

THE HISTORY OF DECOTO

CHAPTER 08

NOVEMBER 1930 THRU 1939

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 * **DECOTO DEMOGRAPHICS** *

1930 DEECOTO CENSUS						
US BORN TO US PARENTS		FOREIGN BORN & CHILDREN OF FOREIGN BORN				
STATE	POP	COUNTRY	FOR. BORN	U.S. Born	Total	PCT.
Arizona	5	Austria	1	0	1	0.05%
Arkansas	14	Canada	3	0	3	0.14%
California	193	Chile	1	0	1	0.05%
Colorado	6	China	1	0	1	0.05%
Hawaii	7	Denmark	1	3	4	0.18%
Illinois	7	England	1	3	4	0.18%
Iowa	7	Germany	3	9	12	0.55%
Kansas	7	Ireland	1	3	4	0.18%
Missouri	7	Italy	38	27	65	2.99%
New Mexico	3	Japan	34	49	83	3.81%
Ohio	5	Mauritius	1	4	5	0.23%
Oregon	4	Mexico	274	150	424	19.48%
Tennessee	4	Norway	0	1	1	0.05%
Virginia	2	Peru	9	0	9	0.41%
Wahington	3	Philippines	8	0	8	0.37%
Wyoming	2	Puerto Rico	180	285	465	21.36%
11 States	11	Portugal	139	305	444	20.40%
		Scotland	0	1	1	0.05%
		Serbia	1	4	5	0.23%
		So. Africa	1	0	1	0.05%
		So. America	1	0	1	0.05%
		Spain	135	192	327	15.02%
		Sweden	2	3	5	0.23%
		Switzerland	12	3	15	0.69%
		Wales	0	1	1	0.05%
		Total U.S.			287	13.18%
TOTAL:	287	TOTAL:	847	1,043	2,177	100.00%
DOES NOT INCLUDE 313 PERSONS FROM THE MASONIC HOME						

The population of Decoto exploded in the 1920's, from 922 persons within the town of Decoto (exclusive of the Masonic Home) to 2,177 persons in 1930. But what was

even as striking as the population growth was the population demographics. Only twenty years ago the Portuguese population was 75% of the town, 10 years ago it dropped to just over 50% and in the 1930 census it dropped to slightly over 20%. The two largest segments of the population growth came from the Mexicans and the Porto Ricans.

The Mexican population was .2% in 1920 and it grew to 19.5% in 1930. The Porto Rican population stood at 2.4% in 1920 and grew to 21.4% in 1930, becoming the largest single ethnic group in the town of Decoto. The Spanish population remained fairly constant this decade coming in at 15%. The percent of U.S. born of U.S. born parents stood at an almost dead even percentage of 13.3%.

The Masonic Home population was 313 persons in the 1930 census. The home was comprised of:

Superintendent	1
Matron	1
Nurse	1
Gardener & Family	5
Employees	24
Inmates	281

Combined the total persons living in the Decoto School District was 2,490 persons.

*** BIOS OF NOTABLE PERSONS ***

Auto Repair Garages / auto Service Stations / Banker / Barber / Beauty Shop / Billiard & Pool Hall / Carpenter / Engineer / Foreman / Library / Machinist / Manufacturers & Large Employers / Merchants / Railroad / Restaurants / Saloons & Liquor Stores / Sanitary District / School Teachers & Trustees / Shoe Maker

AUTO REPAIR GARAGES

Kelly's Garage / Ray's Service Garage

Joseph P. "Joe Kelly" Caldeira:
Kelly's Garage:

Joseph P. Caldeira was born in Decoto in July 1899 to Frank and Mary Caldeira. Frank and Mary had seven children. Besides Joseph were brothers Frank, Antone and Manuel; and three sisters Mary, Annie and Frances.

In June 1926 Joseph married Miss Stella Dutra of Niles and in 1930 the couple was residing with Stella's parents, Joe and Stella Dutra. Stella Dutra was born in California circa 1907.

The couple had two children, Cyrus and Chester Caldeira. Cyrus Caldeira passed away in November 1962 in Fremont; he had married his childhood sweetheart, Miss Elaine Joseph of Centerville.

Kelly's Garage is first mentioned in an October 24, 1930 news article about the Garage & Property Owner's Association of Southern Alameda County and

their efforts to organize the garage and accessory parts men into an organization to eliminate price-cutting and agree on uniform trade methods. Attending the meeting from Decoto was a representative from Kelly's Garage and Manuel A. Machado from the Decoto Garage.

It is not until a news article in *The Alvarado Pioneer* of March 28, 1941 that I am able to put a name with the Decoto Garage. The article stated:

"Manuel Boliba has taken over the place that was Kelly's Garage in Decoto. He has put in three new gas pumps and is making a new fountain and lunch place in front of the station on 405 1st St."

The following week *The Alvarado Pioneer* corrected its news article of March 28th with this article:

"We want to correct a news item in last week's *Pioneer* where it stated that Manuel Boliba had "taken over" Kelly's Garage at Decoto. The error was ours, because we meant to say that Manuel Boliba had taken possession of the pumps at Kelly's Garage. We omitted the word "pumps".

You see Mr. Boliba will handle the gasoline service. Mr. Kelly Caldeira, the owner of the garage and his lovely home next door, will continue his splendid auto repair service at his well-equipped garage. Mr. Caldeira is past president of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce and is a civic-minded man. He was instrumental in helping secure the Sanitary District for Decoto."

There was only one Caldeira in Decoto at this time that was past president of the Decoto (Jr.) Chamber of Commerce who had led the effort to bring a sanitary district to Decoto, that Caldeira was Joe Caldeira, husband of Stella and father of Cyrus and Chester. Joe was residing on 1st Street in Decoto in 1940 and he listed his occupation as owner and operator of a service garage.

Joe was president of the Junior Decoto Chamber of Commerce in 1937 and during his tenure he saw the straightening and construction of a new steel Bell Ranch Bridge over the Alameda Creek at Decoto Road. The old bridge was in a dangerous condition and was not suitable for high-speed automobiles and heavy commercial vehicles of the modern era.

Decoto had become very concerned about sanitary conditions in the town and felt that the formation of a sanitary district was needed to keep the citizens of Decoto safe from epidemic diseases caused by poor sanitation from substandard cesspools or entire lack thereof. To meet this growing problem a sanitary district was formed, of which Joseph P. Caldeira was named as President of the Board of Trustees.

In June 1935 Walter Walker, Peter Decoto, Frank J. Thomas and Joseph Caldeira circulated petitions to create a sanitary sewer district to be presented to County Board of Supervisors for approval to move forward. The town of Decoto received permission to put a bond measure on the ballot to issue \$56,000 for the installation of a sanitary system. The entire cost of the measure would be approximately \$116,000 with the remainder of the money to be supplied by the PWA.

Sanitary District President Caldeira, along with a community committee comprised of Charles Brown, Frank J. Thomas and Antone Amaral inspected treatment plants at Dixon, Galt and Davis in October 1938 in preparation of issuing a report on a Decoto sanitary treatment plant to the Decoto Chamber of Commerce.

Joe reported back to the Chamber that he believed that work on Decoto's proposed \$100,000 sewer system could be under way by November 1, 1938. Approval of a PWA (Public Works Administration) grant for \$45,800 had already been received. This assured construction of the system, as the citizens of Decoto passed a \$56,000 local bond issue in 1936. The new sanitary district began sewer hookups in downtown Decoto in December 1939.

Joe became active again in the Chamber when the City of Hayward proposed their Treeview Annex in 1954 that would take away half of Decoto students in Fairway Park and El Rancho Verde. At this time the Decoto School District was contemplating an elementary school for the El Rancho Verde housing tract. Because Hayward would be the new owner of half of the El Rancho students it put the Alta Vista School District against the Decoto School District. Joe worked with the Chamber to try to solve this thorny problem.

Joe continued to serve on the Decoto Chamber well up to the time of the incorporation of Union City in January 1959. During the time of incorporation Joe served on various Chamber business and his years of service and experience in town activities was an asset to the Chamber and steering committee in holding the course on putting the Cities of Hayward and Fremont at bay.

Joe was also active the Decoto Catholic Church as he represented the church in the Chamber discussion about Decoto's first Holy Ghost Portuguese Festa in a meeting he chaired in March 1937.

Mrs. Stella Caldeira was also very active in Decoto society and civic activities. Stella was a devoted adherent to the Holy Rosary Church in Decoto. She was the first president of the Holy Rosary Guild of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church of Decoto. Besides the Holy Rosary Guild Stella was also active in the church's annual fund raising bazaars and in 1952 she and Mrs. Mary Cardoza were general chairwomen for a three-day festival preceding the dedication of the new multipurpose building of the Catholic Church.

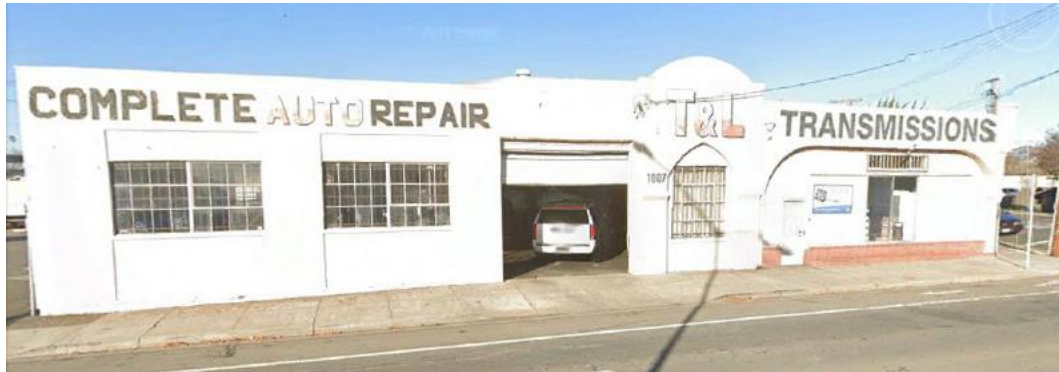
Stella was also active in the Decoto PTA; she was a Decoto voting precinct ballot official, she participated in the betterment of the Decoto Recreational Youth Center, and she also worked with the St. Rose Hospital Building Fund by being the collector of donations to benefit the building rummage sale. Stella was also a Druid and a member of the Victory Circle of Centerville.

Stella passed away on March 24, 1968. Joseph P. (Joe Kelly) Caldeira passed away August 29, 1973 in Hayward. Joseph was born in Decoto in July 1899. His wife Stella and son Cyrus preceded him in death. He leaves a son Chester.

Ray McNulty:

Ray's Service Garage, 1007 10th St., Decoto:

Ray's Service Garage was located on 10th Street and Decoto Road in Decoto. The building still exists and a photo of the garage is shown below from Google Earth.



The owner of Ray's Service Garage was Raymond McNulty, local Fire Commissioner and civic leader. See Raymond's bio in Chapter 7 Page 2.

AUTO SERVICE STATIONS:

P.J. (Jack) Faletti / Manuel O. (Mose) Silva / Vernon's Service Station

Pasquale J. (P.J., Jack) Faletti:

PJ, Jack Faletti was born in Italy in circa 1880. He entered the U.S. in 1888. His wife Rose was born in Italy in 1888. She entered the U.S. in 1901. They had three children, John, Helen and Albert.

Jack appears to have been in Decoto since the mid-1920's, but news about his gas station did not appear until about 1933 when he applied for an on-sale and off-sale liquor license for his Mobil Gas Station and lunch counter.

Jack appeared to be occupied with his business and did not become immersed in civic politics until the mid 1940's, although he had been a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce.

In 1946 the town of Decoto became embroiled in a debate as to whether to incorporate the downtown section into the City of Decoto. This left outlying parts of the town outside the new city and created some hard feelings.

Jack took a firm stance on the incorporation stating explicitly, "that he did not favor incorporation and he said that he believed the people of Decoto could correct most of the evil in their own town by taking greater personal pride in their homes; cleaning up by putting yards in neat condition, painting, planting, having garbage collected, and connecting with the sewer system. Those who do not comply he said, would be subject to legal action."

Before the end of 1946 Jack became a registrar for voting in the town of Decoto, became an active member of the Chamber of Commerce Committee on the Boy Scout Troop of Decoto, and led the annual Community Chest Drive for the town of Decoto.

Jack started off 1947 as President of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. Of the many projects started and completed by the Chamber in 1948 was the strenuous campaign to get streetlights for the growing area of Decoto. The success of Faletti's term can be shown by the installation of many lights at street intersections in Decoto.

Another convenience Jack brought to Decoto was a stop added by the Peerless Bus Stages at Jack's Decoto Service Station. The Faletti's had brought bus service to Decoto with regular scheduled stops.

But not all Chamber meetings and decisions were mundane. In August 1949, Kenneth Garcia, President of the Decoto Chamber who replaced past-president Jack Faletti tackled the problem of this year's Christmas decorations for the town of Decoto. It was moved that decorations be put up from Olson's store to the Decoto Bakery, but that was defeated. It was moved and passed that a Christmas tree be decorated near the Borghi home on 10th & Decoto Road and also near Faletti's corner on 1st and Decoto Road. On the committee that led to this momentous decision were Jack Faletti, Frank Borghi and Manuel Hidalgo.

Jack Faletti sold his service station business to Mr. & Mrs. Norman Murdock and son of Decoto in November 1949. The Murdock's were formerly of San Francisco. Young Murdock and his wife would live at the place and run the business.

A proposal advanced by Hillview Crest residents for joint incorporation of Decoto and the Hillview community in March 1952 was under Chamber scrutiny following its presentation by Clyde Martin, K. Peace, and F.X. Kowalewski, who attended the Chamber meeting from the new subdivision. L.J. Fine, Frank Borghi, Manuel Hidalgo, and Jack Faletti would represent the Decoto Chamber at the next meeting of the Hillview homeowners, where the incorporation would come up for further consideration. The talks would not prove to be fruitful and the Hillview Crest housing tract would later be asked to annex to the City of Hayward.

Nothing was dearer to the hearts of Decotan's in the 1950's than sidewalks! First proposed several decades ago, sidewalks were still largely missing from Decoto streets. The Post Office would not deliver mail to homes without sidewalks. Everyone in town had to go to the Post Office to get their mail.

On the night of September 1, 1953, the Chamber held a meeting on sidewalks for the town. With their hands figuratively clutching their wallets, a small but vociferous group ended the decorum of a Chamber of Commerce sponsored mass meeting. 60 persons present when the meeting started, but over half walked out in ire or boredom.

The crux of the problem centered on three points: (1) How much would sidewalks cost? (2) Was the proposed sidewalk district "cutting Decoto in half, creating a slum area?" and (3) would sidewalks add to Decoto's drainage problem?

Citizens arose and gave their thoughts on how to pay for sidewalks for the town. As comments grew more heated, Dr. Harold Schoenfeld made a motion

that the Chamber endorse the activities of the sidewalk committee and ask it to continue its studies for another month.

Before any action could be taken on the motion, Jack Faletti, past president of the Decoto Chamber, rose to challenge the activities of the committee. "Do they consider themselves a sacred committee of ten?" he asked. While he spoke, for approximately a half hour, the walkout began. Faletti pointed out that the committee originally had been authorized only to study a desire to build sidewalks, voiced last year by 25 property owners. The project was to have been privately financed.

Since then, Faletti claimed, the committee has exceeded the authority delegated it by the chamber, by stretching its activities to include circulation of petitions and study of the proposed sidewalk tax district.

He claimed that a letter asking for sidewalks for Decoto, written on Chamber of Commerce stationery and signed by the members of the committee had been directed to the Board of Supervisors. This he said was followed by a barrage of letters and telegrams to the supervisors, backing the request. Such a procedure, he said, was improper and unauthorized.

Hidalgo disagreed, and read at length from the chamber's by-laws, which outline the duties and authority of a committee.

The walkout continued.

By the time a vote was taken on Schoenfeld's motion only about 25 people remained in the auditorium. The vote was favorable. The sidewalk study will continue. The sidewalks were eventually installed in the spring of 1958.

Jack Faletti was keenly interested in the town of Decoto and served the town energetically and faithfully. On May 18, 1963 Jack Faletti passed away in Decoto. He left his wife Rose and children John, Helen and Albert. He was a member of the Santa Rosa B.P.O.E. and the Colombo Lodge of Oakland.

Manuel O. (M.O., Mose) Silva:

Manuel Silva was born in Portugal circa 1894. He entered the U.S. in 1895. His wife Rose was born in California circa 1897. They had two children, Lorraine and Alvin.

In 1930 Manuel and family were living in Decoto where Manuel worked as a laborer in a tile factory. But by 1940 he was the owner of a Shell Gas Station next to the Bum Coffee Shop at the Decoto Junction and Niles Highway. He operated the station under the names M. O. Silva and Mose Silva.

In January 1941 Manuel offered a raffle to increase business. Mose gave a ticket for each five gallons of gas purchased. After a certain time a drawing would be held and Mose would give the winner a new tire.

Mose supported Decoto by being a member of the Decoto Chamber of commerce. Then in February 1949 Mose sold his Shell Station to Johnny Sanchez of 7th Street in Decoto.

The final article I could for Mose was in July 1958 when he sold a liquor outlet on 27451 Mission Blvd. to the Spanish Rancho Inc. of Pleasanton. The sale included all furniture and fixtures, together with the entire inventory of liquors owned by the vendors and the "Retail On-Sale General License." of Pleasanton. At the time Alvin and Manuel Silva were living at 33659 Mission Blvd., Decoto.

Joseph Carey:

Vernon's Service Station:

Joseph Carey was born in California in 1888. His wife, Miss Alice Muniz, was born in California in 1890. They were married in May 1908; both were from Decoto at the time. They had two children, a son Vernon and a daughter Dale.

Over the years Joe worked as a laborer of odd jobs, then as a pipe fitter in the shipyards and as a mechanic in a cannery. In 1935 Joseph and family moved to Sunnyvale for several years but the family then returned to Decoto.

In February 1940 Joe bought four town lots in Decoto. Eight months later he had established Vernon's Union Gasoline Station in Decoto on First Street. In 1941 Joe and Vernon built a nice lunch place next to the service station. Although Joseph owned the business his son Vernon managed the station.

The Alvarado Pioneer issue of July 12, 1946 mentioned two service stations in Decoto, Mose Silva's Shell Gas Station and Carey's Union Gas Station. It was no longer referred to as Vernon's Gas Station in the newspaper.

At the beginning of January 1961 Joe Carey retired from the Union Sanitary District's Newark Disposal Plant as an operator. Joe became the operator of the old Decoto Sanitary District's plant in December 1949. When the Decoto Sanitary Plant was consolidated with the Union Sanitary District Carey was transferred to their Newark Plant where he worked until he retired.

Vernon Carey:

Vernon Carey was born in Decoto in 1910 to Joseph and Alice Carey. Vernon graduated from Decoto Grammar School in June 1926. Vernon joined the Decoto Chamber of Commerce in 1935 and in 1940 Vernon was managing his father's gas station of First Street in Decoto. By 1946 the station was referred to as Carey's Gas Station. Not much more was found for Vernon Carey after 1946.

BANKER:

Frank B. Leonard

Frank B. Leonard was born in California in 1900. His wife Irene (Goularte) Leonard was born in California in 1905 to Frank and Rosy Goularte of Decoto. Frank resided in Hayward and was employed at the Bank of Italy in Hayward. In 1933 the bank name was changed to Bank of America. Frank was a bank officer.

Irene Goularte and Frank Leonard announced their intention to marry in December 1924. The marriage took place in June 1926. After their marriage the Leonard's lived in Decoto.

Irene was a prominent member of the Decoto YLI (Young Ladies Institute - YLI was founded on the Christian principles of charity and love. The emblem of their Order, "The cross within the laurel wreath" signified their belief that only in this symbol of man's redemption can we expect the crowning victory of immortality), a Catholic Society founded for the spiritual well-being of young Catholic ladies.

In 1929 Irene Leonard helped organize the Decoto Bridge Club with the first meeting held at her home. The Leonard's continued to participate in the Bridge Club as they remained in Decoto.

In 1930 Frank was promoted to the post of Ass't Cashier at the Bank of Italy. The title Ass't Cashier is the first level of officer ship in banking and is not to be confused with the position of teller. Besides his duties at the bank Frank was also active in Decoto civic activities serving as a Decoto voting precinct official.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Leonard were given a 'house-warming' party on their behalf in January 1935 for their new home in Hayward. At this time the Leonard's had two children.

BARBER:

Alfonso Chamorro, Jr. / Frank Neves / Joseph Pepitone

Alfonso Chamorro Jr.:

Alfonso Chamorro Jr. was born to Alfonso & Delores Chamorro of Spain in 1914. Alfonso also had a sister five years his junior. The entire family came from Spain and settled in El Paso Texas in 1927. Here Alfonso Sr. worked as a barber and Alfonso Jr. worked in the barbershop with his father.

Sometime between 1930 and 1935 the family moved to Alameda California. Then after April 1935 they moved to Decoto. At this time they were living at 928 10th Street in Decoto. Alfonso Jr. was established in Decoto in his own barbershop. He had married Bessie Chamorro and had a daughter Gloria. Also living with him were his widowed mother Delores and his sister Mary.

Al joined the Decoto Chamber of Commerce in 1935. Al was also a member of the Union Funerario de Decoto, Inc. In July 1941 Al was chosen president of the mutual assistance lodge. Other officers chosen were Joe Priego and Primitivo Cordoba of Alvarado; Donisio Hernandez, Basilio Pacheco, Emilio Paniagua, and Andres Sanchez of Decoto. In 1956 Al was again elected an officer of the Union Funerario de Decoto. In 1961 Al was the secretary of the barber's union of Alameda County.

A gravesite was located in the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Hayward for Ildelfonso and Bessie Tejada Chamorro. The dates of nativity and deaths shown were 1913 to 1980 for Ildelfonso, and 1812 to 1882 for Bessie.

Frank Neves:

Frank Neves was born in 1908 in Decoto to Manuel and Minnie Neves who were both natives of Portugal. Frank graduated from the Decoto Grammar School in 1921. Circa 1928 Frank was married to Olive Neves and they had a son Mervin in 1929. Before the mid 30's Frank and family moved to Newark where Frank operated his own shop. At this time they had one child Beverly.

Joseph Pepitone:

Joe Pepitone was born in Italy in 1888. He entered the U.S. in 1904. He was married to Virginia Pepitone who was born in California in 1888. The couple had seven children: four sons and three daughters. Joe was a barber in Decoto and was also a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. In April 1936 Joe passed away in Decoto.

BEAUTY SHOP:

Miss Mary Chamorro:

Decoto Beauty Shop, 932 10th Street:

Nothing was found for the Decoto Beauty except one newspaper article:
"Miss Mary Chamorro, sister of the Decoto Barber, is employed temporarily at the Decoto Beauty Shoppe. Miss Chamorro went a Beauty School and received her diploma."

In December 1944, Miss Mary Chamorro was operating the Louise Beauty Shop at 622 Castro Street in Hayward. This was the last entry for Mary Chamorro in our area.

It is possible that the Decoto Beauty Shop and the Louise Beauty Shop in Hayward, may have had something to do with the Chamorro family although I have no basis for the claim.

