

**THE HISTORY OF CENTERVILLE**  
**CHAPTER 09**  
**1930 to 1939**

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\* **DEMOGRAPHICS** \*  
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Centerville demographics are based entirely upon where you were born and these simple rules.

If you were born in a foreign country then you are classified as "Foreign Born" under the country of your nativity.

If one or both of your parents were "Foreign Born" then you are a first generation you are classified as "1<sup>st</sup> Gen US Born."

If your parents were both born in foreign countries, but not the same country, then the first generation born is assigned the father's foreign country. For example, if your father was born in Portugal and your mother was born in Ireland, then I would consider you a first generation Portuguese.

If both of your parents were born in the US then you are considered as being of US descent.

1930 saw the following major changes in demographics: The biggest loser in population percentage was the Portuguese who declined from 54% to 31 of the population. This was due to the maturing of their population transitioning from Portuguese to Americans. The largest gainers were the Japanese from 7.4% to 13.1%, the Filipinos from .1% to 3.0%, and the Mexicans from .3% to 2.2%.

1930 Centerville Demographics				
Country	Foreign Born	1st Gen U.S. Born	Total	Percent of Total
Austria		2	2	0.15%
Canada	10	17	27	1.99%
China	9	10	19	1.40%
Costa Rica		2	2	0.15%
Denmark	5	10	15	1.10%
England	5	19	24	1.76%
France	2	5	7	0.51%
Germany	6	26	32	2.35%
Greece	1	1	2	0.15%
Holland	1	4	5	0.37%
Ireland	7	20	27	1.99%
Italy	8	6	14	1.03%
Japan	76	102	178	13.09%
Mexico	21	9	30	2.21%
Norway		11	11	0.81%
Philippines	34	7	41	3.01%
Portugal	254	166	420	30.88%
Puerto Rico	4	10	14	1.03%
Russia	3	2	5	0.37%
Scotland	1	6	7	0.51%
Spain	1	1	2	0.15%
Sweden		2	2	0.15%
Switzerland	10	6	16	1.18%
Syria	2	1	3	0.22%
U.S. Born	455		455	33.46%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>1360</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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**\* BIOS \***

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*Dr. George Holeman / Manuel J. Bernardo / Allen G. Norris / Tom Maloney / Frank and Elsie Madruga / Albert J. Rathbone / Ernest J. Pimentel / Thomas Silva Sr. / John Vernon (JV "Pop") Goold / Joseph Jason / Miss Elsie Marie Sandholdt / Allan Walton /Manuel W. Lewis / Harold DeLeon / Dr. W.L. (William Luther) McWhirter / Loren C. Marriott / Williams Brothers / Washington Union High School / Centerville Grammar School / Farming / Social & Civic Clubs / Businesses in the News / Water / News Notes About Town / Personal Events*

**Dr. George Holeman:**

George Holeman was born in Iowa circa 1890. He graduated from the Polytechnic High School in Riverside and then attended Stanford University. He married Estelle Buckley from San Francisco on November 16, 1920 in Portland Oregon.

Just prior to 1930 they arrived in Centerville where Dr. Holeman opened a general practice physician's office. In 1930 they had an eight year old daughter Antoinette and a three month old son George.

Dr. Holeman was very active with the Centerville Lions having been a charter member of the organization along with Judge Allen G. Norris, Harold De Leon, F.F. Botelho, Jesse Regli, Loren Marriott, Frank Madruga, Chick Santos, and Joseph Jason. Besides the Lions Club Dr. Holeman was associated with the Centerville 4-H Club, the annual March of Dimes campaign, and the Centerville Boy Scouts.

Following discontinuance of the school nursing service by the County Health Department in October 1935 the school board hired Dr. George Holeman to attend to all injuries sustained by the football squad during practice or games.

Mrs. Holeman was active in the St. James Guild and the Episcopal Church.

After 1945 there were no further entries found for the Holeman family.

### **Manuel J. Bernardo:**

Manuel J. Bernardo was born in Washington Township on April 14, 1887. His parents were farmers in Centerville and both were from the Azores. Manuel had two brothers, Joseph and Frank, and a sister Mary.



Manuel J. and Mary Bernardo were married circa the beginning of 1910 and had six children: four sons; Joseph, Raymond, Eugene and Stanley; and two daughters Eleanor and Bernice. Two sons were lost in WW2: Their son Joseph died in Luzon, Philippines on July 11, 1942 and their youngest son Stanley died in Germany in March 1945, receiving the Bronze Star for bravery posthumously.

Manuel was a leader in the apricot farming business of Washington and Eden Townships. He helped organize and was the first president of the Alameda County Apricot Growers Association, an organization which sought fair prices for farmers in the canning and drying of apricots.

Besides farming Manuel was a Washington Township Constable in 1928 but was replaced when the position became appointed rather than elected. He was also, for a time, the Roadmaster for Centerville.

Centerville and Newark planned a sanitary district to improve health standards for the two towns. But it was tough going and after a few years it finally came to a vote in March 1926. In that month M.J. Bernardo was elected as one of the directors of the Union Sanitary District to serve both Centerville and Newark. The directors had been voted in but the bond measure was soundly defeated in Centerville and failed although Newark voters approved the bonds. The bonds were eventually voted in and Manuel

served the Union Sanitary District for many decades. In 1960 he dedicated the USD treatment plant in Fremont after 42 years of service to the district.

In 1942 Manuel was elected as a director of the Alameda County Water Department. In 1945 he served as president of the Alameda County Farm Bureau, and he also served on the Board of Trustees of Washington Union High School.

Manuel and Mary Bernardo were long time members of the U.A.O.D. #169 of Centerville (the Druids) and both were very active in the lodge. Manuel was also a member of the following lodges: S.E.S Lodge #8, U.P.E.C. #5, charter members of the I.D.E.S. Lodge #1, the Eagles Lodge, and he was an honorary member of the Joseph S. Bernardo Post #8293 VFW.

Manuel's wife Mary preceded him in death and Manuel remarried. Mrs. Blanche Bernardo was the surviving wife of Manuel J. Bernard when he passed on January 21, 1971.

### **Allen G. Norris:**

Allen G. Norris was the grandson of Garrett and Johannah Norris who arrived in Centerville in 1854. Their son, Joseph D. Norris, was the father of Allen G. Norris, who was born circa 1901. Allen graduated from Washington Union High School in 1919 and then went on to law school at Berkeley. Allen graduated from Berkeley with a law degree and in November 1926 he was voted Justice of the Peace for Centerville defeating Benjamin Mickle.

Allen had other interests than just law at this point in his life. He was a member of the Washington Union High School Alumni Association and in October 1926 was voted president of the organization. He was a member of the Centerville Athletic Club and in November 1926 was put in charge of finding opponents for the club's bowling team. Allen was also a well-known athlete at Cal Berkeley on the track team and had set the inter-collegiate record for the pole vault in his tenure at the school.

Allen was also very active in civic circles, becoming Scoutmaster for the Centerville Boy Scout Troop. In March 1939 Allen was made chairman of a new organization of Sea Scouts for senior Boy Scouts. Alvin Morse, a member of the Washington Union High school faculty, was named to be the skipper and Lawrence Sharpe of Niles his first mate. Allen would remain active in scouting for decades, in 1950 he became president of the Oakland Bay Area Scouting Council.

Allen was also a member of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce and lost no time in making a name for himself in the organization. At a Chamber meeting held on February 15, 1929 Allen hurled a figurative bomb into the midst of the weekly Chamber of Commerce luncheon. When the smoke had cleared away his gasping audience realized that a member of the younger generation had had the nerve to brand "Centerville" as a "hick" name, and to urge action to change it to something more appropriate to the progressive spirit of the community.

Judge Norris pointed out that while the town might be the geographical center of Washington Township that this meant nothing to the head of an industry seeking a location. He explained that they "hicks" in humorous stories, numerous vaudeville skits, and motion picture comedies invariably come from "Centerville." No manufacturer, he insisted, would care to brand his goods or place such a home address on his stationary as would competitors an opportunity to ridicule him.

In response the Chamber made Judge Norris chairman of a committee by President Frank Dusterberry to look into the matter and suggest further action. Judge Norris had a ballot printed in the local township newspaper asking if the people of Centerville wish to rename their town. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> the Chamber announced that thus far voting had been almost 2 to 1 against changing the name.

In August 1930 it was noted that Judge Allen G. Norris was the clerk of the Centerville Grammar School Board of Trustees, and in 1940 Allen was chairman of the Board. In November 1933 Allen coordinated with Officer George Barron in reorganizing the Centerville Grammar School Traffic Patrol.

In November 1940 as the war in Europe was raging Allen was chairman of the Niles Draft Board No. 75. It was from this draft board that our young boys in the township were taken into the service of defending our country.

In September 1934 the engagement of Allen G. Norris and Miss Clarabelle Logan of the Alviso district announced their engagement. Clarabelle was the daughter of the late James Logan (Alvarado farmer and Washing High School trustee) and Mrs. Rebecca Logan. They would marry and circa 1936 had a son Logan Norris.

Allen was active in many social organizations in the Township including: The Men's Club of Washington Township; The Knights of Columbus; Washington Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West, and the Centerville Lions Club.

Mrs. Norris was also an active participant in township matters. She was a member of the Country Club of Washington Township, and she was active in Red Cross duties, including partnering with Mrs. E.M. Stevenson in 1939 to begin a Red Cross program to make bandages for the foreign soldiers fighting in Europe.

Besides all of this the Norris' were both active members of the Centerville "Owl Whist Club."

Clarabelle Norris passed away in 1948, and Allen passed away in 1978.

### **Tom Maloney:**

Tom Maloney, and wife Lillian Maloney, first come to light in Centerville in August 1930 when Tom was hired to replace William Galant of the Centerville Grammar School. Previously Mr. & Mrs. Maloney had resided in Santa Clara where Tom had attended San Jose Teacher's School and Stanford University. He would teach grammar and literature and aid in coaching basketball and baseball at the Centerville School.

Tom Maloney was teaching under the principalship of Mr. Joseph Dias who passed away in December 1934 after more than 30 years of teaching at the Centerville School. Tom Maloney was then named the new Principal of Centerville Grammar School in January 1935. At this time Tom had been at the Centerville School for almost five years.

Besides taking care of the future of his charges at the school Tom also spent much time with the outside activities of the children. Tom was associated with the Boy Scouts of Centerville and in 1950 Tom was named chairman of the committee for advancement for the southern district of the Oakland area Boy Scouts. Tom was also active in the Centerville PTA, serving as an officer in the organization which aided the school and built a rapport with the parents of his students.

Tom was also associated with the Knights of Columbus in Centerville, serving in official capacities in the organization including as a delegate to State conventions. Tom also gave freely of his time to the Lions Club of Centerville, an organization which took the interest of the town of Centerville in earnest.

Tom was also active with the Centerville Lions, an organization that took the progress of the town of Centerville very seriously.

Tom Maloney took the Centerville Grammar School, a one school system of 400 students to eight schools with 4,200 students in 1964. When the Fremont Unified School District was formed, which by 1972 had 46 schools and 32,000 students, was formed by the merger of six school districts in 1964, Maloney became Ass't school superintendent.

Tom Maloney announced his retirement in 1972 after 42 years educating Centerville children.

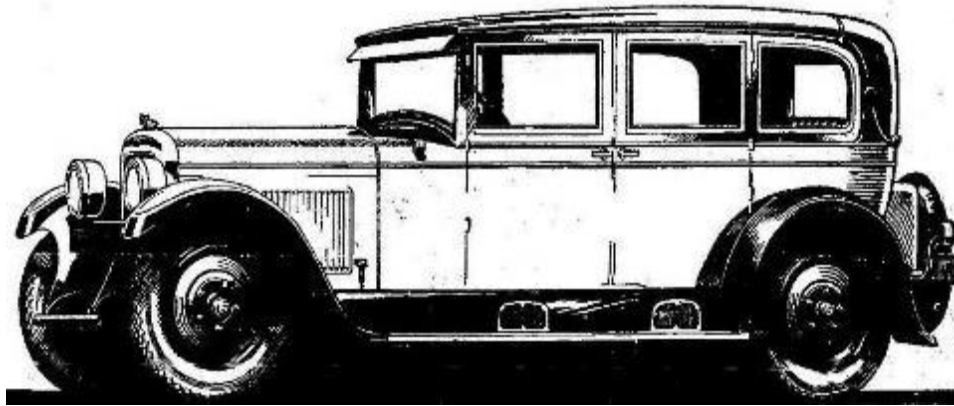
### **Frank Madruga:**

Frank Madruga was born in April 1895 to Frank and Mary Madruga. Frank grew up on a farm in Newark California. In June 1924 Frank married Miss Elsie Costa, principal of the grammar school in the Alviso District.

In 1923 Frank joined the Centerville Volunteer Fire Department, an association which would last until 1960 when he retired as Fire Chief for the City of Fremont.

Frank was part owner of an automobile garage in Centerville with Ed King. In February 1928 white stripes were painted on the street in front of their garage, which was used as a testing area for automobile brakes.

In 1928 the garage sold Nash automobiles. Below is the Nash four door coupe which seated five and was priced at "only" \$1,445. The public was invited to see this fine automobile at King and Madruga in Centerville.



In 1938 Frank Madruga was selling Plymouth automobiles and Dodge cars and trucks from his Centerville Garage.

In August 1930 Frank and Elsie bought the home of J.R. Blacow on the Centerville – Irvington Road. Mr. Blacow would build a new home.

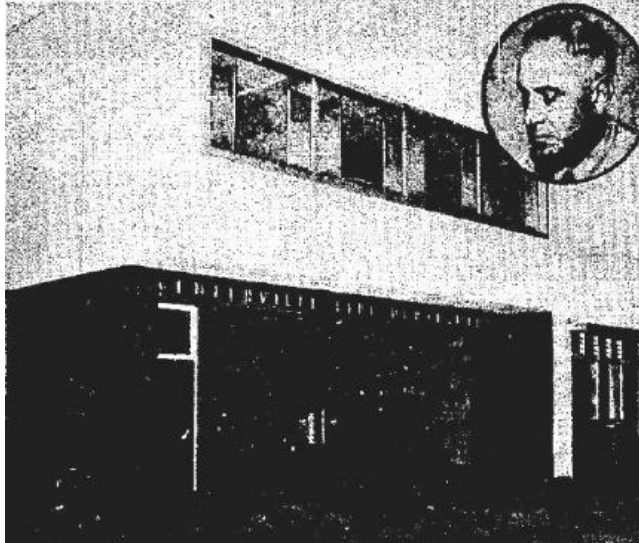
Frank kept very busy in civic and social affairs in Centerville. In 1931 he was made Assistant Fire Chief to Fred Rogers and later that year he would attend the Fire Chiefs convention in San Diego along with Fire Chief Fred Rogers. In 1934 he was elected President of the Alameda County Firemen's Association.

With the war heating up in Europe people in States started making preparations for safeguard our homeland. In January 1941 Frank attended a thorough training course in the detection and prevention of fires in industrial plants producing national defense materials. The classes were started to prevent conflagrations which "could seriously retard national defense and, in the event of a major disaster, could mean the loss of lives and millions of dollars of property.

After Pearl Harbor the U.S. swung into a war footing and one of the first things was protecting the homeland. At this time it was still feared that the Japanese would try to attack the West Coast. Locally a plan was instituted to use Boy Scouts who were 15 years of age and older and who had received merit badges in public and personal health, firemanship, pioneering, first aid, and could meet certain physical requirements. A special training course for Scoutmasters and assistants was held in Southern Alameda County. Heads of these training schools were: Fire Chief Manuel Riggs of Hayward, Ass't Fire Chief Frank Madruga of Centerville, and Dr. Hal Cope for Pleasanton and Livermore.

In April 1948 Frank Madruga, who was now Fire Chief for Centerville, was named Publicity Chairman of the Alameda County Association of Firemen.

It was decided in November 1952 that the town of Centerville needed a new firehouse. The effort was led by Fred Rogers, fire commissioner, who gave the go ahead to architects to begin planning a new two-story firehouse in Centerville.



In November 1954 the newly completed fire station stood on Main Street next to the Centerville Post Office. The Fire Chief is Frank Madruga (inset). Firemen would occupy the new station the following next spring.

The November 1955 annual Fireman's Ball was held at the Newark Pavilion. Funds derived from this benefit ball went to finance projects of the Centerville Fireman for this year. There were now 20 volunteers and four paid firemen who provide fire protection 24/7.

The new city of Fremont came into existence a few minutes after midnight on January 24, 1956. Allen G. Norris administered the oath of office to the new office holders. Sworn in as Fire Chief was Frank Madruga.

Fire Chief Frank Madruga retired as Fire Chief of Fremont in April 1960, having served as a fireman, assistant fire chief, and fire chief of the town of Centerville since 1923 and the City of Fremont since January 1956.

Besides being a fireman for many decades Frank was also very active in local civic organizations. Frank served actively in the Centerville Lions and also in the Centerville Native Sons of the Golden West.

Frank Madruga passed away on August 1, 1985:

### **Albert J. Rathbone:**

Albert J. Rathbone was born in 1888 to Leland S. and Julia Rathbone. In 1910 Albert was living in Santa Rosa where his father was a minister. In 1910 the family was living in Berkeley and Albert showed no occupation or going to school. By 1920 Albert had moved to Visalia where he was employed in a hardware store. By 1930 he was a secondary school administrator in Galt. He had taken a wife Katherine and had two children, Jack and Katherine. In August 1931 Albert Rathbone and his family had moved to Centerville where he was appointed Principal of Washington Union High School.

Albert joined the Centerville Lions Club in 1931 and quickly proposed that the school build a swimming pool for the children. Although they raised money for its completion there was no mention that it was ever completed.



In 1933 joined Allen G. Norris in becoming officers in the Washington Township Men's Club.

In 1935 Mr. Rathbone addressed a growing problem at the high school. This was teenagers with automobiles. With the advent of better and faster automobiles also came horrific accidents and death on the highways. This was also spreading to the young set as they learned to drive on our modern highways. Mr. Rathbone set out a campaign to make 1936 the safest year in history on the streets of Washington Township. Mr. Rathbone wrote the following editorial comment in the "Hatchet," the student publication of Washington Union High School.

"Years ago a stage coach ran daily from Redwood City to La Honda. Applicants for jobs as stage drivers were asked: 'How close can you drive to the edge of Hair Pin Turn on the grade without going over?' The answers varied from 1 inch to 1 foot. Said one applicant, 'If I am ever allowed to drive the stage, I will see how far away I can keep, not how close I can get.' He got the job. May all drivers keep away from 'Close Shaves.'"

A total of 2,500 buttons in the March of Dimes project for the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation were distributed in Washington Township in January 1939 by Chairman A.J. Rathbone. Mrs. George Holeman, M.W. Lewis, and W.E. Gravestock of Centerville assisted Rathbone from Centerville.

#### **Mrs. Katherine Rathbone:**

Mrs. Rathbone also gave of her time in support of civic activities. Mrs. Rathbone was an avid supporter of the Centerville Welfare Club, hosting meetings at her home. The Welfare Club met at Mrs. Rathbone's home on many occasions. Mrs. Rathbone was also an active member of the Country Club of Washington Township.

June 1942 final mention of Rathbone in Washington Township. There was no date found for his resignation. The second half of 1942 shows the new Principal to be James Vernon Goad, Vice Principal.

#### **Ernest J. Pimentel:**

Ernest J. Pimentel was born to Enos and Annie Pimentel of Decoto circa 1909. Ernest attended Washington Union High School and graduated in June 1927 with honors, achieving status as a member of the California Scholarship Federation.

Although Ernest grew up in Decoto, he attended Washington Union High School and became employed by the Bank of America in Centerville. Ernest completed a course given by the American Institute of Banking for which he received a diploma at a dinner in the Hotel Oakland in September 1933. He also received a sizable check from the Bank of America in appreciation of his endeavor to perfect himself in the banking profession.

Ernest elevated his career at the B of A by becoming active in civic and social organizations, which made Ernest visible to the public eye in Centerville.

Ernest joined the Centerville Knights of Columbus and in July 1932 he was elected as Deputy Grand Knight. In July 1937 he was elected Grand Knight for the Centerville Lodge.

Ernest was a member of the Washington Parlor, No. 169 of the Native Sons of the Golden West in Centerville. In April 1935, in conjunction with the Betsy Ross Parlor No. 238 of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Ernest participated in a benefit for the Homeless Children's Fund. This has been annual event going back 10 years. The chairman this year was M.P. Mathiesen with E.M. Stevenson, Tom Silva and Ernest Pimentel assisting. The ladies will be represented by Matilda Enos, Alice Simas, and Irma Kirk.

Ernest J. Pimentel, 26, of Decoto married Marjorie Martin, 22, of Hayward. They would eventually live on "C" Street in Hayward, but Ernest continued to work and serve in Centerville.

In July 1935 Ernest was elected as President of the Native Sons of the Golden West of Centerville.

In May 1936 Ernest was elected president of the Washington Union High School Alumni Association. Ernest would be in charge of raising money for the association meeting along with: Miss Florence Aust, Mrs. Eula Wright, Miss E. Marie Sandholdt, Miss Sibyl Botelho, Mrs. Robert Tyson, Miss Julia Ruschin, Mrs. Mildred Blacow, Miss Phoebe Ormsby, Norri Nagai, Earl Hellwig, and Mrs. Marie Janeiro.

In March 1939 The Centerville K of C and the Washington Parlor of NSGW would make plans to engage in the first ever ping pong tournament. First division players who will compete are: Al Silveira, Al Monese, Vernon Rose, and Tom Silva Jr. of the Native Sons; and Judge Allen G. Norris, Joe Duarte, Leonard Lucio, and E.J. Pimentel of the K of C.

The Decoto Firemen's Club took the challenge of the Centerville Knights of Columbus and agreed to a baseball game to be played at the Decoto home field in March 1940. The manager of the Decoto was Bernie Joseph and the manager for the Centerville Club was E.J. Pimentel.

From here Ernest J. Pimentel vanishes from activities in Centerville and he is picked up becoming active in Hayward where he was a member of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce, serving as President in 1955.

In the 1960's Ernest is shown as the Manager of the Bank of America branch at Watkins Street and Fletcher Lane in Hayward. In November 1971 Ernest was elected to the Hayward Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. In 1973 it was noted that Ernest Pimentel had retired from Bank of America.

### **THOMAS SILVA SR.:**

Tom Silva Sr. was born to Mrs. Rosa Silva on August 10, 1879 in California. Tom's father died sometime before 1900 and Mrs. Rosa Silva raised her seven children on a farm in Centerville.

Tom Silva and Carrie C Silva were married circa 1909 and had two children. Tom Silva Jr., was born circa 1911 and Olive Silva was born circa 1913. Thomas Jr. Graduated from Washington Union High School in 1929 and Olive in 1931. In 1916 Tom Sr. was elected Constable of Washington Township, a position he would hold for 26 years.

San Leandro held a cherry festival in May 1925 with a parade of horsemen and dignitaries. Invited to join the parade from Centerville was Constable Tom Silva.

Tom's experiences in law enforcement brought him into contact with many different people and many different crimes. In February 1927 a plague of chicken thieves descended upon Centerville preying on farmer's chickens and supposedly selling them to produce houses in wholesale lots. One Centerville farmer lost 16 chickens in one night. The township Constables Tom Silva and Manuel J. Bernardo hoped to catch the thieves in the act. But the thefts stopped after a bit and the thieves were never caught.

In June 1930 Constable Tom Silva of Centerville who had been a true and conscientious peace officer for over 14 years, but after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the coming year he would out of a position. He said he will probably take the deputy sheriff examination. But no reason was given why Constable Silva will be without a job after the first of the year.

Then at the turn of 1931 the county charter was amended to make Constables in the county appointees of the elected sheriff. Prior to this the constables had been elected. The constables would not become part of the sheriff's office staff and would be paid a salary from the county. Tom Silva would retain his office as Washington Township Constable, but Manuel J. Bernardo would be replaced by O.W. Ebricht of Niles.

