

THE HISTORY OF CENTERVILLE

CHAPTER 11

1940 to 1949

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 * BIOS *

Mrs. Gladys Williamson / Mayme Roderick / Rev. Alfred de Sousa / Elsie Madruga / Emanuel George

Mrs. Gladys Williamson:



Gladys Williamson was born Gladys C. Parker in 1897 to Robert B. and Alma Parker in Tennessee. The family included a brother Robert I. and sisters Marie H. and Margaret J. In the year 1900 the family was residing in Lebanon Tennessee. Gladys Parker was a graduate of the University of Tennessee and married a gentleman named Jack Williamson from Florida. They were married circa 1922 and had two children, Margaret who was born circa 1923 and John who was born circa 1925.

In 1930 Jack and Gladys were living in Niles where Jack was employed as a newspaper photographer. Gladys was at that time employed as a staff writer for the *Oakland Tribune*. Sometime in the 1930's Jack and Gladys were divorced.

Mrs. Williamson's first newspaper job came in 1919 with the *Knoxville Journal*. The following year she had come west and was on the *Eureka Times*, and in 1921 was employed by a San Luis Obispo newspaper. She wrote juvenile fiction, was a press agent in New York and Washington DC, and did syndicated features. She won the California Federation of Women's Clubs first prize in poetry and was in the Davis Anthology of Verse.

Before coming to *The Tribune* she started a private nursery school, the Williamson Outdoor School on a ranch in Niles in 1930. She continued to operate the school until 1935 when she became associated with *The Tribune*.

During World War II she was a Red Cross Gray Lady and was in its Motor Corps working at Parks Air Force Base.

Besides her great love of Washington Township, and its towns, she loved and was proficient in poetry. She active in the *Tribune's* "Other Fellows," a group of poets tied together through the newspaper by the column of Ad Schuster, which was a regular feature of the newspaper. Gladys was an active member in the organization. In April 1946 more than 300 "Other Fellows," poets who had contributed to the popular *Oakland Tribune* column edited by Ad Schuster held their 20th annual dinner at the Hotel Claremont in Oakland. In 1946 200 poems were submitted in the annual contest, of which Gladys Williamson was the chairman.

Gladys clipped many articles about Washington Township, which greatly aided those who were to follow in her footsteps. There is even a story on how she named the new City of Union City in January 1959:

"So how did Union City get its name? From a lady named Gladys Williamson. Years ago when Alvarado and Decoto deemed to be incorporated there was a controversy over what to call the city.

"What shall we call it?" asked one citizen.

Gladys Williamson, the *Oakland Tribune* staff writer and Washington Township history buff, was present to cover the incorporation meeting for the paper. Gladys had an inspiration. She poked Andy Logan, who was seated next to her and suggested: "Andy, suggest they use the name Union City because of its historical connection."

Andy did.

They did.

And that is how Union City got its name."

Mrs. Gladys Williamson, who almost single-handedly gained honors for Fremont in the All-American City Competition, and who for 27 years until her retirement in 1962 was a reporter for *The Oakland Tribune*, died at the of seventy years in 1967. She was an honorary member of the Toyon Branch of the Children's Hospital, former member of the County Club of Washington Township, the Child Welfare Club of Washington Township, Washington Township Historical Society, the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, *The Oakland Tribune* Advertising Club, and an honorary member of the Niles Rotary Club.

In October 1967 the Fremont Continuation High School was renamed "Gladys Williamson High School" in honor of the longtime *Oakland Tribune* reporter and promoter of Washington Township. Mrs. Williamson was one of seven names submitted for the school.

In July 1975 the Native Daughters of the Golden West proposed that Alameda County should pay to have the history of the Fremont area microfilmed for sake of posterity, including the preservation of newspaper stories by the late Gladys Williamson, longtime *Tribune* staff writer. Some of Mrs. Williamson's articles included the "Ghost of Niles Canyon," "The History of the Alameda County Water District," and the "Indians of Mission San Jose."

Mayme Roderick:

Mayme Amaral Roderick was born on October 4, 1875, in California, the daughter of Jose S. and Anna Amaral. Mayme's parents came to the U.S. from Portugal. Mayme married Frank Roderick Jr. of the Jarvis Landing Road in July 1914. Frank and Mayme had one child, a daughter Eleanor. Frank Roderick was a farmer in the Alviso District of Washington Township. Besides his time spent on the farm Frank also contributed his time to the Alvarado Catholic Church by serving on committees to promote the annual St. Anne's Church bazaar.

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

But Mayme will be best remembered in Centerville for her many years of service to the Alviso Grammar School. Mayme served over 20 years on the Board of Trustees for the school. Mayme began her service in the Alviso School in 1928. Mrs. Mayme Roderick retired after 22 years of service as a member of the Alviso Grammar School Board. Her last official act on the Board was to hand out diplomas to the Alviso graduating class of 1950:

Joseph Abreu	Rina Ciarlo	William Emery
Robert Hailey	Leon Mings	

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

Eleanor Roderick was born in 1919 to Frank and Mayme Roderick. She attended Alviso Grammar School and Washington Union High School. In January 1939 Eleanor had a home built alongside her mother's near the Alviso School. Several years later she married Manuel Azevedo. Their first child, Marlene Azevedo, celebrated her second birthday in February 1944.

Rev. Alfred de Sousa:

Right Reverend Monsignor Alfred de Sousa has served continuously since 1913 as pastor of the Church of the Holy Ghost at Centerville, and is one of the most devoted and able clergymen of Alameda County, and he is entitled to mention among those whose efforts have been directed to the betterment and uplift of humanity.



The Right Reverence Monsignor de Sousa was born in Flores in the Azores on October 22, 1872 and after attending the public school completed his education in Angra City College, in which he was ordained to the priesthood in 1896. In 1899 he came to the U.S. and was appointed assistant pastor at Mission San Jose, later serving in the same capacity at the San Leandro Church. His next appointment was as pastor at Atwater, where he built a new church and parish house, and from there he went to Petaluma and Cotati, where he served in the pastorate until 1913, when he came to the Church of the Holy Ghost at Centerville.

This parish was founded in 1886 by Rev. Domingo Governo, who had charge of the church to the time of his death in 1913, and thus this church has had but two pastors during its entire 42 years.

Right Reverend de Sousa did splendid work at Centerville, including the building of a new church after the original burned in 1919. The church was rebuilt in the stately Roman architectural style, and a new parish house and hall. The membership of the church is largely of Portuguese nativity or descent.

Right Rev. de Sousa is a strong preacher, a devoted pastor and a public spirited citizen in his community, giving his support to all measures for the advancement of the public welfare, and for these reasons, as well as for his splendid personal qualities, he commands the respect and good will of all who know him, regardless of creed or profession.

Elsie Madruga:

Elsie Costa Madruga was born in August 1896 to M.E. and Josephine Costa. She was raised on the family farm on Jarvis Landing Road in the Alviso District. Elsie graduated from Washington Union High School in 1915 and attended teacher's college. By 1918 Elsie had become principal of the Alviso Grammar School. In June 1924 Miss Elsie Costa married Frank Madruga.



Mrs. Madruga is the wife of Frank Madruga, who is equally civic minded, taking an interest in the Centerville Volunteer Fire Department, and owning a large corner garage building where Matt Whitefield's gas station and Centerville Garage was located. Frank and Elsie Madruga had no children as of 1940.

Elsie Madruga served for 29 years as the principal of the Alviso Grammar School, retiring in May 1948. Mrs. Madruga, who started her teaching career in 1917 at Stonybrook School (between Niles and Sunol in the Canyon), left there after one year to become principal of the Alviso School where she had attended as a child. She has seen the school grow from a two teacher school to a three teacher school. She has seen the old school replaced by a modern

new school building with a cafeteria and a school bus. There are now 73 students enrolled at the school.

The school has grown under the leadership of Elsie Madruga. The school has a Mother's Club, which is very active and which helps the school with many of their projects. The school has Brownie and Intermediate Girl Scout Troops, which were organized last year.

Elsie continued as Principal of the Alviso School until her retirement in 1948. During that time she served as secretary of the Southern Alameda Principal's Association. In 1942 as the war had just started for the U.S. Elsie was selected as a canvasser for the Alviso District to gather funds for the War Bond Drive. In 1944 Elsie again answered the call to raise funds to fund our action in WWII.

Elsie was active in the following organizations:

- Elsie was a charter member of the United and Ancient Order of Druids of Centerville, an organization she would remain active for many decades.
- The DeGuadelupe Y.L.I. of Niles
- A member of the Girl Scout Advisory Board.
- Vice Chairman of the Alvarado Farm Home Department.
- Washington Township in the Alameda County Home Extension
- Volunteer for the American Red Cross
- Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of WWI, Fremont Barracks
- Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post 195
- California Retired Teacher Association
- National Retired Teachers Association
- The Altar Society of the Holy Ghost Church of Centerville
- The Fremont Homemakers Group.

Elsie Madruga passed away on April 6, 1964 in Fremont.

Emanuel George:

Emanuel George was a native of the Alviso District having been born there in July 1865 to Frank and Ignacia George. His wife Mary was born in California in October 1865. Immanuel and Mary were married circa 1897 and had one son, Lawrence, who was born circa 1901.

He served as the representative of the County's Assessor Office in Washington Township for 41 years, retiring in 1937 on account of reaching the age limit.

Emanuel was active in the civic affairs of the Township for many years. He held membership in the Alameda County Employee's Association and the Maple Camp of the Centerville Woodmen of the World. He was elected a Director of the Alameda County Water District when the District was organized in 1914 and has served continuously ever since. He was one of the organizers of the Bank of Centerville in 1905. He was named a member of the Board of the Bank of America, successor to the Bank of Centerville.

Mary Helen George passed away on November 10, 1931. Funeral services for Emmanuel George were conducted from the Holy Ghost Catholic Church in

Al's offers a complete stock of liquors, wine and beer. 141 South Main Street, Centerville. Phone Centerville 496-W for service.

Al's Market:



Amaral Insurance:

Louis S. Amaral, agent for the Farmers Insurance Group on the Alvarado Centerville Road in the Alviso District. Protect your driver's license and save money with Farmers Insurance.

Associated Gas Station:

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pimentel of Decoto were operating the Associated Gas Service Station in Centerville in August 1943.

Associated Service:

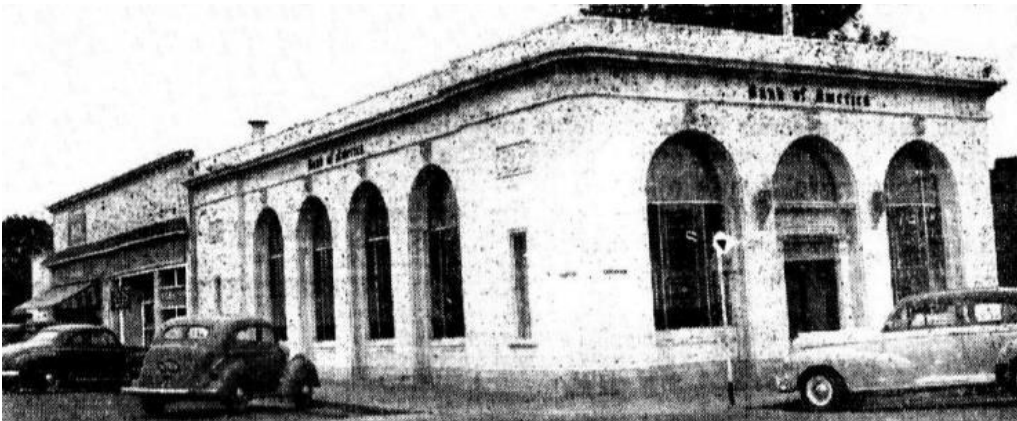
Matt Whitfield, May 1946.

Atwood Radio Service:

Complete radio and television service. Atwood Radio is located opposite the grammar school on Main Street. Telephone Centerville 8-8633

Bank of America:

The Bank of America was located on the east side of Main Street in Centerville as you headed south between the railroad tracks and Peralta Blvd.



Barney's Quality Meats



Bear Cat Inn:

179 South Main St.

Al Caeton, who for 26 years farmed in the Alviso District bought the Bear Cat Inn from Ray Bettencourt in January 1946. In May 1949 Joe E. Dutra of Alvarado purchased the Bear Cat Inn.

"Drop in and forget your troubles."

Beauty Nook

176½ So. Main Street, Centerville

Norma Willis is the proprietor of the Beauty Nook. The Beauty Nook has new modern equipment and a complete line of permanent waves. Phone 418-J

Bennett Welding Shop:

M.W. Bennett is the proprietor of the Bennett Welding Shop near the Center Theater.

Bettencourt Hauling:

Fred Bettencourt of Centerville does local and long distance hauling. Fred's phone number is Centerville 122M and his residence is on Thornton Ave.

Bettencourt's Grocery:

Machado's Corners, Alviso District



Bill's Associated Gas Station:

118 South Main Street, William Silva Proprietor

Black & White Café:

In 1928 a small restaurant was opened right next door to the high school, largely to accommodate the students who wanted a hot lunch instead of the ordinary cold sandwiches.

It proved to be a good venture and for a long time carried the name "Black & White Cafe."

In 1943 Mrs. Bernice Mech bought the Black & White Café and renamed it the Varsity Café.

Bob's Grocery Store

Bob Francis was the proprietor of the Red & White Grocery Store in Centerville. In May 1946 it was sold to A. Abreu.



Brazil's Service Station:

In September 1946 Philip and Edward Brazil took over the station located next to the Varsity Café.

California Inn:

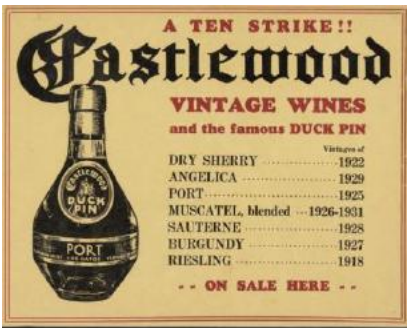
Warren Vandevoorde operated the California Inn featuring fried chicken, steaks, and chops. They also served parties and banquets. "Big or small we serve them all."

Then in April 1946 Pete and Peggy (Marguerite) Johnson bought the California Inn from the Vandevoorde's. The restaurant was located in Centerville at the Newark Junction (Thornton Ave. and Main Street in Centerville), the California Inn was well-known and was the regular meeting place of the Centerville Lions Club.

Cardoza Real Estate & Insurance:

Louis L. Cardoza had a complete insurance brokerage service and real estate office located at 123 South Main Street.

Castlewood Winery:

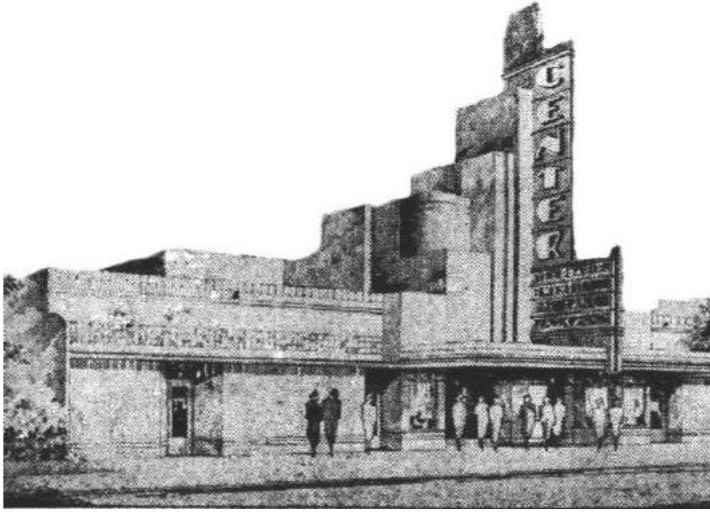


The Williams Brothers of Centerville owned and bottled wine locally under the name of Castlewood Wines. Alameda County vintners won 26 awards at the 1940 Los Angeles County Fair and Castlewood Wines took home three silver medals for Chateau, Muscatel, and Claret wines. Castlewood also took home a bronze medal for their Burgundy.

Center Taxi Service:

Ken Jones has started the Center Taxi Service in November 1946 with his headquarters at the Henry Gomes gas station on North Main Street. His hours were 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ken Jones was the son-in-law of A.S. Costa of the well-known Niles Taxi Service. For service telephone Centerville 191.

Center Theater:



Artist's rendering of new Center Theater

The Centerville Lions Club project to obtain a theater for Centerville became a reality in August 1941 when Charles E. Peterson signed a contract to begin construction on a \$40,000 building not later than January 1, 1942.

However WWII intervened before they could start construction of the theater and the groundbreaking was delayed until after the war.

Finally after the war the building of the theater could start. At the end of December 1945, the Salih Brothers (builders of the theaters), announced that the theater was about 35% complete. The theater would have a seating capacity of 900 persons.



The Center Theater is shown circa 1948, with the old Macmarr-Safeway and Kirkish Store just south.



This is the placard from the opening night on August 20, 1946 which showed two movies. They were "The Walls Came Tumbling Down," and "Cinderella Jones." They were shown four times on opening night, which featured Allen G. Norris as the Emcee.

At one time a fine two-story house stood on the property. The home had a spacious lawn, and was built by Mr. Salz, which was his residence for some years. Later it was sold to Manuel Oliveira who lived there for many years until he built his new home farther down the street. But Mr. Oliveira did not sell the property when he moved, however, and he kept the property in his name. When the theater project was broached, Velma Lewis came to him and pleaded that he should sell it reasonably so that the theater, which Centerville had wanted for so long might be built. Like a good citizen Mr. Oliveira did sell at a price what was within the range set by the Salih Bros. So a certain amount of credit is due, therefore, to both Mrs. Velma Lewis and to Mr. Oliveira for their initial part in this

venture.

Centerville (Center Field) Airport:

Construction of a privately owned airfield at the intersection of Blacow and Mowry Roads in Centerville was started on March 5, 1946. The field included 71 acres and was a mile long and a half-mile wide.

A 20-year lease was secured on the property owned by Jack Stevenson and authorization was secured from the CAA. A short ceremony celebrated the landing of the first plane by Don Hubbard, airport manager.

The Centerville Airfield began advertising their services late in March 1946. The field offered flying instruction at their location at the corner of Blacow and Mowry Roads. They offered student instruction and passenger flights. Their contact was Bob Stephenson at the field or Centerville 40 by telephone.

Concrete foundations were laid in the beginning of April 1946 for the Centerville Airport's administration building and café. The service hangar would go up shortly thereafter and there would be a group of expert mechanics to handle the maintenance and repair of field planes and private aircraft.

Don Hubbard, manager of the airport, said that soon there will be hangar space made for privately owned aircraft built of concrete, because at this time concrete was more readily available than wood for building.

The airport has recently been appointed a dealer for the Ercoupe 2-seater enclosed airplane. It is one of the latest and finest airplanes for private use. "It is the only airplane that cannot go into a tail spin. Developed with the aid of government engineers, it makes flying safer for private users," said Hubbard.



Ercoupe 2-seater

Don Hubbard, manager of the Centerville Airport reported in August 1946 that good progress was being made on the erection of the big hangar at the airport. The airport had also received several new planes. He also reported that he was busy with the instruction of new pilots.

C.H. Osborn of San Lorenzo was named general manager of the Centerville Airport to succeed Don Hubbard in December 1946. Mr. Hubbard would remain as superintendent of the field.

Centerville's second annual air show, sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, was held on August 31, 1947. The show featured a 10-act program by professional pilots and stunt men. Ground displays of private aircraft were open throughout the day. The program of stunt flying, parachute jumping, and performances by Army and Navy planes began at 3 p.m.

