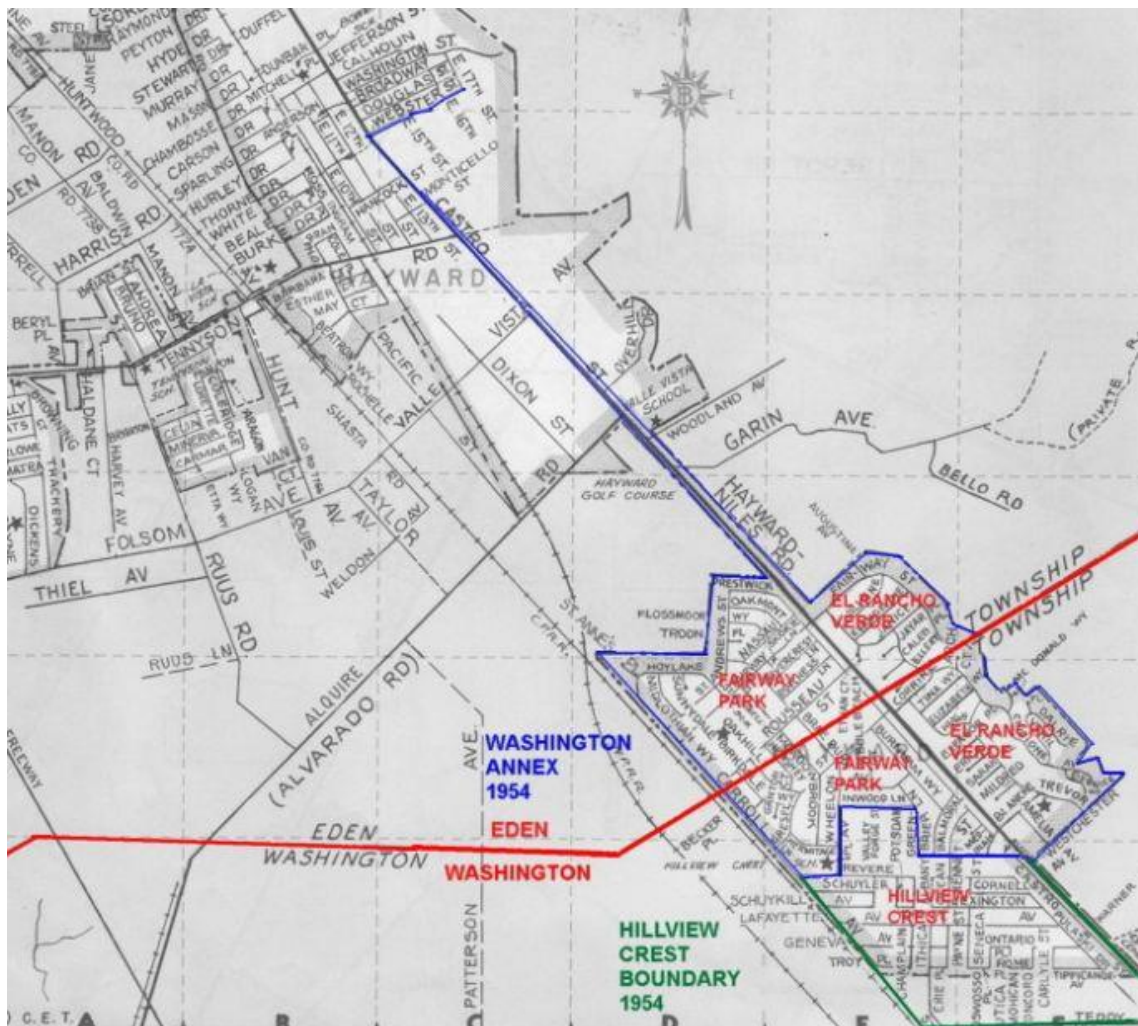
The area in question includes Hillview Crest, the only densely populated part, and hundreds of acres of industrial and undeveloped land. It reaches from Hayward south to the edge of Decoto and Alvarado and west to the end of Arden Road.



### **Township to Fight City of Hayward Land Grab:**

Washington Township communities will organize a united front against Hayward's proposed annexation plan at a meeting. Delegations from the Centerville, Irvington, Niles, Decoto and Alvarado Chambers of Commerce would join together at a strategy meeting at 8:00 p.m. in the Alvarado School auditorium.