BILLIARDS AND POOL HALL:

Manuel Monte:

Manuel L. Monte was born in Spain in 1878. He entered the U.S. in 1906. Manuel was single and living alone in Decoto. He showed that he was the owner of a Pool Hall in Decoto in 1930. The only information on Mr. Monte is his census record of 1930 in Decoto.

CARPENTER:

Gabriel Coit / Fred Janeiro / Joseph Maciel / Antone L. Costa

Gabriel Coit:

Gabriel Coit was born in California in 1899. He was married to Minnie Coit who was born in California in 1903. They had three children: Norman, Elmer and Marjorie.

Gabriel's mother, Marie Coit passed away in September 1932. She was the widow of the late Manuel Coit. She was the mother of Mrs. Mary Janeiro, Mrs. Rose Moniz, Mrs. Margaret Travis, Mrs. Viola Rose, Joseph F., Gabriel and Manuel Coit and sister of Frank Janeiro of Decoto.

Gabriel was a carpenter in Decoto. In 1935 he was the builder of the Antone Janeiro home at "G" & 3rd Streets in Decoto. The home cost \$3,500. Soon thereafter the Coit family moved to Centerville where Gabriel continued with his carpentering trade.

Fred Janeiro:

Fred Janeiro was born was born in 1893 in California to Anton C and Mary Janeiro of Decoto. Fred was one of 13 children. Fred married Mrs. Mary Janeiro and they had two children: Elsie and Elanor. Fred took up the trade of carpentering in Decoto. However after the 1930 census nothing could be found for the Fred Janeiro family.

Joseph Maciel:

Joseph Maciel was born in California in 1895 to Manuel B & Katrina Maciel. Joe was married to Hortense Maciel and they had two daughters: Grace and Marjorie (Marianne). Joseph went into the carpentering trade and continued to do so into the 1940's when nothing further was found for him. He was also last listed as a Decoto resident in 1940.

Antone L. Costa:

Antone Costa was born in California circa 1900. Miss Leontine Martin was born in California circa 1907 to Joe and Caroline Martin. Leontine was one of eight Martin children, six daughters and two sons. Antone and Leontine were married circa 1926. They had three children, Fred, Roselyn and James.

After their marriage they settled in Decoto where Antone worked in a tile yard. But Antone (who preferred to go by A.L.) progressed quickly thereafter and switched over to the carpentering trade. In 1935 he joined the Decoto Junior Chamber of Commerce and by 1938 he was on the Board of Directors.

A.L. did many contract carpentry jobs. In 1935 he did extensive alterations to the Joseph Colona home in Decoto.

In 1936 A.L. Costa constructed the Pacific Telephone building in Decoto that would house the dial system and all-night automatic telephone service. The Decoto Jr. & Sr. Chambers of Commerce had been agitating for years for 24-hour telephone service for Decoto.



Mr. Costa would build many homes; make many alterations and improvement to home throughout Decoto over the next several years including building a workshop for the Decoto Grammar School students in 1941.

In the November 4, 1949 issue of *The Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper Mr. Costa used the power of the press to bring in more customers:

Mr. Costa was also very civic minded being an active member of the Jr. Decoto Chamber of Commerce for many years. As part of his Chamber duties he was on the Boy Scout Troop Committee, working with Peter Decoto who was the long time Scoutmaster for the boys of Decoto. Also on the committee to support the Boy Scouts in Decoto were Manuel Seoane, Fred Sanchez, Bernie Joseph and Jack Faletti.

Besides the Chamber Antone was also a member of the Decoto Volunteer Fire Department. He earned accolades during a 1952 fire of the 45-year old Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church at 13th & H Streets, causing a loss estimated at \$20,000. Antone was one of the volunteer firemen fighting the blaze when he fought his way through the building to the altar, broke open the tabernacle and carried the Blessed Sacrament to safety.

Leontine Costa:

Leontine Costa was very active in Decoto social life. Early on she was a member of the Decoto Discussion Group, a group she continued to support for many years. The group would meet and discuss recently released novels, but they also reviewed operas such as "Carmen" and "Don Juan." Other topics included books of the "Bible" and even local artists like Ethel Grau of Niles.

Just after the Second World War Leontine served as a substitute librarian for Mrs. Ormsby at the Centerville Library. Her service in this capacity caught the attention of the Editor of *The Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper. The Editor wrote of Alameda County Librarians:

"Mrs. Leontine Costa of Decoto substitutes at the Centerville Library on Mondays and Wednesdays during the absence of Mrs. Ormsby. Mrs. Costa receives 50¢ an hour for filling in. An *Alvarado Pioneer* Editorial calls our supervisors to task for such low pay. Mrs. Costa is to be commended for helping the small library by accepting next to nothing in pay. Others come from as far away as Dublin. The *Pioneer* points to the Alvarado Library, which is open three days a week, and the pay is \$30 a month."

But Mrs. Costa had too many other irons in the fire to worry about such trivial matters as she considered it an honor to serve the community. At the time Mrs. Costa was filling in at the County Library in Centerville she was also hosting a meeting in her home for the Decoto Recreational Council where the membership voted to purchase tennis net for the soon to be opened court on the grounds of the Decoto Grammar School, and to buy some baseball equipment for the Decoto Red Caps, a team of grammar school boys sponsored by the council.

Mrs. Costa struck out in a new direction in June 1948 when she became the Decoto correspondent for *The Alvarado Pioneer*. Five months later she was

placed in charge of the office of Newark's new weekly newspaper, the *Newark Times* at 2199 Thornton Avenue. George Oakes of Hayward published the *Newark Times*, as well as the *Hayward Daily Review*, the *Alvarado Pioneer* and the *Washington News*.

In June 1949 a small party was held in the office of the *Washington News* in Centerville to celebrate the birthday of Leontine Costa, the well-known resident of Decoto. She had been with the *Washington News* (family of newspapers) for a year. Leontine celebrated by buying a new Studebaker from the Dutra Bros. of Hayward.

Mrs. Costa was a member of the Decoto Pinochle Club. Mrs. Costa was also a member of the Niles Circle of Neighbors of Woodcraft where she served as Guardian Neighbor in August 1950.

In October 1951 Leontine assisted Mrs. Betty Margarido, leader of the Decoto Girl Scouts, in planning the crafts the girls would begin for the coming year.

Also in the 1950's Leontine was very active in the Decoto PTA, serving in many official capacities over the decade. As well at the Decoto PTA Leontine was elected president of the Alvarado Auxiliary of Eagles at a meeting held March 17, 1953. Mrs. Costa also served on the Decoto Coordinating Council during the incorporation of Alvarado and Decoto in the later half of the 1950's.

Finally, Mrs. Costa was active in Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Decoto. She was a member of the Holy Rosary Guild and served as Secretary of the Guild in 1952.

ENGINEER:

Herbert Harrold:

Herbert Harrold was born in California in 1882 to Frank and Adelaide Harrold. In 1910 Herbert was a civil engineer for the railroad and was living at home with his parents in the City of Oakland. In May 1914 he married Miss Inez Whipple of Decoto. They had five children: Herbert Jr., Eleanor A., Cecilia, Emilia and Mary Annis. After their marriage the Harrold's went to reside in Oakland, but by 1920 the Harrold's had returned to reside in Decoto permanently.

Herbert had been a Civil Engineer for the railroad since his single days in Oakland and it was an occupation he continued to follow while he was living in Decoto.

Mr. Harrold worked with Peter Decoto and Harry Haines in the Decoto Boy Scout Troop in 1924. Herbert worked on the committee to keep the Boy Scout Troop funded and ongoing. Here he worked with Harry Searles, Albert N. Benson, John Olson, Antone Amaral, Manuel Caldeira, Henry May, Raymond McNulty, Manuel Avilla and Enos Pimentel.

March 1935 saw Herbert elected to the Board of Trustees of the Washington Union High School District. The following year Herbert was elected President of the Men's Club of Washington Township. In 1938 Herbert was re-elected to

the high school board along with Henry May of Decoto. In 1940 Herbert was elected President of the Alameda County Trustee's Association. In 1941 Herbert Harrold was again elected to the Washington High School Board in a record-breaking vote.

The Alvarado Pioneer newspaper gave an account of a meeting in its March 1, 1946, issue that was held at the Decoto School for the purpose of incorporating the town section of Decoto. Tempers sometime flared as the issue split the town. A contentious exchange between Herbert Harrold and some of the town people led to some hard feeling. In April 1946 Herbert Harrold resigned his seat on the Decoto Grammar School Board of Trustees. In his place William Davis, President of the United Steel Workers Union CIO, Local No. 3367 was nominated to replace Harrold.

In July 1946 Herbert was elected President of the Washington Union High School Board of Trustees replacing Andrew K. Logan of Alvarado

In 1948 Herbert Harrold was on the staff of the Alameda County Water District, which he served until he retired after eight years.

In 1955 when the fight against the City of Hayward's annexation of Washington Township property was heating up, Herbert again stepped up to help his community. Herbert joined the Union City Steering Committee to promote the incorporation of Alvarado and Decoto. Here he joined with the leaders of both towns: Frank Borghi, Henry Leidsen (Alvarado), John Ratekin (sugar mill), Clifford Tinsley (U.S. Pipe), Mrs. Theodore Harvey (Alvarado rancher), Keith Whipple, Manuel Hidalgo, Warren Silva (Alvarado Banker), Harold Fair and George Hocking (Alvarado School Trustee).

FOREMAN:

Manuel Costa:

Manuel Costa was born in Portugal in 1892. He entered the U.S. in 1920. His wife Mary Costa was born in Portugal in 1907. Mary entered the U.S. in 1921. Manuel was a foreman for a tile factory in 1930. By 1930 he had gone into the roofing business as a contractor.

LIBRARIANS:

Tony S. Fereira / Mrs. Elizabeth Williams / Mrs. Mary Nunes / Mrs. Elsa Walker

Tony S. Fereira:

See bio in Chapter 04 page 3

Tony S. Fereira was among the first of the permanent Decoto librarians. He was primarily, though, Justice of the peace at Decoto. Tony passed away in June 1913.

Mrs. Elizabeth Williams:

Mrs. Elizabeth Williams was born in Scotland in 1870 under the name Miss Elizabeth Johnson. In January 1905 Elizabeth Johnson married George H. Williams of Decoto. George had been born in Maine in 1844. In 1909 George was appointed as the head gardener at the Masonic Home. In 1913 Mrs. Williams was chosen to replace Tony Fereira as librarian for Decoto. It is not

known when Mrs. Williams left her Decoto Library position, but by 1920 neither of the William's was found to be living in Washington Township.

Mrs. Mary Nunes:

Mrs. Mary Nunes was born in California in 1890. She was married to Joseph Nunes who was born in Portugal in 1887. Joseph entered the U.S. in 1899. Joe was employed as a janitor in the Decoto Grammar School.

It is not known when Mrs. Nunes took over as librarian for the town of Decoto, but she was mentioned as being employed as town librarian in the 1920 census. Mrs. Nunes resigned her position in July 1936.

Mrs. Elsa Walker:

Mrs. Elsa Walker was born in Kansas in 1884. Circa 1921 she came to Decoto from Arkansas. Here she met and married Walter Walker who was born in New York in 1879. Walter was active in Decoto civic organizations and in 1939 he was chosen to be Decoto's maintenance man and inspector in their new sanitary system

In 1936 Mrs. Walter Walker was appointed librarian for the Decoto Branch of the Alameda County Public Library to replace Mrs. Mary Nunes. At this time plans were under way to establish a new library facility in Decoto as soon as a suitable location could be found. The library at this time was located in a local store, and larger quarters were desired.

The new Decoto Branch of the Alameda County Library System opened on April 10, 1945 with Mrs. Elsa Walker as librarian. The new library was located at 905 10th Street, which was across the street from the old library.

Mrs. Elsa Walker, who came from Arkansas to California nearly 25 years ago, announced in September 1946 that she is leaving Decoto for Auburn where she and her husband, Walter Walker, were to engage in ranching. Mrs. Walker has been in charge of the Decoto Branch of the Alameda County Library for ten years and seen the library increase its book circulation greatly. Perhaps she will be missed most for her work with the Decoto Discussion Group, which has been outstanding in many ways.

MACHINIST:

Frank Margarido Jr.:

Frank S. Margarido Jr. was born in California in May 1885 to Mary and Frank Margarido Sr., who were known to be in Decoto as early as 1902 when he served as voter ballot official for the town. In 1930 Frank Sr. was a mail carrier in Decoto. In 1930 Frank Sr., Frank Jr. and Jerry Margarido were all living together in Decoto. Frank Sr. was widowed at this time.

Frank Sr. passed away in July 7, 1938 at the age of 79. He had been a resident of Decoto for 60 years and had served Decoto many years as a mail carrier. He was the husband of the late Mrs. Mary Margarido and father of Mrs. Mary Duchine, Mrs. Katherine Rose, Frank and Jerry Margarido. He was a native of the Azores Islands.

Jerry Margarido had served in WWI and in 1930 was working as a machinist in a tile factory. Jerry was well known in Decoto for his devotion to baseball, who with George Smith was managers of the Decoto Merchants baseball team of 1926. Jerry continued to be involved in Decoto baseball until 1933 after which nothing further could be found.

In September 1935 Frank Margarido, of 501 Railroad Ave. Decoto, aged 40 years, married Miss Betty S. Stevenson of Hayward, aged 20 years. They were married at a ceremony performed at the First Presbyterian Church. Mr. & Mrs. Margarido would reside in Decoto. Mr. Margarido was employed as a machinist at Decoto.

The couple had two children, Fred who graduated from Washington High School in 1956, and Frank who graduated in 1958.

In 1940 Frank Margarido was working as a crane operator in the Steel Mill. Mrs. Margarido kept herself very busy with Decoto civic and social affairs. In June 1948 Mrs. Margarido was chosen as a delegate for the Decoto PTA. In 1949 members of the Decoto PTA partnered with the Alameda County Health Dept. to administer hearings tests to the children. The mothers involved were: Mrs. Mary Cardoza, Mrs. Betty Margarido, Mrs. Mary Lucero, Mrs. Dorothy Musick and Mrs. Evelyn Joseph.

In 1951 Mrs. Margarido became very active with the Girl Scouts in Decoto and in Washington Township. In October 1951 Mrs. Margarido was the Girl Scout leader for Decoto and was assisted in this endeavor by Mrs. Leontine Costa. The following year a training course for beginning Scout Leaders was set up for adults interested in Girl Scouting in Washington Township. Persons in the Decoto were told to contact Mrs. Betty Margarido. Then in January 1954 Mrs. Margarido was installed as president of the Washington Township Adult Girl Scouts.

MANUFACTURERS & LARGE EMPLOYERS:

Pacific States Steel Co. American Forge: Joseph Eastwood Jr. / K. Hovden Canning Co. / Joseph Pearce Cannery, Joseph Pearce / Sanguinetti Fruit Co. / Railway Express Co.

Joseph Eastwood Jr. & William Gilmore:

Pacific States Steel Co.:

Joseph Eastwood Jr. of San Francisco founded the Pacific States Steel Co. in 1937. Mr. Eastwood chose a location between the Western Pacific and the Southern Pacific Railroad lines in Decoto just north of the Niles town limits. The location had been the site of manufacturing plants for the Oakland Paving Brick Co. and the California Brick Co. The Oakland Paving Brick Co. had established a railroad siding that was known by the acronym Pabrick (for the **PA**ving **BR**ick **CO**mpany). The railroad siding proved to be perfect for a steel plant.

Joseph Eastwood Sr. of San Francisco had established a company that produced heavy mining and machinery called the American Forge Co. in 1888. The senior Eastwood died in 1930 and Joseph Eastwood Jr. took over the company and continued its operation.

To insure a reliable supply of steel for his American Forge Co. Joe Eastwood partnered with William Gilmore to found the Pacific States Steel Company in Decoto. The company opened in Decoto in 1937.

World events would lead to the growth of Pacific States Steel. In the late 30's and early 40's war was being waged in Europe and the Far East. The U.S. was engaged in talks with Japan over their ambitions in the Pacific and the U.S. embargoed Japan's sorely needed raw materials. The tensions between the two countries led the U.S. to quietly begin to strengthen its Navy in the Pacific.

April 1941 found Joe Eastwood Jr. in Washington D.C. where his Pacific States Steel Co. was awarded large defense contracts. Eastwood sent confirmation of the contracts to William Gilmore in San Francisco that the company must step up its production of alloy steel to 150,000 tons a year, thus quadrupling the size of the steel manufacturing capacity.

At this time Pacific States Steel was the only steel manufacturing plant on the west coast with an electric furnace capable of producing alloy steel ingots and forging quality steel for military and maritime commission jobs.

When peacetime returned to the United States the importance of steel was not lost on our leaders in Washington D.C. The American Forge Company in Berkeley and the Pacific States Steel Company in Decoto were among the war industries that U.S. Navy wanted to keep in operation during peacetime.

In November 1947 it was announced that the American Forge Company would relocate to Decoto on property owned by its parent the Pacific States Steel Company.

In the ultimate irony the country that helped Pacific States Steel grow would be one of the countries that led to its downfall. In the 1970's Japan exported low cost steel to the United States (along with European countries) and the American steel industry started to suffer.

The beginning of 1977 saw employment at the steel plant crumble. About 200 workers at the plant applied for assistance claiming that increased imports have led to their unemployment. The 200 workers were members of the United Steel Workers of America at the Pacific States Steel plant in Decoto. The workers were involved in the manufacture of carbon steel, which was used in buildings and roadways.

The layoffs started in the middle of 1976. Some workers were laid off and then called back to work for short periods of time while others laid off later in the year were not called back. If the government ascertains that layoffs were due to imports then the workers would be able to collect benefits.

Government officials would not name the countries that were involved in the purported dumping of steel in the U.S., although they did acknowledge that Japan had increased their exports of steel to the U.S. early in 1976. By 1977 the company was out of business.

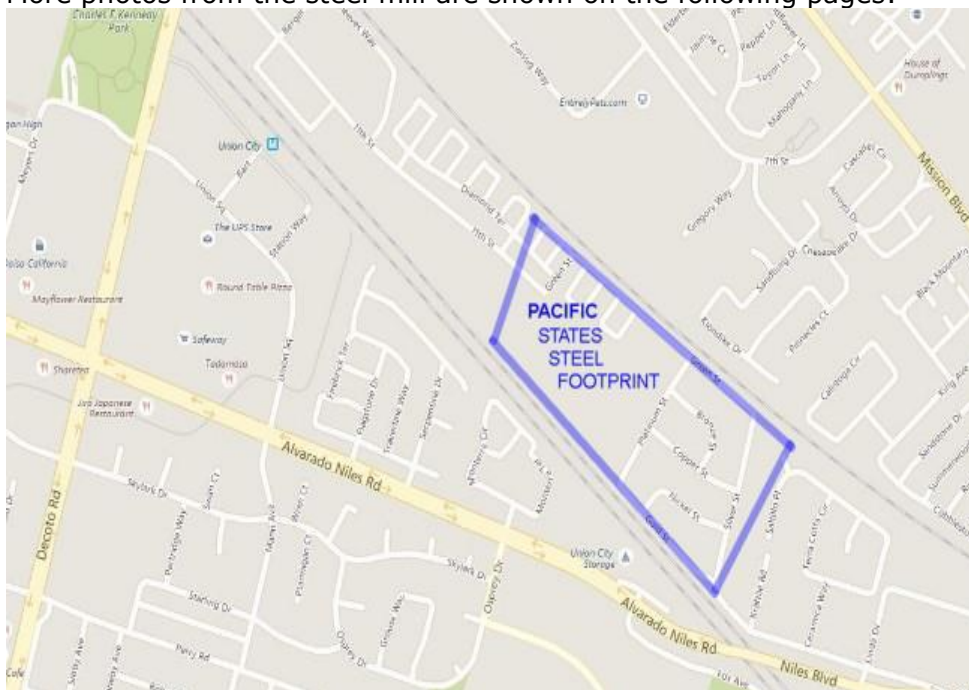
A number of businesses leased the sites over the years; one of them stored and processed transformers on a small portion of the site, contaminating the soil with PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls). The PCB's, along with slag and other by-products of steel making over the decades required environmental cleanup by government agencies to negate ground contamination.



PACIFIC STATES STEEL CORPORATION

Looking south from Decoto towards Niles.