Heading the professional performances was "Batman" Tommy Boyd, who leapt from a plane at two miles above the ground and then glided down on canvas wings fastened to his body and parachuted to earth when he had descended to about 1,000 feet. Boyd has made a total of about 600 exhibition parachutes jumps, 300 of which included his "bat-wing" outfit.

Also on the bill was Herb "Madman" Page, director of the show, who appeared in the "Flight of Flame" for the first time on the Pacific Coast. He flew an Army training plane at low level over the field through flames of several hundred gallons of gasoline burning on the ground. Dynamite charges exploded as his plane passed through the flames.

All roads around the Centerville Airport were closed by the Highway Patrol and the sheriff's office because of the danger of low flying-aircraft.

Parachute jumping demonstrations were big crowd pleasers. Some of these jumpers developed their own act and wore a "bat suit" jumping from about 10,000 feet and flying as a "bat man" to 1,000 feet before opening their parachute.



"Batman" Tommy Boyd
(Bill Meixner collection)

Centerville Auto Parts:

Another new business for the township is now open. The Centerville Auto Parts store was announced to be opened for business this week by owner, Charles C. Gier, a disabled veteran of WWII. His temporary quarters are directly in back of the post office on South Main Street. The business will move into the new Center Theater building when completed.

Centerville Beauty Shop:



The Centerville Beauty Shop was operated by Anne Ripcke.

Centerville Body & Brake Shop:

All hydraulic brakes adjusted on passenger cars and pick-up trucks for \$1.00. Body works and auto painting, radiator repairing and motor exchange.

Centerville Cab Co.

118S. Main Street
Phone: Centerville 8-8498

Centerville Electric & Pump Co.

01/11/1946

Anthony S. Enos was the owner of the Centerville Electric and Pump Co. His store was located at 120 Main Street in Centerville. Besides his electric and pump business Mr. Enos sold toaster, heavy aluminum kitchenware, Hoffman Radios, and even Easter stuffed toys! Phone 49

Centerville Food Market:

Formerly Holland's Food Market. The new owners are George and William Gong.

Centerville Garage:

Paul Hockinson was the owner of the Centerville Garage and Machine Shop located at 118 North Main Street. Paul also sold Dodge and Plymouth automobiles.



In 1949 the Centerville Garage began advertising that they were auto dealers for the "Henry J. Kaiser Motor Co." which sold the Kaiser, Frazer, and Henry J. brand of automobiles.

Centerville Machine Shop:

Herman Mau, see us for general repairs.

Centerville Radiator Repair Shop:

The Centerville Radiator Repair Shop announced their opening in December 1949. They were located at 151 N. Main Street in Centerville. They cleaned, repaired, and re-cored radiators and also repaired gas tank. They guaranteed all of their work.

Centerville Saw & Tool Shop:

When your lawn mower needs sharpening take it to Centerville Saw & Tool. 118 South Main Street. Phone Centerville 474

Centerville Shoe Repair Shop:

In January 1946 Ray and Ivy Brandt opened the Centerville Shoe Repair Shop. The Brandt's had lived in Danville and Sunnysvale for eight of the past twelve years, but found that they like Centerville the best and returned to Centerville to live and work.

Centerville Taxi:

In June 1948, John Ruperto, a taxi driver located in Centerville, moved his business to another locale because it was impossible for him to get a parking space for his cab in downtown Centerville. Since the elimination of diagonal parking in downtown Centerville to parallel parking to make the two lane highway through town a four lane highway, it was difficult for him to get a place to park.

Centerville Tire Service:

Centerville Tire offered low priced tires from Kelly Springfield. Sample of bargain: A new 600 Z 16 tire is \$11.95. We also sell recapped tires and batteries. Look for us next to the high school in Centerville.

Central Chevrolet:

Proprietors: Romeo Brunelli and John Calcagno. See Central Chevrolet sales and service on new and used Chevrolets. Complete motor service. We also do frame and wheel aligning and body repairing. 199 North



Main Street, Phone Centerville 66

Central Steel:

A new industry was been added to Centerville in February 1949. It was the new steel mill that started rolling steel on Central Avenue across from Joe Jason's mfg. plant. Bob Anderson and Alton Johnson are partners in the Central Steel Co.

Chapel of the Palms:

Mortuary and Funeral Home
Mrs. & Mrs. Dallas C. Paul



We also provide ambulance service. South Main Street

Charlie Wauhab Insurance and Real Estate



Cloverdale Creamery:



The Cloverdale Creamery operated a dairy farm and creamery that delivered milk directly to retail businesses throughout the Township as well as to rural households. Then in August 1940 the owners of the creamery, Joseph Bauhofer, William N. Bauhofer, and Joseph F. Bauhofer purchased the ownership rights of L.J. Martin and Evelyn Martin, known as the Martin's Milk Service, of Centerville, which included all the stock, milk routes, equipment and milk delivery business with all of the goodwill thereof.

At their soda fountain on Main Street the Cloverdale Creamery advertised that their milk shakes were the best.

Coit Hardware:

George A. Coit. See Coit for a complete line of hardware, paints and plumbing supplies.



Cold Storage Locker:

A cold storage plant for Centerville was announced by H.D. Faucett, manager of the new plant in September 1943. The new plant will be established at Centerville on Baine Avenue near the P.C. Hansen lumber company. The plant will have 1,000 storage freezers catering to individual consumers who cannot afford a deep freeze unit at their home. The new plant will handle meats, fruits, vegetables and other commodities necessary to be preserved in cold storage for long periods of time.

Cross Road Service Station:

Cross Road Service Station features Richfield Gas and oil products. Les Doss is the proprietor, proprietor. The Cross Road Service Station is located at the intersection of Mowry and Centerville Road. In 1949 it became Kay's Crossroad Service.

Curley Top Beauty Parlor:

Emma Davi is the proprietor of the Curley Top Beauty Parlor in the Centerville business district.

Cut N' Curl Beauty Salon:

Ester Jason, proprietor



De Leon Service Station:



Doughnut Nook:

The Doughnut Nook will remain open nights until midnight. Look for us near the Bank of America in Centerville. 123½ South Main Street. Peerless Stage Depot, Phil Willis, Proprietor.

East Bay Garbage:

Manager: Mr. Pesci
P.O. 311, Centerville.

Excelsior Bakery:

Felice and Marie Ponti sold their Excelsior Bakery to Tony E. Correia of Niles and Rudolph Caminada of Decoto in April 1946. The business was located at 102 Main Street.

Tony E. Correia of Centerville has agreed to sell his undivided one-half partnership in the Excelsior Bakery to Victor Perdomo of Centerville. Mr. Correia's partner in the bakery was Rudolph Caminada. The bakery is located at 102 North Main Street in

Centerville. The deal took place at the start of 1948. Rudolf Caminada and Victor Perdomo are now partners in the bakery.



Florence Porter Florist:

Florence Porter opened her florist shop in February 1948 across the street from the Centerville Elementary school. She offered flowers for all occasions and prompt delivery anywhere in the township. She also wired flowers anywhere. Her location was 284 Main Street and her phone number was Centerville 135-R.

L. French Handy Man:

Larry French advertised his skill as a handy man in July 1949. He was experienced in many lines. He does general work around your place at reasonable wages. Telephone Centerville 8-8902

Gilstrap's 5, 10 & Up:

One of Centerville's oldest establishments is Gilstrap's Five and Dime. The business is a partnership of Mr. and Mrs. George Hinkley of Newark and Clarence Gilstrap of Centerville. They were located at 132 South Main Street. They sold hardware and pipe fittings, school supplies, notions, toys, and garden supplies.



Gomes Shell Station

Henry Gomes is the proprietor of the Gomes Shell Station on North Main Street. "Trade where you get your money's worth." Henry has been in the greasing business since 1929.

Grimmer: Dr. Elmo "Chuck" Grimmer:

Centerville has a new dentist. Dr. Elmo "Chuck" Grimmer has not only graduated from school and college, but also from service in the U.S. Army. He has rented the store next to the library in Centerville and expects to open an up-to-date dental

office in august 1946. Dr. Grimmer graduated from Washington Union High School in 1933.

Hager Refrigeration:

South Main Street Centerville
Phone: Centerville 8-8693 or Sunol 2411

Harry Drapes & Curtains:

Mrs. John Harry opened her "tailored to measure" drapery and curtain shop in February 1948 at 180 Pine Street. The shop will also fulfill any type of your sewing needs.

Hartford Frock Agent:

Mrs. Margaret Perry is the local agent for Hartford Frocks as well as Christmas Cards in boxes. Mrs. Perry takes order at her home on Sequoia Road, just off Fremont Avenue (Peralta Blvd). Mrs. Perry also sells Hoover uniforms as well in styles to fit barbers, waitresses, Dupont Nylon Jackets, as doctors and dentist uniforms.

Hellwig Meat Market:

The Hellwig Meat Market was located on Main Street in Centerville near the Bank of America. This market was a branch of the Hellwig Meat Market of Alvarado. George Hellwig the owner was also a supervisor on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Henry Miller Cleaning Service:

In December 1945 Henry Miller had the largest cleaning plant in the Township with its headquarters located in Centerville. He also owned a cleaning plant in Nilas, which he purchased several years ago and was known as the Nilas Cleaners. In addition to the two cleaning plants he also maintained satellite offices in Alvarado and Decoto in which customers could drop off their cleaning, which was then taken to Centerville to be cleaned and then returned to the branch offices for the customers to pick up. They also gave Green Stamps with your payment.



Herzog Auto & Tractor Repair:

Joe Herzog of Alvarado opened the Herzog Garage in August 1946 across from the Alviso Grammar School in the Alviso District. His work will feature auto, truck, and tractor repair. Phone Centerville 86Y13

Hodges Realty & Insurance:

Hodges Realty gives dependable insurance and real estate service. In the realty dept., Hodges Realty has some nice Centerville homes listed. Also farms, 51 to 140

acres. In November 1949 Mrs. Hodges began selling Polio insurance policies. The policy pays up to \$5,000 for treatment of Polio, Spinal Meningitis, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Smallpox and other named diseases. Entire family covered for \$10 per year.

Holland Building Contractor:

John H. Holland, general contractor and builder of unique homes at moderate prices. Holland Builders is located on Santos Road, one half mile from Centerville Highway. P.O. Box 455.

Holland Food Store:

John Holland's grocery store across from the Bank of America has grown so fast in volume of sales that he has contractors enlarging his store. In November 1945 John Holland added an edition (28 X 80 feet), which will allow for a bigger vegetable department among other needs for expansion.

In December 1945 the Holland Food Store announced the opening of their new addition to their store. For the new addition opening they offered a free raffle, the prizes being electric appliances, toys for the kiddies, and five cases of fine wine.

In June 1946 John Holland sold his food store at 112 South Main Street to William and George Gong, both of whom live at 501 Main Street in Hayward.

J & F Pipe Metal Products Co.

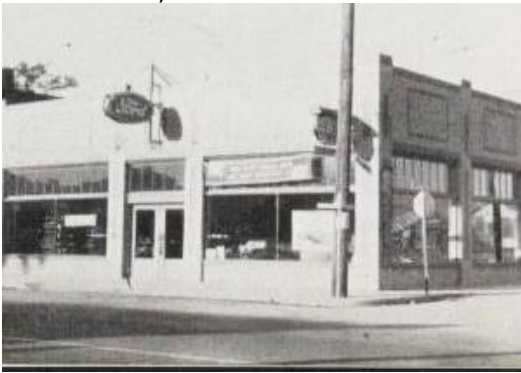
The J & F Metal Products Co. moved from their old location on Baine near Stevens Street in Centerville to a new plant on Central Avenue. Joe Jason is the owner of J&F Metal Products.

Jerry's Gift Shop:

Jerry's Gift Shop opened in July 1949 in the former quarters of Van Scoy Jewelers.

Joe Adams Ford, Inc.

Ford Dealer, 107 North Main



Jorgensen Carpentry:

In June 1946 Rudy Jorgensen advertised his carpentry skills and general repair work. He was available through the General Delivery Window at the Centerville Post Office.

K.P. Suhnel, Building Contractor:

K.P. Suhnel was a licensed builder of better homes and a general contractor which did home alterations and repair. His headquarters was located on Santos Avenue. His Phone was 180-W.

Kaiser Frazer Autos:

Dave Galbraith is the dealer in Centerville for Kaiser and Frazer autos. He maintains his headquarters on Market Street in San Jose.

Kay's Cross Road Service Station:

Kay's Cross Road Service Station features Richfield Gas and oil products. Kay's Richfield service station is located at the intersection of Mowry and Centerville Road. In 1949 it became Kay's Crossroad Service.

Kent's Variety Store:

Cyril A and Dorothea Peterman opened a five and dime store on the main highway south of Centerville near Mowry Avenue in May 1948. Their store is next to King's Grocery and the Richfield Gas Station. The store is named after their four-year old Kent. Opening specials: Bobby Pins, 3 pkgs 25¢; Lady Esther Lipstick 5¢; Rat-Tail Combs 5¢; 4 Qt. triple coated enamel covered kettles, 69¢

Kings Groceries:

Georgia and Ralph King of Kings Grocery on the Centerville Road and Mowry Road, have made their store look like new. In January 1949 they remodeled their store and invited their friends and customers to call and inspect the job. They call their business place, "The Biggest Little Joint on Main Street."

Kirkish Store:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kirkish are the proprietors of the Kirkish Store on Main Street in Centerville. They carry Lady Alice Dresses, Lorraine Lingerie, Ladies Imported Handkerchiefs, Fancy Hand Bags, Men's Castle Hats, Peter's Leather Shoes, Fancy Neckwear, and Suspenders. They also carry an excellent selection of infants wear.



Kleine's Café & Cocktail Lounge:

Jack and Violet Kleine are the proprietors of Klein's on South Main Street, Centerville.

Kleine's Restaurant:

Johnny and Ella Cartwright operated Kleine's Restaurant in Centerville featuring fine steaks.

In July 1946 Johnny & Ella Cartwright sold Kleine's Restaurant to Albert and Adeline Martin, both natives of Washington Township. They will reopen the restaurant on July 22nd after alterations. Rib steak \$1.25; Hamburger steak 75¢; T-bone steak \$1.50; Lamb chops 85¢; Special: New York Cut Steak \$1.35 & up; Oysters- any style.

On January 1, 1948 William Allison took over the operation and management of Kleine's Restaurant.

Kohler Crop Dusters:

Kohler Crop Dusters is located at the Centerville airport offers complete service of aerial dusting and spraying. Phone Irvington 155-R

The crop dusting technique used on Washington Township orchards, row crops, and grazing lands will be introduced to the farmers of Israel by William Van Leer, former pilot with the Dutch and Israeli Air Forces, who has been receiving his instruction at the Centerville Airport. Van Leer left Centerville on April 2, 1949 in one of the three light planes his company had purchased for dusting and spraying operations in Israel. His instructor in Centerville was Harvey Kohler, 34, former captain in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Kohler had spent 20 months in a German prison camp after his B-17 bomber was shot down over Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. Kohler has been associated with the Centerville Airport for the last three years.

Kohler Radio Company:

See Kohler Radio for electronic repairs or reconstruction. Joe Kohler has been a radio technician for eleven years on all types of electronic equipment. 107 Fremont Ave., Centerville. In June 1946 Joe Kohler reopened his radio repair shop at 264 South Main Street in Centerville, just across from the Centerville Elementary School.

L & V Restaurant:

In September 1946 the orchards about the L & V Feed Store were taken out, the ground was leveled and a building began to appear in the outline. This aroused a great deal of interest. We would later find out that it was to be a restaurant. It will be mainly for truckers who come and go here, but it will also be opened to the public and will eventually be an all-nite affair because truckers come and go at all hours. Ed Vieira opened the L & V Truck Terminal in August. The L & V Café opened on January 5, 1947.

On January 1, 1948 the restaurant operation and management was taken over by Arthur Williams from Ed Vieira. Then in March 1948 Arthur C. Williams and Robert Williams sold the L & V Restaurant to Roy and Wanda S. Kuntz.

L & V Farm Sales:

George R. Silveira, Proprietor. Sales of fertilizers, feed, fuel, seeds, and baby chicks. Fertilizer makes your garden grow. We also carry fly-killing paints.

In July 1947 George Silveira, owner of L&V Farm Sales in Centerville, partnered with Gabe Rocha of Hayward to open a feed store on "B" Street in Hayward. The new venture was known as S & R Sales.



L & V Trucking:

Ed Vieira, who used to own L & V Farm Sales, which he sold to George Silveira, started the L & V Trucking Co in August 1946. This new operation promises to be one of the biggest stations for bringing in farm products and handling of trucks in this part of California. Construction is now in progress and Ed has hired Joseph Dutra from Alvarado as weigh-master.

In September 1946 L & V Trucking expanded their operation the L & V Café was added), but they were also adding a regular service station where gas pumps and oil drums will be located to service the cars and trucks that will be coming and going. It will contain a room for the display of accessories, parts of various kinds needed for repair work and it will also house the scale and the office of the manager. A great canopy of steel 55 feet long is to cover a great grease pit where trucks can be taken care of, washed and steamed cleaned when needed. The foundation, which is laid for another building, is said to be a sort of motel where truckers can snatch a few winks of sleep while their truck is being serviced, or, if need be, stay for the night and get a real night's sleep. The one building which is completed is the present office where Mr. Ed Vieira and his partner Louis Amaral have their office quarters. On January 5, 1947, the L & V Truck Terminal opened for business.

Lanotti Painting:

Dan Lanotti, Centerville Painting Contractor, also feature Imperial Washable Wallpaper. Phone Centerville 21

Laudenslager's Cards & Gifts:

Mildred Laudenslager: If anyone in the Township a medal for bravery, courage, and spunk; than that credit should go to Mildred Laudenslager of Centerville, who, has been disabled and in a wheel chair for more than 20 years. Not only is she a credit to the area for herself alone, but for the business which she conducts from her home at 143 Oak Street.

After graduating from Washington Union High School in 1926 she entered San Jose State College for the purpose of furthering her natural artistic ability and to become a teacher of Art. In her first year, at the age of 19, she suddenly became ill with rheumatoid arthritis complicated by anemia from which she has become completely disabled.



A man in Vermont who was paralyzed with polio learned of her plight and offered to advance her 50 boxes of greeting cards to set her up in business. This she accepted and has been making her own way ever since. She carries any type of card you could desire, boxes of clever note paper, gift wrappings, magazine subscriptions, and now, her large selection of Christmas cards.

Mildred Laudenslager

Leigh Repair Service:

Leigh repair offers general repair service on appliances and bicycles. 157 South Main Street Centerville. He is located behind Dr. Buehler's office.

Lorraine's Beauty Salon:

The official opening of Lorraine's Beauty Shop in Centerville was July 11, 1949. Machine permanent waves are \$6.50. Cold waves are \$6.50. Lorraine's also does scalp treatments, manicures, haircutting, and facials. Lorraine is located at her residence on the Centerville - Irvington Highway. Look for her sign near Santos Ave. Phone: Centerville 8-8639. Operator-Manager: Lorraine Bettencourt. Lorraine is the daughter of Herman and Angie Bettencourt.

Luiz Trucking:

Edward Luiz of the Machado's Corner is taking over his father's business of market trucking and general hauling.

Magior's Place

If you want to buy aged wines, see Magior. South Main Street, Centerville.

Martin's Milk Service:

L.J. and Evelyn Martin of Centerville sold their stock, milk routes, equipment and milk delivery business with all of the goodwill thereof to the Bauhofer's of the Cloverdale Creamery in August 1940.