The Irvington and Niles chambers adopted a resolution opposing Hayward's announced intention to annex four square miles north of Decoto and east of Alvarado. The Centerville Chamber had voted its opposition earlier. The land Hayward is trying to annex is just north of Whipple Road in the area known as the Hillview Crest subdivision and a block of land north of Hillview Crest.



This map shows the first Washington Township property annexed by the City of Hayward. It involved the Hillview Crest housing tract, and a stretch of open land west to Baumberg. Note the red line dividing the townships. Hillview Crest is totally within Washington Township, but with annexation Hillview would belong to the City of Hayward. However, Hillview would still be within Washington Township, and that is where real estate tax dollars for schooling would go. Hillview Crest families would be in the City of Hayward, but their children would still be schooled within the Washington Township School District.

This would cause ill feelings between the Hayward School District and the Decoto School District for decades as they jockeyed back and forth for the control of the students in the disputed territory. But the

final effect was that students were assigned by township lines and not by city lines. So students of the Hillview Crest School would continue to be schooled in Washington Township Schools.

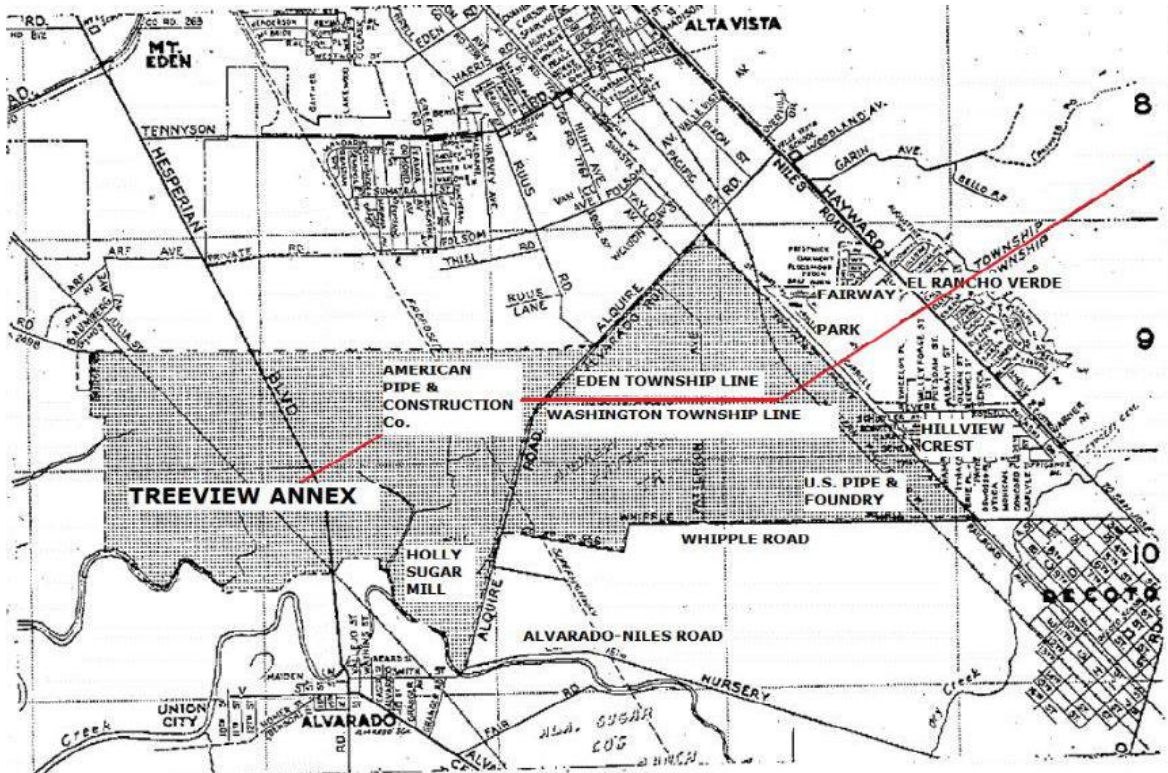
Industry is the unknown quantity on which depends the success or failures of the proposed Treeview annexation to Hayward, Washington Township residents were told at a meeting of directors of the Chambers of Commerce. Also at the meeting were the Alvarado Sanitary District directors, and the representatives of the fire districts of Alvarado and Decoto. The meeting was held at the Decoto Fire Station.