The Washington Parlor, No. 169 of the Native Sons of the Golden West in conjunction with the Betsy Ross Parlor No. 238 of the Native Daughters of the Golden West would host a ball for the benefit the Homeless Children's Fund. This had been annual event going back 10 years. The chairman the year April 1935 was M.P. Mathiesen with E.M. Stevenson, Tom Silva and Ernest Pimentel assisting. The ladies will be represented by Matilda Enos, Alice Simas, and Irma Kirk.

In May 1935 A.E. Francis was named a Grand Trustee at the convention held in Santa Cruz. Other delegates from Centerville Circle were: A.E. Alameda, Patrick Francis, Manuel Oliveira, and Tom Silva.

March 1, 1936:

The Lions Club will again put on a Fourth of July celebration in Centerville in 1936. The following are have been named chairs for various committees:

Judge Allen G. Norris	Chick Santos	H.E. De Leon
Wm. Furtado	L.C. Marriott	Joe Jason
Jesse Regli		

As usual the Native Sons of the Golden West gave their annual Homeless Children's Ball, and as usual Tom Silva was a volunteer of his time to this charitable event, but this year he was joined in the effort by his Tom Silva Jr.

Centerville mourned a pillar of the community on June 14, 1942, by the death of Tom Silva Sr., (b. Aug 10, 1879 – d. June 14, 1942) a peace officer of Washington Township for the past 26 years. Silva died in a San Jose hospital of heart trouble after a year's illness.

He had been president, at various times, of most of the civic organizations of Centerville, hailed as the 'unofficial' mayor of this unincorporated town and confessor and advisor to the community's youth.

He was past president of the Native Sons of the Golden West, Druids, U.P.E.C., I.D.E.S., the Centerville Lions Club, and the Washington Township Men's Club. He also headed the Deputy Sheriff's Association of Alameda County.

He was survived by his widow, Carrie C. Silva; a son Thomas Silva Jr., and a daughter Mrs. Olive Bellini of Niles.

Tom's wife Carrie, who was born on July 10, 1888 passed away on November 28, 1976.

### **JOHN VERNON (J.V. "POP") GOOLD:**



John Vernon Goold (who went by J.V. Goold and was known as "Pop" Goold by his students) was born in Gonzales California in November 1898 to John and Elizabeth Goold. His father was a barber and then a jeweler in Gonzales. Before 1920 the family relocated to Morgan Hill (between Gilroy and San Jose), where John's father ran a dry goods store. J.V. attended Stanford University and after graduation he spent a two years teaching at Manteca Union High School where he taught physical education and biological science. On Thanksgiving Day in 1922 John Vernon Goold was married to Miss Gertrude John of Palo Alto. The couple made their home in Manteca.

In 1924 J.V. Goold came to Centerville to teach at Washington Union High School. In 1924 when Mr. Goold was teaching at Washington Union High School, Miss Matilda "Tillie" Logan was teaching at the Decoto Grammar School. Miss Logan was the daughter of James and Rebecca Logan of the Alviso School District. James Logan High School would be named after Tillie Logan's father. J.V. and Tillie met and married circa 1927. It was the second marriage for J.V. Goold and the first for Miss Logan. Tillie "Logan" Goold would go on to continue teaching in the Decoto System until the late 50's.

In 1928 J.V. Goold began a long association with the Centerville Troop of the Boy Scouts. He accepted the appointment as Scoutmaster in March 1928.

When night school at Washington Union High School opened in January 1934 the classes they offered of special interest of persons wishing instructions in various crafts and arts according to night school principal J.V. Goold. The

school offered courses in basketry, leather work, commercial art, sketching, sculpture, and a course in color and design. New courses would include weaving, pottery, and textile design.

The year 1935 was a year of change for Goold, in April 1935 a son was born to J.V. and Tillie Goold, James Ross Goold. In June he was made Vice Principal and Dean of Boys at Washington Union High School.

The year 1936 started out with Mr. Goold as Vice Principal and Dean of Boys to Mr. A.J. Rathbone, long-time principal of the high school. Barton Webb was Principal of the Night School, and E. Marie Sandholdt was Dean of Girls. This year also saw J.V. elected as Vice President of the Centerville Lions Club, a civic organization that took the progress of the town seriously.

In 1939 J.V. Goold was elected Vice President of the Washington Township Men's Club. In January of the following year he added the Centerville Child Welfare Club to his list of civic responsibilities.

September 1942 saw the opening of schools in Washington Township delayed so that students could spend part of each day harvesting important war related vegetables such as sugar beets for sugar and tomatoes for tomato sauce, both were important in canned foods, which were sent overseas to feed our fighting boys. It was not until late 1942 that "braceros" were imported from Mexico to help with harvests.

1942 also saw J.V. Goold named as District Superintendent of Washington Township Schools. One of his first acts in November 1942 was to announce the resumption of night social activities following their cancellation last year due to the war. The planned night activities for the rest of 1942 were: Halloween, a Livermore vs. Centerville football game, a dramatic program, Thanksgiving, Christmas Dance, Christmas pageant, and New Year's holiday.

Also in November 1942 J.V. Goold included in the Certificate of Necessity for operation of the schools the need for 200 gallons of gasoline per week to operate the six school buses. Superintendent Goold cancelled all after school activities which required the need of school buses, and buses carrying full loads could go no faster than 35 miles per hour to save on fuel.

The war years (1942 to 1945) required that persons on the home front had to do more with less. In 1943 J.V. Goold was one of several volunteers mentioned by the War Production Board for their efforts in coordinating the scrap metal drive collected for war material. Mr. Goold led the efforts of the Washington Township scrap metal collection for Alameda County.

But Mr. Goold was not alone in the family that volunteered time for the War effort. In August 1943 Mrs. Tillie Logan received special recognition from the OPA (Office of Price Administration) for the time she spent on the Washington Township Ration Board. The Office of Price Administration was a group of volunteers that visited retail stores to check the sales price of goods against the U.S. Federal Government's list of acceptable prices for those goods. Some store owners felt this was snooping, however they performed a serious task in keeping down price-gouging and black market activity. In December 1943 Mrs. Tillie Logan participated in the Centerville Child Welfare Club to make

curtains for the U.S. Naval Hospital at Camp Parks, Pleasanton and to make new dresses for welfare girls.

In 1944 the Washington Township March of Dimes to fight infantile paralysis opened under the co-chairmanship of Ed Enos of Niles and J.V. Goold of Centerville. In April of 1944 saw J.V. Goold added being elected Vice President Washington Union High School PTA.

September 1945 saw the customary delay of school openings so that students could work in the fields harvesting crops. J.V. Goold, Superintendent of School of Washington Township Schools announced that schools would open on time this year due to the end of the War. Students had been allowed to work in the fields harvesting crops that normally would be done by our fighting men overseas during the War. Schools had been delayed into October so the boys spent part of the day harvesting crops desperately needed for the war effort.

"The war is over and it is time for youngsters to devote the working hours of their days to gaining an education," Principal Goold said.

Adding another civic cap to his hat J.V. Goold participated in the 1952 Christmas Seal Campaign.

In September 1953 J.V. Goold, District Superintendent, said he is expecting a roster of 1,000 students to attend Washington Union High School. While conditions were crowded, double sessions were not expected for this year. A million and a half dollar expansion program is being planned with the demolition of the old music building as the first phase of the program, which will add more than a dozen classrooms, a swimming pool, and expanded shop and cafeteria quarters. From here on J.V. Goold would spend much of his time planning for a second high school in the district. It was finally decided that the new school would be located in Decoto and would open in September 1959 to students of the northern end of Washington Township initially. The school would be named after his wife's father, James Logan.

The following interview of J.V. Goold by the *Daily Review* of Hayward was published on October 31, 1976 in their newspaper:

"If you don't take a personal interest, you've lost it," says Goold from his long-time Centerville home. "I never missed a game, never missed a doin'. My wife and I chaperoned all the school events. We stayed to the last and there was never anything we missed out on."

"Now it takes an act of Congress to get an administrator or a school board member to a meeting of the Centerville Businessmen's Association."

Goold is the first to admit that things have changed since he first came to what was then an almost entirely rural Washington Township in 1924.

"It was all farming, except for the Wedgewood Stove factory in Newark," he remembers. "Now it's become an urban area and it's very

much too bad. In those days there wasn't anybody with a lock on the door. Now you put locks on the doors and you still get ripped off."

Goold said he used to open his office to any student who wanted to come in and talk over a problem, I lost more handkerchiefs to crying students," he remembers with a chuckle.

"Being a good administrator all depends on your philosophy," he says. "Mine was selling education to the kids," he added. His approach was making the educational process a "family affair," he says. "I provided a home away from home. Today it's all become too big and bureaucratized," he believes.

Goold says he was always against the nine\* tiny school districts into what eventually become the Fremont Unified School District. But he still follows what transpires in the district, and he is not exactly happy with what he sees.

"To put it frankly and bluntly," says Goold, "people in the district are too interested in the brass they carry on their shoulders and they're not devoting enough attention to their jobs. Besides," he adds, "the school district is just too darned big. You can't handle anything that big...it's become a cold and corporate thing."

He is also dismayed with struggles between teachers and administrators. "In his day," he says, "we all worked together. If we had a problem, I called the gang together and said, 'Hey we've got a problem.' Somebody always came up with more than half of the solution."

John Vernon Goold had 35 years of experience in education in Washington Township. Goold prefers the way it was over the way it is. "It was a time when people trusted each other and when corporal punishment was used," according to Goold, "in extreme cases...it showed the kids you're not gonna take any guff," he remembers.

\*Goold's reference to nine district schools in the Fremont Unified School District, should be 6 school districts (including the Alviso School District). There were nine school districts in Washington Township, 6 became the Fremont Unified, one became Newark School District, and two (Alvarado and Decoto) became the New Haven Unified School District of Union City.

## **JOSEPH JASON:**

Joseph Jason was born on April 12, 1894 in California. His wife, Eva Jason was born in California on February 19, 1902. They had three daughters; Esther, Marjory, and Eva. All three daughters graduated from Washington Union High School.

Joe Jason was the owner of J & F Manufacturing, a firm that manufactured water well-casing on Central Avenue, Fremont.

Perhaps the finest tribute to Joe Jason was his obituary in the *Oakland Tribune*;

"Funeral services were held for Joseph Jason, 66, a native of Centerville. Mr. Jason died at Washington Township Hospital on May 31, 1960 after a lengthy illness. Survivors include his wife, Eva Jason; three daughters: Mrs. Esther June Frei of Fremont, Miss Marjorie Jason of San Diego, and Mrs. Eva Gibson of Los Altos Hills.

Mr. Jason was the owner of J & F Metal Products of Central Avenue Fremont. He manufactured water well-casings for 40 years. A veteran of WWI, he was a member of the Veterans of WWI USA, Fremont Barracks; he was a charter member and past president of the Centerville Lions Club; an honorary member of the Fremont Fire Department; past president and member of the Newark S.E.S., council No. 8; Fremont Elks No. 2121; Maple Camp Woodmen of the World; I.D.E.S. Lodge Council No. 71, Warm Springs; Washington Township Men's Club; and Washington Township Post No. 195, American Legion; and an active member of the Holy Ghost Church in Fremont."

His wife Eva joined him on November 13, 1991 at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno.

### **ELSIE MARIE SANDHOLDT:**

Elsie Marie Sandholdt was born on December 1, 1883 to Samuel and Johannah Sandholdt, who had both immigrated to the U.S. Elsie's father was the long-time Justice of the Peace for the town of Centerville. Elsie also had a younger sister, Miss Lillian Sandholdt.

Elsie joined the teaching staff at Washington Union High School circa 1910 when the school was called Union High School No. 2. While teaching at school she preferred to go by the name E. Marie Sandholdt.

In May 1935 Miss Sandholdt was honored for her 25 years of service to Washington Union High School. Paying tribute were almost 300 persons including the complete board of trustees: M.J. Overacker, President; H.F. Harrold, Clerk; John S. Oliveira, Andrew Logan, and H. Lovell Scott.

Miss Sandholdt, who was Dean of Girls at Washington Union High School in 1933, received a leave of absence for the remainder of the year to go on a leisurely tour of the world. Her first stop will be Honolulu.

The Washington Union High School annual reunion of May 1936 was sponsored by the Alumni Association will be held to raise money for scholarships for the 1936 graduating class. The general chairman was Mr. E.J. Pimentel. Assisting with arrangements are: Miss Florence Aust, Mrs. Eula Wright, Miss E. Marie Sandholdt, Miss Sibyl Botelho, Mrs. Robert Tyson, Miss Julia Ruschin, Mrs. Mildred Blacow, Miss Phoebe Ormsby, Norri Nagai, Earl Hellwig, and Mrs. Marie Janeiro.

In June 1937 Miss E. Marie Sandholdt went on a tour of Europe during her vacation from school. Joining her was her sister Miss Lillian Sandholdt. Three and a half months later Miss Elsie Marie Sandholdt passed away.



## **Allan Walton:**

Allan Walton was born in Centerville circa 1902 to William and Florence Walton. William Walton was an orchardist in Centerville before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. William Walton was a member of the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Centerville Improvement Club (later the C of C). The couple had only one child, Allan Walton. Allan graduated from Washington Union High School in 1920 and then attended Affiliated Colleges of San Francisco, which had been founded in 1860 and by the late 1890's had added course in pharmacy.

By March 1937 Allan Walton became the owner of Walton's Rexall Drugs in Centerville, although it appears that the drug store had been in existence since at least 1926. This store is where Allan would spend most of life. Allan would marry circa 1935 and Allan and Josephine would have two sons by 1940; Lee born circa 1937, and Don born circa 1939.

Besides building up his trade in his store, Allan was very active in civic affairs of the town of Centerville and later in the City of Fremont.

Allan was a member of:

- The St. James Men's Club, along with his father William.
- The Centerville Grove of the U.A.O.D. No. 123 (Druids) elected Allan Walton as Noble Arch April 1936. In April 1938, Allan Walton was presented with a diamond-studded lapel emblem by the Lodge.
- Allen served as President of the Washington Township Sportsmen's Club.
- In December 1939 Allan was elected president of the St. James Episcopal Church Men's Club.
- Allan Walton was the winning bidder for the lot where the old Centerville Town Hall was located in April 1946. Allan Walton paid \$125 a front foot for the property or \$8,750, which the ladies of the Town Hall Association had originally bought for 96¢. Walton plans to use the lot for a stage depot, a new drug store, and an apartment house.
- Allan Walton was recently elected President of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce of Centerville. Allan grasped the gavel, but being unsure of himself called Dallas Paul to sit at his side at the head of the table during the meeting. "If I make any mistakes I want you to cover me," said Walton. This drew snickers from attendees as Dallas Paul is an undertaker.
- Condemnation proceedings to acquire 10-acres of the Stivers Ranch on Santos Road (today's Mowry Avenue) for the Washington Township Community Hospital was begun on November 1, 1951. Although there were dissenting opinions the condemnation proceedings went forward under Judge E.A. Quaresma, attorney for the proposed hospital. Allan Walton was chosen as one of the hospital's board member.
- The Centerville Chamber of Commerce met under the gavel of President Allan Walton in March 1952. Many weighty subject were on the agenda including: zoning, flood control, and a refuse dump.
- In February 1954 the board of trustees of the Centerville Elementary School, Claire Lopez, Allan Walton, and Mrs. Mary Rodrigues, announced that the name of the new school on Thornton Avenue will be named after Judge Allen G. Norris.

- Allan Walton strongly opposed a proposal to make a 7.5 acre area of Glenmoor Gardens into a shopping center. Walton told the participants at the November 1954 meeting that such a move would take the business district of Main Street and move into a quiet residential area. Gene Rhodes, Glenmoor resident countered that unless some measure is taken to move the downtown section from a one street shopping area future businesses will look elsewhere to relocate. Added Rhodes, "Strip development just won't work. It didn't work in San Leandro along E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street and it didn't work for Castro Valley Boulevard. Your business will go elsewhere, whether it is drawn off by this shopping center or some other, unless you plan to open more streets in Centerville.
- In April 1957, as Centerville is now part of the new City of Fremont, the direction the new city should take in zoning became critical. To meet the challenge the Central Fremont Businessmen's Association formed a committee to study the needs and give input to the City Council on new directions for the city. On this committee were: Gene Rhodes, George Bonde, Geoffrey Steel, Gene Manning, Louis Cardoza, Carl Flegal, Allan Walton, and Wes Wilson.
- Allan Walton met opposition in September 1957 with his planned medical center building at 124 Thornton Avenue by Planning Commission Chairman Jack Parry who said the present plan for that site is for a commercial building, not a medical facility. Mr. Parry advocates strict compliance with present zoning.
- Centerville School Trustee Allan Walton resigned from the school board in October 1957. Walton is resigning because he is moving out of the school district to Pleasanton. He has served on the board for nine years. Walton also resigned from the Washington Township Hospital Board of Directors.
- Plans were approved in April 1958 for a new \$75,000 Post Office to be built in the Centerville District of Fremont. Developer Allan Walton announced approval of the plans for a 6,000 square foot building to be built on Thornton Avenue Northeast of the Center Square Shopping Center. The new unit will replace the old Post Office located at 147 Main Street. The new building will be leased to the Post Office Dept. by Walton and will have spaces for 40 cars.

#### **Mrs. Josephine Walton:**

Josephine Walton was also very busy in civic affairs of the old Centerville and the new Fremont:

- May 1941: Mrs. Allan Walton is elected Secretary of the Centerville Grammar School PTA.
- Just two weeks after Pearl Harbor (Dec. 21, 1941) the first women's group to organize in Washington Township to mobilize in case of emergencies since the declaration of war on Japan has been declared was the Nursing Emergency Service, organized under the direction of the Alameda County Health Department includes about 30 graduate nurses residing in the township. Mrs. Allan Walton, a graduate nurse, was chosen as the leader for the Irvington area.
- November 1942: Mrs. Allan Walton is member of the Centerville Child Welfare Club that will distribute gifts to needy children in Foster Homes and disadvantaged families.
- The American Red Cross has instituted a Nurses Aid Corps in the East Bay in December 1942 under the direction of Miss Antoinette Thompson, R.N.,

instructor of Nursing Arts at Providence Hospital. Various leaders were chosen from Red Cross Chapters across the Bay Area. From Washington Township Mrs. Allan Walton of Centerville was chosen as the leader.

- Mrs. Allan Walton was mentioned for her work the Country Club of Washington Township of which she is a member.
- 1949 saw Mrs. Allan Walton join the annual drive for Christmas Seals.
- 1952 saw Mrs. Allan Walton head the Washington Township American Red Cross blood drive, which netted 119 pints of blood.
- In September 1952 Mrs. Allan Walton was named the Centerville representative of the newly formed Southern Alameda County Advisory Committee on Services to Children and Youths. The committee will devote itself to putting into effect the recommendations of the official Alameda County Committee for the prevention of juvenile delinquency.
- With the new Washington Township Hospital becoming reality, Mrs. Allan Walton has begun forming a committee to organize a service league for the hospital in March 1955.
- Mrs. Allan Walton was elected as a director of the board of the Alameda County Tuberculosis and Health Association in April 1955. She will serve a three year term.
- Mrs. Allan Walton was elected Vice President of the Washington Township Hospital League in August 1957.
- Mrs. Allan Walton was elected membership chairman of the "Silverettes" in June 1967. The Silverettes are a group of women that meet weekly at the Silver Pines Golf Course to play nine holes of golf. They also contribute equipment funds to the Veterans Swing Club, which is composed of patients of the Veterans Administration Hospital of Menlo Park.
- In 1928 a group of women banded together and formed a community service program for Washington Township sewing clothes for needy children and those in orphanages. Today (June 1973) that program is still going full force, and is known as the Child Welfare Club of Washington Township. Mrs. Allen Hirsch is president, said that since the program has grown, it has also found the need to sew clothes for babies born in families not able to provide a layette. Besides Mrs. Hirsch other active members include Mrs. Allan Walton, Mrs. Harold Fudenna, and Mrs. C.P. Catlin.

### **Manuel W. Lewis:**

Manuel W. Lewis was born in the Azores circa 1900 to Antone and Mary Lewis. Antone Lewis immigrated to the U.S. in 1903 and the rest of the family all immigrated in 1905. Manuel was one of six children, four brothers and a sister; all were born in the Azores immigrated to the U.S. circa 1905. Antone Lewis and family settled in Centerville where Antone took up farming, their house was located near where the Glenmoor Shopping Center is today.

Manuel married circa 1922 and he and his wife Marian had two children, a son Robert and a daughter Mitzi. In 1930 Manuel showed his occupation as a farmer

A party honoring Mrs. Adeline Santos, the retiring Postmaster of Centerville in August 1934. The dinner was given as a testimonial by the Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club of Centerville. The new Postmaster, Manuel W. Lewis, thanked Mrs. Santos for her cooperation in transferring the office to

him so capably that mail service was not inconvenienced and he pledged that he would carry on the good work she had transferred to his shoulders. The Post Office website gives the date of Mr. Lewis' taking over the Centerville Post Office as September 16, 1934.

The duties of a Postmaster can be varied and many. Keeping tabs on postal receipts is key to the pay of Postmasters, the more money in postal receipts a post office has, the higher they post office is rated and the higher the pay of the postmaster. For example in January 1937 Manuel W. Lewis announced that the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1938 showed that postal receipts for the town of Centerville broke the record for postal receipts for December 1937 by 15%.

July 1953 was a red letter month for the residents of Centerville, for in this month U.S. Postal Mail was delivered from the post office to your door. Up until then residents had to drive or walk to the post office to get their mail. But many things had to come to pass before mail could be delivered to your door. You must have sidewalks, house numbers and most importantly, mail carriers.

Centerville is now having U.S. Postal Mail delivered to their door for the first time ever. Two postmen, Edgar Hiebert of Santos Avenue, and Robert Walstra of Walnut Avenue; both war veterans, started their rounds delivering mail according to Postmaster Manuel Lewis.

In April 1957 bids for a new Centerville District Post Office building was called for between April 8<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>, said Postmaster Manuel W. Lewis. The lease on the present building on South Main Street expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> and facilities must be moved and in operation by that time. Specifications call for a new building of at least 4,500 sq. feet on a half-acre lot.

Manuel W. Lewis retired as Postmaster of Fremont in 1962. He had been the Postmaster of Centerville and Fremont since 1934.

Manuel Lewis was a long time member of the Centerville Knights of Columbus serving as Chancellor and Grand Knight among other official duties. Manuel was also active in the Centerville Lions, again serving in several official capacities. Manuel was also active in the Centerville March of Dimes campaigns to fight Infantile Paralysis (Polio).

In March 1946 Manuel was elected a director in the newly reorganized Centerville Chamber of Commerce. In November 1947 Manuel served as a committee chairman of Eden-Washington Township Farm Center annual Christmas Party, which was held Washington Union High School on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Serving with Manuel were: M.S. Almeida, M.J. Bernardo, Jack DeLuca, and Manuel Abreu.

Manuel Lewis passed away on June 16, 1972 at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose. He left his wife Marian, a son and a daughter. Besides the organizations mentioned above Manuel was also a member of the National Association of Postmasters, and a 50-year member of the I.D.E.S.

**Harold De Leon:**

Harold De Leon was born in California circa 1901 to Henry and Cecile De Leon. Harold was one of five children: Harold, Cecile, Bernice, Paul, and Theodore. Henry De Leon came to Centerville prior to 1920 and by 1920 he was a foreman at the cannery. Henry's wife Cecile was a forelady at the cannery.

In the 1920's Harold De Leon operated a service station and battery store in Centerville under the firm name of Amaral and Leon. Harold had married circa 1920 and his wife Della managed a restaurant associated with the service station. Circa 1921 the De Leon's had a daughter Harriett.

In August 1925 it was noted that Harold De Leon was driving the new bus for Washington Union High School.