McClelland's Auto Repairs:

McClelland's Auto Repairs is located on Santos Road in Centerville. All work guaranteed. Special: Brakes relined \$16.00.

Midway Repair Shop:

Otto Scalf is the proprietor of the Midway Repair Shop on the Centerville - Irvington Road near Santos Road. He opened the shop in October 1946. Mr. Scalf has had over 20 years of electric motor repair and winding.

Mildred's:

Ground was broken on January 1, 1948 by J.P. Amaral, which will house two new stores for Centerville. One will be the Van Scoy Jewelry store and the other will be Mildred Amaral's Kiddie Shop.

Miller's Shoe Store:

Leonard Miller opened a shoe store in the Center Theater building in October 1946. Mr. Miller had been in the shoe business for over 24 years and was currently living in San Jose. Len will join the Centerville Auto Parts Store and Sid's Pharmacy in the Center Theater building. Miller's features Red Goose 'foot builder' shoes for the healthy feet of boys and girls.

In June 1949 the Miller Shoe Store would move across the street into a new location in the business building being put up by Mr. Mariani.

Mobil Oil Products:

A.A. Amaral is located on the Centerville Road in the Alviso District. Mr. Amaral offers Mobil products.

Mohawk Service Station:

John Lewis of Centerville operates the Mohawk Gas Station.

Nakamura's Grocery Store:



Norb's Sportshop:

Norbert George built a modern tile-front building in Centerville next to the Bank of America which will house his men's and boy's clothing goods store. The store will take up the lot between the bank and the Hellwig Meat Market and will be 27 feet X 68 feet deep. It will also feature a top notch sporting goods department with all types of sports equipment.

Allen G. Norris, Attorney and Judge:



Allen G. Norris, Attorney is located on Main Street in Centerville.

Pacific Telephone:

The Centerville Office of the Pacific Telephone Company was located at 126 South Main Street.

In December 1945 the telephone operators at the Centerville Exchange were Margaret Mello, Chief Operator; Vivian Gonsalves, Loretta Pearce, Beatrice Espinosa, and Rose Furtado.

At 5 p.m. on October 8, 1948 Centerville's telephone service was switched over to dial telephones. Beginning with the changeovers, new dial telephone numbers were effective for all subscribers. New telephone directories with the new numbers and instructions on how to use the new phone service were delivered to all subscribers. Some subscribers in Centerville still needed to contact the operator for calls outside the local exchange.

With the new service PT&T released the following statistic about the Centerville service. In the last 10 years Centerville has added 285 new phones to its service. In January 1949 PT&T served 17,000 customers in Southern Alameda County, up from 5,230 telephones in 1940.

Palm Barber Shop:

M.A. Rose, proprietor



Peerless Stages

The Peerless Stage Depot in Centerville was once occupied by Ted Laumeister's Restaurant. Today it is a bus depot operated by Mr. and Mrs. William Evans. In February 1946 the stage line expanded their service through Centerville. There will now be two additional round trips daily and Sunday through Centerville, making 25 round trips in all between San Jose and Oakland.

In March 1946 Mrs. and Mrs. William H. Evans announced their intention to sell their establishment where Peerless Bus tickets were sold to Mr. Laverne Baker and wife Geraldine Baker.

Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Baker are the new owners of the bus depot in Centerville and gave the depot a new coat of paint and made other alterations in April 1946. They keep a light lunch counter to accommodate the travelers, and have on sale newspapers, magazines, and other articles such as cigar, cigarettes, etc. The Baker's live in the depot building.

Frank and Louise Partlow have purchased the business at the Peerless Stage Depot in Centerville in October 1946. Frank was recently discharged from the Medical Corps.

On February 1, 1949 the Peerless Bus Depot took up headquarters at Phil's Doughnut Nook. It was changed from the Glade Café across the street. Peerless, along with Greyhound Bus Line, cover practically all of California.

Pierce's Place:

John and Mary Pierce offer cold sandwiches, cigars, cigarettes, beer, wine, and oil at their service station. They sell everything but WHISKEY at 245 South Main St. The Pierce Gas Station was located near the grammar school.

Pimentel's Shoe Service:

Ernest Pimentel opened his shoe repair shop in February 1948 at 243 South Main Street near the grammar school. Featuring the best materials, all work guaranteed, and repairs while you wait.

Rawleigh Products:

W.C. Kitchings is the Rawleigh products salesman who had his headquarters at his home on 118 South Main Street Centerville. Mr. Kitchings had several routes on his business where he or one of his employees, would make visits to outlying farms in his van to sell Rawleigh products. After the war Mr. Kitchings was looking to expand the number of routes in the Township.

Rita Mae's Beauty Salon



Safeway Super Market:

Safeway was located on Main Street between Kirkish's and the Center Theater. Safeway had previously been McMarr's Market back in the 1930's. In the early 1950's it moved to Fremont Avenue (today's Peralta Blvd).

Santos Brothers Garage:

John Santos is one of the Santos Brothers that operates the Santos Brothers Garage. The garage is located near the Cloverdale Creamery.



Sears and Houston:

Sears and Houston will open their new store on October 22, 1949 next to the bank. Toys, appliances, and televisions will be predominate at the big opening and many gifts will be given to customers attending. Their main store is in Newark.

Shanghai Restaurant:

The Shanghai Restaurant opened in for business in November 1946 over the Post Office in the Anderson Building. Harry Louie and two sons Louis and Henry are the proprietors of the new Chinese restaurant. Prior to this Harry Louie had the Mobil Oil and Gas station on Thornton Avenue until his boys were called into the service.

The new Shanghai Café opened in May 1949 under the management of Geen Loy. "We render fast service and serve the best Chinese and American dished using nothing but the best meats. We cater to parties and anniversaries and other special events for dinners.

As I have been in business in San Francisco I feel that I can cater to the local people and help the community now."

Sid's Pharmacy:

Sidney Salz will be Centerville's new druggist. He graduated in 1935 from Long Island University in New York. Sid has been in the Bay Area since 1936 and he presently lives in San Leandro with his family.

"Sid's Pharmacy" is due to be opened around the first of August 1946 in the right wing of the new Centerville Theater Building. It will be a modern pharmacy, carrying all the best lines of drugs, and it includes a soda fountain, which will be managed by Sid's brother Jack Salz.

In June 1949 Sid's Pharmacy would move across the street into a new location in the business building being put up by Mr. Mariani.

Singer Sewing Machine Co.:

The Singer Sewing Machine Co. maintained an office on "C" Street in Hayward, and they also maintained an office at 43 North Main Street in Centerville.

Their shops specialized in Dressmaking, Hemstitching, and Buttonholes. They also offered remodeling and alterations. Their local phone number was Centerville 422

Southern Pacific Depot Station:

In the olden days people came and went via the railroad station, but now it is the bus station where people come and go, as the railroads no longer afford local passenger service.

Day after day great freight trains thunder through Centerville, but only rarely are there any passenger trains, and when they do go by they do not stop, consequently the only public transportation to be had is by bus.

Station agents for the S.P. Station in Centerville over the years have been:

C.N. Miller:	To about 1914
C.R. Ingram:	About 1920
Edw. D. Dargitz:	The late 20's
Mark A. Miller	Sometime later
S.F. Kiernan	Since April 1943

Sportsmen Barber Shop:

Joe Silva, proprietor



Standard Oil Chevron Service Station:

The Chevron Sign decorates the Standard Oil corner at Newark Road and the Centerville Highway in November 1945. Joe Rebero of San Lorenzo is the proprietor of the newly opened station, which has been closed since the beginning of the war. Joe has a station at San Lorenzo between Washington and Hesperian Boulevards where the Chevron sign is also displayed.

In January 1946 Ray Osborn took over as the operator of the Chevron Station from Joe Rebero of San Lorenzo.

Ed and Jerry Dutra took over the Chevron Station from Ray Osborn in April 1946. We do first class greasing. We carry all Standard oil products.

Stinhilver Photo Service:

Buster Stinhilver has his photo studio located on 135 Fremont Street in Centerville. Special children's photo: 1 dozen 5 X 7 in folder, and 8 non-fading 5 X 7 proofs to keep, only \$12. Phone Centerville 101-J

Sunrise Bakery:

You can find the Sunrise Bakery at 161 South Main Street, Phone Centerville 64.



Sunshine Bakery:

Lawrence Rose conducts the Sunshine Bakery, with a big baking plant on south Main Street near the Fire House. Lawrence has been in business for ten years in Centerville. His bakery routes reach out into the Township and are handled by his brother Ed Rose.

Swainson's Beauty Shop:



Sylvestris Meat Market:

Jack Sylvestris is the proprietor of Sylvestris Meat Market and Delicatessen located on South Main Street in the old telephone office. You can make appointments by telephone. Call Centerville 8-8365

Telles Turkey Sales:

John B. Telles sells all sizes of dressed turkeys at his location on the corner of Central Avenue and Blacow Road. Phone Centerville 421

Tower; Dr. F.B. Tower Chiropractor:

Dr. F.B. Tower located his chiropractor's office in Centerville in February 1948.

In July of 1949 Dr. Elsie L. Walton became an associate of Dr. Tower at their office at 236 Main Street. Phone Centerville 8-8336

Township Automotive Supply

Chick Santos moved his auto parts store to Centerville in February 1948. He will be located in the old post-office in the Anderson Building across from the Bank of America. The business will be known as the Township Automotive Supply. The manager of this store will be Walt Hansen and the field salesman will be Les Amaral.

Union Service Station @ Machado's Corners:

Anthony K. Silva operated the Union Gas Station at Machado Corners in 1940. Anthony had used tires in various sizes from 50¢ and up, and he had used tubes from 35¢ and up. He also has slightly used batteries for your car starting at 40¢. He also sold new Richland tires at his station located on the corner of the Alvarado-Centerville Highway and Jarvis Road.



Mal Soito of the Alviso District was operating the Union Gas Station at Machado's Corners in January 1946. He took out a lease from Mrs. May B. Silva.

Vail's Saw Filing service:

Bernard Vail was the proprietor of a saw sharpening and lawn mower sharpening service. He was located at 118 Main Street between the Post Office and the Water District Office.

Van Scoy Jeweler

Ground was broken on January 1, 1948 by J.P. Amaral, which will house two new stores for Centerville. The Van Scoy Jewelry store will be featured in one of the stores. Edgar Van Scoy features competent watch repairing and a full line of jewelry, watches, and silverware. 177 South Main Street, Phone Centerville 418-W.

In June 1949 the Edgar Van Scoy jewelry store will move his business to the location to be vacated in the Center Theater by one of businesses.

Varsity Café:

Ernie J. Sabina of Centerville announced that he will resign his position of deputy sheriff in Hayward in February 1946 so that he could spend his full time managing the new Varsity Café (formerly the Black & White Café) adjacent to Washington Union High. The Varsity Café had been known as the "Black & White Café" since 1928. In 1943 the "Black & White Café" was purchased by Mrs. Bernice Mech.

In July 1946 the Varsity Café advertised their new interior alterations, which included a large horseshoe counter which would serve 40 more people, and also included 5 booths serving 20 people. Their slogan was, "A workingman's meal at a working man's price."

But they did not forget the high school students, however, who usually troop in during the school season at noon time, some two hundred or more strong. They made further alteration which would enable them to serve the students on one side of the café and the truckers on the other. A novel innovation was the use of screens they had made and mounted on rollers. These can used to make five booths on the student side of the room, or to be put together and form a private banquet room separate from the counter.

Vee-Bee Apparel Shop:

Vee-Bee Apparel Shop opened in Centerville in January 1948 as the newest store selling women's apparel. Charming youthful styles, beautiful floral patterns, lovely geometric designs, flared skirts, tiny waists, soft pastel shades. See the beautiful new Spring Dresses styled by such nationally advertised lines as:

- Johnathon Logan
- Hope Reed
- Young Hearted

Violet Dias and Beatrice Smith

And we give S & H Green Stamps!

175 South Main Street, Centerville: Phone 55

Velma Lewis Realty & Insurance:

Velma's office is located at her home at 393 South Main Street (just north of the high school). Phone Centerville 168

Victory Market:

Ralph Boliba, proprietor of the Victory Market in Centerville has been in the service since June 1945 and has been promoted from PFC to Mess Sergeant. He is now in Germany while his wife Antoinette has been running the market. The Victory Market is located at 111 Fremont Avenue near the Bank of America. Ralph sells groceries, meats, beer and wine at his store and offers fresh fish on Fridays. He also gives S&H Green Stamps.

Walt's Associated Gas Station:

Walt Texeira's Associated Service Station is located at 118 Main Street. In August 1949 Walt sold his business to William Silva of Alvarado.

Walton Drug Co.:



Walton Drug Store:
Allen E. Walton, Proprietor
180 N. Main Street, Phone Centerville 15
We give S&H Green trading stamps.

Walton's Drug Store was more than just drugs.
They offered a complete line of notions and gifts.

The Washington News:

George H. Oakes, is editor and publisher of *The Washington News*.

Weave-Bac Mending Shop:

Mrs. Ruth Bowers arrived in Centerville in July 1949 and resided at 184 Pine Street. Her son, Mr. Wallace Bowers, has been in the Township for over 3 years. Mrs. Bowers has been hospitalized for the past 8 years and is here for her health, coming from Corpus Christi, Texas. She intends to open a "Weave-Bac Mending Shop," where she will repair garments with moth-holes, burns, and tears, or any other fabric which is damaged. Mrs. Bowers was given her training in this vocation by the California Rehabilitation Training Program so that she would be self-supporting.

Mrs. Bowers advertises fast and inexpensive alterations, sippers replaced, and also dressmaking. She does expert work on burns, tears, and moth holes.

Your Hair Dresser:

Edith Benjamin conducted a beauty shop at 159 South Main Street she called "Your" Hairdresser. In August 1949 it was noted that Manuel I Lopez and Rose Lopez will transact business as "Your Hairdresser" at 159 South Main Street.

*** CENTERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ***

Centerville School Building / Centerville Pre-School Play Center / Centerville School Staff / Centerville School PTA / Student Body Activities / Centerville School Sports / Centerville Junior Traffic Patrol

Centerville School Building:

A bond measure for \$80,000 was approved for the building a new school for Centerville and bids for the construction of the new school were opened at a meeting of the School Board on July 16, 1940. The existing building was condemned because it was deemed to be an earthquake hazard. The new school was built on the site of the old school building on Main Street.



The new Centerville School

The contract for the new grammar school building was let to Carrico and Gauthier, San Francisco contractors, on a low bid of \$50,389. Tearing down of the old building began on July 26th and completion of the new school was set for January 1, 1941. The new building was to be stucco with a tar and gravel roof. It would include an auditorium, six class rooms, library, nurse's room, and an office. The present annex was used to house the cafeteria and two class rooms.

The new Centerville elementary School was dedicated on March 9, 1941. The building had a spacious auditorium, six beautiful classrooms, a restful teacher's room, a splendid health room, a new library which was large enough to accommodate an entire class, the principal's office, a stock room, a furnace room, and well lighted lavatories. The old primary building, which housed a cafeteria, a primary class, and a room for the play center, would be renovated in the summer of 1941 and would then be tied into the new building, thus completing the construction.

During the summer of 1941 the Board of Trustees made many improvements at the school. The floors of the primary building (the old portion of the school), which housed the first grade, the pre-school center, and the cafeteria were sanded, filled, and finished. The latest in tables and chairs were purchased for the grade school room. A new stove and a new water heater were installed in the cafeteria. Sidewalks around the school were removed and new sidewalks were poured and smoothed. Sprinklers were purchased and were installed shortly after the completion of the new sidewalks. A new pump, which will give the necessary pressure for the sprinkler system, was also installed.

In February 1948 the Centerville School received an odd gift which proved to be beneficial. Our prosperous little community was listed among four schools in Southern Alameda County that were considered to be impoverished, and as such were voted to receive an allocation of State funds for the building of classrooms and

other facilities. The schools so deemed besides Centerville were Russell City, Valle Vista, and Tennyson. The fund was created to take school children off "swing shift classes" and "use of converted barns and firetraps," where some of them attended. The bulk of the money that Centerville was to receive was voted by the board to go for classrooms, with some to be spent for sanitary facilities.

In August 1948 the Centerville School received a permit to erect a new \$70,600 building on South Main Street. The new \$104,000 addition to the Centerville Elementary School would be ready for occupancy by students on February 23, 1949. The new unit was financed by a \$46,000 allocation from the State and \$58,000 available from school district funds. The unit contained a Kindergarten and three classrooms.

Centerville Pre-School Play Center:

The newly organized Centerville Play School Center opened with an enrollment of 20 children in November 1940. Mrs. L.E. Bailey was chairman of the mother's group and the center was initially held at the Memorial Hall.

The Centerville Pre-School Play Center moved into new quarters in the primary building of the Centerville Grammar School. The officers of the center were:

	<u>February 1941</u>	<u>May 1941</u>
Chairman:	Mrs. L.E. Bailey	Mrs. Gilbert Smith
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. Allan Walton	Mrs. Sidney Westray
Secretary:	Mrs. Everett Chamberlain	Mrs. Harvey Granger
Treasurer:	Mrs. LaVon Sorenson	Mrs. Ed Vierra
Ass't Treasurer:	Mrs. Ed Vierra	Mrs. John Castro
Publicity:	Mrs. Lawrence George	Mrs. Bob Francis
Equipment:	Mrs. Jack Kleine	Mrs. Jack Kleine
Purchasing:	Mrs. Hubert Castro	Mrs. J. Anthony
Hostess:	Mrs. Allen G. Norris	-
Auditor:	-	Mrs. Wm. Cavanaugh
Directors:	Miss Decker, Mrs. Hardy	Decker, Hardy, Miss Fleming

The Centerville Elementary School pre-school play center (the first in Southern Alameda County) would be open five days a week from 9 a.m. to noon. Anyone desiring to enroll a child should be encouraged to call or see one of the 20 local directors.

Centerville School Staff:

The Centerville Elementary School would open for the 1940-1941 on September 10th. The following teachers would serve as the faculty:

Principal:	Mr. Thomas Maloney		
Teachers:	Miss Mary Dias	Josephine Herbert	Harold Smith
	Mrs. Inez Silva	James M. Nunes	Mrs. Generose Mento
	Mrs. Anita Garcia	Harold Smith	Mrs. Cecilia Whitaker
	Mrs. Anita Stubinger		

Custodian: Joseph F. George

Trustees:

President: Manuel Oliveira

Clerk: Judge Allen G. Norris
Trustee: George Coit

August 1944:

The Centerville Elementary School opened on August 28, 1944 with the following faculty:

Principal:

Teachers: Enza Baglione Mary Davis Mrs. Alice Lambrecht
Mary S. Dias Muriel Richards Mildred Riemann
Mrs. Inez Silva

Custodian: Manuel Dutra

Nurse: Mrs. Edna Ebright

Cafeteria: Mrs. Evelyn Peixotto & Mrs. A.E. Rogers

Trustees:

President: Manuel Oliveira

Clerk: Judge Allen G. Norris

Trustee: Ernest J. Sabina

1946:

School would open on September 10, 1946 with the following faculty and changes:

Principal: Mr. Thomas Maloney

Teachers:

1st Grade & Librarian: Miss Mary Dias

2nd Grade & Orchestra: Miss Enza Baglione

3rd Grade: Miss Alberta Menezes

4th Grade: Miss Marjorie Hyner

5th Grade: Miss Rosalie San Fillippo

6th Grade: Miss Veda Vogt

7th Grade & Girls Phys Ed: Mrs. Alice Lambrecht

8th Grade & Boys Phys Ed: Mr. Tom Maloney

Vocal Music: Mrs. Inez Silva

School Nurse: Mrs. Edna Ebright

Cafeteria: Mrs. Evelyn Peixotto & Mrs. A.E. Rogers

Custodian: Clarence George

Trustees:

President: Manuel Oliveira

Clerk: Judge Allen G. Norris

Trustee: Ernest J. Sabina

Allan E. Walton was appointed trustee for the Centerville Elementary School. He succeeded the late Manuel Oliveira for the rest of his unexpired term.