The land grab by Hayward intrudes into the space of Washington Township, giving the City of Hayward property in both Eden and Washington Townships. This means that people who would eventually reside in the City of Hayward, would have children that were within the confines of Washington Township and would attend Washington Township schools, and not Hayward schools.

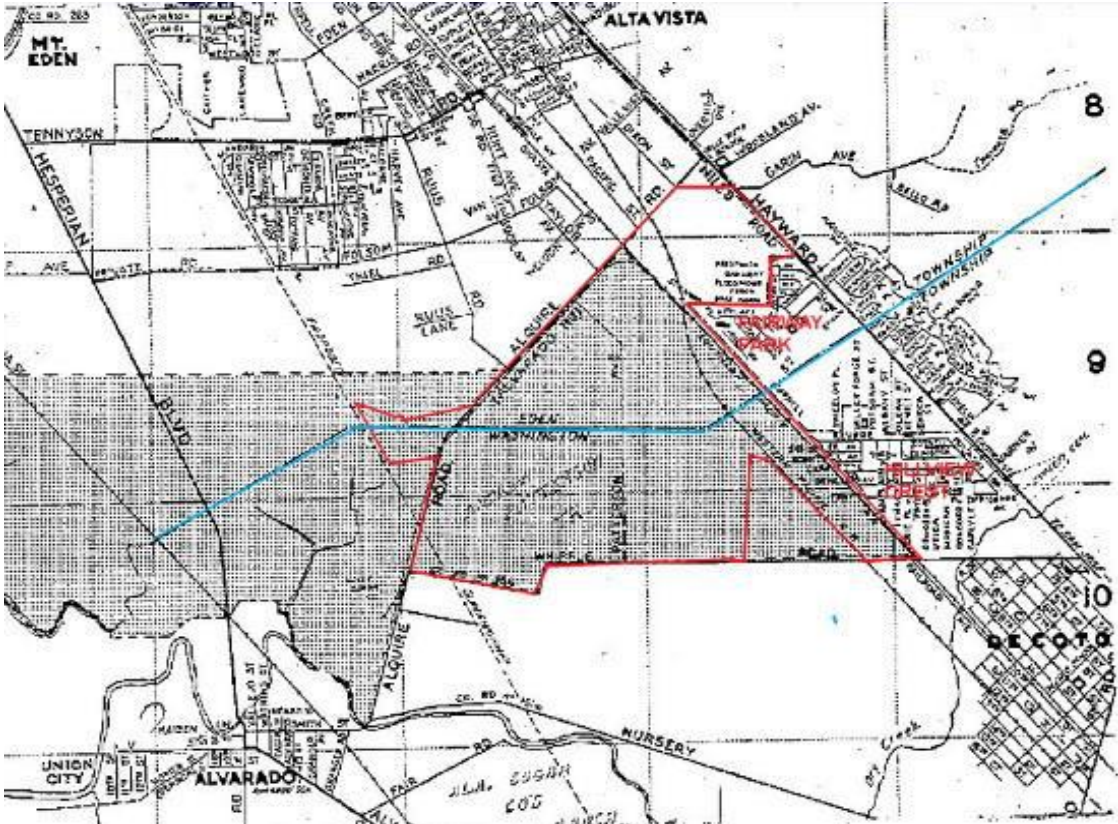
This caused ill feelings over the disputed land for decades after the City of Hayward had grabbed the land. Originally all of the eight towns in Washington Township swore their allegiance to combating the octopus from the north. But behind closed doors, the other six towns hurried their effort to incorporate to save themselves and their land from the City of Hayward.

Fremont was incorporated and soon joined Hayward in the effort to take Alvarado and Decoto, either piecemeal or whole. But Alvarado and Decoto had several allies that came to their aid, the U.S. Pipe & Foundry, the Holly Sugar Mill, and the Pacific States Steel backed the efforts of Alvarado & Decoto to form the City of Union City.

Their initial efforts were so successful that the City of Hayward backed off their original annex plan and resubmitted a new annex plan.