Della joined the Betsy Ross Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West and in 1926 she elected as one of the directors of the Parlor.

Miss Roumilda Rose was the May 1929 Queen of the Holy Ghost in Centerville. Miss Helen Correia and Miss Margaret King are to be maids of honor. The pages will be Harriett De Leon and June Telles. Harriett De Leon would graduate from Washington Union High School in 1939.

Harold was a member of the Centerville Lion's and in April 1937 was the president of the club. Harold was active in the club for many years and in 1942 was one of the members of the club of scoured the countryside looking for scrap metal which could be donated and melt down to weapons for the war effort.

After 1942 no more articles could be found for the De Leon's.

### **Dr. W.L. (William Luther) McWhirter:**

Luther William McWhirter (who preferred the professional title: Dr. W.L.) was born in Texas on September 20, 1888. Mr. McWhirter attended the University of Texas and after his graduation served in the Medical Corps during WWI.

In May 1918, Dr. McWhirter married a nurse he had met in Camp McArthur in Waco Texas, Miss Sarah Parr. Sarah was also from Texas, being born on May 2, 1899. In 1920 Mrs. and Mrs. McWhirter were living in Waco Texas where Dr. McWhirter was practicing medicine.

The couple had three children, William L. Jr, born in November 1921; whom they fondly referred to as "Junior," but who sadly passed away on Christmas Day in 1927 at the age of six years. They also had two other sons, Thomas F., born circa 1922; and David B., born circa 1931. The McWhirter's arrived in California circa 1922.

As a veteran of WWI Dr. McWhirter was a member of the Washington Township American Legion. Members of the Centerville American Legion Post met in May 1925 and appointed a committee of Legionnaires and representative citizens from various towns in the township to conduct a drive throughout the district in the first week of June 1925 to secure funds for the five million dollar foundation being conducted throughout the U.S. by the

National organization of the Legion for the purpose of aiding children made fatherless by the great war. One of the Centerville Legionnaires chosen was Dr. W.L. McWhirter who fought in the First World War.

Dr. McWhirter was one of four attending physicians from the area that examined pre-school children in Centerville during May 1928. Each physician took a day to examine the children for any health problems. Attending physicians were: Dr. W.L. McWhirter, Dr. George Holeman, Dr. Charles Law, and Dr. H.E. Morrison.

Following discontinuance of the school nursing service by the County Health Department in October 1935 when the Board of Trustees of the Washington Union High School failed to accept increased rates, the school has hired a local physician, Dr. W.L. McWhirter. Dr. McWhirter paid daily calls at the school for diagnosis, first aid, and minor treatments for students referred to him. Dr. George S. Holeman, also a local physician, will attend to all injuries sustained by the football squad during practice or games.

Dr. McWhirter, was of course, very busy with his own practice, and besides what was mentioned above the Dr. also took over the care of inmates at the Masonic Home when he was named physician of the facility in December 1941.

In February 1943 Dr. McWhirter inoculated the entire student body of the Washington Union High School with the smallpox vaccine with the assistance of the Volunteer Graduate Nurses Corps.

Dr. and Mrs. McWhirter were socially active, hosting many dinners for friends at their residence. Dr. McWhirter was also a member of the Alvarado Aerie of Eagle, being elected physician of the lodge in 1946.

In September 1927 Dr. and Mrs. W.L. McWhirter were hosts to several friends at a dinner at their home. The Doctor had a loudspeaker placed in the middle of the table so the dinner guests could listen to the Dempsey-Tunney Championship fight.

#### **Mrs. Sarah E. McWhirter:**

Miss Sarah Parr was nurse at Camp McArthur in Texas when she met and married Dr. William L. McWhirter. Mrs. McWhirter, prominent clubwoman and child welfare volunteer of Centerville, returned to school to receive her certification as a Registered Nurse 23 years after her career was interrupted by her marriage. Mrs. McWhirter passed the California State examination for Registered Nurses in San Francisco in May 1941. She thought with the war clouds in Europe that her nursing skills could come into play in the future.

After the McWhirter's settled in Centerville Sarah became active in the Protestant Churches of Centerville by hosting the Presbyterian Ladies Aid Society of Centerville in 1926, and in 1928 with the St. James Guild of the Episcopal Church of Centerville.

But Sarah's longest and best known affiliation was with the Child Welfare Club of Centerville. Beginning in the 20's Sarah was very active and in 1938 she elected president of the club.

After the War had started the Child Welfare Club took on the task of aiding the American Red Cross in collecting donations to aid our soldiers overseas. The head of the local Red Cross in Washington Township was Frank T. Dusterberry and in September 1942 he appointed Sarah to head the blood drive for Washington Township as a member of the Child Welfare Club.

By May 1943 Sarah reported that the blood procurement unit of the Red Cross had taken 1,001 pints of blood in the first 10 visits to the township under the sponsorship of the Child Welfare Club, and that the Welfare Club staff had logged more than 2,500 volunteer hours.

Also during WWII Sarah's nursing was put to good use by the citizens of the township. In October 1942 Sarah was named as the Washington Township leader of the Nurses Auxiliary Corp in Alameda County. Mrs. McWhirter would teach nursing (first aid) to local volunteers for service in civil emergencies. Volunteers for these classes had to be between the ages of 18 to 50 and weigh at least 115 pounds.

In January 1943 Sarah was elected chairman of the Volunteer Emergency Nurses of the Civilian Defense Council of Washington Township. Mrs. McWhirter replaced Mrs. E.C. Grau in this position who left to join her husband, Capt. E.C. Grau in Oregon. In November 1944 she took on teaching a first aid course to the students at the Alviso Grammar School.

Civil Defense first aid stations in San Leandro and Centerville were organized in November 1952 and volunteers were indoctrinated in emergency medical-health procedures. The Washington Township headquarters would be at the high school. Four local doctors were assigned to cover the township and a host of Registered Nurses including Mrs. W.L. McWhirter.

Besides her duties in the Centerville Child Welfare Club Sarah was active in:

- The Centerville Grammar School PTA, was one of the founders of the organization and was also its first president.
- An active member of the Country Club of Washington Township.
- A member of the Centerville Birthday Club.

Dr. William L. McWhirter passed away on June 24, 1960. Mrs. Sarah E. McWhirter passed away on February 12, 1982.

### **Loren C. Marriott:**

Loren C. Marriott was born in Utah circa 1895 to Lorenzo and Lucy Marriott. He was one of five brothers and one sister. In 1920 the family was living in Soda Springs Idaho where Loren's father owned a stock ranch and Loren worked as a ranch hand.

Circa 1922 Loren took a wife Dorothea who had been born in Idaho circa 1901. They had three children, Richard, Charles, and Shirley. Richard was born in Idaho circa 1924, Charles was born in California circa 1926, and Shirley was born in California circa 1928.

By the mid 1920's Loren and his family had come to Centerville where he would eventually become a clerk at the Centerville Bank of America. By 1940 he had been promoted to Assistant Cashier. An Assistant Cashier is not to be confused with the title of a teller. Being an Assistant Cashier at Bank of America was the first official officer of the bank title.

A double announcement was made by the Bank of America in July 1956 about Loren C Marriott and the Centerville Branch of Bank of America. Loren C. Marriott has been promoted from Manager of the Centerville Branch to Assistant Vice President and Manager of the Centerville Branch. At the same time Bank of America has announced that the Centerville Branch would now be known as the Fremont Branch of Bank of America.

Loren C. Marriott would eventually retire from the Bank of America with the title of Vice President and Manager of the Fremont Branch of Bank of America.

Besides banking Loren was very active in Centerville/Fremont civic matters. In 1933 as a member of the Centerville Lions Club Loren was appointed chairman of the Lions Club committee to act as a local compliance board to receive complaints on code violations of FDR's National Recovery Act (NRA).

"The National Recovery Administration (NRA) was a prime New Deal agency established by U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933. The goal was to eliminate cut-throat competition by bringing industry, labor, and government together to create codes of "fair practices" and set prices. The codes were intended to reduce "destructive competition" and to help workers by setting minimum wages and maximum weekly hours, as well as minimum prices at which products could be sold. The NRA also had a two-year renewal charter and was set to expire in June 1935 if not renewed.

In 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously declared that the NRA law was unconstitutional, ruling that it infringed the separation of powers under the United States Constitution. The NRA quickly stopped operations, but many of its labor provisions reappeared in the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act), passed later the same year. The long-term result was a surge in the growth and power of unions, which became a core of the New Deal Coalition that dominated national politics for the next three decades.



The NRA, symbolized by the Blue Eagle, was popular with workers. Businesses that supported the NRA put the symbol in their shop windows, though they did not always go along with the regulations entailed. Though membership to the NRA was voluntary, those that did not display the eagle were often boycotted, making it mandatory for survival to many."

Loren served on many committees for Lions Club, which benefitted the progress of Centerville. In the mid 1930's the Lions Club put on 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations and parades for the whole township. He joined with the likes of Judge Allen G. Norris, H.E. DeLeon, Tom Silva, Jose Jason, and Jesse Regli in working on this program.



Loren was also a member of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce and in 1937 served as Treasurer to both the Centerville Lions Club and the Centerville Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber seemed to have suffered a lull in their membership and in 1946 Loren Marriott was elected president on the newly reorganized Centerville Chamber of Commerce.

### **Dorothea Marriott:**

Mrs. Dorothea Marriott was also very active in Centerville civic activities. In 1935 she became an active member of the Child Welfare Club. In the same year Mrs. Marriott was elected Vice President of the Centerville Grammar School PTA. Also in 1935 it was noted that Mrs. Marriott was also an active member here. In 1936 Mrs. Marriott was elected President of the Centerville School PTA. Mrs. Marriott was also active in the Ladies Aid Society of Centerville.

### **The Williams Brothers:**

The Williams Brothers: Leland (b. June 1891); Myron (b. Nov. 1896); Burdette (b. Oct. 1899); and Irving (b. circa 1903), all four brothers were born in California by Malcom and Eva Williams. Malcom was employed as a U.S. Mail carrier in Pasadena. The William Brothers also had three older sisters, which were born in Colorado and Utah.

The early life of the brothers saw them take different paths before they final made their name and their fortune in Washington Township and most notably, in the Centerville Irvington area.

Leland lived and was married in Iowa where he and his wife had two daughters and a son. He came to Irvington after 1930.

In the 1920's Myron was living with his uncle in Colusa Calif., where he was a mining engineer in a gold mine with his uncle. In the 1920's he was farming 40 acres in Woodland with brother Burdette. In 1930 he was in Taft Calif. where he was a machinist in an oil supply house. He also came to Irvington in the 1930's.

Irving, the youngest brother, was at home with his mother in Pasadena until 1920, but the year 1930 found him living in Palo Alto where he was a shipper of fruits and vegetables. Burdette, was as mentioned above, farming with his brother Myron in Woodland in the mid 1920's. It was Myron Williams who got the four brothers started in the vegetable business while he was serving as a buyer for the F.E. Booth Packing Co. in Centerville. The Booth Company had hundreds of acres of tomatoes on contract from farmers about the township. When the cannery closed because frost retarded the ripening of tomatoes it left unripened green tomatoes still on the vines.

After listening to enough complaints from farmers about this last crop of tomatoes that no one was buying, Myron decided he and his brothers might pack the green tomatoes themselves and let them ripen in railway cars on their way to New York. Their timing was good because by November the fall frost back east had killed off what was left of the tomato plants.

The first carload of tomatoes went out in 1924. Within three years Leland had returned from Iowa and Irving had come down from Davis to join the

operation. A year later the Southern Pacific Railroad thought enough of the Williams Brothers operation to build the shippers a packing shed along its tracks in Centerville and in June 1928 the Williams Bros were ready to occupy their new packing shed. From tomatoes the brothers branches out into peas and other local crops.

# Castlewood WINES



**Gold Medal  
Prize  
Winners**

Sixteen varieties of dry and sweet wines, each of the finest quality . . . yet moderately priced. You can buy Castlewood Wines with confidence . . . and pour them with pride.



## HOLIDAY HOSTESSES

An intriguing, novel way to "smarten" your parties. Castlewood "DUCK PINS" 4 1/2" tall 2 1/2" wide miniature bottles of delicious wine. Perfect for bridge prizes—the "unusual" when used as party favors. Castlewood Wine Co., Centerville, California.

**QUALITY, WITHOUT COMPROMISE**

Being forced into business was literally the case of the Williams Bros. of Centerville, Alameda County, when after repeal, they found themselves dealing in wine. Searching the State for choice wines of 16 different types, the Williams Bros brought the wine to Centerville to age in fine oak puncheons until a state of perfection was reached. The Castlewood label is one that they have long used in connection with other quality merchandise they handle, so it was natural that their quality wines should carry it also. Red and white table wines, appetizer, and dessert wines are included in the Castlewood line. Castlewood Wines is located in Centerville and is a product of the Williams Brothers.

The brothers also were in the wine business, getting into the wine business after Prohibition ended. They chose the "Castlewood" for their fine wines, of which they produced 16 varieties. The brothers bought their wine from small wineries specializing in the grape of a particular area. In that way they were dealing with people who knew the grape of that area intimately. Three of the Castlewood wines, burgundy, sauterne, and sherry won gold medals in the California State Fairs of 1936 and 1937.

In 1945 the brothers sold their wine label to the Felice Brothers for \$10,000. But the new owners failed to restrict the label to nothing but the best California wines, therefore the fame of the label faded and eventually failed to be a force in the marketplace.

In 1956, the year Fremont was incorporated, Burdette Williams retired from farming. Township.

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**\* WASHINGTON UNION HIGH SCHOOL \***  
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*Sports / School Grounds / Student Activities / Classes / Faculty / In Memorium*

## **Sports:**

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

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

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

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

Then in 1937 there was another instance of inter-school skulduggery against Piedmont High School their school was smeared with painted "H's" just a few hours before their football game with Hayward High. The game went on even though the principals had the authority to cancel the game. Meanwhile, in an odd turn, Henry Hampton, Vice Principal of Hayward High said that several carloads of students from Washington High were turned away from Hayward High in an effort to smear their school with paint. J.V. Goold, Vice Principal of Washington High said that he couldn't see that his students would have any motive for paint smearing, for Washington High had not played Hayward High for a few years and no games were scheduled this year or in the near future.

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

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

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

I recalled when I attended Washington Union High in the late 1950's that the school gym had pennants attached to the east wall of the main gym behind the eastern goal backboard. The pennants were "Black & Yellow" and not "Orange & Black" as they were in the 1950's.

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

In October 1934 Washington Union High Cornhuskers held a rally prior to their meeting Emeryville in a football game. The yells and cheers were led by Bill Garcia and Harry Cesari. Washington prevailed in the game played by a score of 44 – 6. This was their first league game of the season in the S.A.C.A.L. (Southern Alameda County Athletic League) where the Cornhuskers were expected to again win the league championship. In November Washington Union High School won their second consecutive Southern Alameda County football title by defeating Livermore Union High.

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

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

In 1937 Washington High was a member of the SCVAL (Santa Clara Valley Athletic League). The football team went on to win six straight games that season and win the SCVAL title that year. Unfortunately the East Bay papers did not carry much information about the SCVAL games and even the teams who played in the league. The high schools that were open in the 1930's in Santa Clara County and who were probably opponents for Washington High would have been: Fremont High School, Sunnyvale; Campbell Union High School; Santa Clara High School; and Los Gatos High School. Two other schools in Santa Clara County were Live Oak in Morgan Hill and Gilroy. Bellarmine Catholic High School came into being about 1939 and Lincoln High School in San Jose about 1942.

Washington Union High School is the 1937 champion of the SCVAL League in football. This was the first mention of the Washington Union High School at Centerville becoming part of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League. The school defeated Campbell High School for their sixth straight win and the league title.

## **School Grounds:**

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

The structural steel work on the new high school gymnasium was completed in May, after which they started to pour the concrete. The school had lacked an indoor physical education facility, which led to period of idleness during inclement weather.

Washington High's new gymnasium was dedicated on the evening of October 30, 1930. It was announced that the coming year's graduation ceremony would be held in the new structure which would seat 3,000 persons.



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

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

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

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

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

### **Student Activities:**

*Inter High School Play Days / School Publications & Annuals / Musical and Dramatic Presentations / Student Achievements / Scholastic Achievers / Classes / Faculty / In Memorium*

#### **Inter High School Play Days:**

During the 30's it was common for high schools to get together and have play days and social gatherings. On April 25, 1931 the high school girls from Livermore, Hayward and Centerville got together at Centerville for a day of games, frolicking, and friendship. The girls from the three schools participated in a special athletic program in the morning and then played together instead of against each other. After a luncheon the afternoon was spent participating in a variety of stunts, yells, and dancing.

This was repeated in April 1932 when the girls from Amador, Washington Union High, and San Lorenzo joined with the Hayward Union High girls in Play Day put on by the Associated Students of Hayward High. Games were played in the morning followed by a luncheon followed by dancing and sports in the afternoon.

In My 1935 250 girls from Hayward High School attended the annual play-day at Washington High. The girls were entertained in the morning by various athletic events, which was followed by a luncheon. A program presented by the Washington High girls followed and the day ended with dancing.

Again in 1938 it was noted that the Hayward High School girl's physical education department played host to 300 girls at its annual "play day" celebration that included Hayward, Washington, and Pleasanton high schools. The girls acquainted themselves and then played together in archery, volleyball, tennis, and baseball.

#### **School Publications & Annuals:**

School student activities were published in the school annual and in the school newspaper "The Hatchet." In April 1935 a deluxe edition of "The Hatchet" was published which received wide attention in the township. Published by the students of the school with Robert Ziegler, Editor-in-Chief; Leona Solon and Betty Robinson, Assoc. Editors; Manuel Maciel, Business Manager; and Miss Grace Knoles and H.M. Kibby, Faculty Advisors.

The issue was profusely illustrated, with pictures ranging from those of the first building and the first class to the senior class of 1935 and the present modern building. The alumni were represented with an editorial by Louis "Bud" Ruschin of the class of '29, and interviews from the old-timers who gave graphic sketches of the horse-and-buggy days.

The staff checked up on some of the present faculty, finding their pictures and records of achievement in old issues of school paper. Pictures of dramatic groups even 10 years ago offered an interesting study in the evolution of costumes, the first full length play, Sheridan's "Rivals," being given by the school in 1896. From 1898 to 1908 Shakespearian productions were featured, "As You Like It," having been presented on the Patterson Estate in Newark. Deprived of the up-to-date stage lighting equipment, which the school now has, early outdoor productions were illuminated with headlights from locomotives.

In sketching the history of the school, "The Hatchet" pointed out that the school was first planned September 25, 1891 when trustees of the eight individual districts fought out the three-cornered battle between the towns of Centerville Niles and Irvington for the site. The school opened in one room on the first floor of the Masonic Hall in Centerville, January 1892 with 24 students. In March 1893 the school moved into new quarters on the Niles-Centerville Road. In 1924 the present building on the Centerville-Irvington Road was constructed, and was one of the most complete and beautiful high school buildings in the county.

The first board of trustees included John Silver, Alviso; Edwin Whipple, Decoto; Emery Munyan, Lincoln; George Ryan, Mowry's; A. Leuret, Mission San Jose; H.A. Mayhew, Niles; L.F. Davis, Newark; Will Moore, Rosedale; Charles Bos, Warm Springs; and G. Cash, Irvington.

The editorial staff for the publication of the school annual "The Washingtonian" was announced by Principal Rathbone in 1938. Miss Mary Bristow of Niles was chosen as editor-in-chief. Others chosen were:

Dora Gastelum	Harriett De Leon	Bob McDavid	Ed Luiz
Richard Munger	Mae Wittenmyer	Thelma Silva	James Kataoka
Suzu Shimizu	Marjorie Pimentel	Max O'Starr	Donald Dias
Ed Martinez	John Dusterberry	Marjorie Trenouth	Kiyoko Nakamura
Serafine Lemos	Lawrence Leal		

### **Musical and Dramatic Presentations:**

Another fondly remembered activity was the school's dramatic and musical presentations put on annually to enhance the students entrance to the dramatic and musical arts.

One such presentation was Washington High's operetta "Conchita," which was presented on April 12, 1935 in the school auditorium under the direction of Miss Sybil Botelho. The leading roles will be taken by: Bernice Weber, Joan Hernandez, and Lyle Fisher. Other members of the cast are: Marilyn Maciel, Alton Jennings, Katherine Rathbone, John Cattaneo, and Charles Myrick.

In the chorus were:

Patsy Barton	Winnie Bendel	Bernice Bernardo	Joan Boyd
Gertrude Coley	Marion Ziegler	Laura Escobar	Olga Gronley
Alta Hendricks	Lillian Hoffman	Barbara Kibby	Edna King
Florence May	Ramona Mello	Edith Meneze	Pat Rose
Barbara Straub	Claire Musick	Rae Richardson	Anna Shinn
Eleanor Vierra	Louise Vierra	Robert Solon	Robert Kibby
Lawrence Waldt	Alex De Knoop	George Fields	

In May 1935 the seniors of Washington High presented two plays: "Apple Blossom Time," and "Cappy Ricks," which were produced by Miss Sybil Botelho and Miss Fischer. The cast for "Apple Blossom Time" included Ted Dundas, Ray Oliveira, Dale Laybourne, Marion Paterson, Glodena Bowers, Arthur Duarte, William Garcia, Adaline Silva, and Evelyn Pond. The cast for "Cappy Ricks" included Vernon Ellsworth, Bob Ziegler, Lillian Freitas, Leona Solon, Jack Rathbone, Boris Machado, Arthur Ferreira, Nicholas Moore, and Anthony Roderick.

### **Student Achievements:**

In September 1934 the four classes of the Washington Union High School elected the following class officials:

Senior Class:

Sam Dinsmore	Dale Laybourne	Luella Hudson	Joe Amaral
Irma Hodges	Par Burton	Fred Caldeira	Bill Garcia
Ann Logan	Helen Martin		

Junior Class:

Frank Medeiros	Emmanuel Maciel	Betty Roraback	Bernice Weber
Harry Cesari	Ramona Mello	Peggy Munger	Edith Menezes

Sophomore Class:

John Accinelli	Robert Kibby	Marilyn Maciel	George West
Leroy Raymond			

Freshman Class:

Robert Zwissig	Marion Ziegler	Esther Jason	Bette Sweeney
Don Costa	Frank Oliveria		

In January 1935 the boys of the "W" club held a whist party to raise funds for baseball uniforms for the boy's baseball team at the high school sponsored by the Lions Club. Members of the "W" club and various committees which took part were:

Bill Sinclair	Frank Phippen	Arthur Duarte	Joe Amaral
Frank Madeiros	Mikio Hikido	Louie Manuel	Ed Rose
Harry Cesari	"Sally" Andrade	Coach Jesse Regli	Principal Rathbone
Jack Rathbone	Sam Dinsmore		

New members of the Washington Union High School "W" Club were initiated into the Club by Harry Cesari in May 1935. Those inducted were: George Dundas, Arthur Duarte, Albert Pine, Arthur Ferreira, Melvin Luna, Robert Solon, Donald Costa, Jack Bimemiller, Fred Kuhlmoos, Louis Silva, Takeo Hirabayashi, Joe Kato, Isadore Naia, Eli Kitade, Charles Myrick, and Lawrence Houck.

In May 1935 the girls held an election for the Girls League officers: Winners and contenders were:

Pres: Erma Leal victorious over Janice Silva, Peggy Munger, and Ramona Mello.