1949:

School opened on September 8, 1949 with the following faculty:

Principal: Mr. Thomas Maloney

Teachers:

Kindergarten: Miss Mary S. Dias

1st Grade: Miss Mary Dias & Mrs. Edna Stubblefield

2nd & 3rd Grades: Miss Nancy Martin & Mrs. Eugenie Freeman

3rd Grade: Mrs. Alberta Nunes

4 th Grade:	Miss Norman Bialc
5 th Grade:	Miss Marjorie Hyner
6 th Grade:	Miss Veda Creech
7 th Grade & Instrumental:	Miss Margaret Wiles
8 th Grade:	Mrs. Alice Lambrecht
Vocal Music:	Mrs. Inez Silva
Cafeteria:	Mrs. Evelyn Peixotto & Mrs. Rose Furtado
Custodian:	Clarence George & Clifford Dinsmore
Bus Driver:	Eddie Dutra
Crossing Guard:	A.J. Rose

Centerville School PTA:

The membership for the 1939-1940 Centerville School PTA was the largest in the history of the organization since it was founded in 1923. The officers for the 1940 term were:

President:	Mrs. A.E. Rogers
Vice President:	Mrs. Edward E. Chamberlain
Financial Secretary:	Mrs. George Pimentel
Treasurer:	Mr. Thomas P. Maloney
Parliamentarian:	Mrs. Manuel Brazil
Historian:	Mrs. Ed King.

The Following were appointed to the chairs of various committees:

Mrs. Manuel Brazil	Mrs. C.E. Anderson	Mrs. George Coit
Mrs. Loren Marriott	Mrs. George Pimentel	Mrs. Inez Silva
Mr. Thomas Maloney	Miss Mary E. Dias	

On November 16, 1945 the children at the Centerville Elementary School received vaccinations for smallpox and immunization against diphtheria. It was handled under the joint auspices of the Alameda County Health Department and the Centerville PTA. Assisting in this worthwhile community service were nurses Mrs. Edna Ebright, Mrs. E.D. Correa, Mrs. Clarence George, and Mrs. Joseph Santos.

Student Body Activities:

The Centerville Elementary School orchestra for the 1940-1941 school year was:

Violins:	Gloria Nunes, Dianne Ferraria, Mihoko Shimizu, Marjorie Coit, Mary Ellen Greenfield, Wanda Silveira, Alvin Soares, Dolores Mognaga, Winifred Rogers, Antoinette Pimentel
Clarinets:	Shirley Marriott, Annette Kirkish, Stanley Silva
Trumpet:	Arthur Thomas, Norval Peixotto
Trombone:	Alwin Lewis
Saxophone:	Beth King
Drums:	Harold Alameda
Piano:	Vivian Rose, Vivian Gonzales
Orchestra Director:	Mrs. Cecile Whitaker

Later in 1940 eight students from the Centerville School were chosen as winners in the Southern Alameda County Musical Association's poster contest. The winners were: Barbara Ponti, Albert Lum, Angie Silva, Vernlou Smith, Sachiko Inouye, Mihiko Shimizu, Betty Cotter, and Annette Kirkish.

In March 1941 Centerville students again showed their artistic prowess by entering twenty-four students in the poster contest sponsored by the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education. Those who entered were:

4th Grade: Raymond Bettencourt
5th Grade: Gerald Morley, Jimmy Inouye
6th Grade: Melford Alameda, Marjorie Coit, Mildred Enos, Yutaka Hayashi and Robert Motozaki
7th Grade: Sachiko Inouye, Betty Cotter, Betty Cox, Harold Alameda, Michiko Shimizu, Ben Oku, Norval Peixotto
8th Grade: Vern Lou Smith, Takashi Sugimoto, Angie Silva, Barbara Ponti, Albert Lum, Roy Hamachi, Rosie Reichmuth, Kazuye Oku, and Geraldine Martin.

The 8th Grade class formed a committee in May 1941 and chose a visit to Golden Gate Park in San Francisco as their get-away day. They will visit the Steinhart Aquarium, the National History Museum, the De Young Museum, and Fleishacker Zoo. The class officers for the 8th grade in 1941 were:

President: Frankie Holden
Vice President: Roy Hamachi
Secretary: Barbara Ponti
Treasurer: Shirley Marriott

"Kathleen, the Main of Killarney," is the title of the operetta to be given by the Centerville Elementary School at the commencement exercises in June 1941. In the play were:

Frankie Ann Holden	Rose Reichmuth	Robert Wells
Kathleen Vivian Rose	Ray M. Hamachi	Carvin Dowke
Ben Oku	Gene Cox	George Bettencourt
Rudolph Alonzo	Barbara Ann Ponti	Shirley Ann Marriott
Angie L. Silva	Vernlou E. Smith	

The eighth grade class for the school year for 1941 – 1942 started with the election of class officers for the coming year. The following were chosen:

President: Harold Alameda
Vice-President: Alfred Gomes
Secretary: Mihoko Shimizu
Treasurer: Leon Stalcup
Ass't Treasurer: Ethel Wauhab
Advisors: Thomas P. Maloney & Mrs. Inez Silva

The Centerville Elementary School elected new officers for the graduating class of 1943. They were:

President: Alvin Lum
Vice-President: Melford Alameda
Secretary: Beth King
Treasurer: Diane Ferraris

The War years also affected the Centerville School. Junior foremen and air raid wardens were organized to do their part in the War effort. The following boys volunteered for these services: Melford Alameda, Alvin Lum, Milton DeBorba, Harold Rogers, Anthony Dutra and Alvin Soares. Students also assisted in the salvage program and helped collect metal, rubber, burlap bags, and manilla rope.

The Centerville Elementary School elected student officers for the year 1944 - 1945. Those elected were:

President: Raymond Bettencourt (Became a teacher at WUHS 1950's)
Vice President: Elaine Joseph (Became a teacher at WUHS 1950's)
Secretary: Lena Horat
Treasurer: David McWhirter

During the 1944 - 1945 school year librarians were appointed under the direction of Miss Mary Dias. The students named were:

Barbara Ponti Raymond Bettencourt David McWhirter
Marie Gonsalves Geraldine Silva

For December 1944 the students made a Nativity Scene, which was placed in the showcase of the school. It was arranged through the cooperation of Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Waltenberger. The Christmas edition of the Eighth Grade class paper was published with the assistance of David McWhirter, Ray Bettencourt, Lorraine Brown, Elsie Silveira, and Velma Zimmerman.

At the end of December 1944 the Centerville School entrants in the essay and poster contest of the Washington Township Rationing Board were judged and the following students were the winners:

Winning Posters:

Elaine Joseph \$ 25 War Bond
Donald Correa \$ 1 War Stamp
George Silva \$ 1 War Stamp

Winning Essays:

Barbara De Borba \$ 1 War Stamp
Eunice Severson \$ 1 War Stamp
Elsie Silveira \$ 1 War Stamp
Geraldine Silva \$ 1 War Stamp

The Centerville Elementary School graduates for 1945 were:

Antoinette Barcide Raymond Bettencourt Lorraine Brown
Donald Correa Barbara De Borba Raul Guerra
Jack Gaunt Robert Hicks Lena Horat
Elaine Joseph David McWhirter Germaine Seegert
Eunice Severson George Silva Elsie Silveira

The Centerville School's Christmas play was entitled, "Thirty Minutes of Santa Claus." It was presented on December 13th with the following cast:

Joseph Silva Anna Ma Peixotto Oretha Smith Norman Coit
Virginia Pocchi Virginia Silveira George Silveira Doris Bettencourt
Jerry Browning Merle Beckett Barron Holland

The Centerville School took an active part in the March 1946 March of Dimes campaign to find a cure for Infantile Paralysis (polio). The committee was made up of Pat Francis, Billy Short, Shirley Torres and Elsie Horat. The committee placed containers for donations in various stores in Centerville. The school also took part in the Clothing Collection for the destitute peoples of Europe. On this committee were Patricia Perry, Joseph Bettencourt and Beverly Miller.

The students of Centerville Elementary School had their annual dance on May 10, 1946 at the school. The committee in charge of the dance was: Stanley Mack, Patricia Perry, Lorraine Gomes, Elaine Bettencourt, and Pat Frances. The following adults assisted: Mrs. Alice Lambrecht, Miss Mary Dias, Thomas P. Maloney, Arthur Belshaw, Robert Moore, Dallas Paul, James Nunes, Gus Robertson, E. Dixon Bristow, and Phil Souza.

The students of Centerville Elementary School again showed off their skill in the arts after they had won a cash prize and many certificates of merit prizes in the 21st annual international poster contest of the Latham Foundation.

A \$5 cash prize was given to Joseph Bettencourt of the 8th grade.

Certificates of Merit in recognition of excellent work were given to:

Beverly Miller, 8 th grade	Ruben Guerra, 8 th grade
Donald Rouse, 8 th grade	Erleene Zimmerman, 8 th grade
Lorraine Gomes, 8 th grade	Tony Barcide, 8 th Grade
Donald Elston, 6 th grade	Edna Zimmerman, 6 th grade
Ronald Martin, 6 th grade	William Perry, 6 th grade
Larry Staub, 6 th grade	Guadalupe Ruano, 6 th grade

In July 1946 the Centerville Elementary School was honored as one of three schools in Alameda County that filled treasure chests with children's books to be sent to the Philippines. This program was part of a national campaign organized by the book committee of the Women's Council for Post War Europe, to aid in cultural rehabilitation of war-ravished countries.

Then again in 1948 the students of the Centerville Elementary School were recognized for their participation in the "Save the Children Federation Bundle Day," which was a collection of serviceable clothing that would go for the unfortunate children of Western Europe.

Centerville Elementary Students were presented awards for proficiency in physical exercises in June 1948. They were:

Boys:

(Class A): Lee Facey, David Amaral, and Kenny Vieira. (Class B): Frank Senn, Frank Horat, and Tommy Kleine. (Class C): Gerald Mendes, Leo Gonsalves, and Arnullo Martinez. (Class D): Eddie Shannon, Duane Scott, and Leroy Rose. (Class E): Dick Arington, Ben Omalza, Robert Rose. (Class F): William Perry, Joe Alexander, Tito Lardizabal. (Class G): Jack Ferraris, Leonard Brown, and Richard Silvestre. (Class H): George Pimentel, Ronald Martin, and Lupe Ruzano.

Girls:

(Class A): Novalene Scott, Jennie Saucedo, Peggy Shannon. (Class B): Rosemary Kommes, Angie Martinez, Shirley Ward. (Class C): Betty Barcide, Alberta Abreu, and Victoria Baltiero. (Class D): Christine Kempton, Mary Ponsiano, Margaret Nunes. (Class E): Jonice Harlan, Mary Jane Saucedo, Guadalupe Flores. (Class F): Edna Zimmerman, Margaret Pocchi, and Clara Presley. (Class G): Lorraine Martin, Bertha Imfield, and Adelaida Flores. (Class H): Dorothea Jones.

Spelling Bee Winner:



In May 1949 Miss Marlene Roche of the Centerville Elementary School is shown with Principal Tom Maloney who is presenting her with the trophy for her winning the first prize in the Washington Township Spelling Bee

The 1949 Centerville students who won awards in the 24th annual International Poster contest sponsored by the Latham Foundation were:

Eva Bassagnani	Gloria Bernal	Joyce Castro	Robert Caldeira
Edward Clay	Marlene Dias	Jimmie Goold	Julia Lardizabal
Diana Randall	Joyce Rodrigues	Robert Rose	Ruth Thompson

Centerville School Sports:

Centerville Elementary School was always a power-house of school sports in the Township, winning more than their share of championship glory. Here are some highlights from the 40's and student-athletes that shone during this time period:

The Centerville lightweight basketball team (100 pounds or under) were undefeated in the last five years of competition, having been victorious in over one hundred contests without a single loss. The 1941 team consisted of:

Joe Nakamura	Yutaka Hayashi	Robert Motozaki	Roy Hamachi
Ben Oku	Harold Alameda	Jimmy Ushijima	Alwin Lum
James Pickler	Melford Alameda	Satoshi Sugimoto	Henry Miyamura

The sensational 1941 baseball team of the Centerville Elementary School (13 years and under) became the first outside team to win a championship of the San Jose Recreation League. The Centerville boys won the title by defeating the San Carlos Pharmacy (San Carlos St. San Jose, not San Carlos Calif.) 19-10 in June 1941.

Final League Standings:

Centerville	14	1
San Carlos Pharmacy	12	3
Hester Pharmacy	8	6
Golden Eagle Products	7	7
Wilson Midgets	5	9
Par-T-Pak	5	9
Eastside Merchants	4	10
Jefferson	2	12

The members of the Centerville squad were awarded gold baseballs for their splendid play. On the team were:

Harold Alameda, catcher	Jiro Nakamura, pitcher	Melford Alameda, 1 st base
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Robert Silveira, 2 nd base	Alwin Lum, 3 rd base	Ben Oku, SS
Arthur Thomas, LF	Carvin Dowke, LF	Adolph Enos, CF
Irving Alameda, RF	Anthony Dutra, RF	

Reserves: Milton DeBorba James Inouye.

The Centerville Elementary School chose a tag football team in September 1944. They were:

Ends:	Raymond Bettencourt & Robert Mendes
Tackles:	Reuben Guerra & Raul Guerra
Guards:	Antone Souza & Jack Gaunt
Center:	Pat Francis
Quarterback:	Lloyd Smith
Half Backs:	Joseph Bettencourt & Harley Brandt
Full Back:	Albert Fagundes
Reserves:	Billy Short, Robert Silva, Tony Barcide, and Elmer Montgomery

The football season for Centerville Elementary School football season ended in December 1944. It saw the first and second teams win all the games that they played.

First Team Players:

Ends:	Pat Francis and Robert Mendes
Tackles:	Antone Souza and Robert Silva
Guards:	Billy Short and Rueben Guerra
Center:	Jack Gaunt
Half Backs:	Harley Brandt and J. Bettencourt
Fullback:	Al Fagundes (Capt.)
Quarterback:	Raul Guerra

Second Team Players:

Ends:	Tom Nieto and George Silveira
Tackles:	John Lewis and Frank Nunes
Guards:	Donald Correa and Ralph Pendergraft
Center:	Gerald Furtado
Half Backs:	Tony Barcide and Ray Bettencourt
Fullback:	Lloyd Smith
Quarterback:	Jack Bribes

The Centerville Elementary School tag football teams had a very successful 1945 football season. The first team went undefeated in eight games, and the second team won seven of eight games.

First Team Players:

Ends:	Pat Francis and Robert Mendes
Tackles:	Billy Short and Ruben Guerra
Guards:	John Lewis and Frank Nunes
Center:	Donald Rouse
Quarterback:	Staley Mock
Half Backs:	Buddy Bettencourt and Harley Brandt
Full Back:	Albert Fagundes

Second Team Players:

Ends: Tom Nieto and George Silveira
 Tackles: 'Jerry' Browning and Anthony Faria
 Guards: Norman Coit and Larry Staub
 Center: Armando Morlos
 Quarterback: Jack Ferraris
 Half Backs: Sam Nakamura and Tony Barcide
 Full Back: Lloyd Smith (Capt.)

The Centerville Elementary School entered a basketball team in the January 1946 Boy's Invitational Tournament at Hayward. The following boys were on the team:

Harley Brandt	Albert Fagundes	Lloyd Smith	Joseph Bettencourt
Stanley Mack	Tony Barcide	Billy Short	Tadashi Sekigahama
Sam Nakamura	Armando Marlos	George Silveira	Pat Francis

Listed below is first round of the Hayward Area Basketball Tournament with the following scores of the sixteen teams that participated in January 1946.

Bret Harte	29	Russell City	4
Warm Springs	13	Sunset	8
Mt. Eden	21	Tennyson	3
Castro Valley	30	Niles	8
Centerville	23	Alvarado	12
Ashland	21	Pleasanton	12
Irvington	34	San Lorenzo	1
Decoto	38	San Lorenzo Village	4

Unfortunately, this was the only round that was publicized.

Centerville then entered the first annual Boy's Invitational Volleyball Tournament co-sponsored by the Hayward Area and Parkway District Recreational Districts. The games got underway on March 8, 1946. Unfortunately no scores were posted, neither were the champions.

First Round:	Ashland	vs.	Bret Harte
Second Round (Winner):	Ashland/Bret Harte	vs.	Centerville
	Castro Valley	vs.	San Lorenzo Village
	Sunset	vs.	Alvarado
	Mt. Eden	vs.	Warm Springs

Centerville Lineup: Lloyd Smith, Harley Brandt, Billy Short, Donald Rouse, Tadashi Sekigahama, Stanley Mack, Tony Barcide, Musakatsu Nakamura, Sammy Nakamura, Pat Francis, Robert Mendes, Armando Morlos, George Faria

The Centerville School baseball team concluded a very successful season in June 1948. On the team were:

First Team:

Russell Hayes, George Hammers, Ray Rodrigues, Dick Arington, Jack Ferraris, Frank Senn, Ronald Martin, Richard Silvestri, Ed King, Leonard Brown, and Edward Clay.

Second Team:

Phil Baltiero, David Maciel, George Pimentel, William Perry, Duane Scott, Ernie Davi, Tito Lardizabal, Donald Elston, Robert Rose, Leroy Rose, S.T. Edgman.

Junior Traffic Patrol:

The Centerville Junior Traffic Patrol enjoyed a show at the Niles Theater in September 1940. Those who attended were:

- Lieutenant: Roy Hamachi
- Sergeants: Rudolph Alonzo, Albert Lum, Carvin Dowke, George Bettencourt
- Officers: Gene Cox, Adolph Enos, Harold Alameda, Robert Oliveira, Alfred Gomes, Alwin Lewis, Norval Peixotto, James Pickler, Alwin Lum, Jiro Nakamura
- Reserves: Melford Alameda, Manuel Daniels, Harold Rogers, Melford Silva, Alvin Soares
- Chaperones: Principal Thomas P. Maloney, Mr. Victor Silveira, and Mamoru Hamachi

September 1944 saw the following pupils at the school named to the Junior Traffic Patrol squad at the Centerville School.

- Captain: Albert Fagundes
- Lieutenant: Raymond Bettencourt
- Sergeants: Pat Francis Robert Silva Jack Gaunt
- Billy Short Donald Correa
- Officers: Harley Brandt Jack Bribes Joseph Bettencourt
- Tony Barcide Oliver Omalza George Silva
- Anthony Faria John Lewis Selmer Montgomery
- Frank Nunes Joseph Silva Bob Weatherington



In April 1948 the Centerville Elementary School took part in the Southern Alameda County Junior Traffic Patrol parade march-off competition held at Hayward High. The presentation of the winning trophy to Captain Apodaca of the Alvarado squad. Jack Ferraris of Centerville is on the far right.

After the first march-off there was a three way tie for first place between the Livermore, Centerville, and Alvarado schools. So the units marched again. Alvarado took first place, Centerville second and Livermore third.