The map of the original Treeview Annex (topmost) taking in the U.S. Pipe and Foundry in Decoto, the American Pipe Company and the Holly Sugar Mill in Alvarado. But such a furor arose over Hayward taking over Township industry that Hayward backed off from their original claim and came back with a small grab as shown in the lower map. The new annex left out U.S. Pipe and Foundry on Whipple Road, as evidenced by the large wedge shown on Whipple Road just west of the railroad tracks. This left U.S. Pipe in Washington Township. Likewise the new plan also cut taking the Holly Sugar Mill on Alquire Road. Hayward did grab American Pipe as is evidenced by the finger that reaches out next to The Nimitz Freeway. American Pipe did want Hayward to annex them.

The battle of Alvarado/Decoto vs. the City of Hayward & Fremont would rage on for four years.

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Machinery for New Milpitas Ford Plant:

A 90-truck caravan moving equipment, from the 25-year old Ford assembly plant in Richmond, began arriving in the Hayward area on route to the huge new Ford assembly plant in Milpitas (today's Great Mall of the Bay Area in Milpitas). The gigantic move left Richmond at 6:00 p.m. and followed a 51-mile route down the Eastshore Freeway and Highway 17 via San Lorenzo, Mt. Eden, Alvarado, Centerville, Irvington and Warm Springs.

Washington Township learned a lesson here. The Township could have well been the recipient of this new plant, but because it lacked the infrastructure to handle an industrial plant of that size, the Township was bypassed.

May 1955:

Mrs. Shestack Injured at Train Crossing:

Mrs. Laverne Shestack, 27, 1021 Granger Road, Alvarado, and her two sons, Randolph, 7, and Douglas, 4, were injured when they were waiting for a Western Pacific train to pass in Irvington. They were rammed from the rear end and pushed into the path of the oncoming train. The driver of the beer truck that hit Mrs. Shestack, said that he did not see the signal. Mrs. Shestack is the President of the Alvarado School PTA and is active in civic affairs.

June 1955:

Train Crossing at Hall Station Takes Another Life:

A southern Pacific freight train smashed into a truck fully loaded with Peter Paul Mounds and Almond Joy candy bars. The impact of the collision scattered candy bars for a mile along the tracks. The truck driver, Leo Murphy of Pasadena, California was apparently killed instantly. The accident occurred at the Hall Station crossing. The train wigwag signals at the Hall Station were apparently working at the time of the accident, but the driver apparently did not see them.

Many motorists and local residents gathered armfuls of candy bars. Those that arrived first retrieved full cases of candy.



Emil Burr Passes:

Emil Willard Burr, 85, member of a pioneer family and Southern Alameda County civic leader died yesterday at his home. He was the grandson of E. W. Burr, the first mayor of San Francisco. In 1899, he was appointed Superintendent of the Alameda Sugar Co. mill in Alvarado, where for many years he was active in Washington Township social and civic affairs, having served as trustee for Washington Union High School and Alvarado Elementary School.

July 1955:

Peter Lowrie Passes Away:

Peter Lowrie Decoto, descendant of the prominent township family, died July 6th in Oakland. He was 86 years old. He was a farmer and longtime resident of Decoto. For the last three years he had lived in the August May residence on Vallejo Street in Alvarado, with his sister, Mrs. Janet Decoto August May. Peter was the last Washington Township member of the pioneer family, which founded the town and whose name he bore. Decoto was a native of the township> He was the son of Ezra Decoto Sr., who with his two brothers purchased, in 1867, the land that would become the community of Decoto. Peter L. Decoto's brother, Ezra Jr., served as District Attorney of Alameda County in the 1920's. Peter was a long time resident of Decoto, but had also been an active member of many Alvarado social clubs and was well known in town.

August 1955:

Death Calls Mrs. Willa Jane Hellwig:

Mrs. Willa Jane Hellwig, 75, widow of the late Supervisor George P. Hellwig of Alvarado, died Thursday in Whittier, where she had made her home since the death of her husband in 1948. A Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, California Chapter in 1931, she was active in the Orient Chapter work here. Mrs. Hellwig had been ill for two months. Her late husband served as Supervisor from the First District (of Alameda County) from 1937 to 1944. Both Mr. & Mrs. Hellwig were longtime residents of Alvarado.