V.P.: Bernice Bernardo victorious over Lorraine Houck and Edith Meneze

Sec.: Eleanor Roderick victorious over Ann Shinn

Treas: Yoshimi Kawaguchi over Blanche Nunes, Melva Scamman, and Rose Catteneo

Others elected were:

Yell Leader: Carrie Silveira over Mary Souza

Way & Means Comm: Jane Furtado, unanimous

Hospitality Comm: Margaret Wells over Ann August, Pat Sweeney & Helen Seidler

Program Comm: Mabel Lewis over Lillian Hoffman, Clare Musick, & Florence Freitas

The Girls "W" Club of Washington Union High School elected new officers in October 1938. They were:

President: Isabel Acevedo

Vice President: Gloria Arribas

Secretary-Treasurer: Sachiko Tajima

Yell Leader: Alice Nitta



Refreshment Comm.: Josephine Seoane  
 Entertainment Comm: Phyllis Owens  
 Clean Up Comm: Isabel Acevedo

Meanwhile in February 1936 the following seniors were chosen as chairmen of various senior activities:

Announcements & Bids: Alvin Muniz  
 Senior Nights: Eleanor Roderick  
 Sneak Day: Fred Rogers  
 Senior Breakfast: Lillian Perry  
 Flowers: Delinda Bettencourt  
 Dramatics: Betty Robinson  
 Senior Gift: Anna Milicent Shinn  
 Assembly: Betty Roraback  
 Senior Ball: Robert Salz  
 Graduation Program: Tarno Fudenna

**Scholastic Achievers:**

Betty Roraback was chosen as the outstanding senior girl at Washington Union High in February 1936 in a contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Other candidates were Anna Milicent Shinn, Bernice Weber, and Betty Robinson.

Fifteen students at Washington Union High were initiated into the Scholarship Society in March 1936: They were:

John Dusterberry	John Boyd	Eike Egashira	Sabina Flores
Mamoru Hamachi	Yasuko Ishida	Bruno Orsetti	Marie Pine
Suzu Shimizu	George Mathiesen	Kiyo Kato	Virginia Soares
Charles West	Yoshio Tomimatsu	Emi Kawaguchi	

Then in June 1936 the scholarship winners for the graduating class of 1936 from Washington High were:

Yoshimi Kawaguchi	Fumiko Tomimatsu	Anna Shinn	Betty Roraback
Betty Robinson.			

The honor roll announced in April 1937 for Washington High included:

John Accinelli	May Baba	Robert Coit	John Dusterberry
Eiko Egashi	Llewelyn Gwyther	Linda Jane Hellwig	Kiyo Kato
Emi Kawaguchi	Robert Kibby	Betty Koge	Nita Lagorio
Vivian Logan	Mitsu Machida	Florence May	Tom Mitsuyoshi
Alice Nitta	Hisae Nogami	Sumi Ohye	Emma Marie Pine
Margaret Shimizu	Suzu Shimizu	Edward Silva	Virginia Soares
Robert Solon	Kazue Tate	Yoshio Tomimatsu	Grace Ura
John Ura	George Ushijima	James Wasley	Margaret Wells
Charles West	George West	Robert Zwissig	Marian Ziegler
Yvonne Vieux			

Students at Washington Union High were surveyed on their thoughts of the war in Europe when Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Here some of the thoughts from our students:

- 55% of the more than 600 students agreed that staying out of war was the most vital issue of the day for the U.S.A.

- 43% voted that the United States should prohibit trade relations with warring Nations in order to remain neutral.
- 71% contended that Congress should be required to obtain the vote of the Nation in order to declare war.
- 56% think the European war will draw the United States into the conflict eventually.
- A strong majority objected to the U.S.A. helping the Allies.
- Students believe that government should go to the aid of any distressed country in North or South America.
- Students believe that it was a mistake for the U.S. to have had entered the World War 1.
- They objected to lending money to England and France and to cancelling war debts.
- Switzerland was voted the most popular European county with England and France following.
- Germany was voted as the last most popular European country preceded by Italy.

### **Classes:**



Students of the commercial dept. at Washington Union High concentrate on the development of speed and accuracy in typing this semester so that a team from Washington Union High School may be selected to defend the trophy the school instituted, and then won for itself in competition with other schools in Southern Alameda County. Pictured left to right: Aldina Perry, Alice Sequeira, Lola Luna, Ida Sequeira, Rومilda Rose, and seated Roy Secada.

Meanwhile students of the agricultural department of Washington Union High School took the girls by surprise in February 1933 when they invaded the kitchen of the school cafeteria and cooked all of the food served at the annual father-son banquet given by the local Future Farmers of America. The boys raised all of the vegetables served. One of the youths raised the lamb, which he and his associates butchered and cooked for the affair. The agricultural department was organized in the fall of 1931 by Paul Dougherty, the instructor. The school authorities realized that many boys attending the school intended to be farmers, but would not have the opportunity to attend an agricultural college. It was decided to them the scientific training necessary for them to gain the best results from their land.

The course was an immediate success with 32 boys enrolling the first year. This term the enrollment has been increased to 50. In test plots on the school grounds the boys study plant propagation and other fundamentals.

Two boys from Washington Union High School Future Farmers took prizes at the Great Western Livestock Show in Los Angeles in December 1934. Anthony Silva and Robert Whipple took home prizes in the weight and dressing estimation competition.

Four members of the Future Farmers of America enjoyed a regional meeting at Santa Cruz in January 1935. Those in attending were: Ray Oliveira, Isadore Naia, Frank George, and Martin Duarte.



In 1932 the Future Farmers of America at Washington Union High School instituted their own band.

When night school at Washington Union High School opened in January 1934 they offered classes of special interest of persons wishing instructions in various crafts and arts, according to night school principal J. Vernon Goold. Presently the school offered courses in basketry, leather work, commercial art, sketching, sculpture, and a course in color and design. New courses will include weaving, pottery, and textile design.

The Home-Making Class at Washington Union High put on a fashion show in April 1935 in connection with the school's Girls League. The program featured Eleanor Roderick, Lillian Hoffman, Bernice Bernardo, Anne Logan, Glodena Bowers, Gladys Vargas, and Janice Silva.

Future Farmers at Washington Union High were kept busy in 1936. There were several experiments under way which included trial plantings of early market tomatoes, five varieties of seeds were planted by Takeo Fudenna and Joe Kato. Plants from these seeds were then grown by Joe and Clarence Telles, David Escobar, and Joe and Ed Azevedo. Two market corn and cattle feed corn varieties were tested by Anthony Silva, Albert Maciel, Takeo Fudenna, Kaoru Inouye, Melvin Allegre, Robert Whipple, Peter Bunting, and Frank Medeiros. Peter Bunting brooded 200 Barred Rock chicks in an Alameda County brooding contest. Twenty-six calves raised during the past season brought a total return of \$117. Boys raising calves were

Anthony Avila, Billy Foster, Peter Bunting, Martin Duarte, Dan Juarez, August Duarte, and E. Azevedo.



Many of the 600 students enrolled in the Washington Union High School night classes were working for high school diplomas. Officers of Washington Union High School night classes and also members of the "Night Owl," the monthly publication of the class were: Left to right upper row: Joseph Gallegos, Vice President; Bruno Orsetti, Editor; and Tony Escalona, member of the fresh man class. In the front row left to right are: Manuel Seoane, President; Josephine Torquemada, Secretary; and Manuel Garcia, member of the sophomore class.

In March 1939 the Future Farmers of Washington Union High School had a livestock show held at the high school. Those who showed animals were: William Borba, Joe Schelbert, Louis Sessa, Richard Maciel, Albert Maciel, Lionel Rocha, John Vierra, Anthony Avilla, George Andrade, Elmer Leal, Mervyn Christensen, Lawrence Johnson, Albert Betschart, Walter Cunha, and Frank Rickenbacker.

### **Faculty:**

The Board of Trustees for the Washington Union High School met to reorganize in May 1930. M.J. Overacker of Mission San Jose was elected chairman of the board and John Whipple of Decoto was elected secretary. Then in May 1933 M.J. Overacker of Mission San Jose was named President of the Board of Trustees for Washington Union High at another reorganization. H.F. Harrold was chosen Secretary of the Board, and H.L. Scott of Niles was elected to replace F.V. Jones, who retired after serving many years on the board.

Miss E.M. Sandholdt of Centerville was honored for her 25 years of service to Washington Union High School in May 1935. Paying tribute were almost 300 persons including the complete board of trustees: M.J. Overacker, President; H.F. Harrold, Clerk; John S. Oliveira, Andrew Logan, and H. Lovell Scott. Also in attendance were previous board members: Fred F. Dusterberry, F.V. Jones, J.E. Rogers, J.C. Shinn, and A.T. Biddle.

Following the discontinuance of the school nursing service by the County Health Department October 1935 when the Board of Trustees of the Washington Union High School failed to accept increased rates, the school hired a local physician, Dr. W.L. McWhirter. Dr. McWhirter would pay daily calls at the school for diagnosis, first aid, and minor treatments for students referred to him. Dr. George S. Holeman, also a local physician, would attend to all injuries sustained by the football squad during practice or games.

With the advent of better and faster automobiles also came horrific accidents and death on the highways. This was also spreading to the young set as they learned to

drive on our modern highways. A campaign to make 1936 the safest year in history on the streets of the Eastbay found an editorial comment in the "Hatchet," the student publication of Washington Union High School. A.J. Rathbone, principal of the school wrote as follows in the "Hatchet":

"Years ago a stage coach ran daily from Redwood City to La Honda. Applicants for jobs as stage drivers were asked: 'How close can you drive to the edge of Hair Pin Turn on the grade without going over?' The answers varied from 1 inch to 1 foot. Said one applicant, 'If I am ever allowed to drive the stage, I will see how far away I can keep, not how close I can get.' He got the job. May all drivers keep away from 'Close Shaves.'"

Faculty heads at Washington Union High School in August 1936:

Principal: A.J. Rathbone  
Vice Principal: J.V. Goold  
Dean of Girls: E. Marie Sandholdt  
Principal-Night School: Barton Webb

Carl Handy, former captain of the University of California football team was selected as coach of the football and baseball teams in August 1936.

Washington High hired Judson E. Taylor to head its physical education department to replace Jesse Regli in June 1937. Coach Regli elected to go teach in Salinas.

Miss E. Marie Sandholdt, Dean of Girls at Washington High, will go on a tour of Europe during her 1937 vacation from school. Joining her would be her sister Miss Lillian Sandholdt.

These were the 11 grammar schools in the Washington Union High School district in May 1938.

Alvarado	Alviso	Centerville	Decoto
Irvington	Lincoln	Mission San Jose	Mowry's Landing
Newark	Niles	Warm Springs	

**In Memorium:**

John Whipple of Decoto and James Logan of Alvarado were killed in a head on crash on October 16, 1931. They were returning from a fishing trip in their light coupe when James Logan apparently fell asleep at the wheel and crossed the center line and ran head on into a gravel truck. Mr. Whipple was a board member of the Decoto School and James Logan had just been elected as a board trustee for Washington Union High School. The second high school in the district (opened in Sept 1959) was named after James Logan.

In June 1937 Miss E. Marie Sandholdt went on a tour of Europe during her vacation from school. Joining her was her sister Miss Lillian Sandholdt. Three and a half months later Miss Elsie Marie Sandholdt passed away.

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**\* CENTERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL \***  
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*Dias & Maloney / Student Activities / School Administration*

## **Dias & Maloney:**

Perhaps the biggest news of this decade at the Centerville Grammar School was the passing of long time principal of the Centerville School Mr. Joseph Dias. Mr. Dias had taught at the Alviso District Grammar School for eight years before becoming the principal of the Centerville School in 1905. Then on December 26, 1934 the local residents of Centerville were stunned to learn of the death of Joseph Dias, principal of the Centerville Grammar School. He had been principal for almost 30 years and had been a resident of Centerville for about 40 years.

Funeral services were conducted for Joseph Dias, 63, of San Jose California on December 28, 1934. Joseph Dias was 63 years of age and had been principal of the Centerville School for nearly 30 years. He was survived by his wife Alice, who was a Doctor of Optometry in San Jose, and a son Paul who was a public school teacher in San Jose.

Then in one of those rare instances of good fortune, the Centerville School found a replacement worthy of Joseph Dias. That man was Thomas Maloney. Tom Maloney was hired in August 1930 to replace William Galant who had resigned his position at the school. Centerville in August 1930 when Tom was hired to replace William Galant of the Centerville Grammar School. Tom Maloney was teaching under the principalship of Mr. Joseph Dias when Mr. Dias passed away in December 1934 after nearly 30 years of teaching at the Centerville School. Tom Maloney was then named the new Principal of Centerville Grammar School in January 1935.

Tom Maloney took the Centerville Grammar School, a one school system of 400 students in 1935 to eight schools with 4,200 students in 1964. When the Fremont Unified School District was formed by the merger of six school districts in 1972, there were 46 schools and 32,000 students. Tom Maloney became the ass't school superintendent of the massive district. Tom Maloney announced his retirement in 1972 after 42 years educating Centerville children.

The profile of the late Joseph Dias, principal of the Centerville Grammar School for nearly 30 years, was used on the class rings of the seniors of 1936 announced Tom Maloney, principal in November 1935.

## **Student Activities:**

The Centerville School formed a debate team in April 1932 and took on the Irvington School in a debate over what made Woodrow Wilson a great president. On the Centerville team will be: Manuel Maciel, Robert Salz, Mary Maciel, and Edward Lewis who will take the affirmative side in the debate.

In November 1933 the Centerville Junior Traffic Patrol was reorganized under the leadership of CHP Officer George Barron and Judge Allen G. Norris.

By September 1936 the membership of the Junior Traffic Patrol of the Centerville Grammar School had grown to 27 students. Membership in the patrol was a mark of good grades, citizenship, and efficiency. Those chosen were:

Kiyoto Nakamura	Richard Marriott	Norischege Oku
Toshio Shiozaki	Rudolph Brazil	Harry Ushijima
Robert Carey	Mamoru Hamachi	Joe Correia
Joseph Soito	Roy Mathiesen	Roy Duarte
Richard Maciel	Chijeto Inouye	Henry Dowke

Yukio Isoda  
Johnny Williamson  
David Vargus  
Edward Bettencourt

Allan Asakawa  
Joe Wallman  
Frank Borghi  
Anthony Maciel

George Emerson  
Harold Azevedo  
Henry Borghi  
Gene Correia

Graduates at the Centerville Grammar School for the year 1934 were:

Carol Agosto	Manuel Alameda	Teresa Bernard	Beatrice Azevedo
Donald Costa	Carmello Damien	Elwin Gaunt	Olga Gronley
Harumi Hayashi	Tom Ikeda	Cheyko Inouye	Richard Inouye
Esther Jason	Yoshio Kakimoto	Lawrence King	Douglas Nunes
Shigeo Oku	David Patterson	Mary Shikano	Belmida Silva
Manuel Silva	Howard Stinhilver	Roberta Stevenson	Marianna Torres
George Ushijima			

The Principals of the nine township schools got together and formed a grammar school baseball league in Washington Township. The nine schools were:

Alvarado	Alviso	Centerville	Decoto
Irvington	Mission San Jose	Newark	Niles
Warm Springs			

In November 1935 the 25 graduates of the Centerville School selected the following officers of the Student Body:

President:	John Soito
Vice President:	Kazuei Tate
Secretary:	Dorothy Silva
Treasurer:	Vermilda De Luce

A Lincoln Day program was presented by the eighth grade students of the Centerville Grammar School in February 1938. Norma Lewis acted as the emcee. "Lincoln's Kindly Deed," a play was presented by Roy Mathiesen, Mamie Bernard, and Bernice Rose; "A Man of the People," a reading by Gloria Clark; "Nicknames Given Lincoln," presented by Allan Asakawa, Edward Bettencourt, Jack Silva, Roy Duarte, and Henry Borghi; "The Boy who Studied," a play by Tony Maciel, Gene Correia, Joe Wallman, Frank Borghi, and Paul Faucett.

The annual issue of "The Inkling," the Centerville Grammar School paper was published in June 1938 and included poems and stories by the following authors:

Dora Gastelum	Marge Kilishima	Nelle Warren	Mary V. Bristow
Anita Lagorio	Joseph Amaral	Yvonne Vieux	Marge Nicholas
Suzu Shimizu	Vivian Newell	Marge McNally	Gloria Dycus
Josephine Ramos	Rose Andrade	Dorothy Escobar	Wilimina Guardanapo
Charles West	Emi Kawaguchi	James Stanhope	Betty Steinhoff
Gale Sheedy	Betty Pool	Marge Williamson	Fusako Sakata
Llewelyn Gyther	Mitsuo Machida	Sumi Ohye	Thomas Santos
Max O'Starr			

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students of the Centerville Grammar School put on a Thanksgiving play in November 1939, "Planting the Corn," before the student body. Jack Robinson acted as announcer. Those taking part in the play were: Robert Sousa, Nancy Bishop, Dolores Mognaga, Winifred Rogers, Barbara Jean De Borba, Antoinette Pimentel, Floyd Parks, David McWhirter, Joseph Lewis, and Stanley Silva. "A Thanksgiving Wish" was given by Leslie Rogers, Donald Correa, Fumiko Sakauye, and Sumi Inouye.

## **School Administration:**

Fred F. Dusterberry has announced in March 1931 that he would not be a candidate for reelection as a board member of the Centerville School this year. In March 1935 George Coit was reelected as trustee.

Meanwhile the teaching staff at Centerville School in 1934 were: Joseph Dias, Principal; Miss Anita Garcia, Miss Antoinette Botelho, Miss Mary Dias, Miss Josephine Herbert, Miss Generose Maloney, and Thomas Maloney.

Miss Antoinette Botelho, member of the Centerville Grammar School for several years, has resigned her position in June 1936 to enroll at Mills College for the summer session and the fall term, planning to complete requirements for her Master of Arts degree. She will major in music. Miss Sibyl Botelho, her sister, is the art teacher at Washington Union High school, will spend next spring and summer at Columbia University in New York.

A mass meeting was called by the citizens of the Alviso School District in May 1939 to discuss repairs for the grammar school building. A recent SPA grant was used for general and improvement of grounds. Further repairs are needed because of damage from termites and other causes.

New Niles and Centerville schools were on the drawing board in September 1939 at a cost of \$270,000. With a \$25,000 bonds issue passed in the Alviso District the board has to decide whether to repair the old school or erect a new one.

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## **\* CENTERVILLE FARMING \***

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*Apricots / Tomatoes / Cauliflower / Other Farming News*

In the production of fruit and choice vegetables the Centerville section contributed heavily to the general prosperity of the Southern Alameda County area. Cherries ranked first in production, but apricots, pears, strawberries, tomatoes, peas, and rhubarb made farming a \$3,000,000 enterprise in 1930. To go with the agricultural nature of the community Centerville had three large packing/shipping plants and a large cannery. The F.E. Booth Cannery at Centerville was in operation in early spring when it began packing spinach until late fall when the frost would stop the tomato harvesting. They would employ from 350 to 500 persons during the summer. The cannery got the bulk of its pack from the surrounding area but it also imported hundreds of tons of peaches from Sutter County and points in the Sacramento Valley. Its annual output is approximately 200,000 cases of tomato products, 50,000 cases of apricots, 50,000 cases of pears, and 125,000 cases of peaches.

As the depression took hold in the early 30's farmers were one of the industries that was subjected to hard times. But farmers not only had to contend with depressed prices, but they also had to contend with labor unrest, crop disease and even deprivation from outside pillaging their crops.

## **Apricots:**



As the 1930's progressed the cultivation of apricots became greater and the crop gained prominence in the Centerville area.

Local farmers became dissatisfied with the prices being offered by the local canneries. In 1932 pricing difficulties came to a head and local Centerville apricot growers threatened to dry their cots instead of delivering them to the canneries for packing. Farmers began preparing their drying trays for cut cots just in case the canneries did not offer a fair price for their fruit. The farmers have agreed that \$40 a ton for cots is the point at which the local farmers would deliver their fruit to the canneries. Last year's crop delivered to the canneries earned the farmer less than what they would have earned if they had dried their fruit. It was said that the average canning price was \$22 a ton last year.

After a scare was thrown into the canneries the price of cots increased until about 1935 they reached an average price of about \$52.50 per ton of cots, with pricing ranging from \$45 to \$57.50. Unusually large cots were gathered from a number of Washington Township orchards, running on some ranches three to a pound.

As the end of the decade neared apricot growers again became unhappy with pricing they received from the canneries. Local apricot growers began exploring ways to unite. The organization of proposed growers union was discussed at a mass meeting of growers in the Washington Union High School in April 1939. M.J. Bernardo of Centerville chaired the meeting with James M. Nunes, also of Centerville acting as Secretary. Purpose of the proposed union was to obtain the best price possible for dried and cannery apricots. On May 29, 1939 the growers union was approved by 50 growers, most of whom signed a pledge to withhold their apricots from the market until a State committee of growers would have negotiated on the price for this year's crop.

On the following day (May 30<sup>th</sup>) the Organization of the Alameda County Apricot Growers Union was formed in Centerville. Its purpose was to negotiate with canners and processors on the 1939 crop price by orchardists of the area. The unit was patterned after a group that formed last year in San Benito County (Hollister) and its members indicated it would eventually become a local in a statewide campaign. M.J. Bernardo of was chosen president of the local union with A.J. Rezendo and James Nunes as VP and Sec-Treas respectively. The group which signed up also included Andrew Garin of Hayward; Frank Gomez of Mission San Jose; Joseph Shinn Jr., T.H. Moore, Don Driscoll, and W.D. Kirk of Niles; Tony Bettencourt, A.J. Maciel, George Silva, Manuel George, Tony Lewis, W.J. Furtado, and George Lowrie of Centerville.

Organization of the Alameda County Apricot Growers Union as a projected state-wide price-bargaining of growers was furthered by about 35 farmers who attended a meeting held in Hayward in June 1939. Ten names were added to the list of those who have pledged themselves to support the union program. Secretary James J. Silva of Centerville said that the county union has 42 members which have pledged to withhold their apricots from the market this year until negotiators shall have bargained on a price for the 1939 crop with representatives of canners and processors.

In July a protest meeting was held at the Parish Hall in Centerville where apricot growers prepared for a protest march in San Jose against low prices being offered by the canners and processors. Growers of apricots are holding out for \$32.50 to \$42.50 a ton for their cots while the canneries are offering had just advanced their

offering from \$20 a ton to \$25 a ton. The canners later offered \$30 a ton, but this was turned down flat by the local farmers. The finest type of fruit is said to be scarce this year due to the dry weather. The fruit is smaller than usual it is said.

On July 9<sup>th</sup> the Centerville area apricot growers again turned down the cannery price of \$30 a ton and would not deliver their cots to the canneries for less than \$42.50 a ton. The growers refuse to accept \$30 a ton or any compromise and declared they will dry their fruit unless granted their asking price.

### **Tomatoes:**

There seemed to be relative peace between growers and canners of tomatoes in the Centerville area. It was said that in 1935 the price for a ton of tomatoes delivered to the cannery was \$11.25, the same as it was in 1934.

But at the beginning of 1936 farmers balked at cannery prices of less than \$15 a ton. What's worse the farmers were subject to dockage. Some farmers lost \$20 to \$30 an acre due to this practice.

Dockage: A practice of the canneries to sample a farmer's tomatoes and downgrade the quality due to unripe tomatoes offered, tomatoes that had mold or other problems that made the tomato substandard. The inspectors would then weigh the substandard tomatoes and divide by the weight of sampling, the resulting percentage was then applied to your contract price. So if you as a farmer had a 10% sampling ratio, the price the cannery paid to you was \$13.50 a ton rather than the \$15 you had originally contracted. One thing to note: The cannery used 100% of the tomatoes you delivered, but only paid you 90% of the contract price.

By the middle of January 1936 the battle over tomato pricing between farmers and canneries was taking a serious turn. Canneries were in fear that if they give in to the farmers demands here, other farmers will use similar methods to get higher prices in other can-able fruits and vegetables. But time was against the farmers who must begin preparation for planting tomatoes in the next six weeks.

On January 22, 1936 tomato growers in South County empowered a committee to negotiate with the canners for a contract calling for \$15 a ton for tomatoes delivered to the cannery rather than \$12.50, which is being offered by the canneries.

The end of February 1936 came and farmers were still without a contract from the canneries who have pegged their price at \$12.50 a ton and refuse to go higher. Farmers are now considering planting their crop without a contract and see what happens later in the year.