*** WASHINGTON UNION HIGH SCHOOL ***

Student Body / World War II / Sports / Other Activities & Events / WUHS Board of Trustees and Principals

Student Body:

Girls Athletic Association Play Day / WUHS Class Officers 1940 / WUHS Literary Staff / WUHS Class Officers 1941 / Students Inoculated / Glee Club / Girl's League Officers 1946 / Washington Union High Annual Staff / FFA / California Scholarship Federation / FFA Student Shines / Washington High Art Students 1949 / Student Body Officers 1949 WWII / Sports / Other Activities and Events

Girls Athletic Association:

The Girls' Athletic Association executive meeting was held at Hayward High School in March 1940 and plans were made for the annual play-day meet. Centerville and Hayward High groups will take turns being hosts at the play-days. Presidents of the G.A.A.'s of Livermore, Pleasanton, and Centerville also attended a tea given the G.A.A. of Hayward Union High. In April it was announced that they high schools at Centerville, Hayward, Pleasanton, and Livermore would meet at Hayward High on April 20th.

WUHS Class Officers 1940:

Class officers elected for the coming year are:

Freshman Class:

George Holeman Jr., Jimmie Jones, Lorraine Santana, Adele Bertolotti, Charles Marriott, Ernest Tremblay, Bob Lewis, Delphine Soito, and Dorothy Domnici.

Sophomore Class:

Kenneth Calhoun, Edward Brazil, Ebba Rae Benbow, Nicholas Reina, Inez Fong, Marjorie Brunelli, Beatrice Dutra, and Tommy Champion.

Junior Class:

Patricia Rose, Anthony Maciel, Jesse Seoane, Eleanor Freitas, Barney Bragg, Cathryn Jones, and Lillian Caldeira.

Senior Class:

Melvin Garcia, Jack Dutra, Vera Costa, Dorothy Bettencourt, Joe Lewis, Harry Ushijima, Helen Guardanapo, and Wilma Martin.

WUHS Literary Staff:

The following students from Washington Union High School worked on various parts of the literary publications put out by the school in October 1940, which included the school annual, the semi-monthly newspaper, and the publication put out by the English Department, which included student stories and poems. The following students were named to various departments of the various publications:

Winifred Santos	Wilma Martin	Betty Steinhoff	Cleone West
Leontine Rose	John Williamson	Roy Mathiesen	George Smith
Joe Ishida	Al George	Ichiro Nakamura	Eddie Brazil
Chet Inouye	Santos Alvaros	Shyrle Silva	Thuvia Cayard
Margery Hunt	Jean Wahaub	Jacquelyn Burtch	Jean Rogers
Marjorie Jason	Mary Cattaneo	Nelle Warren	Sally Ann Mayock
Edna Dowke	Toshiko Hamashi	Eugene Correia	Muriel Fagundes
Marjorie Brunelli	Masako Ikeda	Rhea Kawaguchi	Yuke Nakamura
Aki Kato	Roland Bendel	Arthur Andrade	Dorothy Matsumoto
Laura Lee Zwissig	Bette Murphy	Shirley Bertolotti	Genevieve Andrade

WUHS Class Officers 1941:

Officers of the four classes at WUHS have been elected as follows:

Freshman:

President: Albert Silva
Vice President: Alfred Caeton
Secretary: Florence Brown
Treasurer: Donald Bragg
Student Council: Bette Rose
Yell Leader: Wayne Calhoun
Girl's League: Harriet Maderas and Shirley Marriott

Sophomore:

President: Bob Bragg
Vice President: Bob Lewis
Secretary: Dorothy Domencini
Treasurer: James Jones
Student Council: George Holeman
Yell Leader: Herbert Mesquite
Girl's League: Betty Vieux and Charlotte Lewis

Junior:

President: Ed Brazil
Vice President: Frank Rogers
Secretary: Lorraine Alameda
Treasurer: Lillian Harvey
Yell Leader: Tom Nitta
Student Council: Marjorie Jason
Girl's League: Helen Griffen and LaVerne Gomes

Senior:

President: Walter Texera
Vice President: Albert George
Secretary: Jacquie Burtch
Treasurer: Pat Costa
Yell Leader: John Williamson
Student Council: Robert Tremblay
Girl's League: Hazel Garcia and Jewell King

Anthony Maciel was the editor for the high school annual and Henry Borghi was the business manager for the annual.

Students Inoculated:

In March 1943 the entire student body at WUHS was immunized from smallpox by free vaccination given by Dr. W.L. McWhirter, school physician, assisted by the Volunteer Graduate Nurses Corps. A campaign was also under way in the grammar schools seeking total immunization against both smallpox and diphtheria and parents were urged to cooperate.

Glee Club:

The members of the WUHS Glee Club visited the shoemaker Hospital on December 17, 1945 where they sang Christmas Carols while visiting the different servicemen's wards. The twenty-three members were driven in the school bus by Mrs. Harriett

Thornburg, lead of the club. Many of the veterans sang with the girls and really enjoyed it, bringing back memories of home.

The members of the Glee Club included:

Dorothy Butler	Jeanette Luna	Shirley Butler	Lorraine Bettencourt
Vivian King	Betty Bradley	Mitzi Harris	Rosemary Trinidad
Thelma Costa	Diane Avakian	Beatrice Bradley	Loretta Caldeira
Joyce Bryson	Yvonne Caldeira	Ruth Pierce	Alvina Perry
Betty Richards	Anna Mae Pierce	Mary Goularte	Laverne Harvey
Elaine Silva	Louise Gomes	Pat Mohn	

Girl's League Officers 1946:

The Girls League of Washington Township High School has elected new officers. They are:

President:	Dorothy Costa
Vice President:	Catherine Viveiros
Secretary:	Mary Abel
Treasurer:	Dianne Ferraris
Hospitality Chairman:	Stella Cortez
Program Chairman:	Mary Goularte
Ways and Means Chair:	Joan Berney
Past President:	Eva Jason

Washington Union High Annual Staff:

The new editor of the Washington High annual for 1946 was Beth King of Centerville. Other members of the staff are Cora Perez, assistant editor; Leslie Halliday and Raymond Luiz are the business managers; with Victor Fracoli, Mary Abel, Dorothy Costa, Leroy Moora, Melford Alameda, and Caroline Vargas as heads of different departments.

FFA:

In May 1947 the Future Farmers of Washington Union High School put 6,000 tomato plants on sale to local farmers. The plants were raised in the school's agricultural department.

California Scholarship Federation:

After reaching the requirements for initiation into the California Scholarship Federation, twelve students at Washington Union High School were initiated into the local chapter in February 1948. Those who were initiated were:

Barbara Goularte	Eleanor Motozaki	Philip Enciso
James Leonard	LeRoy Broun	Anna Mae Peixotto
Orbie Robertson	Manuel Silva	Audith Andrew
Kaz Kawaguchi	Pat Guerra	James Moura

FFA Student Shines:

Vernon DeValle, FFA student at Washington High, was one of the winners in the Calf Riding Contest of the Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition held in the Cow Palace in San Francisco in April 1949.

Washington High Art students:



Dallas Paul, president of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce watches (from left) Lorraine Gomes, Don Pine, and A. Hiraishi put the finishing touches of wooden posters used in the community's first Christmas street decoration program sponsored the C of C in December 1949.

Student Body Officers 1949:

Students who will take over control of the study body government at Washington Union High School in the fall semester in 1949 were:

President:	Done Pine
Vice President:	Yoshio Hisaoka
Representative:	Jim Griffin
Secretary:	Elsie Horat
Treasurer:	Emily Tacchella

World War II:

WUHS Questionnaires / WUHS Foreign Policy Forum / R.O.T.C. / WUHS All-Out Defense Program / WUHS Questionnaires / Black Out / Sewing & Knitting for War Effort / Loss of Students / Special Graduation for Japanese 1942 / Opening Day of School Delayed / WUHS Junior Red Cross / New Students / Student Work Camps / High School Opening Date 1943 / WUHS Adopts Cadet Corps / School to Open as Normal September 1045

WUHS Questionnaires:

Washington Union High School printed and delivered to all post offices in the Township questionnaires in January 1941 meant for unemployed youths between the ages of 17 and 25 to interest them in training courses to aid the National defense program. The cost of the program will come from Federal emergency defense funds, and the program was adopted by the State Board of Education, which will include training in various phases of the National defense, such as the manufacture and operation of airplanes, tanks, munitions, etc.

WUHS Foreign Policy Forum:

Washington Union High School presented a forum as part of the night school at which anyone in the Township could attend. The forum will be held on Monday nights at 8 p.m. starting October 1941. The topics are:

- Our foreign policy, from neutrality to belligerence; Oct 6th.
- Soviet Russia, Our New Ally; Oct. 13th.
- What's Right and What's Wrong with the Defense Program; Oct. 20th.
- The Economic Consequences of the Defense Program; Oct. 27th.
- What Kind of Peace do We Want; Nov. 3rd.

R.O.T.C.

Principal A.J. Rathbone of Washington Union High School is heartily in favor of establishing a Reserve Officer Training Corps for the young men now attending the high school here. A request for information how to proceed was forwarded to the Adjutant General's office at Sacramento for information and action.

WUHS All-Out Defense Program:

An all-out defense program has adopted by the Student Council of the Washington Union High School on December 22, 1941 with approximately 300 boys expected to be enrolled in a volunteer fire-fighting and first aid crew, and an equal number of girls organized into home hygiene and home economic squads.

Black Out:

It was announced in January 1942 that student activities at Washington Union High School scheduled for evening dates will be curtailed in cooperation with civilian defense policy. Dances, athletic events will not be held at night in order to comply with black-out rules.

Sewing & Knitting for War Effort:

Homemaking classes at Washington Union High School were assisting the Centerville unit of the Red Cross in January 1942 with sewing machines and knitting needles. They have already completed 65 garments and 40 sweaters. Mrs. Josephine Morris and Miss Evelyn Wilson are instructing the work.

Loss of Students:

The possibility that five of Washington Township's schools would lose teachers due to a decrease in attendance resulting from the relocation of Japanese-American students has developed after checking enrollments. A little less than 10% of the total township enrollment of 2,427 students in Washington High and the 10 grammar schools are Japanese, total of these enrolled are 216. At the high school 91 of 632 students enrolled are Japanese and at the Centerville Elementary School 40 of the 230 enrolled are Japanese.

Special Graduation for Japanese:

Washington Union High School will hold a special graduation ceremony for 15 Japanese students who are due to be relocated to internment camps. The exercise will take place on May 6, 1942 in the afternoon. The rest of the school will graduate on June 7th.

Opening of School Delayed:

The Board of Trustees of Washington Union High School has announced that September 21, 1942 will be the opening day for high school students. If student help is still needed for the fruit, a minimum day will be held and the students will be released for work. The joint usage of the school's buses for picking up students and continuing carrying workers to and from the canneries after opening day of school is being worked out in the district attorney's office.

Washington Union High in Centerville opened on Sept. 21, 1942 and closed at noon on Sept. 22, 1942 to keep students in the fields and the canneries another two weeks. Norbert George, student body president, urged students to resume studies or find jobs in the harvest of tomatoes and sugar beets because, "our fighting men are depending upon us as we are depending upon them."

WUHS Junior Red Cross:

The Junior Red Cross at Washington Union High School began collecting bristle brushes to do vital paint jobs for the Army and the Navy. Formerly bristles for paint brushes came from China and are no longer available and are being replaced by brushes collected by the Junior Red Cross.

New Students:

Thirty-four new students had registered at Washington High by February 1943. The population demographics seem to be shifting. Half of the new registrants are from other states. In the mix were: Texas, Oklahoma, Nevada, Iowa, Oregon, Wisconsin, Kansas, Illinois, and South Dakota.

Student Work Camps:

Washington Union High School is again being prepared to house student harvest workers on their campus during the 1943 harvest. Money has been set aside for such comforts as a cafeteria, sanitary sleeping quarters, etc. The camp will be carefully supervised.

High School Opening Date 1943:

J.V. Goold, Principal of Washington Union High has announced that the school will open on September 20, 1943. A much later date had been anticipated but there were comparatively few with work permits extending into October, and if the labor situation demands it, students can attend for a minimum day and help with the tomato harvest.

WUHS Adopts Cadet Corps:

The California Cadet High School Corps was made an integral part of the Washington Union High School by the school trustees in October 1943. The program is a compulsory pre-induction training program for all boys enrolled. The initial project included the purchase of uniforms and guns, which will range from \$1,300 to \$1,600, and no additional expense was anticipated for the next several years.

The only boys who would be excused from the program were those who bring notes from parents or excuses from physicians. A minimum of 80 minutes a week will be devoted to drill, map study, hygiene, and related subjects under the instruction of Coach Irving Hird who will be commissioned. This is the first school in Southern Alameda County to adopt the program as part of the curriculum.

School to Open as Normal This Year:

Contrary to the custom for the past several years of observing a part time schedule in order that students might continue in food harvesting and processing, the Washington Union High School will open on a full time schedule in September 1945. This is in keeping with the policy recently announced by Vaughn D. Seidel, superintendent of public schools in Alameda County. This is in response of the national back-to-school drive sponsored by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor and the United States Office of Education.

Sports:

1940 / 1941 / 1942 / 1943 / 1944 / 1945 / 1946 / 1947 / 1948 / 1949

Please note that football games played, for example, in year 1940 were actually played in 1939. This is true for all years cited.

1940:

Football: Tying for third place in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League the Husker's had 3 win, 3 loss, and one tie season. The Husker's defeated Mt. View, Campbell, and Fremont, but lost to Santa Clara, Livermore, and Los Gatos. They tied Menlo in a scoreless game.

Basketball: The Washington Varsity had a season where they won 9 of 15 games and finished 5th in the SCVAL.

1941:

Football: Washington ended up with a 5 – 1 – 1 record in the SCVAL. The Huskers were not expected to do well in the SCVAL this year but shocked the conference when they finished in a tie for second place with Santa Clara. The season started with a loss at Mt. View 26 – 0. They then rebounded to defeat Gilroy, which was followed by a tie at Santa Clara. The Huskers had started the 1 – 1 – 1. They then reeled off four straight wins against; Fremont, Los Gatos, Livermore, and Campbell.

Basketball: Washington High had its most successful season since joining the SCVAL. This year they ended up as co-champions with San Jose Tech. The season was highlighted by big wins over San Jose Tech and Santa Clara.

1942:

Football: Washington again ended up with a 5 – 1 – 1 record in the SCVAL in 1942. This was good enough for second place in the conferred. They started the season with a tough at Mr. View 7 – 0, their only loss of the season. They played Los Gatos to 6 to 6 tie. They defeated Fremont, Gilroy, Santa Clara, Campbell, and Livermore.

Basketball: The Huskers basketball team a good season, going 7 – 1 in league play. Their only blemish in the league was a loss to San Jose Tech; but they defeated Santa Clara, Gilroy, Mt. View, Campbell, Los Gatos, Live Oak (Morgan Hill), and Fremont in SCVAL League play. Non-league games saw Washington play: Pleasanton, Livermore, Bellarmine (San Jose), San Leandro, Lowell, and Hayward.

1943:

Football: This year, due to the war, only two games were played to save wear and tear on school buses. The Huskers two games were against Livermore, which they won 28 – 26. The other games were played against the Washington High Alumni who won the game 14 – 0.

Basketball: There were no league games scheduled for this season and two games were played, both against Washington High Alumni.

1944:

Football: Again, because of the war, the Husker's played an abbreviated schedule, only five games. The Huskers won three games and lost two. They defeated Fremont, Hayward, and Livermore; and lost to Hayward and Menlo J.C. They played Hayward twice.

Basketball:

The team played a ten game schedule, winning only two games; both of them from the Livermore team. Their losses came against a Navy team (twice), Hayward (twice), Oakland, Bellarmine (twice), and the Alumni team.

1945:

Football: The Huskies (no longer the Cornhuskers, or the Huskers) ended up in second place in the SCVAL with a 3 – 3 – 2 record. Washington started out the season scoring only 6 points in their first four games; losing two of those games against the Hayward JV's 12 – 0 and Santa Clara 13 – 0. They Huskies played Campbell to 0 – 0 tie and then also tied Mr. View 6 – 6. They then reeled off three wins in their last four games, defeating Fremont, El Cerrito, and Livermore, before losing their final games at Los Gatos.

Basketball:

The Huskies finished in a tie for second place in the SCVAL this year with an overall record of 11 wins and 9 losses. Six of those wins came in league play.

1946:

Football:

The Huskies compiled a 5 – 1 – 2 record this year. In league play Washington tied both Campbell and Mt. View by identical scores 0 – 0; defeated Santa Clara, Gilroy, and Fremont. In the league championship game, played as the final game of the season, Washington lost to Los Gatos 19 – 6. The Huskies also won non-league games at Hayward and Jefferson.

Basketball:

The Huskies struggled this year to an overall 6 win and 10 loss season. In the SCVAL they went 3 – 6.

1947:

Football: The Huskies wound the season in a second place tie in the SCVAL standings. They started the league season off by losing to Los Gatos and Mt. View and then played to 0 – 0 tie with Santa Clara. They then finished the season with three straight league wins against Campbell, Gilroy and Fremont. They also played three non-league games, defeating both Livermore and San Jose Tech and tying Jefferson.

Basketball: Washington ended with a two and six record in the SCVAL. They defeated Gilroy and Live Oak, and fell to Santa Clara, Mt. View, Campbell, Los Gatos, San Jose Tech and Fremont.

1948:

Football: The Huskies went 4 – 3 – 2 by defeating Livermore, San Jose Tech, Mt. View, and Gilroy; they were tied by Fremont, and Santa Clara. They were defeated by Jefferson, Los Gatos, and Campbell.

Basketball: Washington suffered through a luckless season as the won only 3 of eight league games.

1949:

Football: The 1948 football season will long be remembered as a thrilling and exciting one, the year that Washington won the SCVAL League title with a sterling 7 – 1 record. The only blemish on their record was a hard-fought 13 – 6 loss to *Fremont*. *Otherwise the Huskies defeated Gilroy, Los Gatos, San Jose Tech, Mt. View, Santa Clara, and Campbell*. In non-league play they defeated Jefferson. Making the All-Valley team was: Joe Sankene, Fred Duffie, Bernie Day, and Ed Gurley.

Basketball: The varsity basketball team ended up with a good 5 – 3 record. Marking wins over Fremont, Santa Clara, Gilroy, Mt. View and Live Oak; and losses to San Jose Tech, Campbell, and Los Gatos.

Other Activities and Events:

Senior Play 1940 / Township Basketball League / High School Play Day / WUHS Heralds School History / Senior Play 1941 / WUHS Given an "A" Rating / Student Body Play 1941 / Student Body Play 1943 / Teacher's Salaries / Senior Play 1946 / Football Stadium Night Lights / Senior Play 1949

Senior Play 1940:

The senior play, "What a Life," will be staged at the high school auditorium in June 1940. Tom McWhirter has the lead role accompanied by a cast that included:

Larrayne Peterson	Elizabeth Lindsay	Calvin Oliveira
Manuel Silva	Shirley Mast	John Cardoza
Norman King	Rosemary Sessa	Philip Brazil
Vermilda DeLuce	George Bonde	Margaret Williamson
Lawrence Leal	Gertrude Mozzetti	Ben Mozzetti

Township Basketball League:

The principals of the elementary school in Washington Township arranged a schedule in January 1941 for upcoming basketball season for the eight towns in the township.