Alvarado:

(From *The Tribune's* Editorial Pages)

Editor: Shades of the Great Señor Alvarado:

"The city of Alvarado in South Alameda County has always held some historical interest. It's a sort of first or a last town on the way to San Jose depending which way one travels. Having traveled it by horse, as well as by motor, one can over the years call towns like Alvarado old friends.

Now, one can't stand the thought of an old friend getting seedy. For some time now fallen buildings grace the main street, and no one seems to want to pick them up. How about it friend Mayor? How about a "fallen building" bee?
W. G. P. Blumert, Oakland"

September 1955:

New Cucumber Harvester:

The cucumber farmer may soon see his crops harvested with laborers picking the annual crop on their stomachs. An experimental cucumber harvester with a 12 row picking capacity, employing a crew of 13 men, was placed into operation near Alvarado recently on the Joe Soares ranch. The farm implement consists of two wings operated through hydraulics, which lowers 12 men, six on each wing, down to about 15 inches from the ground, and the 12 men pick the cucumbers and place them on a conveyor just under them. The machine is capable of picking 4,000 pounds per acre per hour.



Alvarado:

(From *The Tribune's* Editorial Pages)

Editor: Shades of the Great Señor Alvarado:

"Congratulations to the enterprising citizens of the town of Alvarado. Recently I wrote about the "fallen buildings" on the main street, but lo' and behold, they've been cleared away, and good old Alvarado is joining the march of progress which is so evident in the South Alameda County.

There is a great future ahead for that area. Let's hope a real Master Plan is being evolved and followed while there is still time. We have to look to the present board of supervisors for statesmanship, recent repetitions of mistakes made in the past when place and areas just grew like Topsy.
W. G. P. Blumert, Oakland"

October 1955:

Henry Patterson Taken by Death:

Henry H. Patterson, whose father laid the foundation of the famous Patterson Ranch in 1851, died last Friday in the family home where he was born 77 years ago. Patterson's father, George W. Patterson came to California in 1849. He settled in Southern Alameda County two years later, and began acquiring property, including the Spanish Land Grants that became the keystone of the many thousands of acres Patterson held in this area. The ranch owned by Patterson, and his brother William, is believed to be the largest still held by its pioneer owners in Alameda County. Mr.

Patterson was instrumental in the opening of the Bank of Alvarado, and was on the Board of Directors for many years. He is survived by his wife Sarah, whom he married in 1913.

February 1956

Alvaradans Tired of Floods:

Rain soaked citizens of Alvarado called for a mass meeting at the Riverside Hotel to explore ways to keeping water out of their land. A spokesman said, "We are calling this meeting because the county doesn't seem to be allowing any money to build levees here. We're getting tired of having our yards full of water all of the time." The spokesman urged residents of Smith Street, especially, to attend. One of the plans that were expected to be put forward involves property owners putting up their own money to rebuild the levees.

April 1956:

Death Takes Mrs. Annie Whipple Meyer:

Mrs. Annie Whipple Meyer, 87, whose grandparents crossed the plains in a covered wagon, was buried with four generations of her family in Cypress Cemetery in Decoto. Mrs. Meyer was born in Alvarado, but lived in Decoto until 1914, when she moved to Oakland. Mrs. Meyer's father-in-law owned the property where Hillview Crest was built. Her husband, Frederick Meyer, worked for Central Bank for 20 years.

May 1956:

Mrs. Nina Dyer Washburn Passes:

Mrs. Nina Dyer Washburn, 77, whose father, Ebenezer Herrick Dyer, established the first commercially successful sugar beet processing mill in the United States at Alvarado, passed away Tuesday. Nina was born and raised in Alvarado, but attended High School in Oakland. She married Fred Washburn and moved to San Francisco.

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**35¢ Theft Draws 6-Months in Jail:**

The theft of seven pop bottles worth 35¢ drew six months sentences for two Alvarado men yesterday in Washington Township Justice Court. Albert Escandon and Mike Vigil were placed on two years probation and sentenced to 180 days in Santa Rita Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, although the formal charge was petty theft, Manuel Priego, 1090 Levee Street, Alvarado, explained he only pressed charges so that the two men could receive treatment as alcoholics. The pair lived in a trailer on Watkins Street, Alvarado.