In March 1936 came bad news for delta area farmers but good news for Washington Township farmers. A large shortage of canning tomatoes was expected this year because of Sacramento and San Joaquin spring floods. All canneries are short of tomato acreage.

### **Cauliflower:**

At the beginning of the decade farmers were receiving \$1.00 for a dozen head of the best cauliflower (8.5¢ each). Lower grades of cauliflower brought 4.5¢ to 6¢ a head. A cold snap hit Centerville in 1932, which pushed back the maturity of February cauliflower to March and March cauliflower would then be harvested on the heels of

February cauliflower. There was also some "fuzz" showing on the cauliflower recently in the Centerville area and this is being followed closely by farmers and buyers.

January 1934 saw several farmers in the southern Alameda County band together to form a marketing agreement under the California Prorate Act that would regulate the shipment of cauliflower east based on marketing conditions during the coming season. There are more than 50 growers of cauliflower in Southern Alameda County with over 2,000 acres to be planted in cauliflower this year. A committee of Myron P. Williams of Centerville, Lloyd Bailey of Alvarado, Richard Kennedy of Hayward, and Aldon Oliver of Mt. Eden are circulating a petition calling for a united front of farmers to back the marketing agreement.

### **Peas:**

Peas were grown throughout Washington Township, but the majority of peas were grown in the foothills about Decoto and Hayward.

Labor unrest in the pea fields of Eden and Washington Townships has forced action from the Board of Supervisors in April 1933. The board voted to strike all able bodied men not working because they are on strike against farmers to be stricken from the relief rolls. This amounts to about 4,000 men. Justice of the Peace Allen G. Norris had appeared before the board asking that strikers be stricken from the relief rolls as they could earn \$3 a day picking peas.

The labor unrest continued in the pea fields of Santa Clara County and Southern Alameda County in 1933, 1934 and into 1935. The labor unrest was the result of Communist sympathizers (it was said) going into the fields to cajole, and some cases intimidate workers, into joining a union.

In 1925 about 35 growers and shippers of peas and other spring vegetables from various parts of Alameda County met at Judge Norris' courtroom and listened to Alameda County District Attorney Earl G. Warren address the labor unrest growing among harvesting workers in the fields. The discussion dwelt on measures for adequate sanitation for worker's camps, uniform measuring of pea hampers, uniform accounting and pay for workers, and other steps to eliminate possible causes for labor dissatisfaction.

Labor unrest in the canneries of Central and Northern California caused the Canners Association to post the following statement in local papers (except) in April 1937:

"Labor disturbances in the canneries during the coming season are being talked about. Your employers do not want trouble. They will do their utmost for peace. You can do even more for peace than they can. What is being said is that an attempt will be made to compel California canneries to operate under "closed shop" conditions. That means in substance that all regular employees would be compelled to join a union and that all seasonal employees would be hired only through the offices of a union."

### **Other Farming News:**

Cherry growers in this area suffered heavy losses when late rains caused tons of ripening fruit to split in May 1932. The problems were worsened by the invasion of tramps who leave the trains to forage on the cherry crop. In several of the orchards the trees were damaged by the invading tramps.

The monthly report for the Alameda County Farm Bureau Cow Testing Association showed that Joe Bauhafer of Centerville won the contest for highest producing cow in March 1937. His cow, No. 337, produced 1,484 pounds of milk and 72.8 pounds of butter-fat during February.

In March 1936 war was declared on snails in the Centerville area. The snails have caused considerable damage to crops in Washington Township and the war is being conducted by the Washington Chapter of the Future Farmers of America. The students were working with County Farm Adviser T.O. Morrison and his assistant, C.F. Fry. Their recommendation: One pound of calcium arsenate mixed with 16 pounds of bran, to be moistened and spread upon bare ground between rows of vegetables or flowers.

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**\* SOCIAL AND CIVIC CLUBS \***

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*4-H Club / Alameda County Federation of Women's Clubs / As You Like IT Club / Birthday Club / Boy Scouts / Centerville Athletic Club / Centerville Evening Card Club / Centerville Grammar School PTA / Centerville Supper Club / Chamber of Commerce / Child Welfare Club / Christmas Seals / Country Club of Washington Township / Eden - Washington Township Farm Center / Farm Bureau / Fire Department / Girl Scouts / Holy Ghost Catholic Church / Knights of Columbus / Knights of Pythias / Ladies Aid Society / Ladies Bridge Club / Library / Lions Club / March of Dimes / National League of Mothers of America Council / Native Daughters of the Golden West / Native Sons of the Golden West / Orient Chapter of the Eastern Star / Post Office / Red Cross / S.P.R.S.I. / St. James Guild / St. James Men's Club / Sweet Sixteen Club / Thimble Club / United Ancient Order of Druids / United Artisans / Washington Township Arts-Crafts Guild / Washington Township Men's Club / Washington Township Post of the American Legion at Centerville / Washington Township Post of the American Legion Auxiliary at Centerville / Washington Township Sportmen's Club / Washington Township Striped Bass Club / Washington Township Tennis Club*

**4-H:**

The Centerville 4-H elected new officers January 1938. They were:

President: Melvin Nunes  
Vice President: Richard Maciel  
Secretary: Allan Asakawa  
Treasurer: Edward Brazil  
Reporter: David Vargas

Others that attended the meeting were: Director: James Nunes, Joseph Lewis, Adolph Enos, George Holeman, and Stanley Bernardo. This was the only reported activity for the Centerville 4-H,

**Alameda County Federation of Women's Clubs:**

The Alameda County Federation of Women's Clubs was an organization founded to promote the progression of women in society and also to bring new women's clubs into existence. This federation was comprised of many women's club and Centerville's Mrs. F.T. Dusterberry was among the elite of the club when she assumed the position of president of the club in January 1936. She replaced Mrs. Newton Cleveland who resigned to pursue a position in the national club. Mrs. Dusterberry had served as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for the 1935 - 1937 term. Then Mrs. Dusterberry was unanimously nominated for the office of president of the Alameda County Federation of Women's Clubs in March 1939. She was unopposed.

### **As You Like It Club:**

The As You Like It Club reported two meetings in 1935. In March 1935 the club met with Mrs. Clarence Earl with Mrs. Mary Gregory as the guest of honor. In June 1935 the club met with Mrs. Hawley, Mrs. John Lowman, and Mrs. William A. Atwood. The purpose of the club was not explained.

### **Birthday Club:**

The Centerville Birthday Club met with female members of the club who were having a birthday. They reported meetings between 1935 and 1938:

- The Birthday Club met with Mrs. George Lowry in January 1935.
- Mrs. Garrett Norris was the next host with an Honorarium to Mrs. H.F. Chadbourne.
- In March 1935 the Birthday Club met with Mrs. F.T. Dusterberry and in the same month the club met with Mrs. Philip Moore with Mrs. George Lowrie as special guest.
- Mrs. George Emerson hosted the Birthday Club in May 1935.
- The Birthday Club met with Mrs. Howard F. Chadbourne in June 1935 with special guests Miss Elizabeth Dusterberry and Mrs. Nila Norris.
- The Birthday Club met in January 1938 at the home of Mrs. George Lowrie to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. George Emerson.
- The Centerville Birthday Club was hosted by Mrs. Howard Chadbourne and daughter Mrs. Belle Chadbourne at the Castlewood Country Club in August 1938. Mrs. Garrett Norris and Miss Elizabeth Dusterberry were the guests of honor. Others present were Mrs. George Coit, Mrs. Frank T. Dusterberry, Mrs. George Emerson, Mrs. W.L. McWhirter, Mrs. George Lowrie and Mrs. Howard White.

### **Boy Scouts:**

In January 1933 the Oakland Council of the Boy Scouts of America designated that Centerville would be the site of training Boy Scout leaders for Washington Township.

An inter-troop contest for Boy Scouts of Washington Township will be staged at a jamboree to be held at Washington High School in October 1935 for the purpose of acquainting the public with the various forms of scout activities. Scouts from Centerville, Niles, Newark, Decoto and Irvington will compete for prizes in knot-typing, fire-making, first-aid, etc. George Mathiesen Jr. will be one of the prominent scouts competing. He was the local representative at the Washington Jamboree recently.

George Mathiesen and George Coit spent a lot of time with the boys of the Centerville Scouts in 1937 and 1938.

In March 1939 a Sea Scout Patrol for senior Boy Scouts was formed under the chairmanship of Judge Allen G. Norris. Alvin Morse, a member of the Washington Union High school faculty was the skipper and Lawrence Sharpe of Niles his first mate.

A few weeks later five of the Sea Scouts took to the water of the Bay. It turned out to be a bad outing, which ended with a search about the Bay by Coast Guard boats and planes. It seems the boys failed to notify their parents that they had reached shore safely after having motor problems on a trip from the Berkeley Yacht Harbor to Newark. The boys turned back and spent the night in Berkeley. Meanwhile their

parents were expecting them to show up in Newark, which they failed to do so. So the parents contacted the Coast Guard for help, but all ended well.

Scout badges and awards were given out at a district court of honor at Washington High in April 1939. Second class badges were handed out to the following Centerville boys: Edward Brazil, Gilbert De Borba, Roy Duarte, Verne Furtado, and George Holeman. A first class badge was presented to Jack Silva. Merit badges were presented to the following Centerville Scouts: Allen Asakawa, Roy Mathiesen, Melvin Nunes, and Jack Silva.

### **Centerville Athletic Club:**

The Centerville Athletic Club reported activity only in 1930 and 1931: The Centerville Athletic Club held a barbeque to raise funds for activities in March 193. Fred Rogers, Fire Chief and star of the volleyball team will preside over the barbeque pit. The club is attempting to line up some opponents for their volleyball team under master scheduler Judge Allen G. Norris. Later in March the club volleyball team travelled to the Oakland Auditorium to take part in the Pacific Coast championship volleyball team tournament. The championship was won by the San Francisco Y.M.C.A. team.

Then in February 1931 the club resumed operations and were in the process of selecting teams for volleyball and bowling.

### **Centerville Evening Card Club:**

This club reported two meetings this decade. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bergstrom entertained the Centerville Evening Card Club at their home in San Jose in March 1930; and the Evening Card Club met with Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Chadbourne in March 1935, with Miss Elizabeth Dusterberry and Mrs. Belle Chadbourne in attendance.

### **Centerville Grammar School PTA:**

The new Centerville PTA officers elected in May 1932 were:

President:	Mrs. George Mathiesen
Vice President:	Mrs. Fred Rogers
Fin. Secretary:	Mrs. Andrew Gronley
Rec. Secretary:	Mrs. Charles Wahaub
Treasurer:	Mrs. Josephine Herbert
Parliamentarian:	Mrs. C.E. Anderson
Historian:	Mrs. George Coit

The children of the Centerville School took on an extra project to show their compassion for their community in the trying times of the Depression. In December 1934 the Centerville PTA supplied many baskets of groceries for needy families in the district. According to Principal Joseph Dias the groceries were delivered by pupils of the school.

In April 1935 Mrs. A. Gronley, president of the Centerville School PTA, appointed a committee to select nominees for offices of the PTA. The committee members were: Mrs. Fred Rogers, Mrs. Eva Jason, Mrs. Charles Wahaub, Mrs. W.L. McWhirter, Mrs. C.E. Anderson, and Mrs. William Furtado.

In May 1935 the new PTA Officers were seated:

President:	Mrs. Catherine Dutra
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Vice President: Mrs. Loren Marriott  
Rec. Secretary: Mrs. M. Bennett  
Fin. Secretary: Mrs. Joseph Furtado  
Treasurer: Mrs. Thomas Maloney  
Parliamentarian: Mrs. Petra Gronley

Retiring officers were: Mrs. Paul Dougherty, Mrs. Joseph Jason, and Mrs. Cameron.

Mrs. C.E. Anderson and Mrs. Charles Wahaub were appointed as a nominating committee in February 1936 to name new officers for the Centerville Grammar School PTA. Mrs. Loren Marriott presided in the absence of President Mrs. Petra Gronley and Mrs. Tom Maloney as secretary pro-tem.

The Centerville Grammar School seated new officers in March 1936. They are:

Past President: Mrs. Petra Gronley  
President: Mrs. Loren Marriott  
Vice President: Miss Anita Garcia  
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Rilla Bennett  
Financial Secretary: Mrs. J.L. Furtado  
Treasurer: Mrs. Tom Maloney  
Installing Officers: Mrs. C.E. Anderson

Centerville School PTA Founder's Day meeting in February 1939 was hosted by Mrs. George Coit, chairman. Sybil Botelho, Dean of Girls of the Washington Union High School gave the talk. Mrs. W.L. McWhirter, the unit's first president, and Mrs. Loren Marriott, junior past president spoke on the memory of the funders.

The annual whist party of the PTA of the Centerville Grammar School was announced by Mrs. F.A. Bishop in October 1939. Mrs. Bishop was in charge of Whist Party with Mrs. Loren Marriott, Mrs. Thomas Maloney, and Principal Thomas Maloney assisting.

### **Centerville Supper Club:**

The Centerville Supper Club met twice this decade, both in 1939. They met in January 1939 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Coit. Then Mr. and Mrs. Howard Chadbourne hosted the Centerville Supper Club meeting in May 1939.

### **Chamber of Commerce:**

The Centerville Chamber reported a scant two meetings in the 1930's. The first report was when the Chamber decided to send a delegation to Livermore to participate in their Frontier Days Parade in May 1933.

The other report was in 1937 when the Chamber reported the list of their officers:

President: Frank T. Dusterberry  
Vice President: George Roderick  
Secretary: M.P. Mathiesen  
Treasurer: Loren Marriott

### **Child Welfare Club:**

The club met throughout the decade at member's homes:

- Mrs. F.A. Bishop hosted the Child Welfare Club in May 1930.
- The Child Welfare Club met with Mrs. Henri Salz in September 1930.

- Child Welfare Meeting: Mrs. George Lowrie, Mrs. J.E. Thane, and Mrs. J.R. Whipple in October 1930.
- Also in October 1930 The Children's Welfare Club met with Mrs. Frank T Dusterberry. The Next meeting will be with Mrs. Howard Chadbourne.
- The child Welfare Club met with Mrs. Henri Salz in September 1934.
- The Centerville Welfare Club No. 1 met in March 1935 with Mrs. Frank Dusterberry under the direction of Mrs. Harry Salz, president. The afternoon was spent in sewing under the direction of Mrs. A.A. Hatch.
- The Welfare Club met at Mrs. A.J. Rathbone's house in May 1935 with Mrs. Paul Pitman as Hostess. Also attending were: Mrs. A.A. Hatch, Mrs. H.F. Chadbourne, Mrs. J.R. Whipple, and Mrs. E.A. Ellsworth.
- Welfare Club No. 1 of Centerville ranked high in the organizations working for the children under the jurisdiction of the Alameda County Charities Commission. Included in the January 1936 report of Christmas activities for the children was the donation of \$26 from the board and \$19 from Club No. 1, this money being used to buy useful gifts and toys for the welfare children of this section.
- Christmas gifts for 52 children were wrapped by members of the Southern Alameda Welfare Club No.1 of Centerville in November 1936. Leading the event was Mrs. Howard Chadbourne.
- The Welfare Committee met with Mrs. Howard Chadbourne in January 1938.
- The Welfare Club of Centerville met at the home of Mrs. Richard Sparrowe in April 1939, Mrs. A.J. Rathbone was the joint hostess.
- Mrs. Fred Dusterberry will host the next meeting of the Centerville Child Welfare Club in May 1939.

### **Christmas Seals:**

Mrs. Howard Chadbourne led the Christmas Seal campaign for tuberculosis in the Centerville District in November 1930. She was assisted by Mrs. F.O. Bunting and Mrs. George Coit.

### **Country Club of Washington Township:**

The Country Club was made up of women throughout the township. Their clubhouse was located in Centerville.

The names of women who participated in meetings and activities of the club during the decade were:

Mrs. R.L. Pond	Mrs. E.A. Ellsworth	Mrs. Howard Chadbourne
Mrs. C.E. Anderson	Mrs. Mabel Fitzgerald	Mrs. Roland Bendel
Mrs. E.E. Carroll	Mrs. Barton Webb	Mrs. Josephine Brown
Mrs. George A. Coit	Mrs. Walter Robie	Mrs. August May
Mrs. Garrett Norris	Mrs. Laura Whipple	Mrs. Harry Cushing
Mrs. George Mathiesen	Mrs. F.T. Dusterberry	Mrs. C.E. Martenstein
Mrs. John Lowman	Mrs. Estelle Williams	Mrs. Jack Williamson
Mrs. E.H. Hirsch	Mrs. E. Dixon Bristow	Mrs. H.M. Kibby
Mrs. Thomas Power	Mrs. A.J. Rathbone	Miss Nancy McKeown
Mrs. George Beardsley	Mrs. W.Z. Foster	Mrs. Loren Marriott
Mrs. Harvey Braun	Mrs. Henry May	Mrs. J.L. Olson
Mrs. Harry Searles	Mrs. E.B. Hodges	Mrs. Alwyn Searles
Mrs. L.W. Musick	Mrs. William Mette	Mrs. A. Petsche
Mrs. Warren Gravestock	Mrs. Mary Barnard	Mrs. Ella Alexander
Mrs. William Sloan	Mrs. J.E. Thane	Mrs. Jack Kleine



Mrs. Allen G. Norris  
Mrs. R.A. Sparrowe  
Mrs. M.C. Dassel  
Mrs. W.L. McWhirter  
Mrs. A.A. Hatch

Mrs. Joseph Adams  
Mrs. J.P. Boyd  
Mrs. O.E. Walpert  
Mrs. C.N. Myrick  
Mrs. Joel Langdon

Mrs. L.E. Bailey  
Mrs. George Bonde  
Mrs. E.C. Dawson  
Mrs. Walter Ziegler

In January 1939 the ladies of the Country Club took up a new task. They decided to pick up where the ladies of the 19<sup>th</sup> century had left off. That is to update the "History of Washington Township" which the Country Club had published in 1904.

Who owned the first automobile in Washington Township? Who operated the first public garage? Who planted the trees, few of which are native to this section? These and similar questions were being asked by the history and landmarks committee of the County Club of Washington Township who were in the process of gathering data for the second volume of township history.

Mrs. William Sloan of Irvington is assisting Mrs. J.E. Thane in assembling material for the history. Mrs. Sloan asked for assistance in finding answers to specific questions about the developments of this this section, which at one time was the leading center of Alameda County.

The first volume of the history was published more than 30 years ago covers the founding of the various towns in the township and events up to the year 1904. The second volume will include progress from that date to the present time.

Mrs. E.A. Ellsworth appointed the following members to gather specific data in answer to various questions. Those chosen were:

Decoto:	Mrs. Harry Searles
Alvarado:	Mrs. Walter Robie
Centerville:	Mrs. Robert Anderson
Irvington:	Mrs. William Sloan
Catholic Churches:	Mrs. George Coit (of Centerville)

The highlight of the decade came in November 1934 when former president Herbert Hoover and wife addressed the Country Club.

### **Eden – Washington Township Farm Center:**

The Eden-Washington Farm Center hosted tomato growers from the townships to discuss grower-cannery contracts during March 1935. The growers were looking for a marketing association to force higher payments from canneries for tomatoes. 64 of the 67 farmers in attendance had not yet signed contracts with canneries. The following year in November 1936 the Eden-Washington Farm Center floated the possibility of a "holdout" action against canners unless they propose at least a \$15 a ton contract. This subject was discussed extensively at the meeting.

### **Farm Bureau:**

The members of the Livermore - Pleasanton center of the Alameda County Farm Bureau assisted the farmers of Centerville, Niles, Alvarado, and Irvington districts in the formation of a farm bureau center at Centerville in March 1933. At a previous meeting at the farm bureau center held in Livermore a delegation of Washington Township men asked the local farmers for assistance in getting them started.

## **Fire Department:**

The Centerville volunteer fire department started the decade with Fred Rogers as Fire Chief and Frank Madruga Ass't Fire Chief. Fred would become a Fire Commissioner for the town of Centerville and Frank Madruga would be elevated to Fire Chief.

In July 1930 the fire department purchased an inhalator for first aid treatment. But soon after the effects of the Depression began to affect the fire department's budget. In September 1930 the Centerville Fire Department Fund was cut by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors from \$1,218 to \$1,000. This was part of the cuts that the board made on all budgets in Alameda County.

Centerville earned the title of a "protected city" by the Board of the Insurance Underwriters of the Pacific Coast in November 1931. After a complete survey the board has certified that the town of Centerville has one of the most efficient local fire departments and that entitles the town to a 10% reduction in fire insurance rates.

In December 1934 Frank Madruga, Chief of the Centerville Fire Department, was elected president of the Alameda County Fireman's Association.

## **Girl Scouts:**

Girl Scouts/Blue Birds/Camp Fire Girls/ Rainbow Girls

The first to report in were the Centerville **Blue Bird** group in October 1934. Mrs. Clyde Anderson had taken over the Centerville group.

In April 1936 Mrs. C.E. Anderson also had charge of the **Camp Fire Girls**. The girls had just completed a five-week donut sale. They sold 1,284 donuts during the sale.

The Centerville **Girl Scouts** were taken on a swimming party at the Hayward Plunge in July 1936 by Mrs. James Nunes. The girls who attended were: Doris Alameda, Shirley Alameda, Nila Bennett, Eleanor Kinzli, and Maxine Mau.

A Mother's Day tea was held in the home of Mrs. George Holeman in May 1937 by the Centerville **Campfire Girls**. Those taking part were: Virmilda De Luce, Shirley Marriott, Shirley Alameda, Carrie Gronley, Beverly Adams, Antoinette Holeman, and Ethel Wahaub. Mrs. C.E. Anderson had charge.

Miss Olga Gronley was seated as the new advisor of the Centerville **Rainbow Girls** in October 1938. Other officers and committee members were:

Helen Kamp	Vivian Logan	Linda Hellwig	Karen Gronley
Laura Zwissig	Mary Harrold	June Farrington	Lesley Stuart
Jackie Burtsch	Virginia Wasson	Sigred Olesen	Elaine Lund
Betty Arendt	Darlene Bolyard	Betty Gibson	Margaret McNally
Lillian Jorgensen	Marian Critchfield	Margaret Trenouth	

Ten **Girl Scouts** from Centerville received awards at a court of honor held at Castro Valley in February 1939. The Centerville girls receiving tenderfoot pins were: Shirley Alameda, Betty Jane Cox, Mary Ellen Greenfield, Eva Jason, Shirley Marriott, Rosanne Sladek, Barbara Ponti, and Ethel Wahaub. Accompanying the girls were Mrs. George Sladek, Mrs. Richard Greenfield, and Mrs. James Nunes, leader of the Centerville troop.

The Centerville [Girl Scouts](#) participated in the Girl Scout Day at the Golden Gate Exposition in May 1930. Those attending were: Betty Jane Cox, Mary Ellen Greenfield, Rosanne Sladek, Shirley Marriott, Lucille Greenfield, Ethel Wahaub, Shirley Gaunt, Mrs. W.E. Gaunt, and Mrs. James Nunes, Captain.

The [Girl Scouts](#) enjoyed an overnight camping trip to Mt. Hamilton in July 1939. Accompanying the girls were Mrs. James Nunes, leader; and Mr. and Mrs. Blake Hill of Alvarado. Girl Scouts present were Doris and Shirley Alameda, Shirley Gaunt, Shirley Marriott, Ethel Wahaub, Rosanne Sladek, Mary Ellen and Lucille Greenfield, Judy Hill, Barbara Ponti, and Margaret Thompson.

Two new member will be initiated into the Centerville Assembly of [Rainbow Girls](#) in November 1939. They are Ruth Williams and Helen Griffin, both of Irvington.