The Board of Directors for the league are:

James C. Wasley, Alvarado
Thomas P. Maloney, Centerville
Lewis Musick, Decoto
Jack Prouty, Irvington
E.B. Hodges, Mission San Jose
John MacGregor, Newark
E. Dixon Bristow, Niles
Leslie H. Maffey, Warm Springs

High School Play Day:

May 10, 1941 was the date of the annual play day held by the girls of Hayward, Livermore, Centerville and Pleasanton high school. This year the festivities were hosted by the girls of Centerville. Tennis, badminton, baseball, and volleyball are to be the featured games. The event is put on annually by the Girls Athletic Association of the schools.

WUHS Heralds School History:

The evolution and progress of education in Washington Township from the padre's school at the Mission San Jose to the modern school of today will be shown in a pageant to be given at the 50th commencement of the Washington Union High School on June 12, 1941. The continuity of the pageant begins when the first mission school for the Indians at Mission San Jose and carries through the first public school erected in Centerville by John Horner in 1850, the establishment of Washington College in 1871, the legalization of the first union high school district in 1891 and the organization of the Washington Union High School (largely through the efforts of the late Mrs. J.E. Thane) in the Masonic Hall at Centerville in 1892, the building of the first "high school house" in 1893 and the construction of the present modern plant in 1924.

With a two teacher school and 22 students in 1892 the high school has grown to 718 enrolled and a faculty of 32. The largest graduating class in the history of the school will attend Washington High, the graduating class will be 140 seniors this year.

Senior Play 1941:

The play given for this year's senior production was "He Who Hesitates." The play was presented on May 28, 1941. In the cast were:

Laura Lee Zwissig, Virgil Young, Frank Barrett, Lawrence Moise, Roland Bendel, Cleo Cooper, Genevieve Andrade, Shirley Bertolotti, Melvin Telles.

WUHS Given an "A" Rating

Washington Union High School was given an A rating in September 1941 among accredited high schools in California by the University of California at Berkeley. High schools are accredited and rated on the basis of the scholastic records of their graduates at the University. The rating just received indicates that students attended the University from this township achieved scholastic success.

Student Body Play 1941:

"Hollywood Bound" was the production chosen for the annual dramatic offering of the Student Body Association of Washington Union High School in November 1941.

Having parts in the play are:

Florence Braun	John Truscott	Beverly Adams	Ernest Tremblay
Betty Cory	Juanita Galvin	Adele Bertolotti	Margaret Kerns
Bob Manly	John Machado	Doris Alcaraz	Henry Mariani
Frank Machado	Margie Jackson	Dorothy Jackson	David Vargas

Student Body Play 1943:

Miss Sheila Leachman, Dean of Girls, has written a play which was presented by the students of the school in December 1943. It was based on Van Dyke's "The Living Tree." Appearing in the play was:

Margaret Park	Dick Magers	Charles Marriott	Norma Lima
Lester Whitaker	Carol Severson	Billy Post	Ray Pierce
Delores Garcia	Rachel Williams	Lou Roche	Clifford Rogers
Everett DeSalles	Tommy Cunha	William Mette	Manuel Lewis
Frank Escobar	Luther Churchill		

Dwight Thornburg rendered the organ music.

Teacher's Salaries:

In May 1944 salary increases to meet the wartime cost of living were asked by teacher of Southern Alameda County in letters sent to trustees by the salary committee of the Southern Alameda County Teachers Association. According to a University of Stanford study indicated that no teacher in an unincorporated town in Southern Alameda County earned more than \$1,620 per year. Increases in salary cited in the letter to trustees specified that a minimum of \$1,980, or \$165 per month, for elementary schools in Washington Township should be adopted.

Senior Play 1946:

"Summer Storm," a comedy mystery in three acts was presented by the Seniors of Washington Union High School class of 1946. Those in the play were:

Eddie Cardoza	Arthur Brown	Gilbert Espinoza	Frank Hernandez
Henry Gutierrez	John Torquemada	Norma Santos	Clara Feliciano
June Daniels	Helen Vieux	Winnie Pereira	Nelda Hammond
Alene McNemar	Ella May Allan	Ramona Perez	Annette Kirkish

Evelyn Brown
Barbara Re

William Enos

Alwin Lewis

Gerry Fernandes

Football Stadium Night Lights:

A committee was formed in April 1947 to sell \$14,000 in script for the erection of night-lights for the Washington Union High School Memorial Stadium. Warren Gravestock, Loren C. Marriott, Harry Weber, Lee Williams, and Vernon Ellsworth were part of the construction committee. The script is printed in \$10 denominations. Subscriptions are considered donations to be redeemed by lot as funds accrue from gate receipts. In July 1947 work began on the 80-unit lighting system of the Washington Union High School Memorial Stadium following opening bids. Low bidder was Centerville Electric Company at \$10,000. The Memorial Stadium at Washington Union High School was dedicated in January 1948 at appropriate ceremonies. The lights of the stadium were turned on for the first time as the Huskies held their first night game.

Senior Play 1949:

The annual dramatic production of the senior class of the Washington Union High School was given on May 12 and May 13, 1949. "Best Foot Forward," is the three act comedy to be presented under the direction of Mrs. Martha Hartsog. Those in the play were:

Pete Morlos	Dave Nelson	Don Correa	Bob Lizardo
Bob Wasley	Salvador Guerrero	Fred Duffie	Jack Gaunt
John Evans	Melvin Lewis	Joan Halliwell	Vivian Duarte
Barbara James	Elaine Joseph	Ellen Freitas	Mary Villescaz
Dolly Silveira			

WUHS Board of Trustees and Principals:

The principals of the high school for the 1940's were:

Albert J. Rathbone	1940 - 1942
J. Vernon Goad	1943 - 1949

The Board of Trustees for the WUHS in the 1940's included:

Andrew Logan, M. Oliveira, M.J. Overacker, Frances, H. Harrold, M.J. Bernardo, J.D. Gomes, E.A. Quaresma, A.E. Alameda, S. Scott, and E. Enos

*** ALVISO SCHOOL DISTRICT ***

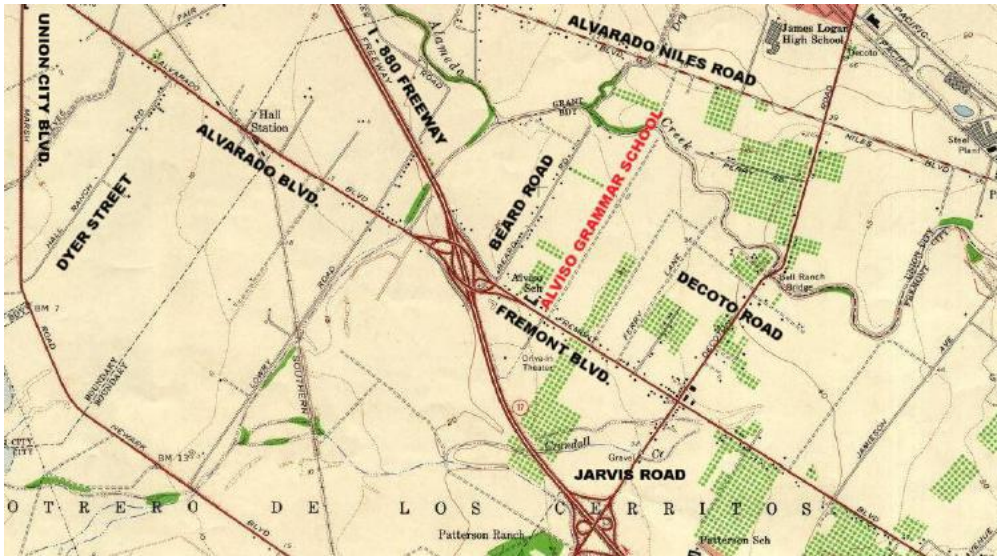
Alviso Grammar School / Mother's Club / Alviso Brownies and Girl Scouts / Alviso Cub Scouts / World War II / Frank Hermosa / Alviso Voting Precinct / Peter D. Brown / Joseph D. Mello

Alviso Grammar School:

In June 1940 Mrs. Elsie Madruga, principal of the Alviso Grammar School announced that all teachers would be returned. Besides Mrs. Madruga the school teachers are Mrs. J.C. Wasley and Mrs. Marie Dutra. Meanwhile the new Alviso Grammar School was under construction (pictured above). The school then opened its fall semester in September 1940 with 87 students.

In April 1944 Mrs. Mamie Roderick, long time clerk of the Board of Trustees for the Alviso Grammar School, reported that all was well with the school and that Mrs. Elsie Madruga, the school principal, was doing a splendid job at the school

An October 1945 survey of the Alviso School revealed a pleasant surprise. The Alviso Grammar School had 91 students enrolled, an increase of 6 students over last year. It was feared that after the War attendance would drop in local schools as many people had come to the area during the War for the availability of local jobs and it was that those people would leave after the War ended.



The location of the Alviso Grammar School (now destroyed) located to the left of the "Alviso Grammar School" printed in red.



The new Alviso Grammar School was finished in October 1940.

In 1945 Washington Township still had a one room schoolhouse, the Lincoln School, which lay north of the town of Newark near the Patterson Ranch. In January 1946 the boundaries of the Lincoln School were adjusted giving part to the Centerville School and the rest to the Alviso School.

The area of the Alviso School District approximately doubled with the addition of the Lincoln School District. The Lincoln School was then dissolved because of a decrease of school attendance. Up to April 1946 no students from the former Lincoln School District have been enrolled in the Alviso School District

In April 1946 the Alviso School Board of Trustees was, Manuel S. Abreu, Frank Faria, Jr., and Mrs. Mayme Roderick.

Students from the Alviso Grammar School participated in the annual Junior Traffic Patrol March Day held at the University of California in May 1946. First prize went to Centerville. Schools that participated besides Alviso and Centerville were: St. Michaels's School of Livermore, Newark, Castro Valley, Decoto, Irvington, Livermore, Mt. Eden, Niles, Pleasanton, Niles, San Lorenzo, Russell City, Ashland, Valle Vista, and Tennyson.

The June 1946 graduation of students was held on June 8, 1946 when 12 students received their diplomas.

The Alviso Grammar School opened its new cafeteria on Monday, October 5, 1947 with an attendance of 70 students. Quarters were established in the auditorium, which would also serve as an extra classroom. Former plans to construct a cafeteria annex supplied by a bond issue over a year ago were abandoned and present plans are to build a new auditorium. Mrs. Irma Brown has been made manager of the cafeteria.

In February 1948 the school district of Alviso thanked Mrs. Mayme Roderick for her 20 years of service on the board of trustees.

Frank Duarte, a candidate for the Alviso Grammar School Board of Trustees, was appointed to that position to replace Manuel Abreu who resigned in April 1948. The election for the trustee position will be held in May. Frank Pimentel is also a candidate for the trustee position in Alviso.

For the first time in its history the Alviso Grammar School has school bus transportation for its rural pupils. Otto Olson, local garage man has been engaged to drive the bus. The bus was purchased in May 1948 from Joe Adams Ford of Centerville.

The Alviso Grammar School Board of Trustees held a meeting at the school on May 17, 1949 to explain an increase the Alviso School District from 80¢ to \$1.30. The meeting discussed the reasons why the large increase was need. The total attendance at the meeting was 12 persons: Vaughn Seidel, Alameda County Superintendent of Schools; F. Nelson Vassallo, Seidel's chief deputy; Principal James Nunes and his wife; three school trustees and the daughter of one of the trustees; the school crossing guard, one teacher, and the cafeteria manager.

School people present: 12
Taxpayers present: 0

On May 21, 1949 the results of the election was announced. The tax increase failed 92 to 69.

June 14, 1949: Alviso graduated 13 students. There was a play put on by the school and an address by Dr. Vaughn Seidel, county school superintendent.

The first meeting of the Alviso Student Body for 1949 was held on October 11th. Officers were elected:

President: Leon Mings
Vice President: William Emery
Secretary: Rina Ciarlo
Treasurer: R. Hailey
Sergeant at Arms: Darwin Hall and Geo. George

The Alviso School Christmas pageant for 1949 was performed on the evening of December 16th. The play this year was "Christmas in Mexico." Performers in the play were:

Santa Claus: Remo Cerutti
Father: Geo. George
Mother: Patty Bettencourt

The five children of the household:

Pedro: Dino Ciarlo
Carmen: Linda Hermosa
Elena: Marlene Azevedo
Petra: Norma Orsetti
Maria: Judy Obedoza
2 Angels: Georgia Brown and Diane Orsetti

Mother's Club:

The Alviso Grammar School Mother's Club was similar in function to a school PTA. The organization would raise funds for projects for the benefit of the school children that were not covered in the school's budget. They would also put on plays and hold dances at the school for the benefit of the student.

The Alviso School Mother's Club presented two plays on February 22, 1941, one in Portuguese and the other in English. The Portuguese play, "Father Takes Mother's Place," was given by the following cast:

Anna Martin	Mary Cardoza	Carrie Andrade	Rita Perry
Mamie Santos	Francis Mello	Mamie Mello	

The English Play "Moving Day," was presented by:

Eleanor Azevedo	Mayme Roderick	Lou George	Lydia Orsetti
Letizia Silva			

Mrs. Carrie Andrade, president, had general charge of the arrangements.

The Mother's Club of the Alviso Grammar School threw a public dance to benefit the school's milk fund in May 1946. The dance was headed by Mrs. Manuel Abreu.

In October 1947 the club held installation ceremonies for new officers. They were:

President: Mrs. Frank
Vice President: Mrs. Mary Dias

Secretary: Mrs. Ruby Olsen

The Alviso Mother's Club held a dance to raise funds for the club's activities on November 6, 1948. Arrangements were made by Mrs. Pauline Faria and Mrs. Delinda Pimentel who were assisted by newly elected officers of the club: Mrs. Mary S. Dias, president; Mrs. Mary Bettencourt, vice president; Mrs. June Olson, secretary; and Mrs. Pauline Faria, treasurer.

In October 1949 a den of Cub Scouts in the Alviso District was organized by the Alviso Grammar School Mother's Club.

Alviso Brownies & Girls Scouts:

In March 1948 the Alviso Brownie Troop No. 66 celebrated the founding of Girl Scouting with Margaret Reina in charge. Meanwhile the Alviso Intermediate Troop of Girl Scouts was learning Danish folk dances as part of their badge work.

In November 1948 the Alviso Girl Scout Troop was making quite a name for itself in its diversity. Mrs. Asta Pederson, leader, says her troop of eight girls is making a point of their varied heritage and was making a special project of cooking menu items reflecting the culinary skills of their grandmothers, one of whom is an American Indian.



In November 1948 the Alviso Elementary School's Girl Scout Troop inherited a part of a former classroom for use as its headquarters. Receiving the key to the structure from Principal James Nunes was Mrs. Asta Pederson, Scout leader while Girl Scouts Wynemia Sudbury and Margaret Reina look on. The school's troop was organized a year ago.

The Alviso Girl Scouts inherited a club room all their own when the school principal, Jim Nunes, handed over the key to a small building on the school grounds.

In February 1949, during the few weeks that remain before they "fly up" to Intermediate Girl Scouts Troops, the Brownie of Troop 66 are busy are busy planning original skits to be given at their meetings before the PTA and Mother's Club. New officers of the group that were elected: Patty Bettencourt, president; Norma Orsetti, vice president; Mary Maloney, secretary; Patricia Sousa, corresponding secretary; Rose Marie Abreu, treasurer; Glenda Lee Silva, program chairman; and Eugenia Faria, stage and prop girl.

The Girl Scouts took up sewing recently. The girls use Mrs. Pederson's electric sewing machine. There are only four Girl Scouts left in the troop since the older ones left for

high school. The names of the girls are: Margaret Corchero, Gloria Espinola, Tova Pederson, and Cordelia Mings.

Alviso Cub Scouts:

In October 1949 a den of Cub Scouts in the Alviso District was organized by the Alviso Grammar School Mother's Club. Committee members were:

Richard Mendonca, Cubmaster	George Roderick, Treasurer
Clifford Rogers, Chairman	and Norman Coit, Den Chief

Six boys ages 8 to 11 signed up for the new den.

World War II:

WWII did not pass the Alviso by. In March 1942 a survey of Japanese families in the Alviso School District revealed that 18 of the 86 children enrolled were Japanese.

In May 1942 a War Bond Drive was organized in Washington Township to sell U.S. Defense Bonds to help finance the War. A.J. Rathbone, Principal of Washington Union High School led the effort for Washington Township and named Elsie Madruga to head the Alviso District campaign effort.

In late fall of 1942 the students of the Alviso School picked up seventy-five pounds of walnuts from the trees located about the school playground. The students cheerfully did their part to aid the war effort by donating the nuts to the USO.

In September 1943 L.R. Burdick was named chairman of the current War Bond sales Drive for Washington Township. Representing the Alviso District was Louis Amaral.

Frank Hermosa:



Frank Hermosa (left) of Alviso, President of the Washington Union High School Future Farmers of America, Centerville Chapter; and John Coehlo, of Warm Springs has been elected delegates to the National Convention of the FFA.

Peter D. Brown:

In May 1946 Peter D. Brown of the Alviso District passed away at the age of 45 years. He was the husband of Irma Brown, father of Carol and Georgia Brown. Peter was a native of Alvarado and a resident of Alviso.

Alviso Voting Precinct:

In October 1946 the Alviso District voting precinct was listed as Alvarado Precinct #2 and was located at the Alviso Grammar School. The Inspector was Mayme Roderick; the Judge was Mabel M. Rodgers; and the Clerks were Geraldine Cunha and Mary M. Amaral.

An election for the formation of a Junior College District in Alameda County was held in November 1948. Ballot officials for the Alviso District were: Mayme Roderick, Josie Duarte, and Pauline Faria.

Joseph D. Mello:

July 15, 1946: Died, Joseph D. Mello, 80, a retired farmer of the Alviso District for the past 32 years. Joseph was born in the Azores and was a member of UPEC in Decoto. He was the father of Manuel, Frank and Joseph Mello, Mrs. Rita Perry, and Kenneth Mello, all of Alviso.

* **FARMING** *

Lloyd E. Bailey / Williams Brothers / F.E. Booth / Fruit Growers / Vegetable Growers / Dairy / Drought / SP Depot Centerville

Lloyd E. Bailey:

A record shipment of Washington Township tomatoes left the L.E. Bailey warehouse in Centerville destined for Seattle in January 1940. Nearly 1,300 boxes of extra fancy tomatoes were shipped with other shipments to follow. Contrary to the regular close of the picking season around the first of November, these tomatoes were picked from the Stevenson, Bailey, and Harden ranches near Irvington in the middle of December. An unprecedented late growing season furnished excellent tomatoes a month and a half after the normal closing date. Three weeks later Lloyd began to ship about four carloads of cauliflower from his packinghouse near the SP station in Centerville daily since the weather began to warm up and the cauliflower growing period began to spurt.

Lloyd Bailey, one of Washington Township’s largest independent vegetable growers, was shipping four car loads of cauliflower daily to the east in iced cars in the middle of December 1940. Mr. Baily shipped them from the warehouse alongside the Southern Pacific depot at Centerville.

Steaming, puffing, packed to the hilt freight trains are whistling a merry tune to cauliflower growers and shippers in Alvarado, San Lorenzo and Centerville are shipping upwards of five to 10 carloads a day to the eastern markets at the beginning of 1941. Trains leave daily for Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit and other eastern centers where the vegetable commands top prices. The Alvarado Vegetables Growers Association, which also includes Lloyd Bailey and the Williams Brothers of Centerville, make up the bulk of vegetable growers and shippers of this area.