**June 1956:**

**Gas War:**

The Oakland and Southern Alameda County area has a gas war on their hands. Gas at local stations is selling as much as 8 cents a gallon less than last week. Ethyl is 28.9 cents per gallon and regular is 25.9 cents per gallon.

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County Fair "Union City Day":

Many local folks attended the Alameda County Fair at Pleasanton Monday; it was "Union City Day." From Alvarado were:

Mr. & Mrs. Serafin Noia
Mrs. Mabel Rodgers
Donald Martin
Carol Andrade

Carol Noia
Mae Santos
Isabel Martin
Rose Tenorio

Kathy Silva
Tony Alexander
Elaine Pinto

November 1956:
Home Mail Delivery Sought:

The Union City Chamber of Commerce members will learn tonight what steps must be taken for a city to receive home mail delivery. Manuel Lewis of the Fremont Post Office will explain the minimum qualifications of a city to receive home delivery. Alvarado and Decoto residents must now pick up their mail at the Post Office.

December 1956:
Cold Temperature:

The temperature dipped down to 28 degrees in Alvarado last night, December 19th.

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**Eagles May Look at Selling Eagles Hall:**

Members of the Alvarado Eagles Aerie No. 1695 were urged to attend a special meeting at 8:30 p.m. January 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the possibilities of selling the Eagles Hall (former IOOF Hall and Armory during the Civil War) in Alvarado, or moving to a new location.

**January 1957:**  
**Beverly Ratekin Queen of Job's Daughters:**

Miss Beverly Ratekin, daughter of J. A. Ratekin of Alvarado, has been recently installed as queen of Centerville Job's Daughters. The installing officer was Mrs. Renee Stiarwalt of Alvarado.

**February 1957:**  
**Young Hostesses Sought for Nike Base and Parks Air Force Base:**

Young women from the Alvarado area were needed for hostessing duties at nearby military installations. Girls of all nationalities, from 17 years of age and up, could sign up as hostesses with duties taking them to the Alvarado site of the NIKE Base, and to Parks Air Force Base in Pleasanton. Recreational events, birthday parties, and special social events are attended at Parks. Transportation is furnished by the military for duties at the air base. Senior chaperone is Eugenia Preciado of "W" Street in Alvarado.

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Angel Ledesma Fine Boxer:

The little town of Alvarado has the biggest heavyweight threat on tonight's 40-bout Golden Gloves program in San Francisco's Civic Auditorium. Angel Ledesma, 18-year old scrapper, is reputed to be one of the heaviest punchers to come along in the amateurs in several years. He will fight James Head of Oakland in one of this evening's eight heavyweight fights.

April 1957:

Alvarado Club Wins Volleyball Championship:

The Bolo Athletic Club of Alvarado emerged as champion of the Newark Recreation Dept. Invitational Volleyball Tournament. Players on the Bolo team who made it possible to walk off with the trophy were:

Frank Sacramento	Jim Galanida	Ricky Sibonga
Joe Llanto	John Agraviador	Bud Custodio
Bromeo Moga	Len Villarante	



Alvarado Home Only 8-Feet from new Freeway:

The State Division of Highways told John and Marilyn Silva that the new freeway coming through Alvarado would miss their house by a full eight feet, so why the fuss? The Silva's think eight feet from the freeway is too darn close for comfort and safety and told the state they'll go to court, if need be, to prove their point. They may not have to now. Two drunk-driving farm hands came barreling down Whipple Road the other night, missed a turn, crossed the freeway right of way and slammed into the Silva house, knocking the big front porch clean off.

August 1957:

Alvarado Bank Robbery:

A bank manager who kept cool after bandits locked him and five others in the vault. Walter Oakey II was credited with saving six lives, including his own, after the robbers fled with \$40,000. Walter H. Oakey II, Manager of the Alvarado Branch of the First Western Bank, was preparing to dismiss his three employees and close for the day Friday when two bandits, armed with a .32 automatic, and a nickel plated revolver, entered. They forced Oakey at gunpoint to empty \$6,000 from three teller windows. Then they herded him, his three co-workers, and two customers into the vault. After rifling the vault of more than \$30,000, the bandits slammed the door. The six victims faced the prospect of remaining there over the Labor Day weekend with only 10 hours of air. Oakey pulled two alarm switches inside the vault he had been able to reach while under the close scrutiny of the bandits. Half an hour later Donald E. Mayers, Manager of the bank's Niles Branch nearby, arrived. Oakey, shouting at the top of his lungs gave him the vault combination number by number through the locked vault door.