### **Holy Ghost Catholic Church:**

At the beginning of the decade Father Manuel De Sousa was pastor of the Holy Ghost Church. In January 1937 Father Alfred De Souza was appointed by Pope Pius XI to the rank of Domestic Prelate, with the title Right Reverend Monsignor. Father De Souza was born October 22, 1872 at Flores, the Azores Islands. He was ordained a priest at Angra, Terceira Island, in the Azores. After beginning pastoral work there he came to San Francisco in 1899. He was first assigned to Mission San Jose until 1903, then studied at St. Mary's College. Later he was stationed at San Leandro and Cotati. On December 13, 1913: Father De Souza, who served had served under Father Governo was been named to replace the late priest at Centerville.

In May 1938 the annual Holy Ghost was celebrated by the Holy Ghost Church at Centerville. The queen was Naomi Vieux with maids of honor Catherine Telles and Norma Lewis. In charge of the celebration was Antone Lewis and J.D. Lewis.

### **Knights of Columbus:**

In March 1930 the Knight reported that they took in 19 new members.

In July 1932 the K of C reported these new officers:

Grand Knight:	J. Collins
Dep. Grand Knight:	Ernest Pimentel
Chancellor:	Louis Mayer
Warden:	M.F. Silva
Treasurer:	George A. Coit
Recorder:	John Vasconcellos
Fin. Secretary:	George Roderick
Guardians:	Angelo Ferreira and Joe Dutra

In 1934 the Knights formed a basketball team and became a member of Harder's Basketball League. Below are the teams and the standing as of January 1934:

Bruce Radio Stars	6	0
Native Sons Bears	4	2
San Leandro Y.M.I.	3	2
Night School	2	4
Centerville Knights of Columbus	2	4
Native Sons Cubs	0	5

Then in July 1934 the Knights reported these new officers:

Grand Knight:	Louis Mayer
Deputy Grand Knight:	M.F. Silva
Chancellor:	George Kollimans
Secretary:	George Roderick
Treasurer:	George Coit
Warden:	Thomas Maloney
Trustees:	Joseph Duarte, A.P. Rose, and Frank Souza

In July 1935 the Knights reported these new officers:

Grand Knight:	Thomas P. Maloney
Deputy Grand Knight:	George J. Kommes
Chancellor:	A.P. Rose, Jr.
Warden:	J.C. Vierra
Fin. Secretary:	George S. Roderick
Rec. Secretary:	John B. Vasconcellos
Treasurer:	George A. Coit
Advocate:	Henry N. Enos
Inside Guard:	Angelo Ferrario
Outside Guard:	Joseph S. Alves
Trustees:	M.W. Lewis, James J. Collins, and Joseph B. Dutra

The First Degree team of the Centerville Council of the Knights of Columbus will put on First Degree work for the Hayward Council at a meeting to be held in January 1937. Members of the local team are: Judge Allen G. Norris, M.W. Lewis, George Kommes, John Vasconcellos, and E.J. Pimentel.

In July 1937 the Knights reported these new officers:

Grand Knight:	E.J. Pimentel
Deputy Grand Knight:	M.F. Silva
Chancellor:	John Brown
Warden:	Angelo Ferraris
Financial Secretary:	George Roderick
Treasurer:	George Coit
Inside Guard:	John Cattaneo
Outside Guard:	Bernie Joseph
Advocate:	Emanuel Maciel
Trustees:	Joe Luiz and Joe Duarte

Then in September 1937 the K of C reported that they would send the following entrants to the bass fishing tourney in Pittsburg: Joe Duarte, Joe Luiz, John Vasconcellos, and Claremond Secada. Also at this time the Centerville K of C Band played for the Oakland Council. Members of the band are: Vincent Bettencourt, John Cattaneo, A.P. Rose Jr., E.J. Pimentel, Joe Silva, L. Gonsalves, Claire Bettencourt, and Cecil Bettencourt.

In July 1938 the Knights reported these new officers:

Grand Knight:	George Kommes
Deputy Grand Knight:	A.P. Rose Jr.
Chancellor:	John Vierra
Warden:	Ed Kettman
Recording Secretary:	John Vasconcellos

Financial Secretary:	George Roderick
Treasurer:	George Coit
Inside Guard:	Angelo Ferraris
Outside Guard:	Frank Faria
Trustee:	M.W. Lewis
Advocate:	Vincent Bettencourt

Also in July 1938 they that they had initiated four new members. They were: Donald Maciel, Manuel Brown, Henry Machado, and Arthur Belshaw. In charge of refreshments were John Brown, Bernie Joseph, and M.W. Lewis. At the end of 1938 the organization held their Christmas Party under the auspices of Chancellor Commander Leonard Whitbeck and his staff; Frank Oldfield, Harley Justus, and Kenneth Tinkham.

Two major organizations of Centerville announced in March 1939 the first ever ping pong tournament in Washington Township. The two groups are the Centerville K of C and the Washington Parlor of NSGW. First division players who will compete are: Al Silveira, Al Monese, Vernon Rose, and Tom Silva Jr. of the Native Sons; and Judge Allen G. Norris, Joe Duarte, Leonard Lucio, and E.J. Pimentel of the K of C.

### **Knights of Pythias:**

The Knights of Pythias reported three events this decade:

- They met in January 1931 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their founding. Fred Dusterberry and J.D. Norris, the two remaining charter members, were in attendance.
- Flag Day exercises were held in June 1936. Speakers included Grand Vice Chancellor Frank T. Dusterberry, Vice Chancellor Leonard F. Whitbeck and E.M. Stevenson.
- Harold Garcia and Frank T. Dusterberry welcomed Grand Chancellor Wilbert C. Hamilton to a meeting at the Centerville K of P in April 1939.

### **Ladies Aid Society:**

The Ladies Aid Society was a service of the Presbyterian Church in Centerville. They met at the homes of its members. Three meetings were reported this decade:

- Mrs. M.J. Overacker hosted the Ladies Aid Society meeting in June 1931.
- The Ladies Aid Society resumed fall meetings in September 1934.
- The Ladies Aid Society of Centerville had a Christmas Party at the home of Mrs. Loren Marriott on December 21, 1938.

### **Ladies Bridge Club:**

The Ladies Bridge Club met with Mrs. L.A. Vieux in March 1935. This is the only activity reported.

### **Library:**

It was noted in 1935 that they Centerville librarian was Mrs. Arwina A. Ormsby. This was the only mention of the Centerville library in the 1930's other than the Library building was used as polling precinct in local elections.

### **Lions Club:**

*The National Recovery Act (NRA)*

The town of Centerville organized a Lions Club in September 1931. Don Leidig is to be the president and John Slem the secretary. On October 19, 1931 Dr. George E. Holeman announced that the lions would celebrate charter night for the newly organized club with a meeting the Washington High gym.

Washington Union High principal A.J. Rathbone issued a plan in December 1931 to the Lions Club for the establishment of a high school swimming pool to cost \$7,500. By April 1933 the goal of raising \$7,500 for the Washington Township swimming pool for the high school had reached the half-way point. As I recall when I attended Washington High the swimming pool was finally built some in the mid to late 1950's.

In 1932 Frank Madruga, who served as the Centerville Lions first Five President, would be elevated to the post of President. A nominating committee headed by Fred Rogers made the appointment with Chick Santos to be the next Vice President. Also on the nominating committee were the Rev. E.L. McIlhenny, Harry Elser, George Hellwig, and William Thacker.

In 1932 the club also decided to donate an official flagpole to the community as soon as a favorable spot could be found. The intersection of the Niles Road and Main Street was first favored, but a majority of the club members favored its placement in front of the fire station. Eventually in November the Lions decided the flag pole would be placed near the fire station. PG&E offered to help in the erection of the pole with their equipment.

The Centerville Lions decided that house numbers were needed for the town of Centerville. The club completed this project in May 1933. At the same time the Lions Club also placed permanent street signs at all intersections. The signs were mounted on iron posts and the signs themselves were supported by ornamental wrought iron braces.

After the completion of the house numbering and street signs the Lions held a benefit dance in September 1933 to help fund the milk fund for disadvantaged children of the area. The Lions Club took over the milk fund after the PTA had run out of money to keep the program going.

The Lions took on another community project in November 1933. With the Depression affecting many people in our community, the Lions decided to back President Roosevelt's National Recovery Act (NRA, see explanation below). The Lions Club appointed a committee to act as a local compliance board to receive complaints on code violations of the NRA Act. Manuel Santos, president of the Lions Club, appointed Loren C. Marriott as chairman of the committee with Allen G. Norris, P.C. Hansen, Harold De Leon, George Kommes, Edward Roderick, and Frank Madruga as members.

Local Boy Scouts cooperated with the Centerville Lions Club in a determined effort to enlist every housewife in the community in a campaign that would assure success of the NRA program. The Scouts made a house-to-house drive to procure consumer pledges.

#### **The National Recovery Act:**

"The National Recovery Administration was a prime [New Deal](#) agency established by U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) in 1933. The goal was to eliminate 'cut-throat competition' by bringing industry, labor, and

government together to create codes of 'fair practices' and set prices. The NRA was created by the National Industrial Recovery act (NIRA) and allowed industries to get together and write 'codes of fair competition.' The codes were intended to reduce 'destructive competition' and to help workers by setting minimum wages and maximum weekly hours, as well as minimum prices at which products could be sold. The NRA also had a two-year renewal charter and was set to expire in June 1935 if not renewed.

In 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously declared that the NRA law was unconstitutional, ruling that it infringed the separation of powers under the United States Constitution. The NRA quickly stopped operations, but many of its labor provisions reappeared in the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act), passed later the same year. The long-term result was a surge in the growth and power of unions, which became a core of the New Deal Coalition that dominated national politics for the next three decades.



The NRA, symbolized by the Blue Eagle, was popular with workers. Businesses that supported the NRA put the symbol in their shop windows and on their packages, though they did not always go along with the regulations entailed. Though membership to the NRA was voluntary, businesses that did not display the eagle were very often boycotted, making it seem mandatory for survival to many."

For the year 1934 the president of the club was Manuel Santos. In July fifteen new members were initiated into the club and Mrs. Adeline Santos was honored by the Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce for her 20 years' service in the Post Office at Centerville as the Assistant and Post Master.

The club was very busy in November 1934 with the Lions joining with the Women's Town Hall Association to put up a playground on the property that was, until recently, the home of the Women's Town Hall. Then the club followed this financing the cleaning of Main Street. Complications have resulted in street cleaning circles since the Alameda County Road Department discovered that it was sweeping State highways and not County highways in both Centerville and Niles. Businessmen in Niles blame the Centerville Lions Club for "spilling the beans," although there is lot more than beans to be cleaned up in the business district of both towns. Although the Centerville Lions have taken responsibility for their town, the Niles Chamber of Commerce have not yet arrived at a solution on how to keep their First Street tidy.

The New Year of 1935 started with the Lions Club planning to hold its second annual Washington Township Fair. Last year it was held at the high school and was a great success, according to Joe Jason, organization president.

The Centerville Lion's boy drill team and the Woodman of the World drill team, and the Druid's band all marched at the MSJ Holy Ghost in June 1935.

Activity reports from various chairmen in January 1936 included: Fred Rogers distributed 14 Christmas baskets to needy families, Joe Jason lit the municipal Christmas tree, Chick Santos reported 270 children at the Christmas party, Tom Silva, Junior Traffic Patrol party at Pleasanton to which the Centerville Lions donated two turkeys.

The Lions Club will again put on a Fourth of July celebration in Centerville in 1936. The following are have been named chairs for the various committees:

General Chairman:	Judge Allen G. Norris
Financial Chairman:	Chick Santos
Parade Chairman:	H.E. De Leon
Decoration Chairman:	William Furtado
Publicity Chairman:	Judge Allen G. Norris
Dance Chairman:	H.E. De Leon
Police & Parking:	Tom Silva
Gate & Admission:	L.C. Marriott
Fireworks Chairman:	Joe Jason
Entertainment Chairman:	Jesse Regli

The Centerville Lions will seated new officers in July 1936: They were:

President:	Harold De Leon
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	J.V. Goold
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	A.D. Lewis
Secretary:	Manuel W. Lewis
Treasurer:	Loren Marriott
Lion Tamer:	Joe Bauhofer
Tail Twister:	Jack Boyd
Directors:	Earl Hygelund and George Silva
Past President:	Judge Allen G. Norris

The Centerville Lions Club started the year 1937 far afloat from Centerville. They endorsed a State Fish and Game Bill regulating floating sardine reduction plants, which would bring them under the same regulations as land based canning plants. The Lions then got to meet the new superintendent of the F.E. Booth Canning plant in Centerville, Mr. Morris O'Brien who recently succeeded F.A. Bishop who received a promotion. F.E. Booth got their start in Monterey Calif. as sardine processing plant.

In March of 1937 the Centerville Lions Club officers were:

President:	Harold DeLeon
Vice-Presidents:	J.V. Goold & A.D. Lewis Jr.
Secretary:	Manuel W. Lewis
Treasurer:	Loren Marriott
Tail-Twister:	Jack Boyd
Lion-Tamer:	Joseph Bauhofer
Directors:	Allen G. Norris, Joe Jason, George Silva, Manuel S. Almeida Erle Hygelund

The club, in keeping with its annual township fair, picked August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> in April 1937 as the date for this years' Washington Township Fair, which is sponsored by the Lions Club. A contest to pick a queen of the festival would be held with the coronation to occur on the evening of August 6<sup>th</sup>. President of the club, Harrold De Leon appointed M.M. Santos, Frank Madruga, Joe Jason, and Loren Merritt as committee members.



The Centerville Lions Club elected new officers in June 1937. They were:

President:	J.V. Goold
Vice President:	Loren Marriott
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Manuel Vierra
Secretary:	M.M. Santos
Treasurer:	W.J. Furtado
Tail Twister:	Joe Adams
Lion Tamer:	Tom Maloney
Directors:	Owen Swainson and Frank Madruga

Delegates reporting on the convention were Judge Allen G. Norris, M.M. Santos and Harold De Leon. Manuel Lewis reported on the Postmasters convention held in Long Beach.

In August 1937 the Lions listened to a report on incorporation of Centerville. E.B. Hodges introduced a speaker from the University of California who discussed the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation of cities of the sixth class. He stated the only disadvantage was the cost and that depended on how much the district valued the advantages which he stated would be better police protection, building control, city planning, lighting, health control, and general city regulations. He stated that he believed that the southern end of the Bay region and the peninsula were slated for the biggest development of any section of the country in the next 20 years.

### **March of Dimes:**

A total of 2,500 buttons in the March of Dimes project for the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation were distributed in Washington Township in January 1939 by Chairman A.J. Rathbone. Mrs. George Holeman, M.W. Lewis, and W.E. Gravestock of Centerville assisted Rathbone from Centerville.

### **National Legion of Mothers of America Council:**

Mrs. Frank T. Dusterberry, assisted by Mrs. Roland Bendel, was organizing a chapter of the National Legion of Mothers of America Council in Centerville in November 1939.

### **Native Daughters of the Golden West, Betsy Ross Parlor, #238:**

Installation of officers for the NDGW in July 1935 was:

President:	Marie White
Past President:	Irma Kelly
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Roumilda Rose
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Evelyn Garcia
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President:	Marie Bettencourt
Recording Secretary:	Matilda Enos
Financial Secretary:	Rose Peixotto
Treasurer:	Lucy Day
Marshal:	Alfretta Clark
Trustees:	Addie Dias, Margaret White, & Mrs. Anna Rose
Outside Sentinel:	Alice Simas
Inside Sentinel:	Constance Amaral

In April 1936 the Native Sons and Daughters announced that they will hold their annual homeless children's ball which draws hundreds from the southern end of the county.

In May 1936 the Native Daughters were preparing to celebrate their tenth anniversary. The group was founded June 9, 1936.

The 1939 annual ball for homeless children will be given by the Washington Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West, No. 169 in conjunction with the Betsy Ross Parlor, No. 238 of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. The committee for the Native Sons includes: Vernon Rose, Tom Silva, Mat Mathiesen, Harold Garcia, and Tom Silva Jr. The committee for the Native Daughters includes: Roumilda Rose, Isabel Ferry, Leotina Leal, Mrs. M. Freitas, Mrs. Jesse Perry, and Margaret white.

### **Native Sons of the Golden West, Washington Parlor No. 169:**

The NSGW installed new officers in August 1930. They were:

President:	Frank T. Dusterberry
Vice President:	William F. Logan
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	M.D. Silva
Treasurer:	J.D. Norris
Fin. Secretary:	M.T. Mathiesen
Rec. Secretary:	Allen G. Norris
Marshal:	G.I. Norris
Inner Guard:	C.T. Cockefair
Outer Guard:	Lester Nunes

In April 1935 a dance was given by the Washington Parlor No. 169 of the Native Sons of the Golden West in conjunction with the Betsy Ross Parlor No. 238 of the Native Daughters of the Golden West to benefit the Homeless Children's Fund. This has been annual event going back 10 years. The chairman this year is M.P. Mathiesen with E.M. Stevenson, Tom Silva and Ernest Pimentel assisting. The ladies were represented by Matilda Enos, Alice Simas, and Irma Kirk.

In May 1935 Judge Allen G. Norris and E.M. Stevenson were selected as delegates to attend the NSGW convention at Vallejo. Alternates were J.D. Norris and Tom Silva.

NSGW new officers for July 1935 were:

President:	E.J. Pimentel
Jr. Vice President:	E.M. Stevenson
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Leonard Lucio
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Frank Madruga
Recording Secretary:	Allen G. Norris
Financial Secretary:	M.P. Mathiesen
Treasurer:	J.D. Norris
Marshal:	G.I. Norris
Trustee:	Frank T. Dusterberry
Inside Sentinel:	Tom Silva Jr.
Outside Sentinel:	V. Salvadorini

In April 1936 the Native Sons and Daughters announced that they will hold their annual homeless children's ball, which draws hundreds from the southern end of the county. NSGW President E.J. Pimentel has appointed Tom Silva Sr., M.P. Mathiesen, Judge Allen G., Norris, Ernest Garcia and Leonard Lucio as a committee on arrangements.

Frank P George and George Enos were initiated into the NSGW by President Al Monese in November 1938.

Two major organizations of Centerville announced in March 1939 the first ever ping pong tournament in Washington Township. The two groups are the Centerville K of C and the Washington Parlor of NSGW. First division players who will compete are: Al Silveira, Al Monese, Vernon Rose, and Tom Silva Jr. of the Native Sons; and Judge Allen G. Norris, Joe Duarte, Leonard Lucio, and E.J. Pimentel of the K of C.

The annual ball for homeless children announced in May 1939, which will be given by the Washington Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West, No. 169 in conjunction with the Betsy Ross Parlor, No. 238 of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. The committee for the Native Sons includes: Vernon Rose, Tom Silva, Mat Mathiesen, Harold Garcia, and Tom Silva Jr. The committee for the Native Daughters includes: Roumilda Rose, Isabel Ferry, Leotina Leal, Mrs. M. Freitas, Mrs. Jesse Perry, and Margaret white.

In July 1939 the Washington Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West had won their second consecutive championship title of the Softball League of Washington Township. Last year they defeated the Knights of Columbus in a playoff game, and this year they defeated the Newark Sporstmens Club in a playoff series.

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

The Orient Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was proud to be the home base for Mrs. Willa Jane Hellwig of Alvarado who was elected the Grand Matron of the California State Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in 1930.

In October 1934 more than 100 people attended the OES meeting which honored Mrs. J.C. Wasley and Mrs. Evangeline Muller. Then in December 1934 the Order installed the following new officers:

Worthy Matron:	Mrs. Bernice Boyd	Newark
Worthy Patron:	John Boyd	Newark
Associate Matron:	Mrs. Lucy Katzer	Newark
Associate Patron:	Frank Katzer	Newark
Secretary:	Mrs. Fern Mitte	Niles
Assoc. Conductress:	Mrs. Elva Wyatt	Newark

In 1936 the Worthy Patron and Matron of the Centerville OES were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Katzer, they were honored by a party given by the members of the Masonic Lodge at Centerville.

The Orient Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star met in November 1936 to install new officers and to honor charter members who are still on the roll. Those members were: Mrs. Mary Gregory of Centerville, Miss Martha Mack of Irvington, Mrs. Grace McClure Huxley of San Francisco, Mrs. Farley Granger of San Leandro, Mrs. Lena Blacow and Mrs. Emma Hellwig Koevany of Mt. Eden.

Members who are to be seated as officers for the coming year (1936) are:

Worthy Matron:	Mrs. Esther Burch, Newark
Worthy Patron:	John Boyd, Newark
Associate Matron:	Mrs. Laura Orelli, Alvarado
Associate Patron:	Frank Evans, Newark
Secretary:	Mrs. Fern Mitte, Niles (beginning her 21 <sup>st</sup> year)
Treasurer:	Mrs. Elvy Wyatt, Newark
Conductress:	Mrs. Petra Gronley, Centerville
Assoc. Conductress:	Mrs. Leona Rutter, Irvington

The Orient Chapter of the Order of the Eastern listed the following as officers in January 1938. They were:

Worthy Patron:	Frank Evans
Worthy Matron:	Petra Gronley
Secretary:	Fern Mitte
Conductress:	Elizabeth Mendenhall
Assoc. Conductress:	Lois Gravestock
Marshal:	E.A. Richmond
Organist:	Ester Burtch
Warden:	Irene Kibby
Sentinel:	Dora Richmond

Orient Chapter OES announced new officers in November 1938. Mrs. Laura Orelli will retire as Worthy Matron. The new officers are:

Worthy Matron:	Petra Gronley
Worthy Patron:	Frank Katzer
Associate Matron:	Lucy Katzer
Associate Patron:	Charles Burtch
Secretary:	Fern Mitte
Treasurer:	Elva Wyatt
Conductress:	Lois Gravestock
Assoc. Conductress:	Esther Burtch
Chaplain:	Ed Richmond
Marshal:	Laura Orelli
Organist:	Irene Kibby
Warden:	Dora Richmond
Sentinel:	Franklin Brown
Adah:	Sadie Hodges
Ruth:	Laura Evans
Esther:	Laura Rutter
Martha:	Evangeline Muller
Electra:	Elizabeth Mendenhall

The OES celebrated their 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Orient chapter in February 1939. Petra Gronley led the celebration assisted by Mrs. Edith Wasley.

### **Post Office:**

The Centerville Post Office started out 1930 by having to add many new postal boxes due to the growth of the Centerville area. At this time Centerville did not have home delivery. You received your mail in a post office box, which you rented from the post

office. The other method of getting your mail at the post office was at the General Delivery Window.

Chris Peterson of Newark won the mail contract to take Centerville mail from the trains in Niles to the Post Office at Centerville. Al Juhl had held the contract for four years but was under bid by Peterson who would do the job for \$75 a month instead of Juhl's \$100 a month. There are no mail trains passing through Centerville, and all mail is handled through Niles.

In August 1934 Mrs. Adeline Roger Santos retired from the Centerville Post Office after twenty years of service as assistant Post Master and Post Mistress of the Post Office. Manuel L. Lewis was the acting Post Master until he was named the new Postmaster for the town of Centerville.

### **Red Cross:**

A Red Cross meeting was held in the home of Mrs. F.T. Dusterberry in October 1934.

Junior Red Cross Clubs were organized in 21 schools in Southern Alameda County in April 1939, including Washington Union High School and the grammar school at Centerville. Materials for the school was furnished by the Oakland Chapter of the Red Cross as part of its peace-time activities.



Demonstrations of how to make dressings for European war hospitals were made at the October 1939 meetings under the auspices of the Washington Township Red Cross Committee following an organization gathering at the Washington Union High School. Mrs. Ellen G. Norris was the general chairman and urged all those wishing to assist to be at the meetings to be held next week. Residents from Centerville, Newark, Irvington, and Warm Springs will meet at the high school. Residents of Niles, Decoto, Alvarado, and Mission San Jose will meet at the Niles Grammar School. Meeting at an informal breakfast session, Mrs. Allen G. Norris (left) and Mrs. E.M. Stevenson discussed plans for Washington Township's participation in the Red Cross campaign to furnish hospital supplies to warring nations.