More photos from the steel mill are shown on the following pages:

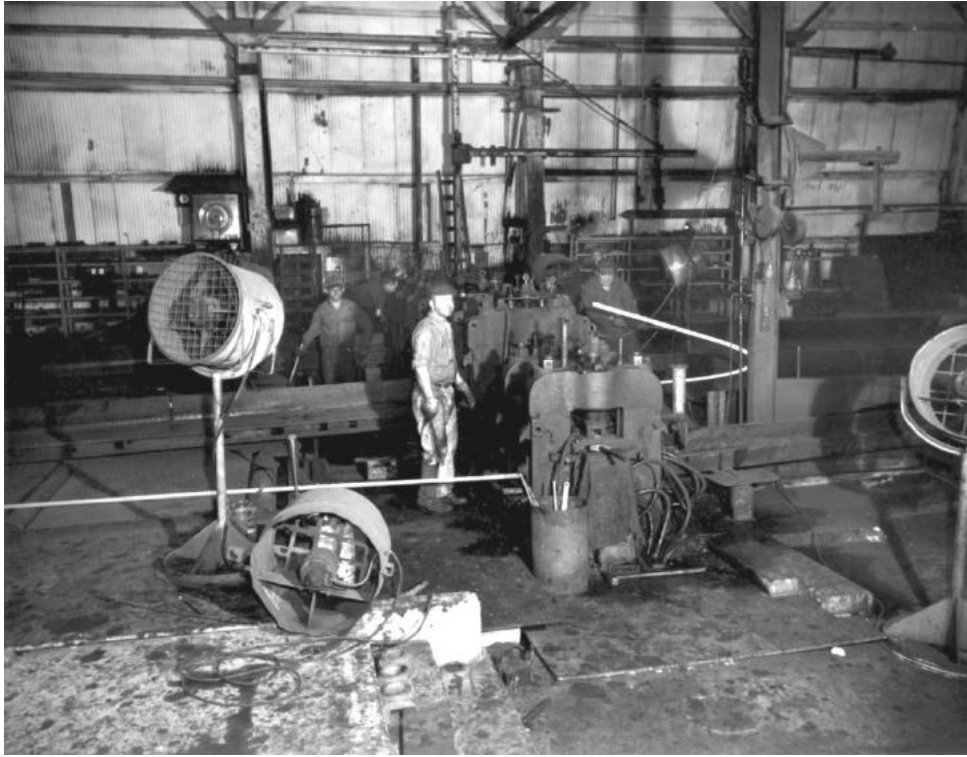


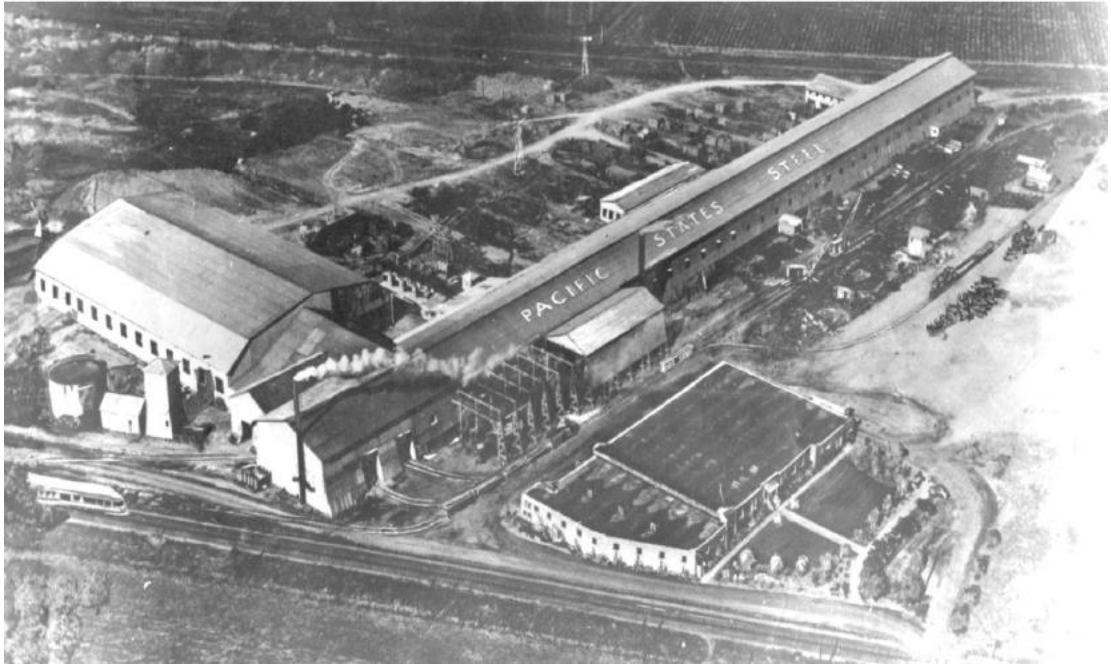


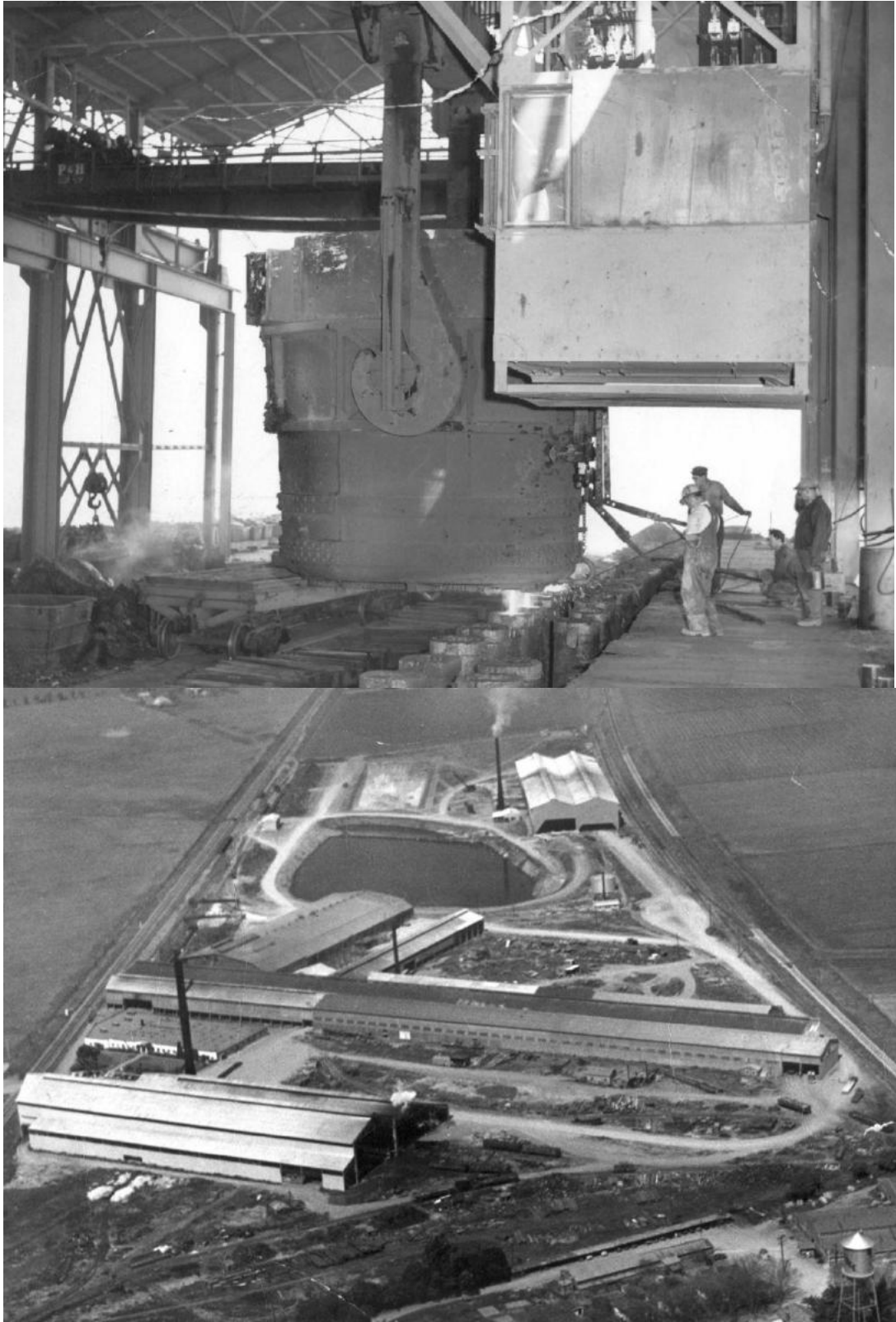


JUL 27 1958











Executive Suite:

K. Hovden Canning Co.

After 1930 the Hovden Canning Co. packed tomato sauce for its parent cannery in Monterey. The tomato sauce was used in their sardine packing. See bio in Chapter 07 page 22.

Joseph Pearce: **Joseph Pearce Canning Co.**

In 1932 Joseph Pearce came to Decoto to take over the cannery of the Hovden Canning Co. Joseph had been the Assistant Superintendent of the Hunt Brothers Cannery in Hayward. Joseph was born in California in 1891, his wife Nelda was born in California in 1895 and their daughter Dorothy was born in California in 1925.

Joseph's first year was tough due to the depression and limited demand for the product. In July 1932 the canning of fruit was limited to what the cannery could sell and the rest was sent to the dryers at depressed prices. In September of that year the cannery had almost a ton of tomatoes that they could not process. Joseph Pearce donated the entire lot to the Salvation Army for distribution to the needy.

1933 proved to be another tough year for Americans. He started the canning year by working the staff part time in the spinach pack. He had 50 to 60 workers putting in three days a week. They would pack spinach until it was

time for apricots in the summer. While the Pearce Cannery would not be running at full capacity, Mr. Pearce decided to run on a part-time schedule in order to provide work for the men and women who otherwise would be unemployed.

The year 1934 saw labor strife in Washington & Eden Township. Alleged Communist agitators were threatening workers who would not go on strike and police had to be dispatched to keep fieldworkers and cannery workers on the job. In July 1934 two carloads of agitators were arrested at Decoto when they attempted to cause a strike of the workers at the Joseph Pearce Cannery. Deputy Sheriffs arrested five of the men, who were reported to have been armed with pick handles and various missiles.

Later in 1934 the F.E. Booth Cannery in Centerville and the Pearce Cannery in Decoto would install cooking machinery to can beef from cattle brought from the drought stricken Middle West under a plan underwritten by the Department of Agriculture. The canned meat was not to be marketed but was used in relief work.

In 1935 the cannery installed four new pea thrashers to process pea vines. The pea vines are cut in the field, much in the manner of hay; then hauled to the cannery thrashers. When the vines have passed through the thrashers would separate the peas from the vines, and then the peas are ready to can.

Total capacity was said to be 50 acres a day, eliminating hand picking of peas. Buyers covered the district to keep the machines running. Joseph Pearce said seventy persons were now employed in his plant for the pea crop. A new building, 71 by 100 feet, was built in 1935 to handle the added machinery.

A disastrous fire ripped through the Pearce Cannery in January 1937 taking with it a warehouse and its contents, a large quantity of canned tomatoes, spinach, fruit and vegetables, labeled and ready for shipment. The loss in the fire was estimated at \$75,000 to \$80,000, but the loss was covered by insurance.

Joseph Pearce celebrated a successful 1940 at his cannery in Decoto. Two hundred and fifty thousand cases of fruit were put up this season by the cannery in Decoto. The peaches came from Merced and the apricots mostly from Alameda County. They also had a big tomato season, too. The new season will start in February 1941 when the cannery would put up peas.

The year 1942 saw a different problem for farmers and canneries in Washington Township. The labor market was tight because of the amount of men in the service. Everyone was in the same boat from farmers to packinghouses and canneries in the township. The first step toward such a setup was taken at a mass meeting of growers, businessmen, educators and canners at Washington Union High School in Centerville.

"If we don't train school children to do this work, we might as well stop growing," said Tony Alameda of the Williams Brothers Packing Company.

The Booth Cannery in Centerville estimated that 200 children could finish the tomatoes. The Joseph Pearce Cannery in Decoto was facing the same problem.

The high school reverted to the minimum day schedule, had canceled all extra-curricular activities, including football practice until the harvest was complete. Grammar school students in the fields included 50 from Decoto, 40 from Irvington and 70 from Alvarado, all under teacher supervision.

In July 1943 Joseph Pearce took over the business of the Associated Cannery, who had leased the Joseph Pearce Canning Co. It had been leased for the past year to a Mr. Wilms. So it appears that Mr. Pearce took back what was originally his.

Within a week of taking over his business Joe was advertising in the newspaper to sell fresh peaches. On July 20, 1943, Joe asked that housewives home-can as much fruit and vegetables as possible to save the tin used in the commercial canning process for consumer use.

1944 saw a continuation of the labor shortage in the fields and in the canneries. The Joseph Pearce Canning Co. began operations on July 3, 1944, with a help shortage of from 100 to 125 workers. He needed more help and was hoping to get some sailors from one of the neighboring bases.

The Campbell Products Company, of Campbell Calif., a dehydrating concern, bought the Joseph Pearce Cannery in August 1946. It said it expected to operate the year around. They were about finished with apricots and would begin soon on peaches. Wilbur Cox was the new Manager, but no changes would be made to other personnel.

Sanguinetti Fruit Co.

11th & WP Tracks:

The best information I could find was that the Sanguinetti Fruit Co. was located at 11th St. and the Western Pacific Tracks. The first mention of the company was in December 1938 when a 35-foot rubber belt was stolen from the premises. In 1943 Bert Williams had his representative's ship broccoli and cauliflower for him. These shipping's were handled by Sanguinetti (Fruit Co.), who loaded it and sold it for him.

In December 1946 Roman Smart, superintendent of the firm in Decoto, said he anticipated a big season ahead packing cauliflower, celery and chicory at the Decoto Station. This was the last article I could find about Sanguinetti in Decoto. It is important to note that the Sanguinetti Fruit Co. was a large California company that had packinghouses under this name in other cities. It seems their largest presence was in Lodi California.

Railway Express Agency:

Known as "REX," the State Railroad Commission authorized the Railway Express Agency, Inc., to abandon their agency at Decoto on July 26, 1933. The address or who there agent was is not known.

MERCHANTS:

Alameda Vegetable & Produce Co.:

There is very little found on this company. It was known to exist in Decoto in the very late 1920's. In 1936 an article mentions the purchase of a truck by the Alameda Vegetable & Produce Co. of Alameda and Decoto. In 1948 the Alameda Vegetable and Produce Co. of Decoto took first place at the Alameda County Fair for both white globe and red onions. The article said that John Schenone of Decoto was associated with the company. Nothing else was found on this company.

Salvador Alvarez:

Alvarez Grocery, 424 5th Street:

The proprietor of the Alvarez Grocery Store was Salvador Alvarez who was born in Mexico in 1882. His wife Alexandria was born in Mexico in 1892. Four sons, Jose, Eliseo, Jesus and Salvador were all born in Mexico as were two daughters Hermalinda and Cuca. All entered the U.S. in 1921. Their last child, Andres, was born in the U.S.

In 1930 Salvador worked in the fields as a farm laborer along with his two oldest sons Jose and Eliseo. By 1936 Salvador had opened his grocery store on 5th Street. In May 1936 the Alvarez Grocery Store was featured in an ad campaign by a large detergent and soap company:

BIG VALUE SOAP SALE:

Yes madam, Lux Toilet Soap, Lux, Rinso and Lifebuoy will take care of all of your washing needs. These soaps are always leaders with us.

At this store in Decoto, don't miss it!

ALVAREZ GROCERY, 424 5th Street

In June 1937 the Alvarez family was rocked by tragedy when their young son Salvador was drowned at the Casino Plunge in Santa Cruz. He had been attending an outing with his graduating class at Decoto Grammar School. He was an outstanding member of the baseball and track teams at the school, was a school monitor and had a leading role in the class play.

Mr. Alvarez gave generously to town events as evidenced by his kind act of 1940 when he donated milk, hot sauce, chocolate, pork & beans, chili, and a gallon of wine to the Whist Party for the benefit of Decoto's Boy Scout Troop.

The last article I could find on the Alvarez Grocery on 5th Street Decoto was in 1957 when Salvador was cited for sale of liquor to a minor.

Joe Boliba:

Boliba's Grocery, 504 4th Street:

Joe Boliba was born in Spain in 1905. He married Miss Annie Ramos of Decoto in May 1933. Annie Ramos was born in 1915 to Tony and Mary Ramos of Decoto. The Ramos' owned the Ramos Grocery Market on 4th Street.

Joe Boliba used advertising in local newspapers to draw in customers. In April 1939 Joe advertised in *The Alvarado Pioneer*:

BOLIBA'S GROCERY
Real Savings!
Tienda Espanola
Especiales para March 10-11-121
504 4th Street, Decoto, Calif.

Mole Pablano	10¢ bote
Salsa, de Tomate	10 por 29¢
Chorizo	16¢ lb
Arroz	10 lbs. 43¢
Azucar	10 lbs. 44¢
Harina, La Pina	49 lbs. \$1.19
Frijol	5 lbs. 23¢
Espauda, Grande	22¢ bote
Bacalao, Seco	16¢ lb
Huevos, Grande	24¢ Doz

Merecemos El Dever De Limitar Contidades

In September 1939 they advertised that besides their regular cash specials they were also giving trading stamps. The next article I found was that the Boliba's were operating the Niles Garden Basket in February 1949.

Gonzalez Produce:

710 6th St.:

Nothing found for this merchant other than the name and address.

Tony Ybarra:

Ybarra's Grocery:

Tony Ybarra, former owner of Ybarra's Grocery, abandoned his business in January 1941 and went to a Barber College. The store was doing business as Ybarra's Grocery before Mr. Ybarra left. Ownership and proprietorship of the store reverted back to Donisio Hernandez, the owner of the location.

I found a census record for Antonio Ybarra who was born in Mexico in 1912. His wife Logie was born in California in 1916. The couple had two daughters. In 1940 he was employed at the steel mill. Whether this is the same Tony Ybarra cannot be certainly verified.

Dionisio Hernandez:

Dionisio Hernandez was born in Spain in 1884. His wife gave her name as Alice in 1930 and Esmeralda in 1940. She was born in Spain in 1897. They both entered the U.S. in 1920. They had four children, three daughters Maria, Ricarda and Mercedes and one son, Delfino. All the children were born in the U.S. The couple lived at 803 11th Street in Decoto.

Dionisio was a storekeeper in Decoto. In 1930 his wife was a clerk in the store. What type of store was not given, however in 1941 the store was operated as Ybarra's Grocery by Tony Ybarra, who in that year gave proprietorship of the store back to Dionisio, who owned the property.

Mr. Hernandez was a member of the Union Funerario de Decoto, Inc. where he served as Secretary of the organization.

In the year 1949 there was a store operated in Decoto known as Hernandez Country Market at 452 C Street & Niles Road. Whether this store had any connection to Dionisio or his family I could not determine.

RAILROAD:

George Courtney

SP Station Agent:

George Courtney was born in California in 1877. His wife Virginia was born in Virginia in 1889. The couple had a son Robert and a daughter Betty Jean.

The Courtney's came to Decoto in May 1939 from San Jose. He was the new station agent for the SP Railroad in Decoto. In September 1920 George attended the SP agent's dinner held in Centerville. The final entry for the Courtney's in Decoto was January 1931. In 1935 they were living in Oakland and in 1940 they were living in Irvington where George the station agent for the town.

RESTAURANTS:

Mrs. Rose / William Marshall / Raymond Soares / Joe Valenzuela

Mrs. Rose, of Hayward:

The Pine Knot Lunchroom, 10th & H Streets:

Newspaper ad in *The Hayward Daily Review* of December 20, 1938:

"For sale or rent:

The Pine Knot Lunchroom at 10th & H Streets, Decoto. Fully equipped, paying business."

In September 1939 *The Alvarado Pioneer* ran this article in their September 29, 1939 issue:

"The eating establishment known as the "Pine Knot" in Decoto, which is across from the Pearce Cannery is doing very nicely since Mrs. Rose of Hayward took charge a month or so ago."

When the Decoto Merchants ran a Whist Party for the benefit of the Decoto Boy Scouts in November 1940, dozens of merchants donated goods and services to be awarded as prizes for the Whist Party. The Pine Knot Restaurant donated a set of six pieces of glassware.

This was the last entry I could find for the Pine Knot Restaurant.

William S. Marshall:

Bum Koffee, Niles Road at Decoto Junction:

&

Bills' Nibble and Chat:

William Marshall was the proprietor of the Bum Koffee coffee shop and lunchroom. Bill was born in New York State in 1885. He had come to Decoto from Vallejo after 1935. By 1937 he had opened his little restaurant and coffee shop.

Bill seemed to be a good acquaintance of George Oakes, publisher of *The Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper, for he had several good things to say about Bill Marshall. In November 1939 George ran this article in his newspaper:

"Bill Marshall, western booster for the U.S. Navy, is up to his old tricks again. Every Christmas he places an attractive Christmas tree on top of his coffee shop on the Niles highway at Decoto Junction and this year he plans to continue the idea. Besides this "cheerio" to the passing motorist, he has plans for the kiddies. He will give a program in front of his Bum Koffee place of business to which he invited hundreds of Decoto youngsters on either Dec. 20th or 21st. He will have a present for each kiddie present. You see Barnacle Bill has a big heart for the little tots and by the way, we saw his Santa Claus' outfit. It's the real McCoy, worth \$25.00 (in 1939 dollars)."

In March 1941 George Oakes ran another Bill Marshall article in his newspaper:

"You know the old saying, "In the spring a young man's fancy, etc," well, that spirit is in the air at "Bum Koffee," eating establishment on the Decoto Highway.

The owner of this eating-place is "Barnacle Bill, the Sailor" and he has had the outside of his place painted bright blue. It really looks beautiful. This is the social gathering place of the "ultra, ultra" cultured people of Decoto. For instance, you find Tony Amaral of Olson' Grocery Store getting a sandwich there and Mr. Lebon, a retired grower, likes a cup of coffee and a piece of pie for breakfast and always there is a splendid merchants' lunch. It is so wholesome, that even the Editor of the *Alvarado Pioneer* wandered over there for a change of pasture and enjoyed a deluxe breakfast of ham and eggs, hot cakes and coffee the other morning. This shows a crosscut of the "cultural elite" who inhabits this joint.

May Day came to the Decoto School again in 1946. Centuries old, and incorporated by early Christianity from the pagan religions of Europe, the First of May is a time to celebrate the coming of spring, and the end of dreary winter. Now that the war is over there is double reason to celebrate the new life everywhere seen in nature, and new hope in the hearts of men. With the help of teachers who chipped in with some sugar, Bill Marshall, owner of the "Bum Koffee" shop in Decoto, will donate 600 popcorn balls to sate the kiddie's hunger for something sweet.

On August 31, 1946 a notice of intention to sell was published in the *Hayward Review* that William S. Marshall of 401 1st Street, Decoto intended to sell to Isabel Gomez, of 2nd & D Streets, Decoto and Pauline Hogue of 375 1st Street, Decoto who intended to buy that certain restaurant and restaurant business at 401 1st Street Decoto known as "Bill's Nibble & Chat." It is not clear as to what happened to the business known as Bum Koffee.

Raymond Soares:
Country Lunch:

Raymond Soares was born in California in 1906. In 1930 he was living with his brother-in-law Manuel O. (Mose) Silva on First Street in Decoto. Raymond was operating a lunchroom in Decoto. In 1935 he was elected vice-president of the Decoto J.C.'s. In that same year he assisted Frank J. Thomas and J.P. Kelly in operating a carnival for the benefit of the Boy Scout Troop of Decoto.

By 1940 Ray had switched occupations to a manufacturing facility making boxes at the old Granger Warehouses in Alvarado. In April 1943 his California Pine Box Factory in Alvarado produced 200,000 boxes for the U.S. Navy. His plant was in a fine big warehouse across the tracks from the Southern Pacific depot. Nothing was found after this article for Ray Soares.

Joseph Valenzuela:

Las Palmas Café:

The Las Palmas restaurant was owned by Joseph Valenzuela. Then only information on Joe Valenzuela that was found was this article below from June 1939:

"If adobe houses were good in the day of the padres, they should be good today. At least that is the opinion of Joe Valenzuela, resident of Decoto for the last four years, who is literally building a house out of a hole in the ground. From the corner of his 1½-acre lot, Valenzuela is digging adobe and making it into 30-pound bricks, 10 by 20 inches, for a six-room house expected to be finished by the first of July. The hole incidentally left from the digging will form the basement for another house.

The bricks are a mixture of adobe, manure and straw. The interior of the house will be plaster and the roof will be trimmed with tile. The foundation is made of slabs of stone, about 18 by 20 inches in diameter, from San Leandro. Aiding in the building is his 19-year-old son. When asked upon what he based his belief that the house would "melt" with the first fall rains, Valenzuela replied that a similar house he built at Sonora ten years ago is still in first-class condition. The structure here will cost him a total of about \$1,500."

SALOONS & LIQUOR STORES:

Henry Zumaquero:

Decoto Club Beer Parlor, E Street:

Henry Zumaquero (also sometimes spelled Sumaquero) was born in Spain in 1908 to Antone and Maria Zumaquero. He entered the U.S. in 1911 with his parents. In 1930 the family was living in Decoto and the family (Antone, Maria, Henry and brother Enos) were all working as laborers.

In 1935 Henry joined the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. In 1940 he was living with two unmarried sisters and was the proprietor of a liquor store. In January 1941 he made Manuel Ferreira his partner in the beer parlor/liquor store. The final entry I could find for Henry was in January 1950 when Henry was hit by a rock thrown by a parolee from the California Youth Authority. At this time Henry was residing at 709 14th Street in Decoto.

SANITARY DISTRICT:

Walter Walker:

Walter Walker was born in New York in 1879. He was married to Mrs. Elsa Walker who was born in Kansas in 1884. The number of children, if any for the Walker's, was not shown. Mrs. Walker became Decoto's librarian in 1936 replacing Mrs. Mary Nunes.

Walter is first mentioned in Decoto in 1925 when he was the Decoto Fire Chief in a fire that nearly wiped out Decoto's Japanese village.

In May 1925 Walter was chosen as the chairman of the Boy Scout Troop Committee of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. This was Decoto's first Boy Scout Troop and the Scoutmaster was Peter Decoto. Two months later Walter was chosen as the Vice President of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce.