Crop Duster Crashes:

You can't keep a good man down, especially a crop duster pilot; and pilot Wes Leneville, 38, of San Jose is living proof of this. His plane's engine conked out while he was dusting crops along Fair Ranch Road in Alvarado. When he tried to land, the plane struck soft dirt and nosed over. While police and ambulances rushed to the scene to pick up the pieces, Leneville calmly got out, enlisted the aid of spectators to help right his undamaged plane, and nonchalantly took off to resume his dusting.

November 1957:

Frances Robie Called by Death:

Mrs. Frances Rebecca Robie died in Newark November 11th at the age of 90. She was the beloved wife of the late Russell 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, the First Presbyterian Church, the Women of Woodcraft, the Toyon Branch of the Children's Hospital, and the clerk of the Alvarado Board of Trustees for 35 years.

January 1958

Ken Garcia Lead UC C of C Meeting:

In a dual role as a Fireman and President of the Union City Chamber of Commerce, Kenneth Garcia greeted the crowd, which gathered in Alvarado School's auditorium to discuss the annexation-incorporation issues, then ruled there'd be no smoking during the meeting. The reason for refraining, as courteously outlined by Mr. Garcia, included the advanced age of the building, problems of ventilation, and the danger of marring the well-polished floor. This said, Mr. Garcia suddenly became aware of smoking curling roof-ward from a cigarette held in his very own hand, glanced around, eyed the floor briefly, then, shrugging his shoulders resignedly, stuffed the cigarette into his own pocket.

February 1958:

Alvarado Street Name Changes:

Because of many conflicting names of streets in Southern Alameda County some street names were changed in Alvarado. In the adoption of the new names, names with local historical significance were given priority. The changes are:

Alvarado Street Names Changed:

Beard Street to Tay Avenue
Granger Road to New Haven Street
10th Street to Veasy Street
15th Street to Bulmer Street
17th Street to Brooklyn Street
19th Street to Brier Street
"V" Street to Horner Street
"W" Street to Marsten Avenue
Alvarado Street to Fredi Street

An unnamed road adjoining Baker Road would now be known as Baker Road

Whipple Road (the dog leg) would be changed to Amaral Court and Amaral Street

The Mt. Eden-Alvarado Road from the Hayward City limits to the Alameda Creek will be Hesperian Boulevard. The Mt. Eden-Alvarado Road south of the Alameda Creek would be renamed Union City Boulevard. Levee Street in Alvarado would become Union City Boulevard. The Marsh Road would also be named Union City Boulevard to just over the bridge at Lowry Road.

Hop Ranch Road (unofficial) will be Hop Ranch Road (official)

The Alvarado-Centerville Road heading south from the old New Haven Street at the Alvarado School south to the East Shore Freeway (I-880) Interchange south of Lowry Road would become Alvarado Boulevard.

The Alvarado-Centerville Road south of Horner Street (at Vallejo Street) will become Horner Street to the closure of the street at Alvarado School.

May 1958:

Campbell Chain Plant Going Up:

Work is in progress on the \$2 million Campbell Chain plant just north of Alvarado on Union City Boulevard and the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. The 150,000 square foot plant, first in what may become an integrated heavy industrial park is scheduled for completion early next year. A group headed by Abe Doty had purchased the 160 acres on each side of the railroad and has gathered capital to lease or sell plants.



Alvarado Zoning Plan:

A master plan to keep Alvarado from becoming "another Emeryville" was under study by a five-man committee appointed by the Union City Chamber of Commerce. Alvarado School Superintendent Leslie H. Maffey was named Chairman. Other members were Fred Brown, John Ratekin, Damaso Diaz, and Maurice Cox. The idea of the master plan is to create a balanced community desired by residents, Maffey said. The committee will work with county planners and residents in mapping out new land uses, he asserted.