### **S.P.R.S.I.:**

The S.P.R.S.I. Council gave a whist party in October 1930.

In June 1935 the Centerville S.P.R.S.I. installed the following officers:

Past President:	Mrs. Mary Bernard
President:	Mrs. Rita Oliveira
Vice President:	Mrs. Anna A. Rose
Secretary:	Mrs. M.S. George
Treasurer:	Mrs. Louisa Secada
Emcee:	Mrs. M.G. Rodrigues
Marshal:	Mrs. M. Brazil
Guard:	Mrs. M.A. Caldeira
Pianist:	Mrs. Roumilda Rose
Trustees:	Mrs. Mary Furtado, Mrs. Mary Perry, & Mrs. Rose Freitas

### **St. James Guild:**

The St. James Guild was an organization tied to St. James Episcopal Churn in Centerville. The guild was a women's organization of the church.

The St. James Guild would generally meet at guild members homes. Those who hosted and attended these meetings in the 1930's were:

Mrs. George Holeman	Mrs. V. Ames	Mrs. F.T. Dusterberry
Mrs. E. Heneson	Mrs. John Lowman	Mrs. T.N. Alexander
Mrs. T.K. Oakes	Mrs. Ella Stevenson	Mrs. R.T. Anderson
Mrs. R.W. Emerson	Mrs. Joe Adams	Mrs. Ben Tyson
Mrs. Fleda Bunting	Mrs. Robert Tyson	Mrs. Robert Anderson
Miss Edith Bergman	Mrs. A.M. Earle	Mrs. George Mathiesen
Mrs. Mabel Fitzgerald	Mrs. W. Wyatt	Mrs. F. Muller
Mrs. E.A. Ormsby		

### **St. James Men's Club:**

The St. James Guild was an organization tied to St. James Episcopal Churn in Centerville. Those men were reported to have attended these meetings in the 1930's were:

S.G. Scott	Floyd Parks	D.R. Smith
F.T. Hawes	Arwin Ormsby	John Lowman
N. Lax	Walter Rogers	A.E. Walton
Rev. W.J. Atwood	Walter Wyatt	H.F. Chadbourne
L. Marriott	R.E. Stagg	Dr. E.A. Ormsby
W.W. Walton	Dr. J.D. Cryan	Frank Veit
Fred Blacow		

### **Sweet Sixteen Club:**

The Sweet Sixteen Club was usually hosted by either a married or single woman. Those who hosted and attended these meetings that were reported were:

Mrs. Fleda Bunting	Mrs. John Hansen	Mrs. Carrie Emerson
Mrs. Sarah H. Waldron	Mrs. Henry Dusterberry	Miss Mary Norris
Mrs. Theodore Oakes	Mrs. Dora Anderson	Miss McCormack
Miss Elizabeth Dusterberry		

### **Thimble Club:**

Mrs. Elsie Madruga entertained the Thimble Club at her home in January 1935. Miss Mabel Lewis won first prize and Mrs. Tom Silva won second. This is the only mention of the club.

### **United Ancient Order of Druids, No. 123:**

The Victory Circle of the Druids had a whist party on Oct. 22, 1930, which included many fine prizes including the grand prize of a turkey. The arrangements committee consisted of: Chairman, Alice Santos; Elsie Madruga, Mrs. Rita Oliveira, Mrs. Lena Bettencourt, Mrs. M.J. Bernardo, Alice Simas, Ida Rogers, Beatrice Rose, A.E. Francis, M.S. Simas, M.J. Bernardo, Alice King, Rose Furtado, Mrs. Mary Clark, and Mae Alameda.

The Druids of Centerville hosted a card party in October 1931. Miss Adeline Santos was the chairman assisted by Mrs. M.J. Bernardo, Mrs. Lena Bettencourt, Mrs. Mary Gomes, Mrs. Rita Oliveira, Miss Elsie Madruga, Miss Ida Rogers, Miss Alice Simas, A.E. Francis, and M.S. Simas.

A.E. Francis was named a Grand Trustee at the convention of Druids held in Santa Cruz in June 1935. Other delegates from Centerville Circle who attended were: A.E. Alameda, Patrick Francis, Manuel Oliveira, and Tom Silva.

Officers were installed for the Centerville Druids (UAOD No. 123) in April 1936:

Noble Arch:	Allan Walton
Vice Arch:	Dr. James Cryan
Conductor:	Joe Jason
Inside Guardian:	Frank George
Outside Guardian:	Eddie Dutra
Recording Secretary:	Joe Furtado
Financial Secretary:	Frank Furtado
Treasurer:	Manuel Oliveira

Officers were installed for the Centerville Druids (UAOD No. 123) in April 1937:

Noble Arch:	Patrick Francis
Vice Arch:	Joe Jason
Conductor:	Frank Duarte
Inside Guard:	Ed Dutra
Outside Guard:	Joe Furtado
Inside Guard:	Clarence Furtado
Recording Secretary:	Frank Furtado
Financial Secretary:	Manuel Oliveira

Officers were installed for the Centerville Druids (UAOD No. 123) in April 1938:

Noble Arch:	Frank F. George
Vice Arch:	Edward Dutra
Conductor:	Lawrence Furtado
Inside Guard:	M. Oliveira Jr.
Outside Guard:	Clarence Oliveira
Treasurer:	Manuel Oliveira Sr.
Recording Secretary:	J.S. Furtado
Financial Secretary:	Frank Furtado

### **United Artisans:**

Ernest M. Dill, representative of the United Artisans, came from San Leandro to call on the Artisans of Centerville in September 1930. Then the United Artisans held a meeting and dinner in October 1930. These were the only two reported meetings of the United Artisans this decade.

### **Washington Township Arts-Crafts Guild:**

This club reported activity in 1935 and 1936. In January 1935 the club met with Mrs. Dexter Gordon. The next reported meeting was in November 1936 when the Arts and Crafts Guild held their meeting at Washington Union High School at the invitation of the principal of the high school night classes, Barton Webb. Among those who partook putting the meeting together were Ethel Grau, D.R. Rees, and Mr. and Mrs. Henri Salz.

### **Washington Township Men's Club:**

Justice of the Peace Allen G. Norris was elected president of the Washington Township Men's Club in October 1933. Other officers elected were: E. Dixon Bristow, A. J. Rathbone, and P.C. Hansen.

### **Washington Township Post of the American Legion:**

The Washington Township Post of the American Legion entered a team in the Eastern League of the American Legion baseball of the East Bay in June 1931. After two games the Centerville boys were still trying to capture their first win.

Then in October 1931 the Washington Township Post of the American Legion met on Armistice Day to have a dinner on November 7<sup>th</sup>, and then the Armistice Ball on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The committee for the dinner was under the auspices of the Past commanders of the Post: George Smith, D.V. Carrithers, John Dutra, R.K. Wilson, D.F. Gatchel, Roland Bendel, W. Martenstein, Marston Dassel, and F. Mendonca.

The Washington Township Post of the American Legion hosted a St. Patrick's Day dance in 1934. The dance planned under the supervision of Commander Harold Wiseman with O.W. Ebright, M.P. Mathiesen, and John D. Dutra assisting.

### **Washington Township Post of the American Legion Auxiliary:**

Delegates and alternates of the Auxiliary Washington Township Post of the American Legion at Centerville in July 1934 were: Lena Bertolli, Genevieve Smith, and Theresa Swartz. Alternates are: Nell Myers, Pearl Wiseman, and Marion Zwissig.

Winners of the annual Poppy Day poster contest sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of the Washington Township Post of the American Legion were presented with prizes by Mrs. Marie Brazil at ceremonies at Washington Union High School in April 1938. Those winning cash prizes were: Alice Van Camp, Jean Rogers, and Richard DeValle. Honorable mention was given to: Margaret Schelbert, Amador Pratali, Winifred Santos, Mary Vierra, Robert Sicipheff, George Emerson Jr., Cleo Cooper, Palissimo Cabarau, Donald Dias, and Vera Costa.

### **Washington Township Sportsman's Club:**

The Washington Township Sportsman Club held its meeting at the fire hall February 1937 and viewed motion pictures depicting conservation of forests, wildlife protections, and fighting forest fires. The films were put on by Allen Walton and Henry Gomes.

In January 1938 President Allan Walton appointed the following committeemen:

State Council Delegates: Joe Roderick, Kenneth Ferry, M. Soito, Peter Nunes, Robert Francis, and W. Bettencourt

District Council Delegates: Captain T.O. Oakes, Joe Silva, Mel Bennett, K. Foster, and V.M. Cramer.

Legislative Committee: Joe Lewis, Ray Peterson, and Joe Corey.

Predator Committee: H. Castro, and H. Calhoun.

Social Committee: Pete Nunes, Peter Rose, W. Bettencourt, Fred Rogers, and M. Vieria.

Trustees: Captain T.O. Oakes, C. Secada, and A. N. Silva.



Directors: M.J. Bernardo, Fred Rogers, and Joe Roderick.  
Bird Pens: V.M. Cramer @ Irvington and John Avilla @ Centerville.

The Washington Township Sportsmen’s Club elected new officers in December 1938. Allen Walton was the retiring president. The new officers are:

President: Kenneth Ferry  
 Vice President: Manuel Soito  
 Secretary: Ben Kramer  
 Treasurer: Wilbur Bettencourt  
 Sgt at Arms: Joe Duarte

The club established a trap field and bird pens at Alvarado on the Joe Duarte property in March 1939.

**Washington Township Striped Bass Club:**

The Washington Township Striped Bass Club will hold their regular meeting at the Justice Court in Centerville in January 1937.

**Washington Township Tennis Club:**

The Hayward Tennis Club defeated the Washington Township Tennis Club in matches played at the high school grounds in June 1932. The Hayward team won every match.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* **CENTERVILLE BUSINESSES** \*  
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*Joe Adams / Bank of America / J.C. Bettencourt Plumbing / F.E. Booth Cannery / Black & White Shell Station / Castlewood Wines / Centerville Battery / Centerville Electric / Centerville Garage and Machine Shop / Centerville Meats / Centerville Nash / Centerville Water Company / Central Chevrolet / Chapel of the Palms, Mortuary / Cloverdale Creamery / Crystal Laundry / Dinty Moore’s Coffee Shop / Dohner & Galbraith / El Lido Restaurant / H.P. Garin Packing House / P.C. Hansen Lumber Company / Hodgkins Auto Sales / J & F Metal Products / MacMarr’s Grocery Store / Frank Madruga Dodge and Plymouth auto Dealership / Floyd E. Parks Grocery Store / Peerless Stage Line / Robinson’s Radio Shop / Santos Brothers Garage / Soares Feed Store / Soares Food Store / Swainson’s Beauty Salon / Walton’s Rexall Drugs / Washington Township News / Williams Brothers Packing House*

**Adams Ford (Joe):**

Get a Firestone tire at Joe Adams in Centerville, January 1939.

**Bank of America:**

The Centerville branch of the Bank of America represented a substantial part of the township’s \$5,000,000 in banking assets in 1936. Complete metropolitan banking service was provided at the Centerville Branch.

H.B. White became the new manager of the Bank of America Branch at Centerville in March 1938 after the retirement of Branch Manager Frank T. Dusterberry. Frank will become chairman of the Centerville Branch Advisory Board for Bank of America.

**Bettencourt (J.C.) Plumbing:**

See J.C. Bettencourt Plumbing on Main Street in Centerville for a Whitehead Water Heater, October 1936.

### **Booth (F.E.) Cannery:**

The cannery was put in shape in June 1932 for the coming apricot harvest, which was followed by the tomato harvest which lasted until the first frost.

The F.E. Booth Cannery is to open within three weeks for run on apricots, peaches, and tomatoes in 1933. A large force of mechanics is putting the machinery in order for the run according to F.A. Bishop, superintendent of the plant.

In August 1934 the cannery tried something different they installed meat curing machinery for meat that will soon be shipped in.

The F.E. Booth Cannery in Centerville is decided not to pack the 1934 crop of spinach because of an extremely poor crop. About 300 persons were expected to be at work for this pack. Conditions during the winter were such as to encourage uncontrolled weed growth in the fields, which choked out the growth of most of the crop.

Beginning on August 15, 1935 the Booth Cannery in Centerville ran a double shift canning peaches. At the time 165 persons were employed but that was to swell to over 250 during the peach run. The present run will last into November as the cannery will finish with tomatoes.

### **Black & White Shell Station:**

Super Shell Gasoline could be purchased at the Black & White Shell Station in Centerville in 1935.

### **Castlewood Wines:**

Williams Brothers, Ltd.

Awarded Five Medals for quality and excellence at the Alameda County Fair, 1935 & 1936. Bonded Winery Storeroom: Centerville, Calif.

### **Centerville Battery:**

See Centerville Battery for the Philco Radio with mystery control. A remote box you place anywhere in your home to tune in your radio, September 1938.

### **Centerville Electric:**



The new Thor washing machine with attached wringer can be purchased at Centerville Electric in November 1930. In 1934 the company added Westinghouse appliances to their stock.

### **Centerville Garage and Machine Shop:**

You can buy Goodyear tires at Centerville Garage and Machine shop, 1937.

### **Centerville Meats:**

Alfred Souza, Mgr., located inside Soares Food Store. February 1939.

### **Centerville Nash:**

Buy a new Nash "400" at Centerville Nash, phone Centerville 117.

### **Centerville Water Company:**

Houses in Centerville received house numbers and streets received street name signs in 1931 under a plan made by the Centerville Water Co. The plan was introduced as a method for water company meters to be read by company employees. There were no objections made by local residents.

In June 1934 the construction of a high tank was ordered by the Railroad Commission to act as a reservoir which would increase the water pressure of the Centerville water system. Mr. E.C. Cross, the bondholder, who is the new owner of the Centerville Water Company took over the company from M.S. Pires at a trustee's sale last week. A campaign started by local women last fall resulted in an order from the State Railroad Commission that the tank should be constructed and improvements made in the water mains. M.S. Pires, owner of the system for the last 38 years was unable to meet the demands and the trustee's sale resulted.

The Centerville Water Company's new \$10,000 water tank arrived in Alameda on Sept 12, 1934. It was shipped directly to Centerville by truck in sections and installation started immediately upon arrival. By the 26<sup>th</sup> the four main standards were raised. On October 17<sup>th</sup> the water was turned on. The tower is 100 feet 7 inches in height and replaced the old water tower which was in a dilapidated condition and also because the water pressure was too low. The water tower holds 50,000 gallons of water and employs an electric pump which has a capacity of 200 gallons per minute.

M.S. Pires, who had operated the Centerville Water Co. for more than thirty years, left Centerville to reside in Oakland in February 1935. Pires was a native of Washington Township and had resided here for more than 60 years. The Railroad Commission had recently ruled that his water company had to erect a 100 foot steel tower to increase the water pressure in his water company. Being financially unable to comply with the edict Pires was forced to sell his water company.

### **Central Chevrolet:**

A new dealership in Centerville was Central Chevrolet in 1938. The owner was Romeo Brunelli.

### **Chapel of the Palms, Mortuary:**

Emergency Ambulance Service  
Dallas C. Paul (successor to F.F. Botelho)  
Tel: Centerville 17

### **Cloverdale Creamery:**

The Bauhofer Creamery (Cloverdale Creamery) completed a new \$12,000 plant and a \$5,500 residence is under construction adjacent to the plant.

### **Crystal Laundry:**

Robert Smidt of Alameda opened a florist shop in the building that the Crystal Laundry now occupies in October 1934.

### **Dinty Moore's Coffee Shop:**

Alice Belke of Dinty Moore's coffee Shop has petitioned the Board of Supervisor for a dance permit in 1932.

### **Dohner & Galbraith:**

Dohner and Galbraith sold 76 new cars and trucks and more than 50 used cars in the month of April 1930. 52 new cars and trucks were delivered from the Hayward store and 24 new cars were sold in Centerville. The dealership also sell Seiberling tires.

### **El Lido Restaurant:**

The interior of the El Lido Restaurant was remodeled in December 1934.

### **Garin (H.P.) Packing House:**

The United Church Commissary in Hayward made arrangements with the H.P. Garin Packing House in Centerville in September 1932 for over ripe fruit and vegetables unsuitable for long shipment but still consumable on a local basis for the needy people of the Bay Area.

The Garin Packing House at Centerville revealed monthly shipments its site. Despite the recent cold weather, which had played havoc with crops throughout the State, the local packing and shipping report for the month of December 1932 showed considerable activity in shipping local vegetables to Eastern market with 87 carloads of celery and cauliflower shipped.

The planting of tomatoes for May 1933 will be reduced by about 50% this year according to figures that were produced by H.P. Garin of the local packing house. The reduction in acreage is due to increased production in the eastern U.S. where it is possible to bring in crops in August and September, when the harvest in this part of California is just reaching its peak.

Alameda County has won the best Cauliflower award at the California State Fair for the past three years (1931, 1932, and 1933). Eden and Washington Township produce the prize winning vegetables. H.P. Garin Packing of Centerville has won the prize for the best cauliflower in each contest.

More woes were to hit the cannery in July 1934 a Bay Area trucker's strike caused a shortage of produce from Bay Farm Island (the southern part of Alameda Island) and Santa Clara County. This forced H.P. Garin and the Williams Brothers to shut down operations.

### **Hansen (P.C.) Lumber Co.:**

Niles, Centerville, Irvington, Decoto, and Alvarado Building Materials, Fuel, Feeds, Paints, Hardware

### **Hodgkins Auto Sales:**

Ira B. Hodgkins, Centerville auto dealer, who has served as secretary of the Centerville Lions since its organization and has represented the organization as a delegate to many state and district meetings, announced his resignation from the post. Hodgkins cited time away from his auto sales business as the cause of his leaving his post.

### **J & F Metal Products:**

Manufacturers of Well Casings  
Joe Jason, Owner  
Tel: Centerville 165; Concord 282J

### **MacMarr's Grocery Stores:**

MacMarr's Grocery Stores started advertising in Centerville in January 1935. They had stores in Hayward, Castro Valley, Niles, Centerville, Livermore, and Pleasanton. On March 31, 1939 a newspaper ad now referred to this store as "Safeway-MacMarr's.

### **Madruga (Frank) Dodge & Plymouth Dealership:**

For genuine Dodge and Plymouth cars and Dodge Trucks see Frank Madruga in Centerville, 1937.

### **Parks (Floyd E.) Grocery Store:**

The Floyd E. Parks Grocery store was located at 123 Main Street.

### **Peerless Stage Line:**

The Peerless Stage Line between Centerville and Pleasanton, which had been run on a trial basis, was a consistent loser, it was reported in March 1930. The Niles Chamber of Commerce voted to discontinue the service, however this cannot not be done without the approval of the Railroad Commission (the forerunner to the Calif. PUC).

### **Robinson's Radio Shop:**

In August 1930 you purchase a G.E. radio in Centerville at Robinson's Radio Shop.

### **Santos Brothers Garage:**

The Santos Brothers Garage of Centerville was mentioned in a tire advertisement in 1938.

### **Soares Feed Store:**

The Soares Feed Store is located next to Soares Food store. M.S. Soares Prop.

### **Soares Food Store:**

M.S. Soares had six stores in 1930 in Ashland, Hayward, Oakland, San Leandro, and Hayward. In Centerville they were located in the Old State Bank Building and you could reach them by phone at Centerville 38. The final article on Soares Food in Centerville was in February 1939 when the store announced that Centerville Meat was located in their store.

**Swainson's Beauty Salon:**

Swainson's Beauty Salon was located at 158 So. Main Street, Centerville in January 1935.

**Walton's Rexall Drugs:**

Walton's Rexall Drugs  
Allan G. Walton, Ph. G.  
Tel: Centerville 15

**Washington Township News:**

Miles Smith was announced as the publisher of the *Washington News* at Centerville in 1939.

**Williams Brothers Packing House:**

The United Church Commissary in Hayward made arrangements with the Williams Brothers Packing House in Centerville in September 1932 for over ripe fruit and vegetables unsuitable for long shipment but still consumable on a local basis for the needy people of the Bay Area.

Transportation woes were to hit the William Bros. cannery in July 1934 as a Bay Area trucker's strike caused a shortage of produce from Bay Farm Island (the southern part of Alameda Island) and Santa Clara County. This forced H.P. Garin and the Williams Brothers to shut down operations.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **WATER** \*  
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Members of the Alameda County Water District hope to conserve the subterranean water supply through the popular vote in a bond election be held on March 28, 1930. The proposed bond issue is \$250,000, and its purpose is to buy 17 deep wells of the commercial water companies. The bonds are to bear a 5% interest rate if passed. Farmer's wells in Washington Township have been lowered by about 40 feet since 1915 because of the company's wells. EBMUD has already stopped pumping water at Robert's Landing in Hayward and the water company has agreed to stop pumping water at its Alvarado wells if the bonds for purchase of the wells passes. The total capacity of all the wells is about 13,000,000 gallons daily.

Underground water levels in Washington Township were getting critically low in April 1931. The City of San Francisco had made an agreement with the Alameda County Water District to pour 342,000,000 gallons of water into the creek beds of Southern Alameda County, but had failed to do so and serious damage to cherries, apricots and other crops of Washington Township would result according to reports given at a meeting of the Alameda County Water District at Centerville on April 28, 1931. The district refused the offer of the city to pay \$18,240 for the water, which the district claims from the Calaveras reservoir.

But Murray and Washington Township had more to fear than just the Spring Valley Co. In February 1934 Santa Clara County expressed an interest in obtaining water

from the Calaveras Dam, which is specifically owned by the City of San Francisco. But experts in water delivery believe that there is little chance that Santa Clara County could divert any water in the Alameda Creek Watershed for use in their county. San Jose and neighboring cities have expressed the idea that with the delivery of Hetch Hetchy water to the City of San Francisco that the Calaveras water could be brought to them. To placate Washington Township the usurpers from Santa Clara County suggested that seepage from under the dam would serve to recharge the underground waters of the Niles-Centerville area. But the City of San Francisco and the farmers of Washington Township are having none of this from Santa Clara County.

Chris Runckel, Secretary of the Alameda County Water District, was elected chairman of the State's 26 county water districts in December 21, 1934. Chris Runckel, from Niles, and later Berkeley, was known as the "father of the water district idea," that was used to fight the Spring Valley Water Co. of San Francisco and to keep them from bankrupting the subterranean water table under Washington Township. Chris had been the principal of the Decoto Grammar School and then the Pleasanton Grammar School at the turn of the century and noticed how the Spring Valley Co. was diverting water from Alameda Creek Watershed to San Francisco. Further the water company had installed almost two dozen wells in Pleasanton sucking up underground water 24 hours a day and send it to San Francisco through the Sunol Water Temple.

Runckel owned the *Washington Register* and the *Niles Register* to alert the farmers and resident of Southern Alameda County the danger posed by the Spring Valley Co. Runckel got legislation passed allowing public districts to form water districts. With this Runckel hoped to thwart the Spring Valley Co. With the legislative right to form a water district the Alameda County Water was formed in Washington Township. But the battle raged for decades between water users of Southern Alameda County and the water drinkers of the City of San Francisco who received our water through the Spring Valley Water Co.

The biggest change came in 1930. After a half-century of effort, the City of San Francisco, which despised the Spring Valley Co. only slightly less than Southern Alameda County, was finally able to buy out Spring Valley Water Company and all of its assets. And in four more years, the Hetch Hetchy system was ready. The water was piped down the mountains directly into the "gatehouse" at Irvington – and then on to Crystal Springs Reservoir by another pipeline across the bay. Water from Hetch Hetchy and the Mokelumne River not only took pressure off of ACWD's resources, but also provided additional supplies for cities and water districts throughout the Bay Area.

Through his newspaper Runckel had agitated for the San Francisco Hetch Hetchy water system and he secured an agreement whereby litigation was dropped in return for a supply of Hetch Hetchy water. To take care of this the Alameda County Water District laid a new pipe line connecting the towns of the township, including Newark, Alvarado, Decoto, Niles, Centerville, Mission San Jose, Irvington, and Warm Springs. This pipeline was completed and on June 29, 1939 Chris Runckel's final act was to turn on the valve that sent water coursing down the main. Two days later, his life's labor done, Christian Runckel passed away.