Will Hurst of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce was appointed chairman of the committee to investigate the steps necessary for the organization of a Sanitary District for the town of Decoto in early October 1926. Chosen with Will Hurst were Walter Walker, George Smith, Jose Soito, J.L. Olson, S.K. Anderson and Peter L. Decoto.

Nearly a decade would go by before Decoto took the next positive step to organize a sanitary district. This positive step would be a petition signing process to be brought before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. A committee was named that again included Walter Walker along with Peter Decoto, Joseph Caldeira and Frank Thomas.

After a bond election and the go ahead from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors Decoto organized and built their sanitary system. In December 1939 the Decoto Sanitary District announced that 64 of the expected connection to the new mains had been made. Named maintenance man and inspector of the sanitary system was Walter Walker by Chairman of the Board Joseph Caldeira.

After serving as Fire Chief for the Decoto Volunteer Fire Dept., Walter was elected as one of Decoto's Fire Commissioners in 1938. He was re-elected in 1941 and again in 1944.

In September 1946 Walter & Elsa Walker announced that they will be relocating to Auburn California where Walter has bought a ranch. Elsa had been in Decoto for nearly 25 years and in 1924 she married Walter in Decoto. Walter worked as the maintenance man and inspector for the Decoto Sanitary District.

SCHOOL TEACHERS & TRUSTEES:

Lewis Musick, Principal / Allison Peacock, Principal / Miss Mildred Asher / Miss Helen Bonnickson / Mrs. Marian Pender / Miss Rita Fraser (Frazier) / Miss Edna Desmond / Mrs. Jeanette Schaaf / Miss Ruth Upp / Jack Prouty / Miss Alice Mercer / Mrs. Marion Long / Miss Blanche Rochau (Henningsen) / Henry May, Trustee / Herbert Harrold, Trustee / John C. Whipple (II), Trustee

Lewis W. Musick, Principal:

Lewis W. Musick was born in California circa 1906 to Ephraim and Gladys Musick. Ephraim and Gladys had two children, Lewis and a daughter Clara (or Claire). Eph was a teacher then a Principal of the Newark Grammar School, finally retiring in June 1937.

Lewis attended Washington Union High School, graduating in 1923. He then attended Heald's Business College before attending Stanford University where he received his Master's in Biology. In 1930 he left to teach at Visalia High and in 1933 at Alturas High where he met his future wife Miss Dorothy Irwin. They were married August 1933. Lewis' wife Dorothy Irwin Musick was born in California circa 1909. They had two daughters Carolyn and Barbara.

Lewis Musick first appears as the Decoto Principal in September 1936. Over the summer months extensive improvements were made to the playground, floors were refurbished, new plumbing had been put in including drinking fountains and a water line to the athletic field, the construction of a concrete incinerator and new benches for the playground.

Mr. Musick became a member of the Decoto Jr. Chamber of Commerce and immediately was placed as president of the Chamber committee to raise money to purchase red capes and caps for the Decoto School Band.

The middle of 1941 saw the U.S. begin to prepare to defend itself against a possible coming war in Europe and the Pacific. An aluminum drive was begun in July 1941 by Robert Whipple to collect the metal to prepare for the defense of our shores. Lewis Musick and Fire Chief Roland Bendel assisted Robert Whipple. The Boy Scouts also aided in the aluminum drive.

When war did come Mr. Musick joined with Harry Searles, Mrs. Catherine Morales, Mrs. Norman Murdock and Henry Hernandez to help raise funds from the town of Decoto for the Red Cross.

January 1942 also saw Mr. Musick appointed the Chief Air Raid Warden for Decoto. He was put in charge of 21 sectors. In April 1942 Mr. Musick and Mr. Prouty (principal of the Irvington School) returned home after a 65-hour course in chemical warfare conducted under the auspices of the War Department at Stanford University. They were given training in aerial attack gas defense, incendiary defense plant protection, citizen defense corps and special subjects. Night demonstrations augmented classroom instruction.

Also in July 1942 the U.S. government organized the OPA (Office of Price Administration), a group of local citizens in each town who were tasked to visit stores and markets to check prices being charged to customers under the ration program in force. This was a program designed to eliminate the "Black Market" and gouging of citizens on rationed goods. Local Boy Scouts began to deliver copies of an OPA leaflet entitled, "What You Should Know about Price Control," to every home in Decoto. L.W. Musick was in charge of the program for Decoto.

Labor shortages were common in 1942 due to the number of men in the armed services. Mr. Musick spent his summer working in the Salz Warehouse at Decoto.

When the harvest season came in September 1942 students from the local high school and elementary schools were taking part, several schools having

postponed opening until October 5th. Lewis Musick at the Decoto School had 200 of his students in the fields. Most of the boys interviewed liked the setup.

Lewis Musick surveyed his school district in October 1942 and found 2,400 acres of tomatoes ready for picking. He sent 85 students of the seventh and eighth grades into the fields under teacher supervision.

"Sixth, seventh and eighth grades of the Decoto Grammar School will remain closed for three weeks in order to permit children to work in the fields," reported Lewis Musick. "Some of the classes of Washington Union High School at Centerville are closed," he concluded.

Principal Louis Musick left May 2, 1943, to enter the Navy Reserve with preliminary training at Columbia University, before undertaking active service in the Armed Forces. Musick was a graduate of Stanford University and high in the teaching profession and civic life of Washington Township, left his wife and three-year old daughter as residents of Decoto until he "comes marching home."

Eph Musick, Lewis Musick's father and former principal of the Newark School until his retirement a couple of years ago, was put back into service to act as principal of his son's school. Eph Musick had a long career in the teaching profession and he proved to be as capable as ever. The Decoto Trustees used good judgment in hiring Eph Musick.

Upon taking the reins Eph greeted three new teachers when classes begin on Monday, October 4, 1943. Eph was substituting for his son, Lt. Commander L.W. Musick, commanding officer at the Navy V-12 unit at Spokane.

Lt. Commander L.W. Musick, had been stationed on Okinawa since the early part of July 1945, arrived in San Francisco morning after an eventful voyage of 19 days across the Pacific. After leaving Okinawa, the Pierce steamed north to a point near the Aleutian Islands in order to take advantage of the shortest route because the ship was practically empty. The crossing of the 180th meridian gave all on board two Sundays in a week, and later a storm forced the Pierce to lose considerable time. Lt. Comdr. Musick is not fully decided as to what his future status will be, but he has applied for inactive service in the Naval Reserve and has been assigned to temporary service in San Francisco.

Lt. Comdr. Musick's service has been varied since his enlistment in the Naval Reserve in April 1943. After spending a short term at Columbia University in New York, he was ordered to Spokane where he organized Gonzaga University as a naval unit and then acted as its commanding officer for seven months. Later he was ordered to Fort Dearborn where he had charge of the navy training school until that station began to fold up. Later he was ordered to Norfolk briefly and then to Port Chicago where he had charge of a company of black servicemen.

His next move was Williamsburg, Virginia, where he was trained for the landing of troops and supplies on Okinawa before being sent across the Pacific with four companies of black servicemen in his command. At Okinawa he assisted in the building of a station that was finished just in time to be struck

by the typhoon that left much ruin in its path. He has little to say about the typhoon damage, and he has no desire to return to any of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. Musick returned to his position as principal of the Decoto School in December 1945. His father Eph Musick filled in nicely as principal while Lewis was distinguishing himself in the Navy as Lt. Commander.

When Mr. Musick returned to school he would face a whole set of new challenges that he did not have before he left for the service. At the end of 1946 it became apparent to Lewis that a 1st Grade class of 130 children would seriously cramp his classroom. So in November 1946 split sessions were implemented at the Decoto Grammar School. The second group of children would start school at noon. The school reached an all time high enrollment of 500, more 25% of those in the first grade.

To cope with the overcrowding, a \$72,000 bond issue to enlarge the present building of the Decoto Elementary School was approved by a vote of 74 to 10 on January 11, 1947. No increase in the tax rate would result of this citizens were informed by the school trustees.

The Decoto elementary School was the first in Washington Township to purchase a television set for the use of the student body in February 1949.

Finally on July 1949 the news was out! The official announcement of the new grammar school was to be erected on Whipple Road about seven blocks from the Hayward-Niles Highway. Decoto needed another school as the old plant on H Street was over crowded and by next year the enrollment should top the high schools' at Centerville.

The new school would include administration quarters, kindergarten, 13 classrooms and a 100 by 60 foot multiple purpose room equipped with a stage that would also serve as an auditorium and a cafeteria. Plans also included a community ball diamond and playground. It was also possible that this school could be used as a junior high sometime in the future according to Musick

Principal L.W. Musick of the Decoto Elementary School announced the record enrollment of 710 students in September 1949. This would be the last time they will have to enroll in the old school buildings said Mr. Musick, as he expected the new buildings to be ready before next fall. Twenty-one teachers, eight of them new, would assist Mr. Musick on the teaching staff.

Next came the name for the new school. In March 1950 everybody seemed to have a different idea for the name of the new elementary school at Decoto. Nothing had crystallized, but already Lewis Musick, principal at Decoto, sensed that some hectic discussions were in the offing between various groups who might want to honor various personages.

So Musick suggested that the new school be called the Henry Barnard School. Nobody could have much objection to naming the school after the first U.S. Commissioner of Education. Particularly since Barnard served at Washington D.C., back in 1870. Any controversial matters connected with him should be dead by now.

This controversy had barely been settled when a new challenge arose for Mr. Musick. The announcement of the building the Hillview Crest School just north of Whipple Road at Mission Boulevard proposed tract would add 606 homes from which the children would attend Decoto Schools. Mr. Musick stated at a meeting of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce in June 1950 that in view of the large number of new homes now planned for construction that the present school and the new Joseph Bernard School now being contracted may not be able to accommodate all the children. The new Barnard school building was scheduled to be ready for use at the beginning of school this fall, but already the Board of Trustees were discussing a third school with state authorities.

With more than 700 pupils enrolled in Decoto's two elementary schools, the Decoto School District sought state aid in October 1950 to construct another school. Mr. Musick said the district would seek a \$275,000 loan allocation for a nine-classroom unit. Reason for the new request is based on two new housing tracts planned in the Decoto area.

Prospects for a fourth school in the Decoto School District seemed likely because of a new housing tract to be constructed across Mission Boulevard from the Hillview Crest tract. Mr. Musick met with Harold Rowe in February 1952 of the State School House Planning Board to check over the school census figures. Mr. Rowe seemed positive that Decoto would get their fourth school in the El Rancho Verde Tract.

In April 1952 Mr. Lewis Musick sought a two-year leave of absence from the Decoto School Board of Trustees. Mr. Musick has been the Principal of the Decoto School for seventeen years. In October 1952 L.W. Musick became associated with the J.A. Walsh Real Estate Co. in Castro Valley. Mr. Musick will continue to maintain his home in Niles.

Allison Peacock:

See bio in Chapter 07 page 33

Miss Muriel Asher:

Miss Muriel Asher was a teacher in the Decoto School system in 1930. Nothing else could be found for her.

Miss Helen Bonnicksen:

Helen Bonnicksen was born in California in 1918. She attended San Jose State College and began teaching in Decoto in 1939. In 1930 she was living at home with her parents Andrew and Mary Bonnicksen in Contra Costa County. In 1940 she was single and she was lodging with Philip & Esther Moody on 3rd Street in Hayward. There is no information past the 1939 initial teaching position for Miss Bonnicksen in Decoto.

Miss Marian Pender:

I located a Miss Marian Pender, a schoolteacher living at home at home with her stepparents, and consider that this is a likely match for the Decoto School teacher of 1931. Miss Pender was born in 1908 in California, she had a brother David who was born in California in 1812. They were living with George and Mary Friend in San Jose. Marian graduated from San Jose State

College. In 1931 Marian taught an Art class in the Decoto School. I could find no record of how long Miss Pender taught at Decoto.

Miss Rita Fraser (Frazier):

Miss Rita Fraser was born in Australia in 1916 to John & Mary Fraser. John Fraser was born in Australia and Mary Fraser was born in Iowa. Rita graduated from San Francisco State Teacher's College and taught for two years before coming to Decoto in 1939. In 1941 she was still teaching at Decoto.

Miss Edna Desmond:

Miss Edna Donnelly Desmond of San Francisco State College was engaged to teach the fourth grade in the Decoto School system in November 1938. This is all of the information found for Miss Desmond.

Mrs. Jeanette Schaaf:

Mrs. Jeanette Schaaf was born in California in 1888. She was married to Daniel Schaaf who was born in California in 1881. In 1930 they were living in San Leandro where Mr. Schaaf worked as an electrical engineer for the county. The Schaaf's had a daughter Marian that was born in 1923. Jeanette became a teacher in the Decoto School in 1928. Janette retired from the Decoto School System in 1954, being the first person to earn that benefit. Mrs. Schaaf taught music and various grades at the school throughout her career.

Miss Ruth Upp:

Ruth Upp was born in California in 1904. She was the daughter of Mrs. Winifred Fisher of Kansas who was born in 1889. In 1930 Ruth was teaching in Weed, in 1935 she taught in Merced, and in August 1936 she joined the staff at the Decoto Grammar School. Ruth would take charge of the orchestra and choral work as well as teach third grade. Ruth formed a trio of Decoto teachers: Mrs. Marion Long (violinist), Miss Ruth Upp (pianist), and Miss Alice Mercer (cellist). They performed at many township functions.

Jack Prouty:

Jack Prouty was born in California in 1909. His wife Marion was born in California in 1908. In 1939 they had a son Craig. Prouty taught school in Crockett California before coming to the Decoto Grammar School in 1936. He was a graduate of the San Jose State Teachers College and taught the seventh grade at Decoto as well as being the athletic assistant. By 1940 he was teaching elementary school in Irvington, California.

Miss Alice Mercer:

Alice Mercer was a graduate of San Francisco State Teacher's College. She taught the pre primer class in 1936. Alice formed a trio at the Decoto School with Mrs. Marian Long (violinist) and Miss Ruth Upp (pianist). No more information was found.

Mrs. Marian Long:

Mrs. Marian Long was born in California in 1896. She was married to Charles Long who was born in California in 1897. Charles was the manager of a ranch in Eden Township (Hayward). Mrs. Long taught at Decoto Grammar School in 1937. Marian formed a trio at the Decoto Grammar School composed of Miss Ruth Upp (pianist) and Miss Alice Mercer (cellist). Mrs. Long played the violin. When they aren't appearing on entertainment programs as a first-class trio they taught music at the Decoto Grammar School. The year 1937 was only year found that Mrs. Long was teaching at Decoto.

Miss Blanche Louise Rochau (Henningsen):

Miss Blanche Rochau Henningsen was born in 1909 in Iowa. Her husband, Dr. Melvin Henningsen, was born in California in 1909. The couple lived Hayward where Dr. Henningsen was a Dentist. In January 1934 Miss Blanche Rochau announced her intention to marry Dr. Henningsen of Hayward. In 1938 they had a son Richard.

At this time Blanche was head of the music department at the Decoto Grammar School. In April 1935 Blanche took the Decoto Grammar School Glee Club (sixteen girls) to the Hayward High School Music Festival to perform. Blanche's forte was playing the violin. This is the last entry I could find for Blanche.

Henry May, Trustee:

See bio in Chapter 05 page 18

Herbert Harrold, Trustee:

See bio in this Chapter page 13

John C. Whipple, Trustee:

See bio in Chapter 07 page 34

SHOE MAKER:

Charles Brown:

Charles Brown was born in Missouri in 1892. His wife Amy was born in Kansas in 1897. In 1930 they had one son living with them Leonard C. Brown who was born in 1918 in Arkansas.

In 1920 the Brown's were living in Carroll, Arkansas, where Charles owned and operated a shoe repair shop. In 1930 the family was residing in Decoto where Charles was working as a laborer in a tile works. Their address in Decoto was 1006 "D" Street. Charles would then open a shoe repair shop, retail shoe store, and a harness shop in the town of Decoto.

In June 1936 Leonard Brown married Miss Karla Anderson of Hayward in Reno, Nevada. In 1938 Charles Brown became involved in the effort to bring a Sanitary District to the town of Decoto through his affiliation with the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. He joined with Joseph Caldeira, Frank J. Thomas and Antone Amaral in touring a sanitary plant in Dixon and then toured a sanitary plant in Galt California.

At noon on August 14, 1940 a fire broke out near the Pearce Cannery in Decoto. The fire destroyed a string buildings including the Decoto Branch Library (with all books), the Manuel Avilla Grocery and Market, and the

Charles Brown Shoe Store. All of the buildings were located on Railroad Avenue. The fire was said to have ignited in the basement of Avilla's Store.

By the beginning of 1941 Charles had rebuilt his shop and put in \$3,000 of new equipment.

In January 1941 Charles Brown, as Secretary of the Decoto Sanitary District reported that the plant had been processing 3,000 gallons a day going through the Decoto sewer system.

Besides being involved in the sewer district for the town of Decoto Charles was also on the Chamber Committee for the Boy Scout Troop of Decoto. In February 1941 the Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Southern Alameda County Boy Scout Committee, awarded a five-year pin to Charles Brown for his service with the Decoto Boy Scout Committee.

In February 1941 the Board of Directors of the Decoto Sanitary District included Charles Brown, George Smith, Bernie Joseph, Manuel White and William Hurst.

In April 1946 Charles Brown announced that he and his wife Amy would be leaving Decoto where he had been in business since 1930. The Brown's would move to Fair Oaks, California, where he would open a shoe shop. His business here would be taken over by Mr. & Mrs. Lester Watkins, Brown's sister and her husband.

* **FARMING** *

Attempted Unionizing of the Decoto Pea Fields:

The high ground above Decoto was lined with pea fields in the 1930's, and springtime was harvest time in those pea fields. Pea farmers required an army of pea-pickers to harvest the crop. The pickers would fill hampers with hand picked peas for which they were paid 15¢ a hamper. A hamper could be filled in roughly one hour. So this gives you an idea of the pay scale for the pickers.

Labor activists and agitators came to the pea fields in April 1933 and tried to cause a widespread strike of pea-pickers in Decoto and Valle Vista district of Eden and Washington Townships. Their actions threatened to escalate into violence in the fields.

Since April 7, 1933, when radical agitators were said to have called a strike of the pickers under a demand for higher wages, numerous attempts had been made to take all labor from the extensive pea fields of the two townships. Threats were made to tear out the vines from the ground on farms in the Valle Vista section. The situation became so serious that local and county officers went into the troubled area.

Threats against those who were still working in the fields were reported. A score of the strikers were brought before Justice of the Peace Allen G. Norris in Centerville on

April 10, 1933, and were admonished to go to work or otherwise they would be cut off the county welfare lists, Judge Norris said.

Mrs. Lula Boyd-Stephens, executive secretary of the Welfare Board of Southern Alameda County, said that county aid would be denied men refusing to work. The pea pickers were receiving 15 cents per hamper. The group's agitator's demanded 25 to 35 cents a hamper. Farmer's replied that they could not afford to pay such a price, since the price of peas in the market is low.

Meetings of farm workers at Valle Vista, Decoto and Warm Springs, were held at various times on April 11th, and were closely watched for signs of violence. The officers were prepared to invoke the authority of the trespass law against any strike agitators entering fields where pickers were at work to seek to enforce the Communist inspired strike order. Several hundred persons, mostly men of Porto Rican, Spanish and Mexican nationality, attended each meeting.

A meeting at Decoto was scheduled on April 11th, and according to plans voiced in the morning, to organize a column to assault pea-pickers returning home from work in the evening. It broke up shortly after 5 o'clock, without visible signs of coming to violence, however.

Most of the strikers are Porto Rican, Spanish and Mexicans. During a mass meeting of about 400 field workers at Decoto on the 11th, strenuous attempts were made to enlist Filipinos in the cause of the "united front" against the "capitalists." Only a few Filipinos were present, however. Plans were made to continue efforts to persuade pickers still at work to strike for higher wages.

Mrs. Lula Boyd-Stephens, Executive Secretary of the Welfare Board of Southern Alameda County, took a definite farm-owner position regarding welfare clients engaged in the strike of pea growers in the Valle Vista and Decoto neighborhoods. Those who will work in the pea fields and use their wages for their needs as far as the money will go will be assisted by county funds, she announced. Those who refuse the work offered them and take part in the strike will be removed from the welfare lists.

"We are willing to help those who help themselves," she said, "but county tax money is too difficult to raise to be spent on those who can work but will not when given an opportunity."

But the agitation continued and six alleged agitators were arrested on the morning of April 14, 1933 at the Joe Peixotto farm near Decoto by deputy sheriffs. The arrest followed a spectacular dash of the officer's auto through Hayward with sirens blaring in response to a call from the farm. The officers found the six men distributing radical literature among the men and women at work picking peas in the field on the Peixotto farm.

One of the men refused to leave the place on being warned that he was trespassing, and the officers arrested all six, taking them to Oakland and booking them at the county jail for investigation. The one man, whose name could not be learned, was to be charged with trespassing. The others were to be released, it was reported.

Alameda County sheriffs were called to the pea fields again on the morning of April 15, 1933, to assist farmers with a group of about 60 pea field strikers who were

attempting to picket farms in the Valle Vista and Decoto neighborhoods along Niles Road. Finding that the picketers, members of the strike organization, which has been attempting to halt the harvest of hillside peas throughout southern Alameda County for the past week, stopping trucks bearing pickers to work, Deputy Sheriff Grover C. Mull and Constable Vincent Strobel of Hayward warned the picketers to "move on." The sheriffs' office continued its declared a policy of guaranteeing pea farmers and pickers that their operations would not be molested. With about 20 deputies stationed throughout the strike district and 11 more stationed "on call," it was felt this guarantee could be enforced.

The picketers in this morning's disturbance were trying to prevent workers from entering the pea fields to work. They were warned that they could not obstruct the highways nor interfere with either's right to work, on pain of arrest. Many labor contractors called in the cards of all their workers, rehiring only those who have taken no prominent part in the strike activities. Agitators and those prominently radical were banned.

On April 16, 1933, trouble started when about 400 strikers, including a large delegation from Hayward, started across Niles Road from their gathering place at Kelly's Garage, Decoto. They were met by a dozen deputy sheriffs and state patrolmen, who routed the strikers by wielding clubs and throwing five tear gas bombs. Officer Arthur Larsen of the state patrol was seriously hurt. After Deputy Sheriff Hugo Radbruch had broken a club over a striker's head, another striker picked up the broken end and threw it at Larsen. The officer sustained a deep cut near the left eye. The man who threw the club was arrested and was brought to the county jail.

Things fell quiet for several days in the Decoto sector as a large patrol of deputy sheriffs were stationed at Decoto, presumably in expectation of trouble. Reports indicated that no gathering of strikers was being held and that the strikers were reported as "pretty well scattered." Belief that the strike is nearly over seemed general in most quarters. A "vigilante committee" was reported to have been formed by pea growers of the extreme south of the county, ready for concerted action against further efforts to delay the pea harvest or cause trouble among workers.

Meanwhile, in Santa Clara County, nine asserted Communists were arrested on April 18, 1933, and reports were made that others would be rounded up if trouble continued in that county.

Those backing the strikers used political pressure to try bring about passion for their side of the situation. On April 19, Hayward Chief of Police, Louis J. Silva was visited by Orrick Johns of San Francisco, secretary of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, and five other committeemen of that Communist organization. They desired full information of the battle between officers and strikers at Decoto Sunday and other details of the strike. They were somewhat disappointed to learn that there were few if any prisoners for them to befriend "in the name of liberty."