After the regular tomato picking season was over for local cannery tomatoes (after the first frost) in October 1941 Lloyd Bailey began his shipping of green tomatoes. Shipped from his warehouse at the Centerville station where the green tomatoes are sorted and packed into boxes for the eastern market. Elmer Peixotto is the manager of the warehouse where some 10 ladies and men are packing selected tomatoes. The tomatoes are shipped east to Chicago and New York markets.

In July 1944 the first of 290 Mexicans arrived in Washington Township as part of the "Good Neighbors" program to help harvest local crops. L.E. Bailey had a camp in Mission San Jose where he supplied the workers with everything they need or want in picking the crops. For most of workers living conditions were pleasant, three meals a day, work they understand, and opportunities to gather in the evening for music and talk.

Williams Brothers:

The Williams Brother's had green tomatoes rolling into their Centerville packing house at the rate of three box car loads full each day in October 1941. Their operation parallels the Southern Pacific tracks near the Centerville depot. There three cars of green tomatoes were sent daily to eastern markets. This makes the Williams Brothers the largest shipper of green tomatoes daily from Southern Alameda County. The operation was supervised by Mr. Shepherd who employs 15 ladies at the local operation.

Bert Williams, of the Williams Brothers shipped a record amount of celery from his operation in Irvington in November 1943. He averaged a car load a day. Bert also had representatives at Decoto Bert where his broccoli and cauliflower from that area would be shipped for him. These shippings were handled by the Sanguinetti Brothers, who loaded it and sold it for him.

Bert William's brother, Lee S. Williams, shipped plenty of carloads of tomatoes by S.P. railroad from his Centerville packing sheds this past season. The office manager, Clarence Rose, was kept very busy with a big packing crew. Cauliflower shipments have begun to open up, the produce being packed in iced cars for shipment to the eastern markets.

Bert Williams is raising plenty of vegetables, most of it finding its way to the Armed Forces. He is raising vegetables on the 12 ranches he took over from the interned Japanese farmers. Tomatoes and cauliflower have been raised on the ranches in Centerville and Irvington.



W.B. Williams (known to all his friends as Burdette Williams) has a large organization at his big packing shed along the S.P. tracks in Irvington where he shipped iced celery to the eastern markets in October 1945. Mr. Williams has an assembly line process that washes, packs, labels, and sends crates of celery down a conveyor line to a waiting S.P. car on the siding. Besides celery Burdette also ships out broccoli and cauliflower from this site, working eight months of the year. Burdette has 16 farms in the area and the operation employs 75 people, one of the largest operations in the area. Lee Williams, brother of Burdette Williams, is one of the largest growers

and shippers as an independent that there is in the township. He ships from his large packing shed and warehouse adjoining the Southern Pacific Depot at Centerville, not far from L.E. Bailey's location.

In August 1946 the packing plant of Lee Williams, alongside the SP right-of-way in Centerville, was again busy packing green tomatoes for the eastern markets. The tomatoes received a light coat of wax to keep them in good condition for the trip east. The tomatoes will ripen in about 10 days from the time shipment. After the end of the green tomato season Lee will begin shipping cauliflower east by fast S.P. railroad cars. Lee expected to ship 300 carloads of cauliflower and broccoli for the 1946 and early 1947 year. They had just finished shipping some 200 car loads of green tomatoes east.

F.E. Booth Company:

The F.E. Booth Company was the first cannery in this district to announce the prices for the 1941 apricot crop and said that they had purchased 800 tons at \$55 a ton. This is \$5 less than the Apricot Growers Union demanded, but more than some of the growers had expected to receive.

The Booth canning company opened its summer in August 1942 run on peaches with 400 people working. Four school buses were used to cover the township, picking up workers to save rubber on the many cars owned by the workers. They pay a small bus fare for the tire-saving service, which was sanctioned by the board of trustees of Washington Union High School. The buses would go on night service later in the month of August when two shifts began work at the cannery. After the peaches came pears, and after pears the will can tomatoes. A shortage of pickers due to the War was anticipated.

F.E. Booth Cannery Superintendent Maurice O'Brien said the cannery packed over 500,000 cases of fruits and vegetables in Centerville in 1942 and early 1943, a good deal of this went to the United States Government for our boys overseas.

Starting in July 1942 a continuous season of employment was given to over 900 people. The apricots, peaches, and tomatoes finished on November 10th. Many loyal Washington Township people forgot about vacations and went to the Booth Canning Co. to work and to try to help put up as much of this canned goods as they could. Many cannery workers remembered that they were just as important to the Government as men making ammunition. The Armed Forces needed canned food so many stayed on the job at the cannery during the summer.

The Booth Cannery tried packing something different this fall. It packed some 5,000 cases of turkeys for the Government. Switching from fruits and vegetables to meat canning showed a lot of flexibility at the local cannery. The turkey pack lasted about four weeks.

In June 1943 it was revealed that the high school buses of Centerville High, that were used in 1942, helped to save the peach packing by transporting employees of Southern Alameda County to the Booth Cannery at Centerville. As a matter of fact the experiment was so successful that it would be repeated in 1943. The Hunt Brothers Cannery in Hayward looked forward to doing the same at their plant between Winton and "A" Streets. The employees of the Hunt Bros. Packing Co. at Hayward would be transported to and from their homes and place of work via

Hayward Union High School buses during the summer months when the rush season was on.

Approximately 200 additional workers were needed at the Booth Cannery when the tomato pack, much of which goes for Government use, began near the middle of August 1943. At least 500 employees would be needed for tomatoes.

The Booth Cannery used about 1,000 employees to put up a big tomato harvest in 1943. At least sixty percent of this year's output of canned tomatoes and sauce would be taken by the U.S. Government for the war effort.

The year 1944 saw the F.E. Booth Co. start canning early with a 14-week run on turkey for the Government, which began March 13th. Because of this a call was made for 200 women and 50 male workers. Canning of turkey meat was undertaken here last year on a trial basis under government inspection and proved to be a success.

Labor shortages again plagued the F.E. Booth Cannery in July 1944, and because of this an urgent appeal for 150 ladies to help save the pack of fruit for the Armed Forces was issued. Prospective women were told to contact Maurice O'Brien, plant superintendent in Centerville, to ask him what time the buses call at Alvarado, Alviso, Decoto or whatever town you are in the Township. At this time the plant was swamped with apricots that needed to be packed, peaches would arrive in August, and tomatoes at the end of September. Last year they processed 25,000 boxes of tomatoes daily in the season's run for a total of 360,000 boxes of tomatoes that were processed. The ladies of Washington Township responded to the call and by July 21st the 150 employees needed was met. This was coupled with a cool spell that retarded the ripening of the apricots, which benefited both the farmer and the canner.

A new machine shop was built at the Booth Cannery in Centerville in March 1946. This was part of a \$250,000 to \$300,000 expansion program planned by the company in January. The firm planned on turning out 32,000 tons of tomatoes in this next season, which was the reason for the new machine shop, a new boiler and boiler room, a new cooling tower, and miscellaneous equipment that was being installed.

The Booth Cannery had a big year in 1946 with 350,000 cases of tomatoes and 350,000 cases of apricots and peaches combined, for total of 700,000 cases in all.

After the end of the War the amicability that had existed between the farmer and cannery seemed to cool somewhat. In June 1947 Washington Township farmers made preparations to dry the apricot crop as a precautionary step in case canners did not meet the \$110 demand for 14's or better adopted by the Eden-Washington Township Farm Center. According to Fred Lewis, chairman, the 114 growers present from Eden and Washington Townships voted to hold out for the \$110, and to accept no open contracts. They would dry the crop unless the demand price was met by the canners. Management of the Booth Cannery in Centerville and the Marlow Cannery in Decoto have indicated that their price would be about 75 or 80% of last years' \$100 a ton.

Fruit Growers:

Members of the apricot union met in July 1940 and heard the price for fresh fruit this season at the canneries. Last year farmers received \$40 a ton, but this year it would be raised to \$75 a ton due to a short crop.

California's 1942 apricot crop, estimated at 240,000 tons, was being held up pending word of Uncle Sam as to how much he wants for the Armed Forces and Lend Lease. Such was the message brought to the apricot growers of Washington Township. While canners have been told by the WPB (War Pricing Board) to can only the equivalent of 75% of the 1940 crop for civilian consumption, there has been no indication as to the extent of the government needs for either canned or dried fruit. Upon this information hinges plans for labor and equipment needed by growers. Price is also a question mark.

Washington Township decided to have an Apricot Festival on June 23, 1946 in Irvington. Marching bands, floats, and organizations were invited to attend throughout the Township. Along with other festivities there would be an Apricot Queen. Sixty-four girls signed up as contestants for the crowning of the Apricot Queen, who will find herself the most envied girl in the township at the coronation ceremonies in Irvington this summer.

A large delegation of Centerville merchants got behind the festival idea to help sponsor and make this a success. Those who sponsored were:

Kleine's	Matt Whitfield Associated Gas	Women's Bus. & Prof. Club
Coit's Hardware	Victory Market	Union Oil Co.
Central Chevrolet	Chapel of the Palms	<i>Washington News</i>
Sunrise Bakery	Santos Brothers Garage	Holland's Grocery Store
Allan Walton Drugs	Cloverdale creamery	H. Gomes Shell Station
Booth's Cannery	Gilstrap's 5 & 10	Centerville Pump & Electric
L&V Farm Sales	Centerville Bus Depot	"Your Hairdresser"
Joe Jason	Red & White Grocery	Charles Wahaub Real Estate
Kirkish Store	Dr. DeBorba	Louis Cardoza
Joe Adams Ford	Kleine's Café	

Vegetable Growers:

(See also L.E. Bailey and Williams Brothers Packers in this section)

In September 1941 local farmers gathered at Washington Union High School to discuss problems faced by farmers because of the present national defense building program. They discussed a campaign to secure the promised price increases for tomato growers. The farmers asked for the assistance of Secretary of Agriculture Clause R. Wickard to hold canners to their promise of increased prices to be paid for increasing acreages this year. Secretary Wickard had promised during this years' tomato planting to use his power to induce canners to pay growers from \$2.75 to \$3 more a ton than the 1941 pricing for increased acreage planting.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released the official price for tomatoes in February 1942, which is the price canneries will pay farmers for their tomatoes. The price would be \$18.50 a ton, which was not exactly in line with the wishes of local growers, however it is the official price set by the federal government.

School children in the grammar schools and Washington Union High were helping pick tomatoes into the second week of October 1942 because of the shortage of men

due to the War. At this time all schools were on some sort of part-time schedule while the older students work in the fields.

Unanimous approval of the Farm Bureau contract for 1943 was voted by about 60 tomato growers at the WUSH after explanation by J. Bernal Harlan, chairman of the vegetable growers department of the California Farm Bureau Federation. With \$35 roadside price announced as the minimum set by the Government, growers were divided in opinion as to whether this would make it profitable to duplicate last season's acreage in view of increasing production costs. "If your situation makes it possible to grow tomatoes for this price, then it is a patriotic thing to plant as much as possible, but no one expects the farmer to grow tomatoes at a loss," Harlan said.

Centerville made another record in the shipment of perishables in 1948. April 1948 cauliflower shipments totaled 138 cars versus 86 for April of last year. This brings this season's total to 717 cars compared to 577 for the corresponding period of last season.

The annual meeting of the California Beet Growers was held in Centerville in December 1949. The meeting disclosed that beet growers in California (and Washington Township) were engaged in a record breaking harvest. State-wide reports indicated that tonnages were running much higher than anticipated and that sugar content was good.

Dairy:

Cow testing results for Unit 1 (which includes Washington Township) showed that Frank Horat of Centerville had the top producing cow in the unit producing 1,835 pounds of milk and 104.9 pounds of fat for 1941.

Drought:

It takes a good many things to be a successful farmer. But one of the most important things is either rain or access to water for irrigation. In this section I will discuss some of the water problems farmers faced in the 1940's. After the first half of the decade water became harder to come by and much was written about it. The first article has to do with the history of water in Washington Township.

98 Years of Weather:

Old weather records, musty and yellow with age, were discovered in Centerville to substantiate the claims of California climate boosters. These statistics, in the possession of E.M. (Matt) Mathiesen were located in February 1947. The local records found dated back to 1849. They are believed to be the oldest weather records in Alameda County. The recordings are complete for a 98-year period with the exception of a "dozen missing" years.

Kept by a succession of amateur weather observers in Washington Township, entries regarding rainfall "seem to be correct" after a check with those maintained in Oakland and San Francisco.

Prof. Earle G. Linsley of Chabot Observatory in Oakland, where official records date back to 1882, more than 30 years later than the local ones, and E.E. Eklund, in charge of the weather bureau climatological department in San Francisco, have studied the entries and confirmed their accuracy.

Few "phenomenally dry" years are listed over the course of almost a century the local records have been kept. The lightest rainfall occurred in the 1850 - 1851 season, when there was only 4.71 inches. The source of the original records remains a mystery, however.

The earliest known Washington Township weather man was William Barry, who came to the township from his native Ireland in 1852 and moved to Niles in 1869. He set himself up as a self-appointed weather man for local farmers in 1884 when he purchased a rain gauge.

Among the documents he handed down is one titled "Fifty Years of Phenomenal Rainfall," but he does not explain the source of the information prior to 1885. The earlier entries are in his handwriting, indicating that he copied the records of an earlier weather observer. At one time Barry was secretary of the Alameda County Horticultural Commission and for many years raised herbs and rare plants on his 15-acre ranch on the Niles-Centerville Road.

When Barry died in 1908 his sister, Elizabeth Ann took over the work and continued until 1931 when she transferred her brother's instruments and records to Mathiesen. Miss Barry died in 1933. At one time Miss Barry was matron of the Orient Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Interspersed in the ledgers, where rainfall tabulations were entered, are personal notes and philosophies jotted down by Miss Barry.

A study of the rainfall tables shows that only 11 times in the past 37 years has there been more than 20 inches of rainfall in a season. But rainfall figures were not the only ones in which Barry was interested. Tom Robbins of Niles, another weather hobbyist, possessed records of temperatures kept by Barry and added to by Robbins. These indicate the coldest January to be that of 1888, when on three days the mercury dropped to 26 - 28 degrees.

January 1947, according to the graphs kept by Robbins, was the longest sustained cold spell, when the temperature at 7 a.m. was above freezing only nine times during the month. It hit its low on January 17th when it registered 23 degrees. Old timers remember "colder weather," though none can put a finger on the date or the thermometer reading. But all agree that there has never been such a protracted cold spell as January 1947.

They remember that approximately 20 years ago the Alameda Creek in Niles Canyon froze from bank to bank and 15 years ago snow fell in Niles and stayed long enough to be photographed. But ice in the pans of the chicken coops have always been front page news local declare.

Driest years of the past century:

The wettest and driest years in Washington Township, as show in the old records, are as follows:

<u>Wet Seasons:</u>		<u>Dry Seasons:</u>	
<u>Year:</u>	<u>Inches:</u>	<u>Year:</u>	<u>Inches:</u>
1849 - 1850	36.00	1850 - 1851	4.71
1852 - 1853	36.36	1856 - 1857	10.46
1861 - 1862	36.10	1862 - 1863	7.79
1867 - 1868	32.79	1870 - 1871	8.47
1885 - 1886	32.27	1876 - 1877	9.19
1889 - 1890	35.91	1897 - 1898	12.01

Entreating God to send sufficient rain to save their orchards, vegetable, and hay crops; 300 parishioners gathered at the Church of the Holy Ghost in Centerville in January 1948 to begin a Novena. Father Thomas O’Kane, parish priest, said that the faithful turned out by the hundreds to beseech God to send rain to save their crops. Most of the members of the Centerville parish were orchard growers, vegetable farmers, or dairymen. With the water level in Washington Township at the lowest point ever recorded, they were in dire straits. By January 30, 1948 the problem of water for Washington Township and adjacent areas became more acute with each passing day without rain. The problem was as exacerbated by a northerly wind that dried up the soil.

When this region was first visited by the white man, there was an abundance of water. Regions are now becoming sterile because of the infiltration of salt water. These regions once produced two crops a year by means of sub-irrigation (water drawn from the underground aquifer).

The loss of water began in 1870 when the Spring Valley Water Co. of San Francisco managed to get sufficient riparian rights to give them the benefit of the Alameda Creek watershed. Local citizens, alarmed at the prospect formed the Washington and Murray Township Water Company, but while they obtained some concessions and spent \$11,000 in building dams and ditches, they lost out. San Francisco got the water. Nor was this all, the Oakland Water Co came in and bought up the artesian well district around Alvarado in 1895 and began pumping millions of gallons of water daily to Oakland.

Now the ditches for irrigation are filled up with dirt, the Alameda Creek is almost dry, and the salt water is seeping into the former artesian wells, as well as others along the fronting the bay, even reaching now into Centerville and Irvington.

In 1930 the Spring Valley Water Co. was taken over by the City of San Francisco, and the Hetch Hetchy project began. When this was completed the Alameda County Water District was entitled to the overflow of the Alameda Creek watershed, but that was not sufficient.

Oakland sold the Alvarado pumping plant back to this district for the sum of \$250,000. Bonds were issued to pay for them and this has almost been paid off.

People in Murray and Washington Townships feel that the Cities of San Francisco and Oakland owe this region some help now. We helped both cities in their need, why then do they not help us now in our hour of need? The people of this region were largely in favor of the Reber Plan, which largely promises to restore the underground water levels and keep this region from becoming a desert wasteland.

The drought of the 1940’s went away for a spell only return and find the farmers no more prepared to meet the short flow of water than they had been decades before.

SP Depot Centerville:

The SP Depot in Centerville was kept busy in 1948. Stuart Kiernan, agent for the SP in Centerville, has shared these highlights of 1948 with us:

- Shipments of canned good for 1948 were 7% lower than in 1947. There was an increase in the shipments of apricots and peaches, but these were more than offset by a drop in tomato products.
- Shipments of perishables totaled 879 cars, exceeding the 1947 record by 14%. The largest part of the gain being in cauliflower. Green tomato shipments for the year were approximately two-thirds of the 1947 crop. Fava beans shipments showed a decrease while green pea shipments equaled the 1947 crop.
- Shipments in the carload received category were favorable. The Hansen Lumber Co. doubled the number of carloads of lumber received this year past year over 1947. This record is self-evident in one takes a glance at the new homes and construction during the past year.
- The J&F Metal Products receipts of carloads of steel plate more than doubled those of the year 1947.
- Other miscellaneous carloads include Chryslers and Plymouths received by the Santos Brothers and unloaded at our platform. Other SP customers in the area of note were the Coit Hardware Co., The Centerville Electric & Pump Co., Joe Adams Ford, Central Chevrolet, and Gilstrap's. A new addition to the SP Centerville list of customers was Pacific Coast Aggregates.

Lee Williams has added a new warehouse across from the Hansen Lumber Co. He has also expanded and modernized his packing plant to handle lettuce. A lettuce chute and packing tables and machinery will provide facilities for a large packing house force. This capital expenditure is evidence of the vision and faith of the future of the Washington Township for the shipments of agricultural produce.

L.E. Bailey has added an additional packing shed at Decoto. Meanwhile here in Centerville he has added Patricia Robinson, recently back from military service in the WAC's. Ms. Robinson will be employed as office manager.

 * **NOTEORTHY EVENTS** *

January 1940:

SP to Abandon Passenger Service to Centerville:

In January 1940 the SP railroad petitioned the State Railroad Commission to abandon passenger service to the town of Centerville.