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 \* **NOTEWORTHY EVENTS** \*  
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**1930:**

**Duffy Lewis:**

Like the men of the Royal Mounted Police, Duffy Lewis, local member of the Alameda County traffic squad, "always gets his man." Eugene Estes, a clerk in an Oakland department store paid Justice of the Peace Allen G. Norris a fine of \$20 for disturbing the peace back in October 1929. According to Lewis, Estes drove in front of a filling station in Centerville at two o'clock in the morning and started blowing his horn for service. Officer Lewis was aroused from his peaceful slumber and went out to stop the noise, but attired as he was he could not convince Estes that he was an officer. The driver was instructed to wait until Deputy Lewis could don his uniform as proof. Estes was said to have attempted to drive away in the meantime. When he was overtaken and cited to appear in court in March 1930, Estes gave Lewis an address in Pasadena. The officer located him in Oakland through the registration of his car last week.

Duffy Lewis was a well-known CHP officer in the township area and was known because he later carried badge No. 1 for the California State Hiway Patrol. But Duffy was a bit of a cult hero with the teenagers and younger fold of the township as he was known to be fair and cut young pranksters some slack. This is not to say that the youngsters got away Scot free. Duffy knew many of the parents in the area and it was more than once that youngster were escorted home under the benevolent eye of Officer Lewis. Lewis' wife Velma was an insurance broker and was also well-known in the township. The couple had their home a few homes north of the Washington Union High School.

**February 1930:**

**Miss Lois Shinnick:**

Miss Lois Shinnick, public health nurse in Washington Township, resigned her post in February 1930 to be married. Taking her position will be Mrs. O.W. Ebright, a graduate of the University of California, and daughter-in-law of Wallace Ebright, Eastbay superintendent of the Spring Valley Water Co.

**November 10, 1930:**

**John J. Santos:**

John J. Santos passed away on Nov. 10, 1930. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Freitas Santos. He was 80 years of age and born in the Azores. He was a member of the Amor da Patria Lodge, U.P.E.C. No. 5 of Centerville. The "Santos Road," a well-travelled cutoff south of Centerville (today is the eastern part of Mowry Road) was named for him.

**1931:**

**Depression Takes Bite of Budget:**

With the onset of the Great Depression at hand Alameda County took a sharpened pencil to the 1931 budget:  
 Ten department items were shaved to keep the levy down in order to affect the Board of Supervisors economy plan. The advertising fund is set at \$47,396, a reduction of \$43,396 from last year. The veterans' memorial fund was cut to



\$99,056, a reduction of \$51,203. The Centerville Fire Department fund was cut to \$1,000, a reduction of \$218. The Alvarado fire fund was cut from \$830 to \$500 The Castro Valley fire fund was cut from \$4,786 to \$1,150 the Niles fire fund was cut \$598 to \$1,000 The Highway Hospital and the Posey Tube interest and redemption funds were decreased \$7,600 and \$38,625, respectively.

#### **January 1931:**

##### **J.R. Blacow:**

J.R. Blacow of Centerville was elected to the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Bank headquartered in Alvarado in January 1931. His cousin R.A. Blacow is the Cashier for the same bank.

#### **January 1, 1931:**

##### **Tom Silva:**

Constable Tom Silva of Centerville has been a true and conscientious peace officer for over 10 years, but as of January 1, 1931 he would be out of a position. No reason was given why Constable Silva will be without a job after the first of the year. But then on January 31, 1931 the county charter was amended to make constables county appointees of the elected sheriff. The constables would then become part of the sheriff's office staff and were paid a salary. Tom Silva retained his office as Washington Township Constable, but M.J. Bernardo was replaced by O.W. Ebricht of Niles.

#### **February 1931:**

##### **House Numbering:**

It was announced in February 1931 that homes in Centerville would receive house numbers and streets will receive street name signs in the near future under a plan made by the Centerville Water Co. The plan was introduced as a method for water company meters to be read by company employees. There were no objections made by local residents.

#### **February 1931:**

##### **Males Object to Operetta:**

Unless something can be done to make the work of the male chorus more masculine plans for the presentation of a spectacular operetta in February 1931 by the student body of the Washington Union High School early in April may be on the rocks. Miss Lesda Sayles, who is directing the production, has completed the task of selecting the cast for the speaking and singing roles and has recruited an excellent chorus of girls, but the boy's chorus is proving to be a real problem for her. The boys cannot be sold on the idea of that kicking and prancing before the spotlights is a manly art.

#### **October 26, 1931:**

##### **Whipple & Logan:**

John Whipple of Decoto and James Logan of Alvarado were killed in a head on crash on October 16, 1931. They were returning from a fishing trip in their light coupe when James Logan apparently fell asleep at the wheel and crossed the center line and ran head on into a gravel truck. Mr. Whipple was a board member of the Decoto Grammar School and James Logan had just been elected as a board trustee for Washington Union High School. The second high school in the district (Sept 1959) was named after James Logan.

#### **April 1932:**

##### **Welfare Flour Distribution:**

Four hundred sacks of Federal Farm Board flour was received by the Southern Alameda County Welfare board for distribution to destitute families in the area in April 1932. Hayward, Centerville, Niles, Irvington, Livermore and other Southern Alameda County towns will be receiving the flour.

**July 1932:**

**Passenger Trains:**

For the first time in many years passenger trains will be coming through Centerville on the Southern Pacific in July 1932. The company is now routing trains from the San Joaquin Valley directly into San Francisco over the Dumbarton Bridge at Newark. The Dumbarton Bridge Line, from Niles to the peninsula, had only carried freight in the past.

**October 19, 1932:**

**Daniel A. Fitzgerald:**

Daniel A. Fitzgerald, husband of Mabel Fitzgerald passed away on October 19, 1932 in Centerville. He was 49 years old, a member of the Centerville K of C and the Centerville Lions.

**February 24, 1933:**

**Joseph Secada:**

Joseph Secada, well-known resident of Machado's Corners in Centerville died on February 24, 1933. Surviving him is his wife Louisa Secada.

**May 1933:**

**School Street:**

Some residents of School Street in Centerville are unhappy with the new sign that was put up in their street in May 1933. It appears they do not like the name of their street and wish to have it changed. Some voiced that they wanted changed to Parish Street while a few others favored the Mt. View Street. Manuel Santos, chairman of the Lions Club Street Committee says that School Street is the official name of the street and if they wish to have it changed they must petition the Board of Supervisors.

**June 23, 1933:**

**Martin S. Francis:**

Martin S. Francis, well-known merchant of Centerville, passed away on June 23, 1933. He was the husband of Lenora Francis and four children. He was 49 years old and a native of California.

**June 27, 1933:**

**John G. Mattos, Jr.:**

John G. Mattos Jr., one of Centerville's pioneer businessmen died on June 27, 1933 at his home following a long illness. Mattos had resided in Centerville for 55 years and was widely known in Alameda County. He had served as State Assemblyman, appraiser of the Port of San Francisco, member of the State Prison Board, and in many other public positions.

Born in the Azores Island, Mattos came to Centerville in his early years. He attended the Centerville Grammar School and graduated from the old Washington College, then situated in Irvington. From college he entered the law offices of Hall & Earl, Oakland attorneys, studied law and was admitted to the bar.

He became a trustee of Centerville Grammar School, and served in that capacity for 35 years; he was a member and the secretary of the Board of Trustees of Washington Union High School.

For six years he was an assemblyman at Sacramento, and for a period of eight years he served in the State Senate. He was chief deputy recorder of Alameda County at one period.

Former Governor George C. Pardee appointed Mattos to the State Board of Harbor Commissioners. He was a member of the State Prison Board under former Governors Stephens and Richardson, a Justice of the Peace for Washington Township for eight years, and one of the organizers of the Bank of Centerville. He was president of this bank until the institution was taken over four years ago by the Bank of America, after which he became Vice-President of the Bank of America and a director of the Centerville Branch.

#### **January 1934:**

##### **Oldest Tree in Centerville:**

The oldest tree in Centerville is no more, it came down in January 1934. The ancient poplar tree, which towered above Main Street when the oldest members of the community were born, was removed to insure the safety of passing motorists and to prevent trouble with the telephone wires. No one knows when the tree was planted, but it had been a landmark here for at least a half a century. Its trunk was badly scarred by horses, which gnawed the bark from it when they were hitched to it. Despite this mistreatment, the old tree continued to increase in girth and send its limbs higher.

Telephone linemen pruned it back each year to keep its limbs out of the wires. A few years ago it surrendered to the assaults made upon it and developed a rot near the base which made its removal necessary.

#### **April 1934:**

##### **Eugene M. Stevenson:**

Eugene M. Stevenson has been appointed conciliation commissioner for Alameda County in April 1934. An office of the department has been established at Centerville. Stevenson is empowered to act for the relief of debt-burdened farmers under the Federal Bankruptcy Act, which permits farmers to band together in groups of 15 or more, to secure the aid of the conciliation commissioner, and secure freedom from action against their property in the State courts for a period of three years.

#### **June 29, 1934:**

##### **Washington Township Fair:**

A traffic jam, probably the most-dense in the history of Centerville, which was marked by a mile-long parade in June 1934 when the first annual Washington Township Agricultural and Industrial Fair opened at Washington Union High School on June 29, 1934. In the parade were numerous bands, uniformed marching fraternal groups, commercial and industrial floats, baseball teams, and trucks representing the volunteer fire departments of the township. In charge of the affair was Frank Madruga along with Frank Botelho, William Furtado, and Joseph Jason.

#### **July 10, 1934:**

##### **Women's Town Hall:**

The Women's Town Hall, one of the most popular meeting places in southern Alameda County a decade ago, went under the auctioneer's hammer on July 10, 1934. There were only three bidders and the high bid was \$150. The Women's Town Hall Association was disbanded several years ago but taxes kept accumulating on and the group was reorganized recently for the purpose of authorizing the sale.

The Centerville Athletic Club had rented the building and held volleyball games in it until three years ago. Until two years ago the basement was used as a polling place for one of the three local precincts. The building was in such disrepair that the cost of repairs would not be justified.

With the building taken care of the women then had to decide to do with the ground upon which the town hall resided. On July 15, 1934 it was suggested that a centrally located park and playground might succeed the old Town Hall, which was due to fall to the wrecking ball in the near future. Mrs. Fleda Bunting, Secretary of the Women's Town Hall Association says the group has sufficient money in its treasury, together with the amount they will receive from wreckers, to equip a modern playground on the site of the historic building.

The hall was built about 50 years ago, at a time when Centerville had no large hall for its public gatherings. Construction was started through public subscription, but the amount was not sufficient to cover the cost. When it was apparent that the mortgage holder intended to foreclose, the Women's Town Hall Association was formed and the group raised approximately \$1,500 to prevent the hall from passing into private ownership.

About 25 years ago the hall was the scene of an unusual accident. According to Mrs. Bunting, a young man advertised a balloon ascension from Main Street. After he had taken up his collection a storm broke and whipped the gas bag around and made the flight extremely dangerous, but to satisfy the large crowd that had gathered, the young aeronaut cut loose and attempted to carry out his contract.

The balloon ascended for about 100 feet and was caught by the full force of the gale. It was whipped downward towards the hall. The helpless aeronaut was thrown against the side of the building with great force but directly into a window on the second floor. As he crashed he managed to cut himself loose from the gas bag.

When he was picked inside the building he was unconscious and suffering from several compound fractures of both legs. In recognition of his courage in attempting the flight, the women raised sufficient money to pay his hospital bill. A local physician employed by the women refused to listen to the advice of consulting surgeons who insisted that amputation of both legs would be necessary, and several years later the young man returned to Centerville and made the flight he had contracted for.

The final chapter of the story was written in August 1934 when a wrecking crew rapidly removed the old Women's Town Hall. It was erected nearly 50 years ago and for many years was the only large assembly hall in Washington Township. Its usefulness having passed, the association, which has remained intact, decided to sell the building so that the site could be converted into a park. Fred Rogers, county game warden, purchased the building for \$150.

### **September 1934:**

**Dr. J.C. Cryan:**

Dr. J.C. Cryan, Centerville dentist, was married to Miss Jesse Silva of Oakland in September 1934. Dr. Cryan has been practicing in Centerville for about a year now.

**October 1934:**

**Allen G. Norris & Clarabelle Logan:**

Miss Clarabelle Logan of the Alviso District announced her engagement to Allen G. Norris of Centerville in October 1934. Miss Logan is the daughter of Mrs. Rebecca Logan and the late James Logan and is 24 years old. Mr. Norris is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Norris and is 33 years old.

**November 1934:**

**Fred Rogers:**

Game warden Fred Rogers will be on the lookout as pheasant season is about to start. The five day season runs from November 15<sup>th</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup> 1934. Only male pheasants may be taken and Rogers will be on the lookout for any hunter who may have a female in their possession.

**January 8, 1935:**

**William R. Joliff:**

William R. Joliff passed away on January 8, 1935 in Centerville. He was the husband of Emma Joliff and father to Mrs. Aleine Lawlor and Raymond Joliff. William was born in Halleck, Minnesota. He was a member the Nilis Lodge of IOOF No. 352; Maple Camp, Woodmen of the World No. 146; and the Henry Lawton Post of Vallejo Spanish War Veterans.

**January 30, 1935:**

**A.J. Gronley:**

Andrew Gronley passed away on the morning of January 30, 1935.

**April 8, 1935:**

**Peter C. Hansen:**

Capt. P.C. Hansen passes away April 8, 1935 at his home in Centerville. His passing was seven weeks after the passing of his wife Anna. He was a native of Denmark and had been a resident of California for 50 years. He had lived in Centerville for 29 years and operated lumber yards in Centerville, Niles, Alvarado and Irvington. He was a member of the Centerville Boy Scout Troop, Centerville Alameda Lodge No. 167 of the F&AM Masons, Odd Fellows - Rebekah's Lodge of Alvarado, Danish Lodge of Hayward, U.P.E.C. Lodge of San Leandro, and the Eastern Star of Centerville.

**July 3, 1935:**

**Mabel Lewis:**

The queen of the Washington Township Fair and Fourth of July Festival (July 3<sup>rd</sup> – July 7<sup>th</sup> 1935) was Miss Mabel Lewis. Other young ladies who vied for the title were:

Florence Martinelli	Vivian Luna	Eleanor Silva
Irene Freitas	Mildred Santos	Evelyn Bettencourt

**July 1936:**

**Billboards Banned:**

In 1933 the State of California passed a law banning all road signs placed within the right-of-way of a State highway without the permission of the State first, and then must be placed on private property with the permission of the land owners. Well the State mailed citations in July 1936 to the Centerville Lions and M.A. Rose, the

Centerville shoemaker for having signs on State Highway 17 (Main Street in Centerville was on a State Hiway). Highway beautification and removal of interference with highway safety was the motive for the program. The above ruling does not apply to advertising signs attached to buildings in business districts.

**August 28, 1936:**

**Fred F. Dusterberry:**

Fred F. Dusterberry, 65, well-known local businessman, died August 28, 1936 at his home in Centerville after an illness of four months. Dusterberry was the President of the Board of Trustees of the Washington Union High School in Centerville for nine years. He was in the plumbing business and was an inspector in the Union Sanitary District. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Julia Emerson Dusterberry, and by two brothers, Frank T. and Henry Dusterberry, and a sister, Miss Elizabeth Dusterberry, all of Centerville.

**January 1937:**

**Rev. Father Alfred De Souza:**

The Rev. Father Alfred De Souza, pastor of the Holy Ghost Church in Centerville was appointed by Pope Pius XI to the rank of Domestic Prelate, with the title Right Reverend Monsignor in January 1937. Father De Souza was born October 22, 1872 at Flores, the Azores Islands. He was ordained a priest at Angra, Terceira Island in the Azores. After beginning pastoral work there he came to San Francisco in 1899. He was first assigned to Mission San Jose until 1903, then studied at St. Mary's College. Later he was stationed at San Leandro and Cotati.

**June 3, 1937:**

**Pinball Machines:**

"Confiscate every pin ball machine in Alameda County by June 1<sup>st</sup>," said Alameda County District Attorney Earl G. Warren. By June 1, 1937 everyone had thought the order had been followed to the letter of the law. But lo! On June 3<sup>rd</sup> at a café on 134 Main Street in Centerville an operating pin ball machine was found!

**August 1937:**

**Miss Wilma Miller:**

Miss Wilma Miller was crowned queen of the Washington Township Fair in August 1937.

**January 1838:**

**Washington & Murray Township Telephones:**

Telephones in use at the end of 1937 in local area:

Alvarado	95	Gain of 1 phone over previous year
Centerville	232	Gain of 22 phones over previous year
Decoto	69	Gain of 3 phones over previous year
Irvington	92	Gain of 6 phones over previous year
Livermore	759	Gain of 39 phones over previous year
Mission San Jose	31	No change from previous year
Newark	91	Gain of 16 phones over previous year
Niles	260	Gain of 22 phones over previous year
Pleasanton	330	Gain of 8 phones over previous year
Sunol	32	Gain of 4 phones over previous year
Warm Springs	16	No change from previous year

**January 1938:**

### **The Wayward Seal:**

A couple of dairymen on the Hanson-Orloff ranch near Centerville, discovered a strange animal was barking in the field in January 1938. It looked like a dog and was shiny and black. One of the men said it was a dog, the other, who had been to a circus said it was a seal. What is a seal doing three miles inland near Centerville, declared the other. Game Warden Fred Rogers of Centerville was called in, and helped get the sea animal back into the Bay from whence it flopped its way overland. First an attempt was made to load the seal on a truck, but the seal fought back with its flippers, and finally the seal was driven back overland into the Bay

### **January 1938:**

#### **Diphtheria:**

January 1938: The Mowry School District in Newark was the first school in Washington Township to be 100% immunized against diphtheria. The Centerville Grammar School was nearly 100% and the township is about 97% immunized.

### **January 25, 1938:**

#### **Remember When:**

(From an article from the Oakland Tribune of January 25, 1938)

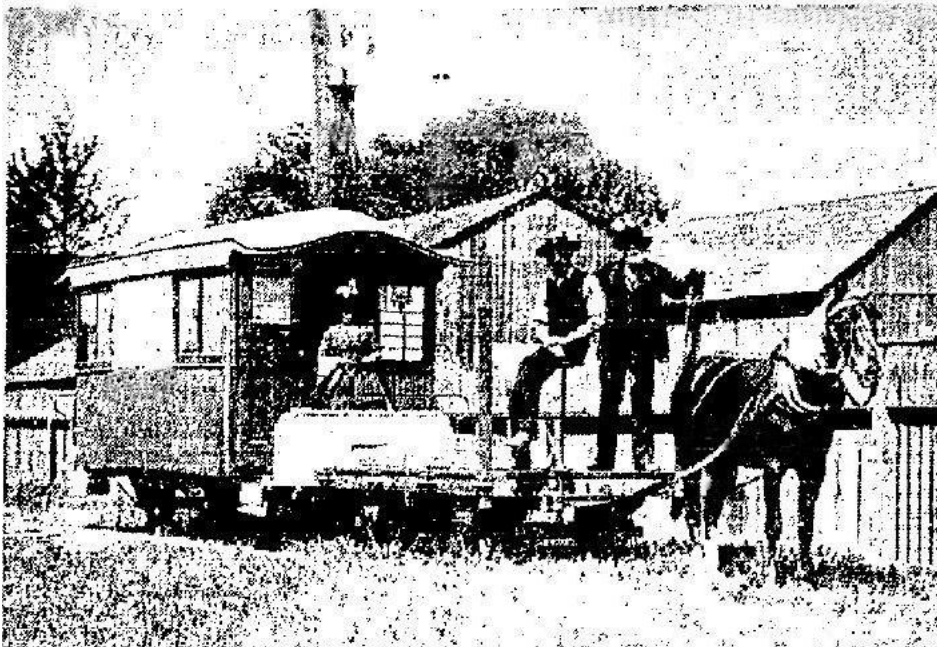
"Remember when" came easy to Lester Burdick, superintendent of a local manufacturing company. Burdick recalled the horse-drawn train which ran between Centerville and Newark for more than 20 years after 1886.

### **November 1938:**

#### **Bornholdt & Botelho:**

Miss Antoinette Botelho announced her intention to wed Dr. Irwin C. Bornholdt of San Francisco in November 1938. Antoinette teaches music at Washington Union High where her sister Miss Sybil Botelho is the Dean of Girls.

## **NEWARK TO CENTERVILLE—IT USED TO BE**



An exhibit made the by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company brought the old transportation system to the fore again. The exhibit, open for view at the Ferry Building in San Francisco, proudly displays the car that was pulled by a horse between Centerville and Newark. For in those days, the South Pacific Coast Railroad narrow gauge railroad ran between Oakland and Santa Cruz, going through the rural communities of Alvarado and Newark to San Jose over the mountains to Santa Cruz.

On the Eastern side of Washington Township were two railroads, The Southern Pacific and the Western Pacific, but as with the South Pacific Coast Railroad, the town of Centerville was bypassed. It was not until 1886 that Centerville received some form of rail transportation, and this was the horse drawn rail line that connected Centerville to Newark.

One of the local residents who formerly used the horse train was Lester Burdick. Remembered more about the old train than others because his father, Henry Burdick, was an early-day conductor on it.

The early day train held a speed records of 18 minutes for the three miles between the two towns. It wasn't a rapid trip to Oakland or San Francisco in those days then. Oakland was an all day trip by horse and buggy; San Francisco was two hours away by peninsula trains, which connected with the horse car.

The train consisted of a passenger car with long side seats and a stove for cold days, a flatcar for freight, and its "engine" prize horses that maintained as accurate a schedule as any boasted today by electric powered successors.

A "special," chartered to transport a circus or a delegation, carried as many as 100 passengers. Extra coaches meant extra engines, as many as four horse being hitched to the train, one before the other in a single file.

No wreck was ever chalked up against the record of these faithful Dobbins. At times spreading rails cause the cars to leave the tracks, but never with any injuries to the passengers. The horses, having outlived their days of speed and "horsepower" were pensioned and left to end their days in peaceful grazing in local pastures.

The train made its first run under the ownership of the Central Pacific. It was later taken over by the Southern Pacific and abandoned, the day before the earthquake of 1906. Remnants of the narrow gauge track still lies there.

The late Charles Burdick, who died three years ago, was the first conductor. He held this post only two years, relinquishing it to his brother Henry, who retired from active railroading only two years ago.

Connections were made at Newark with peninsular trains. Newark in those days was a railway terminal of no mean parts. Huge woodyards for replenishing the wood-burning engines of other trains were maintained here and started the town off on it record of having one of the largest payrolls in the township. Those wished to commute to San Francisco connected at Dumbarton Point with the "The Newark," a San Francisco Bay Ferry.

Among those who used the train in the early days were: Jack Hafner, Mrs. Matte Bole (for 25 years Newark's telephone operator and who retired when the dial system was installed here), and "Mayor" Louis Ruschin of Newark, the late John A.



Bunting, members of the Emerson family, the Chadbourne's, and others of Centerville.

Students from Alvarado traveled from Alvarado to Newark on the narrow gauge train, where they boarded the old train and were carried to the high school at Centerville.

**October 1939:**  
**Alameda County Oldest Twins:**



Alameda County's oldest twins in October 1939, Harriet E. (left) and Emma J. Norris, are looking forward to celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays next February. They are aunts of Judge Allen G. Norris. They reside in a home built 50 years ago on the ranch on which they were born.

**November 1939:**  
**Manuel Silva Almeida:**

Manuel Silva Almeida of Santos Road will be celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in November 1939. A month from now he will retire as Roadmaster for Alameda County, having served since April 1925. Almeida is a member of the Centerville Lions, The Washington-Eden Farm Center, the Washington Township Sportsmen's Club, and the Knights of Pythias.