A Communist picnic, held April 22, 1933, near San Mateo, was the focal point of interest today as the Alameda County sheriff's office prepared to deal with possible weekend demonstrations in connection with the pea pickers' strike in southern Alameda County. The harvest was uninterrupted by disturbances of any kind today, but deputy sheriffs will patrol the harvest area in full strength tomorrow. Judge Jacob

Harder Jr., today had received two more protests against the "clubbing" and arrest of strikers during last Sunday's riot at Decoto. Addressed to "Judge Harder," they came from the International Labor Defense group at Fort Bragg and the Unemployed Council at Stockton.

The strikers resumed their activities on April 23, calling for a strike meeting to be held in Decoto. Although the meeting was held, attended by several hundred persons, it apparently was peaceable and no untoward incidents of violence were reported the following morning.

On the April 24, the strikers chose to pass leaflets to the pea harvesters in the flatlands between San Leandro and Warm Springs. But the situation remained quiet throughout the area as a large force of deputy sheriffs was stationed on guard.

Now we move forward to April 3, 1934 when a strike walkout of pea pickers from Castro Valley farms was prematurely planned by the Cannery & Agricultural Worker's Industrial Union for the morning of April 3, 1934. About 75 workers, mostly union members, walked out on the farms of Joseph Silveira and Mike Martin.

A large force of deputy sheriff's was called to the scene. When the pickers journeyed to Decoto in the afternoon with the avowed intention of spreading the strike among about 200 pickers on the farm of Richard C. Kennedy, officers followed them there.

The pickers said they intended to spread the strike to the farms of Richard Kennedy and Frank Peixotto. Despite a statement early in the morning that the strike call would not be issued before April 4th, it was learned that the manifestoes, which were printed in Spanish and Portuguese, had been circulated a day early.

Rioting broke out in southern Alameda and Santa Clara Counties on April 8, 1934, today as deputy sheriffs and police drove away cannery workers who sought to intimidate other workmen and force them to leave their jobs in canneries. Six men were arrested in a melee at the Pearce Cannery in Decoto when deputy sheriffs charged a group of "peaceful pickets" who were hurling threats at men on the job. Later agitators went to the Decoto Mexican quarter and held a meeting there while deputy sheriffs sat in automobiles nearby and watched for the first sign of trouble.

Two carloads of Communist agitators were arrested at Decoto when they attempted to cause a strike of workers at the Joseph Pearce Cannery there on the afternoon of July 1934. Deputy Sheriffs arrested five of the men, who were reported to have been armed with pick handles and various missiles.

On July 10, 1934, four alleged Communists were arrested in connection with attempts to terrorize employees of a Decoto fruit drying shed into striking in sympathy with the San Francisco Stevedores. They pleaded guilty to charges of disturbing the peace and were sentenced to 10 days in jail by Justice of the Peace Allen G. Norris.

On July 15, 1934, the canneries in Decoto and Centerville were operating on peaches and were employing armed guards to prevent the radicals from entering the plants or terrorizing the employees.

Rumors were held that a communist force, placed in some estimates as high as 3,000 men, was to gather in Hayward on July 17, 1934. The Protective Committee

forces stayed on watch all night in a momentary expectation of some such development. An attempted raid by 50 Communists on the Joseph Pearce Cannery at Decoto gave some color to the rumor.

It was believed similar Red groups were cruising about Decoto in automobiles looking for a chance to wreak destruction at industrial plants or public buildings. It was thought also that the Red's determination might have been spurred by the wrecking of their headquarters in Hayward by vigilantes yesterday. The Protective organization is working in full cooperation with city and country authorities it was stated.

Meanwhile a strike vote is being taken among the 4,000 pickers on the pea farms of Southern Alameda County. Early results of the strike vote among workers on the ranches indicated that 200 to 300 pickers on seven ranches had given a majority vote of nearly two-thirds in favor of striking. Final results of the vote are expected to be available by tomorrow night.

The union has voiced demands for 30¢ an hour or hampers in place of the 17¢ a hamper now being paid by farmers throughout Southern Alameda County. The workers plan to walk out late this week unless growers agree to "a reasonable adjustment" of the picker's demands, which will be presented before the strike takes effect.

On July 18, 1935 things became much more serious as National Guardsmen were called to protect our harbor facilities around the Bay. Minute men were deputized in the Merced area to combat "Reds." In Decoto two telephone poles were toppled across Decoto Road in an effort to keep farm products from leaving the area. The poles were quickly rolled aside.

In El Centro, Calif., action was taken quickly to prevent a recurrence of the bloody pitched battle today in the lettuce strike. Imperial Valley authorities asked Governor Merriam on February 18, 1935 to augment the State Highway Patrol forces here. In a bloody conflict, with guns between workers and strikers Sunday, two men were killed and four critically hurt at a packing shed.

The Pearce Canning Company had just installed four new pea thrashers in its plant in April 1935. The pea vines are cut in the field, much in the manner of hay, and hauled to the thrashers. When the vines have passed through the thrashers the peas are ready to can. Total capacity is said to be 50 acres a day, eliminating hand picking of peas. Buyers are covering the district to keep the machines running. Joseph Pearce, manager, says 70 persons are now employed in his plant for the pea crop.

* **DECOTO GRAMMAR SCHOOL** *

Decoto School Staff / Decoto School Events / Other Area Schools

DECOTO SCHOOL STAFF:

Principals:

Allison P. Peacock

L.W. Musick

Teachers:

Miss Marion Pender	Mrs. Jeanette Schaaf	Miss Hill
Mrs. Blanche Henningsen	Jack Prouty	Miss Ruth Upp
Miss Alice Mercer	Miss Edna Desmond	Miss Nadine Bernstein
Helen Bonnicksen	Rita Frazier	Mrs. Gertrude Trask
Viola George	Mrs. Cecil Dana	Miss Muriel Asher
Miss Dorothy Upp	Mrs. Marion Long	Miss Blanche L. Rochau

Trustees:

Henry May	Herbert Harrold	J.C. Whipple
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DECOTO SCHOOL EVENTS:

January 1930:

The Pupils of the Decoto Grammar School was stung by the journalistic bee and began publishing *The Decoto Bee* in January 1930. It was one of the most creditable papers produced by any school in this section of the county.

The school paper contains seven pages and has every department that is to be found in a modern daily. The paper brought out a number of artists in the school and it was well illustrated. Even some of the advertisements contain illustrations to make them more attractive. Vivian Luna was art director of the publication.

In the leading editorial Hortense Silva, the editor, states that the paper was being published by the eight grade as a language project, and other classes were invited to contribute to its columns. The policy of the paper, the editor states, was to boost the school and the community in general.

Unlike other school publications, the *Bee* contains enough advertisements to make it self-supporting, practically every business concern in the community being represented in its columns. It is published on a mimeograph with two columns to the page. The reading matter is carefully spaced so that the entire paper has a clean appearance. Other members of the staff are: Manuel Seaone, business manager; Helen Vegas, news editor; Joseph Silva, jokes; and Carlo Arroyo, circulation manager.

January 30, 1930:

The Decoto Grammar School honor roll for the winter semester was announced on January 30, 1931, by Principal Allison P. Peacock. Those mentioned were:

Second Grade:

Jean Rogers	Ricarda Hernandez	Kiyoko Moritomo
Tsunaye Futigaki.		

Third Grade:

Albert Silva	John Ferrante	Norman Luna
Keith Whipple	Joseph Andrade	

Fourth Grade:

Dolores Mello	Mayves Luna	Eleanor Pepitone
May Sekigahama	Bernice Naves	Angello Delgado

Frank Janeiro.

Fifth Grade:

Takiye Tsurumoto	Angelo Delgado	Dudley Silva
LeRoy 'Naia	Elvera Perry	

Seventh Grade:

Betty Jean Courtenay	Joe Chavez	Henry Allodia
Johanna Naves	Delores Bettencourt	George Fields
Emily Serbantes.		

Eighth Grade:

Fumiko Tomiamtsu	Frances Hermosa	August Lago
Isidore Naia	Glodena Bowers	

February 1930:

The eighth grade pupils of the Decoto Grammar School completed their latest project in February 1930 under the direction of Miss Marion Pender, the art teacher. The pupils made maps of sufficient size to permit inspection from any part of the classrooms. They do not have to leave their desks to consult the wall maps unless they want the name of some obscure tributary of an unimportant stream. They will not only show the location of cities, rivers, mountains, etc., but the principal products of each section.

The various continents were modeled in relief to show the proportionate height of the mountain ranges and plateaus. A.P. Peacock, the principal, was so well pleased with the work done by the pupils that he made the maps the principal part of the school's exhibit during education week.

February 1931:

In February 1931 the Decoto grammar School presented the play, "The Pastry Cook and the Pirate," under the direction of Mrs. Jeanette Schaaf with the assistance of every teacher in the school. The leading parts were taken by Milton Nevis, Leonard Brown, Sam Lena, Isaac Guerra and Helen Rose. There were chorus numbers of police, pirates, sailors and bakery girls. Between each of the three acts were specialty numbers.

April 7, 1932:

"Windmills of Holland," an operetta calling for elaborate settings and costumes of any production ever attempted by the pupils, was presented by the Decoto Grammar School Thursday night, April 7, 1932. Sketches from the operetta were presented to the student body of Washington Union High School under the direction of A.P. Peacock, the principal.

April 1935:

The Children of the Decoto Grammar School gave a play in April 1935 during Public Schools week, and also exhibited articles made by them during the past year to an interested throng of residents. The play was given at Washington Union High School. The Decoto School Glee Club, including sixteen girls directed by Mrs. Blanche Henningsen, entertained during the Music Festival at Hayward High School this month.

May 1935:

In May 1935, Allison P. Peacock, Principal of the Decoto Grammar School announced his resignation of the local school effective July 1st. Mr. Peacock served as principal of the school for the last nine years. He has accepted a position with a school supply house. The Board of Trustees has not yet named his successor.

June 13, 1935:

Twenty-six eighth-grade pupils of the Decoto Grammar School graduated on exercises at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 13, 1935.

Peter Corchero will made the class president's address and Dolores Mello presented the class gift to the school.

The graduates were:

Christine Almodova	Carmen Contreras	Gabriel Contreras
Peter Corchero	Salvadore Cortez	Tony Cortez
Frank Garcia	Joe Escadona	Mary Hernandez
Joe Janeiro	Joseph Kelly	Jessie Leyva
Lester Maderos	Dolores Mello	Philip Monte
Olivia Navas	Bernice Neves	Edward Neves
Frank Paniagua	Mary Pimentel	Marie Pepitone
Josephine Ramos	Mary Ramos	Mary Serbantes
Virginia Vegas	Eldena Vierra	

January 1936:

Plans for institution of junior traffic reserve troops at the Niles and Decoto Grammar Schools were announced by Capt. L.A. Eike, head of the Alameda County squad of the State Highway Patrol in January 1936. The plans were made at the request of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Niles and Decoto. Officer George J. Barron of the patrol will be assigned to supervision of the new units.

February 24, 1936:

The annual student publication of the Decoto Grammar School was issued on February 24, 1936, and for the first time will include colored plates executed by members of the staff. "The Decoto Bee" is the title of the brochure, which will include 15 pages in addition to the colored plates.

John Ferrante was named editor-in-chief, and Keith Whipple, associate editor. News editors were Mary Paniagua, Mary Annis Harrold, Leonard Contreras, Joseph Andrade and Josephine Seoane. Henry Dutra is the business manager and Cesario Delgado, assistant business manager.

Other members of the staff were: Gloria Arribas and Anna Brazil, girl's sports; Tony Torquemada, Jokes; Joseph Hernandez, art; Norman Luna and Albert Silva, circulation managers; Richard Devalle, exchanges. The printing will be done by members of the eighth grade.

September 14, 1936:

School opened on September 14, 1936, Principal Lewis W. Musick in charge. Extensive improvements were made in the building and on the playground during the vacation months, including refurbishing of floors, installation of new plumbing, drinking fountains and a water line to the athletic field, construction of a concrete incinerator and new benches for the playground.

November 1936:

Selection of uniforms for the band members of the Decoto Grammar School was made in November 1936 at a recent meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored the purchase of the uniforms. Red capes and caps were chosen.

April 7, 1937:

A seventeen-act circus with concessions and a dance was given at the Decoto Grammar School on Thursday night, April 7, 1937, for the benefit of the school orchestra and other school expenses. Principal W.L. Musick, who wrote the continuity for the program, announced the following acts: Coronation of Mary Sumaquero as queen, attended by Dorothy Duarte, Dorothy Bettencourt, Mary Cortez, Isabel Ariza and Mary Lopez; "Next Tuesday," a skit; the strong man, the jockeys, the knife act, the rope act, numbers by the orchestra, drill dances, a skater's waltz, pony drill, mule dance and performances by the weirdest menagerie ever constructed from paper cambric and broomsticks.

Bobby Silva acted as ringmaster and George Smith as Bobo the jester. Santos Alvarez played the part of Chief Decoto, and Adolphus Rose that of the strong man. Jockeys for homemade steeds were Bobby Cortez, Donald Martinez, Donald Andrade, Frank Delgado, Alexander Garcia and Jerry Avilla.

Taking part in the skater's waltz were Julia Loma, Donna Dee Pricer, Grace Bettencourt, Nadine King, Ruth Neves, and Toshiko Katsumoto. In the pony drill there were Jewell King, Jean Rogers, Ricardo Hernandez, Jessie Lopez and Alice Navas. The mule dance, Theodore Ortiz and Ralph Boliba; elephant, David Barrios and Vincent Santiago. Grace Bettencourt was Wimpy. The horse in reality was Tony Lopez and Vernon Vargas; the camel, Richard Silva and Floyd Hollis; and the ostrich, Colleen Carpenter. Nineteen children inhabited the serpent's skin.

Approximately 500 persons attended. Concessions sold candy, popcorn, peanuts and lemonade. For the dance following the circus, music was be furnished by an 18-piece haywire orchestra from Berkeley.

June 1937

Annual presentation of athletic and monitorial awards, winners in the Latham Foundation contest, special awards to the Junior Traffic Patrol reserves and scholarship students were made at an assembly at the Decoto Grammar School in June 1937. Principal L.W. Musick had charge and Highway Patrolman George Barron made the awards to the traffic reserves.

Those winning scholarships awards were, Jean Rogers, Santos Alvarez, Donna Dee Pricer, Toshiko Matsumoto, Frank Serbantes, Gertrude Machado, George Milina, Mary Virgil, Cyrus Caldeira and Elisa Miramontes. More than 100 awards in all were presented.

April 7, 1938:

The girls of the Decoto Grammar School staged an amateur hour on Thursday, April 7, 1938. The program contained the following numbers:

The Swing Sisters:

Nadine King
Mildred Milina

Frances Berganciano
Colleen Carpenter

Marie Bernardo
Jewell King

Tumblers:

Joe Caldeira
Frank Telles

Henry Caravallo
Santos Alvarez

Louis Pagan

Saxophone and Accordion Duet:

Vernon Vargas

Tony Lopez

Saxophone Quartet:

George Smith
Jewell King

Vernon Vargas

Joseph Perry

Guitar Solo:

Vincent Santiago

Piano Solo:

Jewell King

Comedy Stunt:

Tony Lopez

Jazz Band:

Tony Lopez
George Smith
Gonzalo Sumaquero

Jewell King
Vernon Vargas

Joseph Perry
Santos Alvarez

Vocal Quartet:

Tino Delgado
Vincent Santiago

Richard Silva

Tony Lopez

Harmonica Duet:

John King

Frank Brazil

Emcee:

George Smith

May 1938:

Entries for the first Southern Alameda County Junior Pentathlon scheduled for Saturday on the Hayward High School field, was announced in May 1938 by the committee in charge:

From the Alviso District:

(Squad II): Louis Lagorio, Albert Belschab and John Machado.

From the Decoto District:

(Squad III) Joseph Caldeira, Joseph Perry

(Squad IV) Frank Telles

(Squad VI) Vernon Vargas

(Squad VII) Santos Alvarez

(Squad VIII) Tony Lopez.

May 1939:

A thousand feet of motion picture film, depicting activities of the Decoto Grammar School was shown by Principal L.W. Musick at Dr. John Almack's class at Stanford University last Tuesday night, May 16, 1939. Students in the class studying general administration of schools have expressed interest in the pictures, which have been made from time to time at the Decoto School. They were shown also at the school's graduating program on June 14th.

June 1939:

Two hundred of the 385 pupils enrolled in the Decoto Grammar School received awards of merit at ceremonies to be held on June 7, 1939, under the direction of Principal L.W. Musick. Awards represent achievements in reading, the Latham Foundation contests, athletics, Junior Traffic Patrol, participation in orchestra and glee club and interschool and interclass contests. Motion pictures of school activities were also shown. Parents were invited to be present.

Showing the largest gain in enrollment of any of the township grammar schools, the Decoto Grammar School signed up 335 students in September 1939, with 75 in the beginner's class. The enrollment was expected to reach 450 by Christmas, a record-breaking number, according to Principal L.W. Musick. If the number of pupils reaches the expected number an additional teacher will be employed, Musick says. Miss Nadine Bernstein, formerly a teacher at Patterson, is acting as a temporary additional teacher at present.

OTHER AREA SCHOOLS:

The board of trustees of Washington Union High School met to reorganize in May 1930. M.J. Overacker of Mission San Jose was elected chairman of the board and John Whipple of Decoto secretary. Workmen are busily engaged in pouring concrete for the foundation of the new gymnasium.

Every graduating class of Washington Union High School since the school was organized in 1891 are to be represented at the annual banquet of the alumni Association to be held in the new gymnasium building Wednesday night, May 16, 1934. The affair was held in honor of the class of 1894. There were eight members in that class. One member is deceased and the present address of another is unknown, but the other members were, Ezra Decoto Jr., Mrs. James R. Whipple, Dr. Charles Jarvis, Clarence Martenstein and Manuel Quadros.

H. F. Harrold of Decoto and H. L. Scott of Niles were reelected members of the board of trustees of the Washington Union High School district in March 1935.

Eph L. Musick, one of Washington Township's veteran school principals, has resigned his position at the Newark Grammar School in June 1937. His successor has not been engaged. Mr. Musick gives as his reason for retiring, his belief that young men should hold school positions. His son, Louis W. Musick, is principal of the Decoto Grammar School.

*** SOCIAL, CIVIC, & RELIGIOUS ORGS ***

Boy Scouts / Bridge Club / Catholic Church / Camp Fire Girls / Chamber of Commerce / Chamber of Commerce - Jr. / Christmas Seals / Congregational Church / Country Club of Washington Township / Decoto Booster Club / Decoto Mother's Club / El Mexico Allegre / Farm Bureau / Fire Department / Funeraria Insurance Lodge of Decoto / Ladies Aid Society / Library / Mosquito Abatement District / Puerto Rican Club of Decoto / Post Office / Red Cross / Road Department / Sanitary District / Telephone Service / Union Workers - Cannery / United Youth of Decoto / Voting / Washington Township Men's Club / Water

Boy Scouts:

The Decoto Boy Scouts entered the 1930's with Peter Decoto still at the helm as Scoutmaster. Peter would continue to hold this office throughout the 1930's leading the boys of Decoto into the wonderful world of Scouting.

The Boy Scouts were sponsored by the Decoto Chamber of Commerce with help from the volunteer fire department. The boys were well versed in the knowledge of first aid and even held classes at the firehouse to teach valuable methods of caring for injured persons to the volunteer firemen. The demonstration of the first aid techniques was under the direction of Roland Bendel, Fire Chief and Peter Decoto, Scoutmaster.

In March 1937 one of the largest and most enthusiastic Courts of Honor for Boy Scouts of Washington Township was held at the Decoto Grammar School. Peter Decoto, Scoutmaster, was lauded for his service during many years as sponsor of the scout work here and was credited by Judge Allen G. Norris, presiding officer, with being responsible for the continuance of scout work in Decoto. Decoto was presented with a veteran scout award designating his 10-year service record. Other veteran awards were given to Frank Ferry, 10 years; and Richard Silva, five years; and W.H. Hurst, 10 years.

Unfortunately the names of the members of the troop were seldom mentioned except when they received merit badges or joined later in the decade. In October 1930 Herbert Harrold won a merit badge for electricity and Walter Beveridge received his second-class badge. In September 1931 Milton Castro joined the Decoto Boy Scouts. In May 1932 Joe Silva received a first class badge.

In June 1939 the Decoto Troop of Boy Scouts had new leadership members in H.C. Searles and Kenneth F. McGrew.

Bridge Club:

The Bridge Club of Decoto results were published until October 1934, there being no reports after that time. Persons mentioned as participants were:

Mrs. Frank Leonard	Mrs. Kenneth Fry	Miss Deborah Webb
Mrs. Louis Zwissig	Mrs. Alfred Frager	Mrs. A.E. Fisher Jr.
Mrs. George Pendergast	Mrs. Edmund Graff	Mrs. H.R. Hudson
Mrs. W. Lockwood		

Catholic Church:

Members of the Holy Rosary and Corpus Christi parishes of Decoto and Niles sponsored a joint St. Patrick's Day dance that was given in the Garden of Allah Saturday night, March 15, 1930. It is to be a benefit ball and the parishes will divide the proceeds after the expenses have been paid.

A large group of children were entertained at the Christmas party at the Holy Rosary Church held in Decoto in December 1935. The affair was planned by the Sisters of the Holy Names of San Jose. Gifts and candy were distributed to the children after a program of carols and other numbers.

Holy Ghost: Discussion of plans for Decoto's first Holy Ghost Fiesta was among the matters of important business at a meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce at the fire hall in March 1938, stated J.P. Caldeira.

A special schedule of masses at the Corpus Christi Church at Niles and the Holy Rosary Church at Decoto was been announced by Father Francis McCarthy in July 1937. The early mass will be said at 7:30 a.m. and the second at 9 a.m., these hours to alternate between the local churches as the one at Decoto. Next Sunday the early mass will be at Niles. This schedule will continue through July and August.

The Corpus Christi Church at Niles and the Holy Rosary Church at Decoto will give a whist party at the I.O.O.F. Hall on Friday night, September 10, 1937. The second annual fair and bazaar of the parish will be held on October 29 and 30, 1937.

A St. Patrick's whist party for the benefit of the Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Niles was held at the rectory at Niles on March 21, 1939. The public was invited. The committee in charge included Mrs. D. King, Mrs. M. Janeiro, Miss Celia Janeiro and Miss Mary Janeiro of Decoto.

Camp Fire Girls:

Twenty matrons of Niles, Decoto and Centerville formed a Camp Fire Mother's Club at a meeting held on May 11, 1933, at the home of Mrs. J.E. Townsend, guardian of the local Camp Fire Girls. Mrs. Roland Bendel was elected chairman of the group.

Chamber of Commerce:

All officers of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce were re-elected at the July meeting of the commercial body this week. They were:

President:	Peter Decoto
Vice President:	William Hurst
Treasurer:	J. L. Olson
Secretary:	Roland Bendel

The officers have served the organization for a number of years and have taken important parts in the civic activities of Washington Township.