June 1958:

Bank Alarm Sends Police Scurrying:

A man up a pole had sheriff deputies up a tree scurrying for what, if any, bank had been robbed. An "intermittent" alarm, too faint to be pinpointed, sent the law dashing in at least seven directions, checking banks in Irvington, Centerville, Newark, Niles and Alvarado. It was Deputy Walt Cordon who discovered the source of the alarm; a lineman on a pole behind the First Western Bank in Alvarado had his wires crossed.

October 1958:

Union City Tow:

Union City Tow Company operator, A.B. Dekidos would file suit against the city of Fremont to back up his claim he doesn't need a Fremont City business license. This is the second step in the action that started last Friday when the Fremont district attorney's office issued a criminal citation against Dekidos for continuing to operate in Fremont without a business license.

The citation was never served because Dekidos' attorney made a last minute contact with Dep. District Attorney Bill Ahern and had the arrest warrant recalled. His attorney, Harold Abram of Oakland, said the counter action would be filed in the "very near future."

Dekidos, long at odds with Fremont Police and deputy sheriffs over the "rotation system" on accidents, declared he is no longer interested in having his name on the rotation list. He charges the system "never did work out for me. I've monitored the radio and can prove there were several times when my turn came up and I wasn't called."

DeKidos contends that he is licensed by the state, and that he operates his business from his Veasy Street home in Alvarado, which is outside Fremont city limits and jurisdiction.

"All I want is the right to pick up and deliver cars in the city and be able to respond when someone involved in an accident specifically asks for me," he asserts. Dekidos added that he stopped taking out business licenses this year "because I was paying \$50, and it wasn't doing me a bit of good." In the meantime, DeKidos trucks continue to be a familiar sight chugging around Fremont's streets.

January 1959

George Vargas Withdraws From Race:

George I. Vargas announced that he is withdrawing from the race for the Union City City Council. He is asking his supporters to shift their votes to the other six Alvarado candidates on the ballot. He hopes this move will give Alvarado a better chance for representation on the council if the incorporation measure passes. There are still 14 candidates in the race with eight from Decoto.

January 13, 1959 – 11:59:59:

This is the date and time of the last official second of the town of "Old" Alvarado's existence on earth. At 12:00:00 it became known as the Alvarado District of Union City. Goodbye "Old Alvarado."

January 14, 1959 – 12:00:01:

Hello Union City. Here are the particulars:

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

City Council:

Tom Kitayama, 35	701 Votes	Alvarado Nurseryman
J. A. Ratekin, 57	654 Votes	Supt. Holly Sugar Co. Alvarado
Joseph J. Seoane, 41	574 Votes	Decoto Chemical Worker
Oscar Dowe, 51	571 Votes	Decoto steel plant executive
Joe Lewis, 65	428 Votes	Retired oil company worker



Betty Bielar Robert Harvey David Brune Donna Sacramento



Hortense Preciado John Villegas Anthony Gualco Helen Moore

Pictured above are the last eight students from Alvarado Grammar School to graduate from Washington Union High School. This is the Alvarado Grammar School class of 1955, and the Washington Union High School Senior class of 1959.

In June 1955 the Alvarado Grammar School graduated 18 students, but only eight of those students graduated from the Alvarado School. After June 1959 Alvarado students graduated from Logan High. In 1960 the Alvarado elementary students would now go to and graduate from Logan High School in Decoto.

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Goodbye old Alvarado, as long as one of your sons or daughters are still alive, then Old Alvarado will be remembered.

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How did Union City get its name?

OK, so just how did Union City get its name?

The Oakland Tribune offered this explanation:

Now who had the imagination to suggest that the old name, Union City, be given to the new Union City? Well, years ago (1955), a meeting was held in Alvarado to discuss the possible incorporation of Alvarado and Decoto, and what name would this city carry?

“What shall we call it?” someone asked.

Gladys Williamson, the Washington Township correspondent for *The Oakland Tribune* was present to cover the meeting, had an inspiration. She poked Andrew Logan, who was seated next to her and said, “Andy, suggest they use Union City because of its historical connotations.”

Andy did.

And they did.

And that is how Union City got its name.

Gladys Williamson was a noted Washington Township historian who wrote for the *Tribune*. Andy Logan was the son of James Logan, and longtime Washington Union High School Trustee.

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