March 1940:

Failed Duck Experiment:

Harold Ickes, of the U.S. Dept. of Interior in Washington D.C., arranged a stunt in the name of scientific research. In March 1940 it seems Mr. Ickes wanted to prove that "pintail" ducks released on a foreign flyway would return to their native flyways. Pintails, allegedly, never forget their home skies and marshes. So several ducks were trapped in the East Bay marshes in Washington Township and flown to Washington DC for the experiment.

On their flight to Washington three of the ducks laid eggs while on the TWA plane, probably the first time eggs were ever laid by a duck in flight. And then, when the dignitaries were all assembled at Roaches Run, at the Nation's Capital, and the

speeches were made, the ducks showed their true gaudy color. The bird experts turned them loose and waited. But nothing happened. The first drake to take off hit the water 100 feet from the shore and looked back. Soon four local ducks were paddling around him admiringly. None of the 12 ducks released headed back home in the west towards the setting sun.

The dozen just settled down comfortably and preened their feathers. Then someone noticed that these were not "pintail" ducks but mallards. Mallards you see are most adaptable. Take one home with you, keep him in a cage in the yard for a week, and it will stay with from now on. The experiment began back in Centerville, where the Centerville Rod and Gun Club were supposed to trap a number of "pintail" ducks, not mallards.

April 9, 1947: **Centerville Airport:**

On April 9, 1947 Charles H. Osborn, manager of the Centerville Airport, wound up red-faced after he landed his tiny Ercoupe airplane in an effort to break the international altitude record for light planes set by a German plane in 1938. He forgot to turn on the barograph when he took off and didn't know for sure how high he had flown.

W.R. Wilson, manager of Volador, Inc. California distributors of the Ercoupe said: "We pulled the prize boner of all time." He said another attempt to break the record would be made in the near future.

Osborn reported his altimeter reading was about 23,900 feet, but altimeter reading could not be depended on as accurate. Last week, Bill Tarski a Berkeley pilot, flew an Ercoupe to an elevation of 24,860, 550 feet higher than the national record set by a Taylorcraft in 1939.

March 1940: **The Jug:**

It all started in March 1940 with a jug of prized wine. The stockholders in the jug of wine couldn't agree on their dividends, so they called in a referee. Then they couldn't agree on his fee, so the law stepped in and dissolved the corporation, wine, stockholders, and referee. Deputy Sheriff Tom Silva couldn't solve the tangle, so he hauled in Filbert Marin, 35; Miguel Quihuiz, 50; and Francisco Chavez, 30; all ranch hands, before Judge Allen G. Norris to make the final decision.

Marin, it seemed, had 30 cents and a desire for wine. Quihuiz had the same desire, but only ten cents. So they pooled their resources, an old corporate custom, and bought a jug of wine. And then the troubles began. Marin argued that he should drink dividends amounting to three quarts of the gallon of the gallon because he had paid three-fourths of the cost. Quihuiz contested the contention on the grounds that without his 10 cents Marin would never had been able to buy the jug.

Chavez was called in finally as a judge both of wine and profits, and he demanded an equal share of the gallon for his learned decision. And they all argued. Then Marin proposed that each man should drink one gulp for each cent he had contributed to the pool. That would have given him 30 gulps, Quihuiz 10 gulps, and Chavez none. Chavez demurred. And they argued again. The jug remained unopened.

Then one of them suggested that they penny-a-gulp division would be all right if certain other parties present weren't recognized as bull market gulpers. All agreed on a sip to sharpen their business acumen. Then there was another sip and another and the argument increased. By this time the jug was empty and the full gallon of wine consumed they still had to come to no decision as to who should have had the most of it. But since all of it was in all of them, the argument grew loud.

Tom Silva, local deputy sheriff, seized the stockholders, referee, and the empty jug of wine, and paraded them before Judge Allen G. Norris in March 1940. Judge Norris would then have to decide who should have drunk how much of the wine that already had been drunk. Judge Norris had already decided that all three of the men were drunk and sentenced them to five days in the County Jail.

August 1941:

Mrs. Coit Passes:

Final rites for Isabelle M. Coit, clubwoman and philanthropic worker of Washington Township for 25 years were held at the Chapel of the Palms in August 1941, a mass at the Holy Ghost Church in Centerville, which was followed with interment at the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Hayward.

Mrs. Coit had served as trustee of the Centerville Elementary School for nine years and retired recently because of illness which had kept her confined to her bed for the past year.

She was an active member of the Country Club of Washington Township, a charter member of the Child Welfare Club, and an ardent worker in the affairs of the Holy Ghost Church.

She was survived by her husband George, Centerville hardware merchant, and two children, Jean Coit of Oakland and Lt. Robert Coit of the U.S. Army Coast artillery at camp Haan, Riverside. Isabelle was a native of Ione CA, to which her grandparents came to from across the plains.

September 1941:

Miss Centerville:



The former Miss Alice Mary Hegen, "Miss Centerville" in the first Alameda County Fair contest two years ago, was married in Reno to Herbert Schute of San Jose in September 1941.

November 1941:

The Presbyterian Graveyard:

The *Oakland Tribune*, in writing an article about the old Centerville Presbyterian Church in November 1941, ran across "the ancient burial grounds, one of the oldest of which is adjacent to the Presbyterian Church in Centerville." In investigating further they ventured into the ivy that grows in mats tangled knee deep and the low

hanging branches of gnarled pepper trees, they found the headstones of pioneers who had buried their dead here as early as 1847.

Among the oldest of the family plots in the burial ground is that of Robert Blacow who came to this country from England in 1839 and to California a few years later. Four of children died in June 1861 during an epidemic of diphtheria, two of them on the 19th, one on the 20th, and another on the 25th. One of the oldest headstones is that of John Blacow, who died on August 15, 1847; the almost obliterated inscription being verified by an entry in the family Bible owned by Robert Blacow, a grandson of the same name.

1942:

Mel Nunes:



Mel Nunes of was a graduate of Washington Union High in 1942. After graduation Melvin went into baseball and played pro-ball for Olean New York during the 1943, 1944, and 1945 seasons. Mel played pro ball from 1943 to 1954 with a two year stint in the service. He played 3 years in AA ball (Portland Beavers) and batted .246 in 694 plate appearances and he played seven seasons in B ball and batted .281 in 3,257 plate appearances.

June 1942:

Tom Silva Sr.:

Tom Silva Sr., veteran peace office with Sheriff's office for 26 years, passed away in June 1942 of heart trouble after a year's illness. He had been president at various times of most of the civic organizations of Centerville, unofficial "mayor" of the unincorporated town and advisor and confessor to the community's youth. He was past president of the NSGW, The Lions Clubs, UPEC and IDES Societies, the Druids and Washington Township Men's Club at Centerville. He also headed the Deputy Sheriff's Association of Alameda County. He was survived by wife Carrie, son Tom Jr. and daughter Mrs. Olive Bellini of Niles.

June 1942:

Centerville Water Tank:

A corps of riveters arrived in June 1942 and caused considerable clatter in town while the 50,000 gallon steel water tank, formerly the town's source of water, was being dismantled. The parts were sent to Manteca where the 110 foot tower would be re-assembled for a defense project. The old water tank was erected when the Centerville Water Co., owned by Mr. Manuel Pires had to sell out his water company in the 1930's due to low water pressure. Mr. Pires had been ordered by the Railroad Commission to build the tower to increase the water pressure in the system, as he could not afford to do so Mr. Pires had to sell the water company to a new owner who built the water tower.

September 1942:

Main Street:

In September 1942 Main Street in downtown Centerville received a crosswalk for pedestrians to cross the highway in front of the Centerville Elementary School and a

sign was installed by the joint efforts of the Lions Club and the Alameda County Board of Trustees.

Then almost six years later in May 1948 a controversy arose due to the new system of parking in downtown Centerville, which took effect when the State painted the parking zones in downtown Centerville parallel with the sidewalks instead of the slanting parking which has been done by the motorists for years. The new parking system made Main Street the four-lane highway that it is today. Main Street is a State highway and was part of the State Highway 17 which runs from Oakland to Santa Cruz.

But this idea was met with opposition from the business people, as well as the shoppers, who objected to the fact that parking is scarce as it is without having less parking spaces now available. They objected to the fact because one car parked parallel takes up the space of least two or more cars otherwise parked.

May 1943:

PFC James F. George:

PFC James F. George, 19, of Centerville was awarded the Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds received at Attu, the Aleutians, in May 1943. He is currently at Santa Barbara hospital and hopes to return home in October.

August 11, 1944:

Frank T. Dusterberry:

Frank Dusterberry, 75, prominent businessman and civic leader, died at his home on August 11, 1944 after an illness of several months. His passing brought sadness to every home as he was universally esteemed for his many humanitarian works and outstanding enterprise in the past to bring his beloved Township to the top in every line of useful endeavor.

Dusterberry was treasurer of the Washington Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West and special deputy supreme representative from California for the Knights of Pythias. He helped organize the Bank of Centerville in 1905 and remained its manager when the Bank of Italy (later Bank of America) took it over in 1918. He retired in 1938 as active manager but remained on board as an advisory director.

At the time of his death he was president of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce and until a few weeks ago was chairman of the Washington Branch of the American Red Cross.

He was survived by his widow, Mrs. Margaret Crothers Dusterberry, who took a great interest also in the Red Cross and many other civic activities. Also surviving him are two sons, Lt (jg) Frank T. Dusterberry Jr., now stationed in South America; and Chief Petty Officer John Dusterberry, stationed at Moffet Field.

May 10, 1945:

Joseph & Stanley Bernardo:

A telegram from the War Department received on May 10, 1945 by Mr. and Mrs. Manuel J. Bernardo informed that their son, Joseph had died in the Philippines on July 11, 1942. Another Son, Staff Sgt. Stanley Bernardo, 20, was killed in action in France on March 21, 1945. Joseph Bernardo had been reported missing on May 16, 1942 after writing his family in February of that year. Joseph was last reported at

Camp Cabanatuan, 85 miles north of Manila, where approximately 20,000 American and Allied servicemen and civilians were held from 1942 to 1945.

July 1945:

Miss Gwendolyn Millet:

Miss Gwendolyn Millet returned from her Red Cross duties as a field worker in the Italian War Zone in July 1945. Miss Millet directed amateur theatrical performances, parties for children, and supervision of a mess hall for 150 Air Corps men. On one occasion Ted Seidel, Red Cross supervisor for the area brought in, without previous announcement, a dozen or so high ranking Army officers for dinner.

"It was a harsh night," Gwendolyn wrote, "but we whisked out the clean sheets for tablecloths, decorated the tables with almond blossoms and did our best. The only extra the generals got was a sprig of parsley on their hash!" Following the close of the Italian campaign Gwendolyn visited Germany and Austria.

1946:

Remembrances of 70 Years Ago:

In 1876 the main products of ranches around Centerville were barley, wheat, and hay, with some small cherry and apples orchards. Prevailing farm wages were from twenty to thirty dollars a month, and two dollars a day if you worked on a threshing machine. A full meal and a room cost 25¢ each, a haircut was 15¢ and a shave 10¢.

The town of Centerville had the following businesses: Three General Merchandise stores, which also sold liquor to take out; there was one drug store, one wagon shop, and one butcher shop. The butcher slaughtered his own meat in back.

Four blacksmith shops served the carriage and wagon trade, and there was work enough for three shoemaker's shops. There was one plumber (tinner), one well-borer, two harness shops, one wagon and carriage painter, one bath house, two livery stables, three hotels, three churches, one school and eight saloons did business here. There was one doctor, and one stage coach that met the train at Niles every few hours.

There was a horse car running on steel rails between Centerville and Newark. It met trains on the Oakland to Santa Cruz line that passed through Newark and hauled both freight and passengers.

Centerville had one doctor, but no dentist (Dr. Lorenzo Yates had moved to Southern California); the brave ones went to a famer named John Santos who pulled teeth probably with a pair of pliers.

In 1878 a cherry cannery was started by a Mr. Hagen near a site east of the present one, which employed about fifty men, including 25 Chinamen who soldered cans. This cannery was the remnants of the old Alden Fruit Dryer of the Centerville Fruit Preserving and Vegetable Company, which went bankrupt.

Evening and Sunday entertainment consisted mostly of ball games, horseshoe games and relay bicycle races.

The preceding information was supplied by Joe Fairchild who worked for the F.E. Booth Cannery and was designated as the Centerville Town Historian. He garnered the information from Antonio Lucio, who had lived in Centerville since 1875. He was

born in Azores in 1870 and came here with his father, mother, two sisters and a brother. They lived in the house directly across from the lumber yard on Baine Street.

January 1946:
Centerville Radar Station:

During the war a radar station was located at the foot of Alder Avenue in Centerville. This location helped guide airplanes by charting their location and then passing them on to the main station in Berkeley. We were surprised to learn that at the beginning of January 1946 the men that manned the radar would soon be leaving us. Corporal Mack Walker and Sgt. Jesse Cox, both in the Army Air Corps operated the station. They got notice that all men of three years' service would be discharged, so they will be relieved of their duties soon.

January 31, 1946:
Reverend Thomas O'Kane:

In December 1946 the Reverend Monsignor Alfred de Souza, after completing the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood requested the Archbishop of San Francisco to lighten the heavy burdens resting on his shoulders, and send to him an administrator to take over the spiritual and temporal duties of the parish of the Holy Ghost Church in Centerville.

On January 31, 1946, the Archbishop appointed the Reverend Thomas O'Kane to administrate the affairs of the church. Father O'Kane came to Centerville from St. Anselmo's Parish in Ross in Marin County.

March 1946:
Dr. Merle Buehler:

Dr. Lyle Buehler of Niles has informed us that his brother, Major Merle Buehler, will return to Centerville to practice in March 1946. Dr. Merle Buehler will associate himself with Dr. Edward Westphal in his Centerville office on Main Street. In May 1946 Dr. Merle Buehler bought the office of Lt. Colonel E.A. Westphal on Main Street. Dr. Westphal left for Glendale where he would set up a practice.

August 1946:
Miss Mabel Yates:

Miss Mabel Yates passed away in Alameda in August 1946. She was raised in Centerville and had attended Washington Union High School when it was situated on Fremont Blvd (Peralta Blvd). For a number of years she was Centerville's Librarian when the library was located where the Bank of America now stands. Her father was Lorenzo G. Yates who was a dentist in Centerville and a renowned scientist and paleontologist.

December 1946:
Christmas Trees:

The war put a stop to many things, one was the display and lighting of out of doors Christmas trees. Even in the homes, window curtains were tightly drawn shut during the black-out, and we missed the window view of lighted Christmas trees within. But in 1946 the Christmas trees blossomed out as never before it seems. Almost every house we passed on the early December evenings gave us a picture of a lighted Christmas tree within. It gives us such an air of festivity, and reminds us of the great day we call Christmas.

July 1947:

Airplane Stolen:

CAA officials and other authorities are conducting a search for a four-seat, blue Stinson Voyager airplane that was apparently stolen early in the morning of July 6, 1947 from the Center Airport in Centerville. The theft was discovered by airport manager Donald W. Hubbard of Centerville, the airport manager.

Hubbard told sheriff's deputies that when he arrived at the field on that morning he noticed a 1947 sedan parked near one of the airplane hangars. Further investigation revealed the theft of the plane from a nearby hangar. The automobile, brand new and bearing no registration tags, had but 67 miles on the odometer.

The airplane belonged to Harry S. Bachstein of Oakland who is the airport president. The airplane had just been completely overhauled, the airport mechanics completing the job less than three hours before it was stolen. Hubbard fixed the time of the theft at 2 a.m., when he heard the sound of the plane's motor from his home near the airport.

A gasoline pump on the airport property had also been broken into, Hubbard said; 11 gallons of fuel were missing. Hubbard said that the plane, fully gassed, could reach Mexico without stopping to refuel. The abandoned automobile was impounded by the sheriff's office and an attempt to identify the owner will be made today.

February 13, 1948:

Postal Service Halted!

What a picture! The Centerville Post Office was in an uproar on February 13, 1948 when all mail operations had to be suspended for 20 minutes while a friendly rat, lonesome and looking for company, chased the post office staff back and forth through the office. While Postmaster Lewis supervised the operations from a convenient chandelier, Jimmy George whacked the culprit with a broom and one of our local brave insurance men jumped up and down on it. Later in the day, a friend presented the postmaster with a bag of rat poison to be used "in case of emergency only."

Some of the oddest things happen in Centerville. One week after the rat story in the post office, a story comes out about a man who caught the wrong train. He didn't exactly catch it, he bumped into it. Attempting to make a turn on the main street just on the tracks the car turned right into the train. The driver, a little bewildered, and slightly intoxicated it was reported, got out of his car unhurt and walked down the street. The Highway Patrol was notified but the train was still on the track making it impossible for the Highway Patrol to get to the other side. While all this happened the gentleman walked into one of the local bars. The story winds up with the fact that the Patrol got the man, the man got his drink, and he also got his ride; but it wasn't in a train.

March 23, 1948:

Power Conservation:

The Alameda County Power Conservation Committee, appointed on March 23, 1948 by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to deal with the power shortage in the area, was composed of representatives of agriculture, industry, business and labor. The members appointed were Lee Williams, Centerville produce shipper; Joseph Rose, Pleasanton farm equipment dealer and farmer; Howard Bronstein, a San Leandro manager of a powder company; Charles Rowe, vice president of the State

Building Trades Council; and Walter Bauman, San Lorenzo general manager of a housing development. The group's duties will be to determine minimum essential power requirements, develop schedules for the most effective use of available power, watch local compliance, judge violations and recommend appropriate action to the State Public Utilities Commission, and to screen new business applications so hardship cases may be served first.

December 24, 1948:
Mrs. Clarabelle Norris:

Funeral services were held on December 24, 1948 for Mrs. Allen G. Norris (nee: Miss Clarabelle Logan) at Chapel of the Palms. A myriad of flowers decorated the chapel as her friends extended to her their heartfelt and sincere respects. Rarely has a death been felt by so many in the Township and numerous messages of sympathy were received by her family.

Mrs. Norris was born Clarabelle Logan to James and Rebecca Logan of Alvarado. Clarabelle graduated from Washington Union High School in 1928 and became engaged to Judge Norris in September 1928. Her death was a blow to all who knew her.

November 1, 1949:
Halloween:

Halloween on Main Street on November 1, 1949 looked like a tornado had hit it, with debris clattering the entrance to many a store. Damage done to the town of Centerville by mischievous kids included a skeleton of a huge wagon resting in front of the Enos store. Boxes, garbage, cement blocks, and pieces of old dead trees blocked the entrance to the Centerville Market, Safeway, and Kirkish's Store. It seems that young energy could be put to better use on Halloween, whereby they could create rather than destroy. Oh well, they are young but once, and their parents couldn't all be following their young ones about to see what havoc they were wreaking.

June 16, 1949:
Fire!

The fire alarm went off and the fire engine came racing down Main Street on June 16, 1949. The staff of the weekly newspaper, *The Washington News*, published by George Oaks of Hayward, rushed outside to witness the event and catch a good story just as it was occurring. In hot pursuit they followed the fire engine down the street, around the block, and then back up the adjacent block only to arrive breathless at a pile of trash, which was sending up billows of smoke, right beside their back door.

December 1949:
Christmas Decorations:

The business district of Centerville will be decorated for the 1949 Christmas season for the first time in the history of the community. In charge of arrangements was a committee consisting of Harry Weber, Leonard Miller, and William Clark.

Approximately \$500 will be available for street lights, Christmas trees, and Santa Claus panels to be used as sidewalk markers. Tin to be used in decorating the trees is being donated by the American Can Company of San Francisco and the art department of the Washington Union High School is making the panels. The "big tree" at the Southern Pacific Railway Station is being decorated jointly by the Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