A 60-foot redwood growing in the yard of John Mello was adopted by the Decoto Chamber of Commerce as the town's official living 1930 Christmas tree. The commercial body had funds for decorating and illuminating it.

Many county officials and civic leaders of the township attended the annual abalone feast of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce in May 1933, which was given on the grounds of the local firehouse. Peter Decoto, veteran president of the civic group presided. The affair is given every year to create a better spirit of cooperation.

Better street lighting for Decoto and improvement of the Bell Ranch Bridge were the twin projects for 1935, which the newly organized Decoto Chamber of Commerce has set its hand to the plow. The Bell Ranch Bridge Road, which leads west to the Dumbarton Bridge, is in a dangerous condition, they declared. It is narrow, set at an angle to the road, and dangerous for traffic, especially school buses and heavy trucks, Thomas asserted.

The new officers for 1935 were:

President:	Frank J. Thomas		
Vice President:	Ray Soares		
Trustees:	Melvin Pepitone	Vernon Carey	Joe Caldeira
	Joe Pepitone	Al Cloudine	Al Ferreira

William Amaral	Al Chamorro	Melvin Pepitone
Felix Pinza	Wilbert Goularte	

The Chamber members are:

Felix Pinza	Charles Janeiro	A.L. Costa	Joe Caldeira
Leroy Cloudine	Manuel Silva	Melvin Pepitone	Joe Pepitone
William Brown	Lawrence Cambra	Ray Soares	Frank J. Thomas
Britley Harris	Joe Brazil	Al Cloudine	R.A. Stewart
Wilbert Goularte	Vernon Carey	H. Sumaquero	Tony Monte
Valentine Delgado	William Amaral	Alfred Ferreira	Charles Nunes
Antone Brown	Al Chamorro	Manuel Sanchez	Jack Muniz
Joe Vargas	Manuel Andrade	Claraine Freitas	Charles Nunes
Alfred Brown.			

The Decoto Chamber of Commerce has filed a complaint with the State Railroad Commission in April 1935 against the Peerless Stage Company charging discrimination in its rates. The complaint alleges that this alleged discrimination benefits Hayward as compared with Decoto and neighboring communities. The railroad commission is asked to make a study of the fare structure of the stage company and to order an adjustment of inequalities where found.

An abalone dinner was given by the senior Chamber of Commerce June 4, 1935 at the fire hall, celebrating the completion of the new kitchen unit. Forty persons were present, including several prominent guests. Ezra Decoto, former district attorney spoke of his boyhood days in Decoto recalling events and pranks of several present members of the chamber. He stressed the point that farmers of those days, especially those who raised watermelons, were liberal to youth, bringing into the picture Supervisor Ralph Richmond, Harry Searles, Henry May, Peter Decoto and Judge Joseph A. Silva of Niles. Other guests present were Roadmaster Joe Gomes, John Clark of the Mosquito Abatement District, Jack Williamson of Niles, Supervisor George A Janssen, Burnett Hamilton, County Surveyor, and Frank J. Thomas, President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Hamilton told the group that Supervisor Richmond and he could say that a new Bell Ranch Bridge is assured and work will start this fall. Peter Decoto, President, spoke of Boy Scout work. Among other speakers were Judge Silva, Joe Gomes, John Clark, William Hurst, Walter Walker, Pat Donnelly, Fire Chief Roland Bendel, Frank J. Thomas and Supervisor Ralph Richmond. Supplying the abalones for the dinner were Peter Decoto and the Boy Scouts, Walter Walker, William Hurst and George Smith.

Chamber of Commerce (Junior):

The Junior Chamber of Commerce is first mentioned in March 1935 when it was announced it would hold its election of officers at the Oak Tavern. The temporary chairman of the organization was Frank J. Thomas.

In April 1935 the JC's have chosen to push to the building of a new bridge over the Alameda Creek at Decoto Road. Known as the Bell Ranch Bridge, the present bridge was not erected with fast automobile traffic in mind. The bridge was in a dangerous position and is not in a straight alignment with the highway. This is especially dangerous with today's speedy automobiles and is especially dangerous for large vehicles like school buses. A communication was read from Burnett Hamilton, County Surveyor, in regards to the Bell Ranch Bridge. The letter stated that his department

is authorized to prepare deeds for the acquisition of property and to make plans for a new bridge to take the place of the old one. Construction will be done during the next fiscal year.

Two other projects the JC's looked into was the abolition of the 5¢ toll charge for telephone calls within Washington Township, and a "clean-up, pick-up and paint-up" campaign to beautify Decoto.

The "clean-up, Paint-up, Fix-up" campaign of May 1935 by the Decoto Junior Chamber of Commerce was a definite success of the civic enterprise. Two trucks lent by Charles Janeiro and Ray Soares, besides a county truck with driver provided by Joseph Gomez, Roadmaster for Decoto, were kept busy, hauling away cans, rubbish and other material placed in available spots by residents. Eight hundred gallons of whitewash, for use on fences and walls, was donated by the Junior Chamber, and a large supply was still on hand for distribution while it lasts.

Meanwhile, the group's plans for a five-day carnival, with part of the proceeds to Boy Scout units of Washington Township were going forward.

A Chamber committee asked trustees of Washington Union High Scholl to re-route school buses away from the old Bell Ranch Bridge, declared it to be in a dangerous condition. County officials have informed the Chamber that money for a new bridge there will be provided in the fiscal budget

J.J. Amaral, President of the Alameda County Junior Chamber of Commerce installed the officers of the Decoto Junior Chamber of Commerce at Sycamore Hall during a dinner meeting. A large delegation of various Junior Chambers of the county was present. Those installed were:

President:	Frank J. Thomas
Vice President:	Ray Soares
Sec-Treasurer:	Charles Janeiro

Trustees:	Joe Caldeira	Felix Pinza	Joe Pepitone
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Clarence Freitas was chairman of arrangements, assisted by William Amaral, Lee Cloudeane, Vernon Carey and Al Chamorro. An orchestra furnished music for the diners.

A public meeting was held June 10, 1935, at which Harold F. Gray, engineer of the Mosquito Abatement District explained plans developed for the proposed Decoto sewer system, as a result of a recent SERA survey.

Another topic of discussion was to plan a meeting of all civic organizations and fire departments of Washington Township, to be held at the Decoto fire hall. Discussion of the move sponsored by the Decoto Junior Chamber of Commerce to eliminate township inter-town tolls of the Pacific Telephone Company. Frank J. Thomas, President of the Chamber, and Secretary Charles Janeiro have communicated with virtually every civic group in the township, asking them to send delegates to Friday's meeting. It was planned later to seek a meeting with telephone officials to discuss the tolls. It has been suggested that an attorney may be engaged to bring the matter before the State Railroad Commission. Also, Decoto is interested in obtaining

full-time telephone service, instead of the hours from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. now in effect.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce met on June 11, 1935, to discuss the installation of three Decoto highway signs: One on Decoto Road at the Creek Road, one at Decoto Road at the Centerville highway, and another at Tennyson Road.

Advertisements by businessmen are expected to pay for the signs.

Activities of the Junior Chamber of Commerce in November 1935 centered about the plans for the dance to be given Saturday evening, November 9, at the Garden of Allah on the Niles highway. Funds from this affair will be divided between the local Catholic Church to assist in paying for recent improvements and to the fund to provide a library building for Decoto. Frank Thomas, President, appointed the following committee to arrange for the dance: Joe Caldeira, general chairman; Philip Hernandez, Clarence Frates, Ray Soares, William Amaral and M. Monte. Music will be furnished by a six-piece orchestra.

Election of officers for the Decoto Junior Chamber of Commerce was held September 3, 1936, during the Chamber's regular meeting at the Decoto Firehouse. Those elected were:

Past President:	Frank J. Thomas		
President:	Joe Caldeira		
Sec-Treasurer:	Frank J. Thomas		
Trustees:	Bill Amaral	Tony Costa	Ray Soares

Two new members were accepted, Mike Marks and Riley Harris. Mr. Harris gave a short talk on the mining industry of Grass Valley. Joe Cunha was assisted by Bert Martin and Clarence Freitas in serving a Dutch lunch at the close of the meeting.

Fifty persons attended the Christmas party given by the Decoto Junior Chamber of Commerce in December 1936 for the Junior Traffic Patrol at the fire hall. A program of dancing and music was given by the school children under the direction of Principal L.W. Musick. President J.P. Caldeira stated that the chamber would give a whist party the latter part of January.

Christmas Seals:

Mrs. A.A. Amaral is to head the Decoto committee for the 1932 Christmas Seal drive of the Alameda County Tuberculosis and Health.

Mrs. A.A. Amaral again headed the Christmas Seal drive in 1936 for the town of Decoto.

Congregational Church:

Sunday evening services were being held at the Community Church in January 1931, with the Rev. J. Bostick of San Leandro in charge. Once each month a Spanish service is held, with the Rev. Lucio of San Francisco officiating.

The Decoto Community Christian Endeavor Society had a social time prior to their meeting on April 21, 1935.

Country Club of Washington Township:

January 1937:

Mrs. Marion Long (violinist), Miss Dorothy Upp (pianist), and Miss Alice Mercer (cellist), will furnish the music for the next meeting of the Washington Township Country Club in January 1937. All three of the ensemble are teachers at Decoto Grammar School.

Decoto Boosters Club:

Nominations for the newly organized Decoto Boosters Club were completed at a meeting held in December 1939. Three candidates were in the race for president. The matter of incorporation was carried over to the next meeting. Nominations were as follows:

President:	Walter Monese	Bert Martin	Manuel Seoane
Vice Pres.:	Walter Walker	Ralph Leyva	
Treasurer:	Marion Delgado		
Secretary:	Bernie Joseph		

Elections took place take place in January 1940.

Decoto Mother's Club:

In an effort to raise funds to provide relief for the unemployed in Decoto, the Mother's Club conducted a sale of household articles during the month of October 1931. Mrs. Peter Swanson was one of the leaders of the movement.

El Club Mexico Allegre:

May 1936:

El Club Mexico Allegre held its third annual dance at the S.D.E.S. Hall in Alvarado in May 1936. Serpentine, confetti and refreshments added to the melodies of the Pinto Brothers Orchestra drew young persons from all points.

Organizing early in April for social functions, the 20 young people from Alvarado and Decoto elected the following:

President:	Miss Trinidad Garcia, Decoto
Vice Pres.:	Mike Montellano, Decoto
Secretary:	Manuel Garcia, Decoto
Treasurer:	Miss Carmen Lambaren, Alvarado (who would later become Mrs. Carmen Luevano)

Farm Bureau:

R.C. Kennedy, president of the Alameda County Farm Bureau, and a successful farmer of the Decoto region, announced he would be "among those present" at the annual banquet of the Castro Valley-Bayview Farm centers on the night of October 14, 1930 at the Castro Valley schoolhouse.

The county committee of the Farm Home Department of the Alameda County Farm Bureau office decided on dates for the observance of "Better Homes" week. Individual meetings would be held at farm homes throughout Alameda County. On March 29, 1935, they met at the home of Mrs. George Enos, of the Creek Road, Decoto.

Fire Department:

Going into the 1930's the Decoto Fire Department had already been established. The Fire Chief, Roland Bendel, was molding this volunteer fire fighting force into a department that was to become known for its prowess and its efficiency. Besides capable men the department also needed equipment, and in August 1931 they began to add to their fighting capabilities. With the delivery of their new fire truck, the Decoto Fire Department now had a thoroughly up-to-date piece of fire fighting equipment. A 350-gallon Barton centrifugal pump mounted on the front end, capable of discharging two two-and-a-half inch hose lines from a hydrant connection into two small lines from a 225-gallon booster tank. The truck also carried 800 feet of one and one-half inch hose.

The efficiency of the fire department during the year 1931 resulted in a general reduction of 5 percent in fire insurance rates and a reduction of 10 per cent on property within 750 feet of fire hydrants in 1932. Thus the modernization of the fire fighting force in Decoto over the past year was gaining recognition.

Continual training of the volunteer fire fighting force was necessary to keep the department up to date in the methods of fighting various types of blazes. Chief Bendel would regularly have guest speakers at the volunteer firemen meetings with the likes of Sam Short, former Chief of the Oakland Fire Department and Al Moyr, Chief of the Castro Valley Fire Department. Training included how to fight grass fires, which were common in the foothills above Decoto. With the large industrial base now growing in Decoto it was also necessary for them to become familiar with oil and gas fires, and to fight fires in heavy smoke. And much time was also devoted to residential fires, especially in rescue and rendering first aid on the spot.

In 1938 Decoto updated its fire fighting equipment with a new 400-gallon pumper fire engine on the first of July.

Local Fires:

A house in Tennyson burst into flames in November 1932, while the Decoto Fire Department and volunteer firefighters were battling a blaze, which destroyed a large chicken house on the farm of Charles Tinker following an explosion. The firefighters succeeded in saving buildings adjacent to the chicken house, including the Tinker home and the home of Frank Mello. In the house, which burned, a woman with her baby were in bed and escaped barely in time to save their lives. Nearby buildings also were saved by the Decoto firemen and local volunteers.

Fire of disputed origin in March 1935 inflicted about \$5,000 damage to the plant of the M&S Tile Company on Niles Road in Decoto. The work of the Decoto Fire Department averted possible loss of the entire plant, with a value estimated at more than \$20,000, and several nearby homes. The blaze was discovered in the plant office about 11 o'clock. It spread to machinery and equipment in the mixing room and the blacksmith shop, destroying them. Records in the office were also destroyed. The place was owned by George Smith, Joseph Bettencourt and Mrs. Joseph Rose. The fire department was aided by neighbors in confining the blaze to a limited area.

Damage estimated at approximately \$10,000 resulting from fire of an undetermined origin, which swept through the Ramos block on September 19, 1935. A garage, a sedan, three barns, a barbershop, pool hall were burned, and it damaged a grocery and a general merchandise store. Efforts of the Decoto, Niles, Centerville and Newark fire department saved the Ramos cottage next to the garage, main

storeroom, two adjoining apartments and a number of frame residences surrounding. Chris Guerra, assistant fire chief of the Decoto Fire Department suffered lacerations of the right hand. The property was owned by Mrs. Mary Ramos, and was operated by herself, her son-in-law, Joe Bolivia, and three daughters. The loss was partially covered by insurance. The blaze was discovered by Joe Morales and burned for about two and a half hours. The Ramos property is just a block from the M&S Tile plant, which suffered a \$5,000 loss by fire several months ago. The apartments adjoining the store were occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Velasquez and family, and Mr. and Mrs. John Toro and family. Household goods and a portion of the merchandise in the store were removed by neighbors and firemen.

Another fire reportedly of incendiary origin occurred just two days after the Ramos fire, and imperiled an entire family at 4:30 a.m. While Mr. and Mrs. A. Bolivia and their family were asleep in their home at 7th and "F" Streets, the fire broke out in the basement. Simultaneously, another blaze started in the garage burning one car.

Said by deputy sheriffs to have been acting in a suspicious manner in the vicinity of the Bolivia home after the fire was extinguished, Tony Freitas, 25, a laborer, residing near here, was arrested and taken to the Hayward City Prison. He was booked for investigation, but was not questioned immediately.

Fire Chief Roland Bendel of Decoto who made an investigation of the premises following the fire discovered oil soaked rags in the basement of the Bolivia home. Similar evidence was found in the garage. Damage to the house was negligible. Bolivia, aroused by smoke, turned in the alarm.

The Bolivia's are related to the late Tony Ramos whose property was burned in a \$10,000 blaze two days ago. Fire Department officials and police indicated a "grudge arson" plot might be the cause of the blazes.

Henry Andrade, of the Andrade Brothers Ranch in May Canyon, escaped with minor injuries from a fire in November 1936, which destroyed a barn, three prize Percheron horses, 100 tons of baled hay and harness. The loss was estimated at \$3,500. Incendiary origin of the fire was suspected. The blaze was the fifth of a similar nature in recent months, ascribed to a firebug.

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

Loss in a fire, which destroyed the assembly warehouse of the Joseph P. Pearce cannery occurred in January 1937, and was estimated to have caused \$75,000 to \$80,000 in damage.

The blaze, of undetermined origin, broke out about 3:30 o'clock, and by 6 p.m., when it was controlled, had destroyed the warehouse and its contents, a large quantity of canned tomatoes, spinach, fruit and vegetables, labeled and ready for shipment.

The Decoto Fire Department was aided by firemen from Hayward, Centerville and Niles. They saved the main warehouse and its contents, having a value estimated by Mr. Pearce at \$100,000.

Mr. Pearce said the loss was covered by insurance. He and his office assistants were busy today checking up losses and records and attempting to determine the cause of the fire.

An August 1939 fire destroyed a two-story house-garage on the Ranch of Joseph Simas on the Hayward-Niles Road in Valle Vista, added a point to recent discussions of bringing a water supply into the large area between Hayward and Decoto. This area is without a large supply of water such as is considered essential to adequate fire protection.

During the early morning hours of Saturday, November 25, 1939, the Decoto Fire Department fought a stubborn blaze at the plant of the Pacific States Steel Corporation at Decoto. A large stack of steel shavings, saturated with oil, gave a spectacular fire. Following the fire, Chief Bendel had a conference with Mrs. Williams, plant superintendent, relative to improving fire-fighting facilities.

In December 1939 two additional fire hydrants were installed at Decoto, one at Sixth Street and the other at 8th & E Sts. As water mains are extended, more hydrants will be installed, according to R. Bendel, Chief of the Decoto Fire Department.

Funeraria Insurance Lodge of Decoto:

Joseph Priego, treasurer of Funeraria Insurance Lodge of Decoto, announced that the next meeting of the lodge will be the last Sunday of October 1939. They have about 1,000 members in this growing lodge. The insurance benefits are for funerals for members. There is also a fine social side to the lodge. They will hold a big meeting to announce a lower price of insurance to the members, which will mean more money to the members when they pass away. The big increase in members has made this low rate possible.

Ladies Aid Society:

A joint meeting of the Ladies Aid Societies of the Decoto, Ashland and Mt. Eden churches was held at the Ashland church in October 1937. The session began in the morning, with lunch served at noon. The group studied missionary work and a joint program was provided.

Mt. Eden Ladies Aid Society members met at a joint meeting of the Ashland and Decoto Ladies Aid at the Decoto church in April 1937. The ladies enjoyed a potluck lunch.

Library:

Mrs. Walter Walker was appointed librarian for the Decoto Branch of the Alameda County Public Library in July 1936. Plans were made to establish a new headquarters as soon as a suitable location can be found. The library at present is located in a local store, and larger quarters are desired. Mrs. Walker succeeded Mrs. Joseph Nunes, who recently resigned her position. Mrs. Nunes has filled this position for many years and has made many friends among adult and juvenile readers in the community.

History of the Decoto Library:

The first mention of a public library in the town of Decoto was in April 1908 when the Decoto Library Association was organized. The State Library at Sacramento supplied books, fifty volumes being distributed at a time. The books were kept at the schoolhouse and could be drawn by the public on Monday, Wednesday or Friday of each week from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

On October 1, 1910 residents in every part of Alameda County were entitled to all the privileges of the Oakland Free Public Library. This was made possible by the Board of Supervisors creating the Alameda County Library system under the provisions of a legislative act adopted in April 1909. Branches were established in twelve towns in different parts of the county. These branches were under the supervision of the Board of Library Trustees of the Oakland Library, which received \$12,000 annually from the county for the support of the system. The branches that were established included: Decoto, Irvington, Alviso, Niles, Warm Springs, Mount Eden, Mission San Jose, Sunol, Newark, Alvarado, Centerville and San Lorenzo.

The Oakland Library formally opened the Decoto Branch of the Alameda County Library at Decoto on December 11, 1911. Exactly where the library was located at this time was not specified. In September 1922 it was stated that the Decoto Library Branch was located in the justice courtroom. Exactly where the justice courtroom was located was not specified.

In November 1935 the Decoto J.C.'s held a dance at the Garden of Allah in Niles to help fund the Decoto Catholic Church and the improvements that had recently been made to the local library. At this time the library was located in a local store.

A fire in Decoto in the month of August 1940 destroyed a string of buildings located on Railroad Avenue that included the Decoto Branch Library, with all books, the Manuel Avilla Grocery & Market, in which the blaze was said to have started, with all contents; the Brown Shoe Store, which was a partial loss; and two small garages.

After the fire the library was located in a local residence. During the month of April 1941 several burglaries were made at the home in which the temporary library was housed causing considerable damage. Entry to the building was made through a side window and a back door. The building was located at 610 11th Street in Decoto.

Small change was taken from the library; books were strewn on the floor, liquid floor wax smeared on the floor and walls, many small ornaments and other trinkets taken, and obscene writing and drawing done on the walls and books. After the last visit candles were found partially burned giving proof that entry was made after dark. Glasses encrusted with remains of a punch and cookies crumbs showed that a party had taken place. Mrs. Walker said that the foodstuffs were kept for a group of young girls who use the library as a meeting place.

A move to build a new library was under way in April 1941 when a committee composed of Mrs. Elsa Walker, Librarian, Mrs. Herbert Harrold, Miss Mary Janeiro and Walter Walker delivered a deed to a \$300 lot at 10th and C Streets, which had been purchased with donations from the Boosters Club, individuals, and John Olson, property owner.

The Decoto Branch of the Alameda County Library System was in their new quarters in April 1905 at 905 10th Street, which was across the street from the old library. Mrs. Elsa Walker is in charge of the branch.

Mosquito Abatement District:

Preliminary activities of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District were under way in Niles in October 1930. Officials stated they would welcome all complaints concerning mosquitoes. During the coming winter it was the purpose of the district to carry on ditching work, so as to drain as much marshland as can be economically and satisfactorily handled, thus reducing greatly the amount of marshland that will be available for the mosquito breeding season of 1931. The board of trustees of the district included M.J. Madison of Hayward and Roland Bendel of Decoto.

In July 1932 residents of southern Alameda County were beginning to draw dividends upon taxes paid into the mosquito abatement district fund, according to Roland Bendel of Decoto, who was in charge of the abatement work in this area. After months of oiling ponds, draining areas of stagnant water and planting mosquito-eating fish in bodies of fresh water throughout the district, Bendel contends, there has been a noticeable decrease in the mosquitoes this summer.

In September 1936 Roland Bendel very nearly decided that all the entomologists were wrong and that mosquitoes could breed without any sign of water. For, while ferreting out the source of mosquitoes, which were making life miserable for a group of farm laborers near Decoto, the abatement district foreman clearly saw swarms of mosquitoes arising from some caved-in places in the ploughed, dry soil of an orchard. Bendel's first thought was that here had discovered something, which would shake scientific circles. However, further investigation proved that the entomologists still know their stuff.

Bendel drove a stake a few feet below the bottom of one of the cave-ins and hit water. Apparently, years of irrigation had undermined the soil and produced underground channels, which held standing water. A few ingenious mosquitoes must somehow have managed to make their way through the loose dirt to this concealed breeding place. Their numerous offspring were now coming out.

Bendel introduced oil under pressure through a pipe to the subterranean waters in order to insure destruction of the mosquito larvae. Alameda County's "mosquito chasers" will continue to look for standing water when outbreaks of mosquitoes occur.

Equipment of the local branch of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District was moved to its new corporation yards in September 1937. The lot is 50 by 100 feet and is located on 10th Street between "F" & "G" Streets. A small shed on the lot is used to store oil, tools and other equipment used by the force of three, headed by Roland Bendel here.

Two extra men have been added to the force temporarily to combat conditions caused by dredging near Newark. A number of the district's ditches were blocked by the dredges and about two miles of repair work has been necessary. An extra supply of mosquitoes in this district has resulted from the clogged drainage system but the trouble was being rapidly eliminated.

Puerto Rican Club of Decoto:

Members of the Puerto Rican Club of Decoto were completing their new clubhouse in April 1935. The on June 22, 1935, the grand opening of the new Puerto Rican Mutual Union Hall on Sixth and "E" Streets was held pm a Saturday night. A banquet, speeches and entertainment were featured during the celebration. Raymond Sosa, Vice President, was the main speaker. Ramon Rodrigues, San Francisco, a prominent member of Puerto Rican lodges in California, also spoke.

Raymond Barrios was the chairman in charge, assisted by Raymond Caravallo, President, and Louis Caravallo, Secretary. Mr. Barrios drew the plans for the hall and supervised the construction at a cost of \$6,000, which the Decoto Puerto Rican colony put up. The lodge is 40 years old and is composed of 90 members.

In December 1935, the Puerto Rican Union Mutual made an application to the County Board of Supervisors to conduct a dance each and every night at New Dance Hall, 610 "E" Street, Decoto. The action was referred to the District Attorney for investigation and report.

Post Office:

John Olson, Postmaster
Miss Mary Janeiro, Postmistress, January 20, 1936

About 100 district postmasters, their families and assistants attended a business and dinner meeting of the Alameda District Postmaster's Association to be held in San Lorenzo in April 1932. Attending from Decoto was J. L. Olson, Postmaster.

The February 1936 meeting of the Alameda County Postmaster's Association would be hosted by Mrs. Frances Luna of Alvarado and Miss Mary Janeiro of Decoto.

Postmistress Mary Janeiro of the Decoto Post Office spent a week's vacation motoring in Nevada in August 1937. During her absence her sister, Miss Cecilia Janeiro, was the acting postmistress.

At a recent meeting of the Alameda County postmasters held in Irvington, new officers were elected as follows:

President: Edward Enos, Niles
Vice President: M. C. Joseph, Irvington
Secy-Treasurer: Miss Mary Janeiro, Decoto

Red Cross:

A 50 per cent increase in Red Cross membership was announced this week after final checking of the 1938 roll call in Washington Township by Mrs. C.N. Myrick, branch chairman. A total of \$667.35 was been collected with a small amount yet to be turned in, as compared with \$437 last year. Niles headed the list of contributors with a total of \$249.85, Centerville \$115, Alvarado \$34, Decoto \$27, Irvington \$45, Warm Springs \$11, Mission San Jose \$13, Newark \$91.50 and the Japanese \$81.

Road Department:

Decoto Streets / Bell Ranch Bridge

Decoto Streets:

Within the town of Decoto the roads and streets were dreadful compared to today's roads. At best they were graded and graveled and at worse they were muddy morasses in inclement weather with muddy potholes. The Chamber of Commerce was continually pushing for the improvements to Decoto streets.

Coupled with street improvement was the need for the town of Decoto to make the flow of traffic easier for the citizens and to make it easier for the people to access the business district. One such step was taken when the Chamber's action to open "J" Street through the Western Pacific to the Southern Pacific tracks, a distance of approximately two blocks so that another street may be made available for development in the business district. This project was started in July 1930.

Another long sought after objective of the Chamber was to open and grade "F" Street, which would run parallel with the Centerville highway. The street would eliminate a dangerous turn and make possible a direct route from Railroad Avenue to 13th Street.

Petitions were presented to the Board of Supervisors in March 1933 requesting it to take over and maintain the following roads in Decoto:
(The response from the County Planning Commission is given in red and green)

Railroad Avenue, **(additional 10 ft strip be added between Dry Creek and H St)**

"A" Street, Decoto **(Be DENIED, from 7th Street to 9th Street)**

"C" Street, Decoto **(DENIED)**

"D" Street, Decoto **(DENIED)**

"E" Street, Decoto **(Be APPROVED Hayward-Niles Road to 11th Street)**

"F" Street, Decoto **(DENIED)**

"G" Street, Decoto **(DENIED)**

"H" Street, Decoto **(DENIED)**

"I" Street, Decoto **(Be DENIED from 12th Street to 14th Street)**

"J" Street, Decoto **(DENIED)**

Second Street, Decoto **(DENIED)**

Third Street, Decoto **(Be DENIED, from "F" Street to "E" Street)**

Fourth Street, Decoto **(Be APPROVED)**

Fifth Street, Decoto **(DENIED)**

Sixth Street, Decoto **(Be APPROVED)**

Seventh Street, Decoto **(Be DENIED, from "H" to "G" Street)**

Eighth Street, Decoto **(Be APPROVED, from "H" to "G" Street)**

Ninth Street, Decoto **(Be APPROVED, from "H" to "E" Street)**

Tenth Street, Decoto **(Be DENIED from "H" to "D" Street)**

Eleventh Street, Decoto **(DENIED)**

Twelfth Street, Decoto **(Be APPROVED, from County Road No. 521 to "H" St.)**

Thirteenth Street, Decoto **(Be DENIED, from "J" Street to "G" Street)**

Fourteenth Street, Decoto **(Be DENIED, from "I" to "G" Street)**

Fifteenth Street, Decoto **(Be DENIED, from "H" to "G")**

Bell Ranch Bridge:

At the beginning of 1934 the Decoto Chamber of Commerce began a project to have the dangerous Bell Ranch Bridge, on the Decoto Road to Fremont Blvd, reconstructed as a CWA project (Civil Works Administration, a short lived depression era program). The bridge, which was the scene of many accidents, was narrow and crossed the

Alameda Creek at right angles to the road. According to Roland Bendel, secretary of the Chamber, the county Road Department made a favorable report on the project but there was not sufficient money in the treasury to permit construction of a new bridge entirely from county funds at the time.

It was also necessary to purchase two small pieces of land on either side of the creek so that the new span may be aligned with the road.

Plans and specifications for a new \$40,000 steel truss bridge, to be constructed over Alameda Creek, was approved on May 12, 1936, by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. The board authorized County Engineer Burnett Hamilton, who filed the plans, to advertise for bids on the project, to be received and opened on Tuesday June 9, 1936.

The span was to be built over the creek on Decoto Road, and would replace the present structure known as the Bell Ranch Bridge. The new bridge would have a 24-foot roadway and two, four-foot sidewalks.

Bids had been called for the bridgework, and were opened on June 9th. The Bell Ranch Bridge, pronounced a menace to traffic by local residents, was one of the few remaining relics of the horse-and-buddy bridges of southern Alameda County. Its replacement with a modern structure was also advocated by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

By September 1936 work on the new 125-foot \$40,000 steel highway bridge had progressed to a point where one abutment has been completed. The new span would replace the one erected in 1904. The new alignment eliminates a dangerous right angle at the approach.

On February 4, 1937, the Board of Supervisors accepted the new highway bridge on the Decoto-Centerville Road, one mile west of Decoto, known as the Bell Ranch. Storm conditions halted plans for formal dedication as originally scheduled. The bridge was thrown open when flood conditions demanded quick action.

The Bell Ranch Bridge was a sturdy structure in the steel truss form. It survived many floods in its 3 decade life, but it had two serious flaws. The first was its width, only two lanes wide. In the 1960's Decoto Road would need a four-lane highway.

The second flaw was that it was not aligned correctly with the Alameda Creek. Alameda Creek flowed at a slight NW angle from Niles and immediately after crossing under the bridge it made a 90-degree turn to the east for about 100 yards. This caused much erosion on both sides of the bridge and led to flooding of the Alviso District.

It was necessary to widen the channel of the Alameda Creek at this point and let the water flow in straight south to north direction. This left the Bell Ranch Bridge high and dry 100 yards to the west of the new creek bed.

The photo below (June 1967) shows the destruction of the steel truss Bell Ranch Bridge, which opened in February 1937.



Sanitary District:

Decoto was headed for serious trouble in the 1930's. The population was growing at an alarming rate, having more than doubled in the last decade, and sanitation standards were practically non-existent. All homes were on septic tanks and as their density spread so did the likelihood of an epidemic of serious consequences such as typhoid, cholera, or e-coli. Unsanitary conditions in some neighborhoods had already been identified in Decoto in the late 1920's by Peter Decoto. This situation could only get worse as the population became denser and sanitary conditions were at low standards.

Peter Decoto and Frank J. Thomas, presidents, respectively, of the Senior and Junior Chambers of Commerce, joined forces in June 1935 to determine the wish of Decoto residents regarding the formation of a Sanitary District. Plans for the system were explained at a mass meeting held by Harold F. Gray, engineer of the Mosquito Abatement District. They involved the laying of several miles of sewer pipelines through Decoto streets, leading to a sewage treatment plant proposed to be established on property now owned by August May Jr., two miles west of the post office. The estimated cost was \$115,000, of which \$70,000 would be borrowed from or granted by the federal government, with the community to be bonded for \$45,000, according to Mr. Gray's figures.

The eight acres required for the treatment plant was expected to cost \$4,000. After the sewage was treated, it would be let into Alameda Creek. Discussion of possibility of contamination of wells was ended by Mr. Gray's assertion that the treated water would entirely purified after seepage through four feet of soil.

Maintenance of the treatment plant, Mr. Gray estimated at a cost of \$3,600 annually. Joseph Pearce, cannery operator here, offered to provide 40 per cent of the

maintenance. His cannery uses about 50,000 gallons of water daily for washing of produce.

As the sanitary district continued to edge towards initiation Alvarado asked to be included in the district, however, negotiations proved fruitless and Decoto went forward without including the Alvarado District. Then in December 1935 information was received by the commission that the Masonic Home wished to be included in the district.

April 7, 1936, was set as the tentative date the bond election for the sanitary district. The election would be for the issuance of approximately \$50,000 in bonds. The entire project of installing the sanitary system was estimated at \$114,000. Location of the sewage treatment plant was yet to be determined.

A vote of confidence for members of the sanitary commission of the Decoto Sewer District was given in November 1936 by the taxpayers, who packed the fire hall to overflowing at a mass meeting called by Frank Thomas, member of the sanitation commission. Discussions at times threatened to become heated but upon a plea for harmony by Mrs. Emma S. Amaral, difficulties were ironed out and harmony restored.

Citizens were urged to exert every influence for the actual appropriation of WPA funds, which have been approved at Washington and are expected to be forthcoming in the immediate future. John A. Mancini, part-time city engineer for Hayward, who has been retained by the Decoto Sanitary Commission as engineer in charge of the \$186,000 sewer project, was complimented by Harold F. Gray of the Mosquito Abatement District because of his record at Stanford University and for his subsequent work since graduation in 1926.

A community committee, which in June 1938 inspected treatment plants at Dixon, Galt and Davis, would issue a report. The group included Joseph Caldeira, President of the Board, Charles Brown, secretary, Frank J. Thomas and A. Amaral, of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Decoto taxpayers were somewhat dismayed by estimates from Harold F. Gray, engineer of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, that a treatment plant and sewer line here would cost \$78,000 if built by WPA labor, or \$46,000 if built under private contract. The district, organized two years ago, approved a \$56,000 bond issue for a treatment plant and sewer line.

A reduction in the proposed sewage system in Decoto was sought by members of the Decoto Sanitary District Board in July 1938. The board intended to cut the length of the proposed line, 4½ miles from the original 11 miles planned, which penalized only four homes by the reduction. The cost of the disposal plant would be slashed from \$36,000 to \$15,000.

In October 1938 belief that work on Decoto's proposed \$100,000 sewer system could get under way by November 1st was expressed by J.P. Caldeira, President of the Decoto Sanitary District Board. Approval of a PWA grant for \$45,000 had been received. This assures construction of the system, as a \$56,000 local bond issue was passed about two years ago.

Near the end of November 1938 the sanitary plant was still in the permit gathering stage. Members of the State Board of Health, before whom a hearing was held and who had the power of granting the permit, took the matter under advisement after hearing arguments both for and against the proposed sewage plan. Nearly 75 people were present at the hearing in the city council chambers in the Hayward City Hall. John Mancini and Marlin Haley represented the sanitary district as engineer and special counsel, respectively.

At present Decoto sewage is taken care of by individual septic tanks. The proposed plan would provide for sewer pipes leading to a disposal plant situated almost one half mile southwest of Decoto. Principal protests voiced by those present were that the disposal tank would create an offensive smell and that it would pollute well water.

Proponents of the plan argued that an efficient plant would produce no smell and would not endanger well water. It was pointed out that at present many of those objecting have less efficient septic tanks closer to their wells than the proposed disposal plant would be.

With the granting of the permit by the State Board of Health, the sale of \$52,000 in bonds by the Decoto Sanitary District could be sold. The bonds were sold to R.H. Moulton Company, San Francisco, at an interest rate of 4½ and a \$56 premium.

Actual construction work was scheduled to begin by December 14th, according to John Mancini, engineer for the district. Plans called for the construction of a sewage disposal plant almost one-half mile southwest of town. Sewer mains would have to be laid throughout the town's streets.

When the bids for the construction of the disposal plant were opened it was found that the cost of the plan had been underestimated by 35 to 90 percent. The original estimate for the project was \$13,000. Bids ranged from about \$16,400 to about \$24,000.

The Sanitary District accepted the bid of the Underground Construction Company of Oakland, on its bid of \$17,538. After consultation with PWA officials in Oakland, District Engineer John Mancini advised that the Oakland firm's bid be accepted, although it exceeded the original estimate of \$13,000 for the unit, a sewage disposal plant and adjuncts. The board indicated that it would accept the bid, subject to final PWA approval.

Work on the first unit of the Decoto sewage disposal system was started December 12, 1938, under the terms of a PWA contract between the Decoto Sanitary District and the Underground Construction Company of Oakland

The initial construction included an Imhoff tank, operations building and appurtenances, grading of seven acres for filter beds and dykes, and installation of 3,000 feet of distributive piping. The site was on the Garcia property of 15-acres, on the Nursery Road, one-fourth mile west of the Decoto Road.

In July 1939 the Decoto Sanitary District Commissioners voted to reject the petition of Niles residents to join the Decoto Sanitary District. Basis of the rejection, effective for five years, was on the ground that the new \$100,000 system should be given a try-out before additional service is added. Final bills on the \$17,000 concentration

plans, recently completed, were ordered paid. It was reported that the collection system, to cost about \$48,000, was 50 per cent completed and expected to be hooked up by September 1939.

Finally, in December 1939, Walter Walker was named maintenance man and inspector for the Decoto Sanitary District. Approximately 64 of the expected connections to the new mains had been made, according to J.P. Caldeira, chairman of the board.

Telephone Service:

The telephone became more prominent as the decade of the thirties opened. More than a convenience now it was a necessity, and the Chamber picked up on its importance. Early on in the decade Chamber began pressuring Pacific Telephone & Telegraph about 24-hour service in town. If they did not receive satisfaction from PT&T they said they would carry their appeal to the Railroad Commission, the forerunner of the P.U.C. in the State of California. In 1931 the Decoto exchange was located in the John Olson grocery store that closed at night, making it impossible to call the fire station in case of a fire, the residents having to go to the center of town to sound the fire bell.

The Decoto Chamber of Commerce announced that unless the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company makes arrangement for giving them 24-hour service the chamber will carry the appeal to the State Railroad Commission.

In April 1935 the Chamber launched a campaign to end the nickel telephone tolls between the towns of Washington Township. The Chamber announced plans to request the Pacific Telephone Company to end the system whereby 5 cents is charged for calls between Niles, Centerville, Decoto and Alvarado.

On March 24, 1936, PT&T held a meeting at the Decoto Fire Hall to discuss the possibility of all night service and improved equipment to the townspeople of Decoto.

As for the number of phones in South Alameda County in January 1938 we found that Hayward led with 2,899 telephones in use. Other towns: Alvarado 95, Centerville 232, Decoto 69, Irvington 92, Livermore 759, Newark 91 Mission San Jose 31, Niles 260, Pleasanton 330, Sunol 32, and Warm Springs 16.

Union Workers, Cannery:

Members of the newly organized Cannery Workers Union of Southern Alameda County were balloting on a long list of candidates for union offices in June 1937, at polling places in Hayward, Decoto and Centerville. An American Federation of Labor charter was conferred on the new union. The new union, Local 20843, covers employees in the California Conserving Company and Hunt Brothers canneries at Hayward, the F.E. Booth cannery at Centerville, and the Joseph Pearce cannery at Decoto.

Meanwhile, San Francisco press reports said that the Cannery Workers union, A.F. of L., Local 20099, involved in the East Bay cannery strike, was voting to affiliate with the Committee for Industrial Organization. This union has protested against installation of the A.F. of L. unions in the various canneries.

Edward Wares, organizer for the striking union, was quoted as saying the union had filed charges of unfair labor practices against the Elmhurst, Hunt Bros. and Conserving Company's with the National Labor Relations Board. He asserted his union is voting overwhelmingly to affiliate with the C.I.O.

Officers of the American Federal of Labor, Cannery Worker's Union of Southern Alameda County were directing union activities in July 1938 for their second consecutive year. All were seated for the new term at recent installation ceremonies held at Hayward. Mrs. Minnie Duarte of Decoto was named as a trustee.

United Youth of Decoto:

A new organization to furnish recreation for young people of all nationalities of Decoto was organized recently under the name of United Youth of Decoto. More than 40 attended the first meeting held at the Puerto Rican Clubhouse and the next gathering will be held next month on January 10, 1939.

Officers were elected as follows:

President:	Raymond Corchero
Vice President:	Elmer Dennis
Secretary:	Peter Corchero
Treasurer:	Johnny Cortez
Activity Chair:	Sophia Caravalho
Sgt-at-Arms:	Lee Corchero

Plans were underway to organize an orchestra, glee club, boy's quartet, drill team and dramatic group. There will be special athletic events and dances for members and their guests. Organization of the club grew out of a meeting of 12 of the boys who had been assembling in a tank house room for the past several weeks. It is the only general social organization for young people in Decoto.

In February 1939 Tony Monte was made president of the United Youth of Decoto, following the resignation of Raymond Corchero who was preparing for a Civil Service examination. Daniel Caravalho was made Secretary-Treasurer. Thomas Lara, of San Leandro, addressed the club at a recent meeting, after which the following program of entertainment was given: Spanish songs by Napoleon Ortiz, Andrew Arroyo and Ernest Galarza; songs by Tony Cortez and Lee Corchero; numbers by the girl's glee club and hula dances by Sophia Caravalho and Louis Pagan. The next meeting will be held on February 14th.

The United Youth of Decoto, applied for a dance permit to be held at the Puerto Rican Hall, Decoto, February 19th and 22nd.

Voting:

March 1930:

Alameda County Water District:
Precinct No. 2; Decoto:
Polling Place: Decoto School Auditorium, Decoto, Calif.
Inspector: Joseph H. Smith
Judge: Manuel B. Maciel
Clerks: Mrs. Lillian A. Searles and Mrs. Emma S. Amaral

July 1930:

Decoto Voting Precincts:
Precinct 1: Polling place, Goularte Building
Precinct 2: Polling place, Masonic Home

August 1932:

Decoto Polling Places:
Decoto, Precinct No. 1: Goularte Building
Decoto, Precinct No. 2: Masonic Home

December 1932:

Decoto Voting Precincts:
Precinct No. 1: Goularte Building
Inspector: Mary J. Pimentel
Judges: Mary Calderia and Frank Mendoza
Clerk: Frank Leonard

Precinct No. 2: Masonic Home

Inspector: W.B. Standeford
Judges: J.W. Gibbs and Cornelia Bernstein
Clerk: Florence A. Bano

February 1935:

A meeting of the Junior Voters of Decoto was held at the home of Frank J. Thomas, Decoto. Plans were formed to organize a Junior Voters Club, a non-partisan group, so as to place before its member's issues that may arise concerning Washington Township. Mr. Thomas has consulted with groups in Niles, Centerville and Livermore in regard to forming likewise clubs in this township.

February 1936:

With registration of voters progressing satisfactorily, residents of Southern Alameda County will have several special elections during the spring and early summer months. Registration may be completed at the following Decoto locations: J. L. Olson's General Store and the Masonic Home.

October 1936:

Decoto Polling Places:
Decoto Precinct No. 1: Goularte Building, 10th Street
Decoto Precinct No. 2: Masonic Home Library

Washington Township Men's Club:

The Men's Club of Washington Township held election of officers at their latest business meeting in September 1936:

Retiring officers are:

President:	H.F. Harrold of Decoto
Vice Pres.:	George Hellwig of Alvarado
Secretary:	A. J. Petsche of Niles
Treasurer:	John E. Dutra of Newark

The nominating committee is composed of:

Judge Allen Norris	Tom Power	Jack Boyd	Peter Decoto
Robert Blacow.			

The committee arranging for the program was composed of:

H. Chadbourne	Frank Veit	J. R. Blacow
J. V. Goold	George Roderick	

In October 1938 the Men's Club of Washington Township honored five members who have passed away during the past several months, all of whom had resided in this community for more than 50 years. Deceased members honored were Louis Rushcin of Newark, Henry May of Decoto, Thomas J. Power of Irvington, and Garrett Norris and George P. Lowrie of Centerville.

Water:

April 1931:

The city of San Francisco was caught between the devil and the deep blue sea in April 1931 due to the shortage of rainfall this season. When the city of San Francisco took over the Spring Valley Water Company it also took over an agreement to release 16 percent of all of the water it caught in the Calaveras reservoir into Alameda Creek, so that the gravel beds in Niles, from which southern Alameda County gets its water supply, would be saturated.

The rainfall this season is far below normal and the city has been using the water as fast as it was caught in the reservoir. Now the Alameda County Water District is demanding its 16 percent. To San Francisco that demand is more serious than an order for a pound of flesh. Realizing the impossibility of releasing 16 percent of the water caught, which amounts to approximately 317,000,000 gallons into the creek, the city has offered to give the water district a check for \$18,000 in lieu of the water.

Property owners in the lower portion of Washington Township are said to favor such an agreement, but the proposal is meeting with serious opposition from other sections of the township which need water to save the apricot and cherry crops.

The local water company, which supplies Niles and Decoto and takes its supply from wells in the vicinity of Niles, is leading the assault against the proposed cash settlement. Unless the water is released into the creek and finds its way into the gravel beds, it is claimed, the company's wells will go dry and these two towns will be facing a water famine.

The city has one alternative, as there is not enough water in the reservoir to meet demand. It can pump the water from its wells in the vicinity of Pleasanton, but if this is done, it will precipitate another battle, which promises to be more serious than the one brewing in Washington Township.

Several wells in the vicinity of Pleasanton have gone dry due to the heavy pumping from the city's wells. Ranchers of that section who need water for the alfalfa crops, which is the foundation for the dairying industry of that section, and they will not stand for more water being pumped out of these wells just to be dumped into Alameda Creek.

Nearly a mile of the old wooden water mains between Niles and Decoto are to be replaced with iron pipe. With the coming of more favorable weather, the Public Utilities California Corporation plans to expend \$5,000 on water system improvement work in Niles and Decoto. The laying of new water mains will comprise most of the

planned improvements, which is expected to provide employment to those out of work in Washington Township. In keeping with this policy, the labor will be done by hand as much as possible. Work is expected to begin some time in March 1932, weather conditions permitting.

Funeral services were conducted in Berkeley for the Christian H. Runckle, for 25 years secretary of the Alameda County Water District, who died Monday, July 3, 1939, at the age of 70. Born in Dutch Flat in 1869, Mr. Runckle became a schoolteacher at the age of 18. Runckle taught school in Decoto and Pleasanton and at the same time published the *Washington Township & Niles Register*; and for a long time he owned and published both papers.

Mr. Runckle began agitation, through his Niles newspaper, for the creation of the Alameda County Water District in Washington Township as early as 1901. He became secretary of the district when it was formed in 1914. He was known as the "the father of the water district idea."

He battled the old Spring Valley Water Company, opposing its destruction of the flow of water in Alameda Creek through construction of Calaveras dam and also against its withdrawing water from wells in the Amador Valley.

Runckle succeeded in forming a group of landholders who voluntarily taxed themselves to raise funds for the litigation. He prepared an enabling act, which was passed by the legislature and by which the first water district was formed.

Through his paper he agitated for San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy system and through the district he secured an agreement whereby litigation was dropped in return for a supply of Hetch Hetchy water.

To take care of this the district laid a new pipeline connecting the cities of the township, including Newark, Alvarado, Decoto, Niles, Centerville, Mission San Jose, Irvington and Warm Springs. This pipeline has just been completed and Runckle's last official act was performed last Thursday when he turned the valve sending the supply of water into the line.

* **SPORTS** *

Decoto Puerto Ricans / Decoto Merchants / Larry Bettencourt

Decoto Puerto Ricans:

The Decoto Puerto Ricans fielded a baseball team that reported their scores and activities to the local newspapers. The first reported game, May 20, 1930, came with their victory over the Sears-Roebuck contingent although the latter squad out hit Decoto 13 hits to 11 hits. The line-up for Decoto:

Cruz (LF)	Santiago (SS)	Milam (C)	Quinous (1B),
Santiago (3B)	De Cruz (2B)	Colon (P)	Figuroa (RF)
Gonzales (CF).			

The Decoto Puerto Rican team out slugged the Broadmoor Athletic Club San Lorenzo) 28 to 5, getting 32 hits in a July 1930 game.

The following month they were defeated by a Castro Valley team by a score of 10 to 8. Colon was pitching for Decoto. This was followed a few days later by a crushing defeat at the hand of the Fageol Flyers 28 to 8. The line-up for Decoto:

Gonzales (CF)	Figueroa (1B)	Felix (LF)	Perry (P – CF)
Ramon (C)	De Cruz (2B)	Santiago (SS)	Rodriguez (3B)
Ruiz (RF)	Gutierrez (P)	C. Ruiz	

In a final reported game the Trojan A.C. held the Decoto P.C. to a single run in a 7 to 1 victory in March 1931.

Decoto Merchants:

The Southern Alameda County Baseball League started play in May 1933. All league rules and the schedule were agreed upon at a meeting at Don Harder's Sport Shop in Hayward. The league was to play in two rounds, a total of 14 games. The season will be split, with the winners of the first half meeting the winners of the second half in a best of three games series.

The teams composing the league were: Newark Garage, managed by Joe Pashote; Irvington Reds, managed by "Red" Blacow; Decoto Merchants, managed by Jerry Margarido; Mission San Jose, managed by Frank Vargas; Hayward Cubs, managed by Leslie Pence, Ramos Real Estate, managed by Manuel de la Cruz; Hayward Athletics, managed by John Luque and the Alvarado Merchants, managed by Jos. E. Lewis.

From *The Daily Review* Dated:

May 16, 1933:

The Hayward Cubs beat the Decoto Merchants 5 to 4.

May 23, 1933:

The Decoto Merchants baseball team was trounced by the team from Mission San Jose, 15 to 0. The Merchants presently reside at the bottom of the league standings with a no-win and two-loss record.

May 26, 1933:

The league-leading Hayward athletics will meet the Decoto Merchants at Decoto. The athletics should have little trouble winning, unless Decoto has strengthened their team since the last game.

May 30, 1933:

The Hayward Athletics took over sole possession of first place with an 18 – 2 trouncing of the Decoto Merchants. Decoto now drops to sole possession of last place. Their record is 0 & 3; the only other winless team is Alvarado at 0 & 2.

The Decoto lineup:

Pepitone (SS)	Gutierrez (LF)	Ferreira (CF)	F. Swanson (1B)
E. Silva (3B)	H. Swanson (RF)	Cloudeane (2B)	Al Cloudeane (C)
Santiago (P).			

June 6, 1933:

Decoto strengthened their hold on last place by losing to Ramos Real Estate 8 to 7. They remain the only team in the league without a win as the Alvarado Merchants defeated the league leading Hayward Athletics.

June 13, 1933:

The game between Decoto and Alvarado was won by Alvarado, 19 to 4. Decoto now has lost all five of their games.

June 20, 1933:

The Decoto Merchants are mired in last place of the Southern Alameda County Baseball League with a 0 & 6 record. The league lead is shared by the Irvington "Reds" and the Newark J&M team with 4 & 1 records

July 7, 1933:

The Southern Alameda County Baseball League will start their second half of league play. The first half was won by the Irvington Reds. The Decoto Merchants and the Mission Firemen will tangle at Decoto to start the second half. Both clubs were allowed to sign two new players so they would be more of a league threat.

July 11, 1933:

To start the second half of the season the Mission San Jose Firemen shaded the Decoto Merchants 12 to 9. The Irvington Reds trounced the Alvarado Merchants 23 to 3. Decoto and Alvarado start out the second of the year together in the bottom of the league.

July 18, 1933:

The Decoto Merchants put a scare in the Hayward Athletics by holding them to a score of 4 to 3. The battery for Decoto was Swanson and Al Cloudean, with Cloudean aiding his cause with a round tripper. The loss drops Decoto to 0 & 2 league record.

July 25, 1933:

The Decoto Merchants gave the Ramos Real Estater's a big surprise by beating them 9 to 3. This was Decoto's first victory in the league. Al Cloudeane continued his heavy hitting for Decoto by getting a home run and a single. H. Swanson and B. Santiago chipped in with a three-bagger apiece.

August 1, 1933:

Decoto evened their league at 2-2 when they pummeled Alvarado 15 to 1. Santiago allowed Alvarado but three hits. Al Cloudeane, with four hits in five trips to the plate, led the batters. Faria, Al Cloudeane and Avelar each hit home runs for Decoto.

August 8, 1933:

Newark continued its undefeated ways in this half by defeating the Decoto Merchants 15 to 8. Decoto's league record now stands at 2 & 3.

August 15, 1933:

The Decoto Merchants won a forfeit game from Irvington. Irvington (winners of the first half of league play) is taking a rest in order to be in top shape for the play-off for the championship with Newark.

September 26, 1933:

Ramos Real Estate was handed a win when the Decoto Merchants failed to show up for their scheduled game.

October 6, 1933:

Decoto has been reorganized under Ernest Silva. Decoto is the "dark horse" of the league. According to Manager Silva, Decoto is going to give the other clubs a surprise.

October 10, 1933:

Alvarado defeated Decoto 5 to 2, at Alvarado. The game was 2-all in the seventh inning when the Decoto pitcher became wild and walked a man after two men had singled to fill the bases. The pitcher hit the next two men up to force in two runs.

October 24, 1933:

Ogaard Motors trounced the Decoto Merchants 17 to 4. Ogaard shares the league lead with Alvarado; both teams are 3 & 0. Decoto falls to 0 & 3.

October 31, 1933:

The Native Sons (Hayward) lost a tough game at Decoto, 3 to 2, in 10 innings. The Native's held a 2 to 0 lead until the eighth inning when Decoto put over two runs to tie the score. Decoto now ups their record to 1 & 3.

November 14, 1933:

The Decoto Merchants team upped its record to 2 & 4 after the team from Milpitas failed to show up for the game.

November 21, 1933:

The Hayward Athletics dropped the Decoto Merchants by an 8 to 4 score. This now makes the Decoto Merchant season record 2 & 5.

December 12, 1933:

The Alvarado Merchants turned back the Decoto Merchants 6, to 5, behind the pitching of "Spud" Degermark. Vierra and L. Cloudeane each collected two hits for the Decoto Merchants.

March 19, 1934:

Play in the second annual Harder Southern Alameda County Baseball League will begin April 1st, says President Don Harder. Eight Class "A" teams form the loop including the San Leandro Y.M.I., Ogaard Motors of Hayward, Decoto, Centerville, Irvington, Alvarado, Newark and Mission San Jose. Newark won last year's league title and Alvarado won the winter league title from Ogaard Motors. Most of the other teams featured in either the regular or winter leagues here during the year. A split season is planned with the Winners of each half playing a best of three game series for the league championship title. Gold baseball rings will be given as award to the members of the winning teams.

April 1934:

In the one of the first games of the Southern Alameda County Class "A" Summer league, the Leslie Salt team from Alvarado defeated the Decoto Merchants, 14 to 6, only to see the league officials award the win to Decoto because Alvarado did not have the forfeit money posted and had failed to hand in the players' contracts in time.

April 10, 1934:

Irvington defeated Decoto 12 to 6 at Decoto. Decoto's record now stands at one and one loss. Newark and Mission San Jose are atop the league, each at two wins and no losses.

April 18, 1934:

Decoto defeated Ashland, 5 to 4. This raises Decoto's record to two wins in three games and puts them one game behind league leading Newark.

May 22, 1934:

Ogaard Motors defeated the Decoto Merchants 14 to 7 to take the first half championship of the Harder Class "A" League. The Decoto Merchants ended up in second place one game behind Ogaard Motors with a record of 5 wins and 2 losses.

June 26, 1934:

The Newark J&F team won a convincing game from Decoto 14 to 1. The lineup for Decoto was:

Vierra (3B)	Faria (CF)	Kiefer (SS)	Vierra (1B)
Perry (LF)	Cloudeane (2B)	Cloudeane (RF)	Campbell (C)
Belangero (P),	Fereira	Silva.	

September 18, 1934:

The Decoto ball club will be headed by Louie Brazil. Their first game is scheduled against Newark.

September 25, 1934:

Newark J&F scored two runs in the first of the 9th to win a 3 to 2 game from the Decoto Merchants. Louie Brazil pitched a good game for Decoto.

October 2, 1934:

The Decoto Merchants are tied with the American Bakery team at no wins two losses for the season in the Harder's Class "A" Baseball League. Hayward Merchants and Ogaard Motors lead the league, both are 2 - 0.

October 9, 1934:

The Decoto Merchant defeated the San Leandro Merchants, 8 to 7, on the Decoto home field.

February 1, 1935:

Decoto has signed up several players who were members of the Elmhurst Merchants that played for the championship of the summer league, and expects to give Ogaard Motors a real game.

February 12, 1935:

The Decoto baseball team is securely ensconced in last place with no wins and three defeats, while Ogaard Motors leads the league with three wins and no defeats.

March 26, 1935:

The Alvarado Eagles scored a clean-cut victory over the Decoto Merchants 18 to 4 on the Decoto diamond Sunday afternoon. The Decoto line-up featured:

B. Santiago	Pepitone	E. Thomas	Louis DeValle
Gomes	C. Santiago	Sacramento	Roderick

J. Santiago.

Billy Menezes of Decoto and Lolly Amaral of Alvarado were the umpires.

April 30, 1935:

The Decoto baseball team won its first game of the season Sunday, defeating Irvington 12 to 6.

May 7, 1935:

Fresh from their victory over Irvington the previous Sunday, the Decoto Merchants ball club tangled with Pleasanton on the local diamond Sunday and won the contest 10 to 4, before a large crowd. The Decoto players included:

Lolly Amaral	Joe Correia	Jack Kiefer	Joe Dutra
L. Cloudean	W. Hendricks	Louie Devalle	Al Cloudean
K. Santiago.			

May 21, 1935:

In a hard fought game, the Alvarado Eagles shaded the Decoto Merchants 1 to 0.

June 4, 1935:

Kenneth Santiago, Decoto Merchants, held the Newark Merchants to 10 scattered hits Sunday, while his teammates ran Decoto's winning score up to 24 to 5. Decoto recorded 17 hits. Decoto's lineup:

Joe Correia	Amaral	Laybourne	J. Dutra
Kiefer	W. Hendricks	L. Devalle	Al Cloudeane
K. Santiago	A Madeiros.		

June 12, 1935:

Triumphing for the Washington Township league lead, the Decoto Merchants beat Irvington 9 to 2 Sunday, despite the absence of four regular players. Decoto was handicapped when Lolly Amaral, Frank Madeiros, Louis Devalle and Dale Laybourne failed to show up. Joe Dutra, Jack Kiefer, Kenneth Santiago, Wilbert Hendricks, and Al Cloudeane picked up the slack.

June 18, 1935:

The Decoto Merchants baseball team defeated Pleasanton 11 to 5 Sunday, in a contest at Pleasanton. The team will play Niles at Decoto next Sunday.

July 22, 1935:

The O.K. Battery sluggers found the range of two Decoto pitchers and pounded out a 20 to 7 win. The line-up for Decoto:

Sanchez (SS)	Gonzales (CF)	J. Gonzales (2B)	Seaone (C)
Delva (1B)	S. Leiva (LF)	Navas (RF)	Barnes (3B)
Dutra (P, CF)	Perry		

November 17, 1936:

Triple Tie Looms in Baseball Winter League:

The Niles Merchants sit atop the Winter League Baseball standings at 4 & 0, followed by the Alvarado Eagles at 4 & 1, and Ramos Real Estate at 3 & 1. The Decoto Merchants are tied for the bottom spot with the Elmhurst Merchants at one win and four losses each.

April 19, 1938:

The Decoto Merchants beat the Oakland A.C., 12 to 7. Tony Dutra pitched a fine brand of ball, fanning 10 and allowing six hits. Jim Gonsalves started the rally that won the game assisted by Tony Mattos, who collected three blows. Val Mattos and Tony Dutra each had two.

June 7, 1938:

Pines Tavern defeated the Decoto Merchants 9 to 8. The Line up for Decoto:

Mattos (RF)	Perry (SS)	Rivers (2B)	Gonsalves (CF)
Blaine (1B)	Sanchez (LF)	Rivers (C)	Plumb ((3B)
Dutra (P)	Silva (3B)		

July 12, 1938:

The Rose Garden team defeated the Decoto Merchants, 13 to 2. The line up for Decoto:

V. Mattos (RF)	Gonsalves (CF)	P. Rivers (2B)	A. Perry (SS)
Paul Rivers (3B)	Plum (1B)	Seoane (C)	Sanchez (LF)
Dutra (P).			

July 26, 1938:

The Newark Merchants pounded the Decoto Merchants, 22 to 7. The line up for Decoto:

J. Gonsalves (LF)	Sanchez (CF)	Pete Rivers (2B)	Perry (SS, P)
Plum (3B)	Paul Rivers (C)	Santiago (1B)	H. Dutra (RF)
T. Dutra (P, SS).			

November 14, 1939:

Joseph Motors downed the Decoto Merchants 7 to 4. The line up for Decoto:

A. Cortez	A. Corchero	Charalto	Lemos
Santiago	Berrios	Sanchez	R. Corchero
B. Cortez	Amaral.		

Larry Bettencourt:

Larry Bettencourt was born in Newark California on September 22, 1905, but grew up in Decoto when his family relocated here. He attended Washington Union High School in Centerville and went on to St. Mary's College in Moraga. His play on the St. Mary's football team earned him All-American honors and a membership in the College Football Hall of Fame. During his four-year varsity career he scored 12 touchdowns, most of them on blocked punts. As a senior in 1927 he blocked punts in six consecutive games.

He was also an excellent baseball player and in 1928 signed a \$6,000 contract with the St. Louis Browns (the Browns were a Major American League team which in 1954 were renamed the Baltimore Orioles). He played for the Browns from 1928 to 1932, coming to bat 395 times with a lifetime major league average of .258.

Larry played in the minor leagues from 1929 to 1944 for 11 different minor league teams. He batted 5,096 times for a lifetime minor leaguer batting average of .296.

In 1934 he played one season for the Green Bay Packers at Center (2 games), after which he returned to baseball and the minor leagues.

In March 1933 Larry surprised his family and friends by eloping to Reno with Miss Anna Pagini of Oakland, where they were married. He would soon leave with his bride for Hot Springs, Ark., where he is to join the Milwaukee club of the American Association for spring training. Scores of friends of the athlete honored him and his bride at a reception in Oakland, where they spent their honeymoon.

For the last two years Bettencourt, who was an All-American center in his senior year at St. Mary's College, had also played baseball with the St. Louis Browns of the American League. He was "farmed out" to Milwaukee this year. Larry lived to the good age of 73 years, passing away on September 15, 1978.

MEMORABLE EVENTS

License to Marry / Marriages / Deaths / Other Events

LICENSE TO MARRY:

- May 1933:** Joe Boliba, 25 & Annie Ramos, 18, both of Decoto.
- June 1933:** Jim Gonzales, 22, & Dolores Sanchez, 20, both of Decoto.
- September 1933:** Louis Brazil, 22, Decoto & Mildred Peters, 16, Hayward.
- September 1934:** Gonzalez Carabello, 49 & Elisa Laverne, 41, both of Decoto.
- December 1934:** Charles Janeiro, 23, Decoto & Mary Franco, 21, Niles.
- December 1934:** Joe Rivera, 26 & Nellie Caraballo, both of Decoto.
- August 1935:** Felix Pinza, 34, Decoto & Hazel Manning, 30.
- September 1935:** Frank Margarido, 40, Decoto & Betty S. Stevenson, 20, Hayward.
- November 1935:** Ildefonso Chamorro, 23, Decoto & Bessie Tejada, 23, Hayward.
- July 1936:** Reyes P. Lambaren, 24, Alvarado & Lucy Montellano, 22, Decoto.
- December 1936:** Bennie Santiago, 21, Decoto & Ramona Martinez, 18, Oakland.
- February 1937:** Segundo Diaz, 23, Alvarado & Antoinette Torquemada, 20, Decoto.
- June 1938:** Frank Janeiro, 27 & Theresa Escalona, 22, both of Decoto.
- November 1938:** Robert H. Whipple, Decoto & Margaret Munger, Alvarado.
- December 1938:** Manuel Boliva, 21 & Jennie Navas, 22, both of Decoto.
- May 1939:** Raymond S. Berrios, 37 & Lola Killis, 37, Decoto.
- June 1939:** Michael F. Montellano, 23 & Josephine Triana, 21, Decoto.
- September 1939:** Joseph Seoane, 22, Decoto & Rose Azevedo, 19, Warm Springs.
- October 1939:** Charles G. Sanchez, 21 & Isabel B. Montes, 21, both of Decoto.

MARRIAGES:

- August 1932:** Wilbert Borba to Edith Goularte of Decoto.
- December 1932:** John Paniagua, Hayward to Marie Bolivia, Decoto.
- January 1934:** Lawrence Delgado, Decoto to Mary Rosa, Hayward.
- September 1934:** Clarence Perry, 21, Decoto to Lorraine Allison, 22, Hayward.
- September 1934:** George Pacheco, Decoto to Trinie Sanchez, San Leandro.
- September 1934:** Anthony Knobles, Newark to Lola Luna, Decoto.
- September 1934:** Manuel Costa & Irene Fonseca.
- June 1935:** Al Fereira to Annie Cortez.
- May 1936:** Leon Mendonca, Decoto to Anne Pacheco, Hayward.
- June 1937:** Manuel Sanchez to Clara Pacheco, both of Decoto.
- November 1937:** Joseph Alvarez to Jennie Cabrera, both of Decoto.
- June 1938:** Joseph G. Martin to Frances Berganciano, both of Decoto.
- October 1939:** Joseph Seoane, Decoto to Rose Azevedo, Warm Springs.
- January 1939:** Frank J. Silva 23, to Marie B. Abreu, 23, both of Decoto.

DEATHS:

January 5, 1930:

Mrs. Clara Petersen:

Mrs. Clara T. Peterson passed away in Petaluma on January 5, 1930. She was the beloved wife of the late John H. Peterson and loving mother of George A., and William H. Peterson, Mrs. O.F. Trask and Mrs. J.S. Lyle. She was a native of Vallejo and was 74 years of age. John and Clara Petersen had resided in Decoto for many years.

February 25, 1930:

Mrs. Sophia May:

Last rites were held February 25, 1930, for Mrs. Sophia May 87, pioneer Alameda County resident and philanthropist, who died Saturday after an illness of several weeks. Mrs. May came to California from Germany at the age of 18 years by the way of the Isthmus of Panama. She arrived in the Bay region by sailing vessel in 1861, just as the Civil War was declared.

Soon after her arrival in San Francisco she met and married August May (Sr.), who had preceded her from Germany by three years. The couple established their home at Alvarado. Mrs. May was actively engaged in charitable work in conjunction with the Lutheran Church of Alameda. She is survived by four grown children, August May Jr., President of the Bank of Alameda County and a resident of Alvarado; George B. May, San Jose; Henry May of Decoto and Mrs. Bertha S. Meyers, wife of Henry H. Meyers, official architect for Alameda County. August and Sophie May owned much land in Decoto, most notably the large tract of land known as El Rancho Verde today.

March 4, 1930:

Mrs. Julia Guerra,

Funeral services were held for the late Mrs. Julia B. Guerra, a resident of Decoto who died in Oakland on March 4, 1930. Mrs. Guerra was the wife of the late Becuna Guerra. She was a native of Mexico, aged 55.

July 6, 1930:

Joseph Alcanta:

Joseph Alcanta, 30, of Decoto sustained a fracture of the neck when his car struck a telephone pole. He died at Highland Hospital Sunday, July 6, 1930. He had gone to sleep at the wheel of his car while driving from his home to Alvarado Friday.

September 9, 1930:

Ernest Silva Jr.:

Funeral services were held September 9, 1930, for Ernest Silva Jr., 2-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Silva of Decoto. The boy died of an attack of pneumonia. His parents have been working at a local cannery, living on the premises.

October 31, 1930:

Mrs. Annie Silva:

Mrs. Annie Silva passed away in Decoto on October 31, 1930. Mrs. Silva was the beloved mother of Clarence Ray, Alberta Silva and Mrs. M.S. Cunha. A native of California aged 57 years.

December 2, 1930:

Frank Mendonca:

Frank A. Mendonca, 78, retired rancher of Decoto, died at his home here following a long period of ailment. The deceased was the grandfather of Mrs. Irene Leonard, wife of Frank B. Leonard, local banker and clubman. Children who survive Mr. Mendonca

were: Frank A. Jr., Joseph A., Manuel A., Mrs. Rose A. Goularte, Mrs. Julia Joseph, Mrs. Anna Soto, Mrs. Minnie Rose, and Mrs. Helen Boland. Mr. Mendonca has resided in this part of the county virtually all his life, coming with his parents from the Azores Islands around the horn in 1860.

December 3, 1930:

Robert T. Haines:

Robert T. Haines, prominent rancher living near Decoto, was crushed to death on December 3, 1930, when the tractor he was repairing, started in reverse and crushed him against a wall. Henry S. Haines told police that he left his brother working on the tractor in a shed in the yard. When he returned an hour later he found the brother dead, crushed between the tractor seat and the wall. Robert was the son of Israel B. Haines, a Decoto pioneer.

February 18, 1931:

Mrs. Ezra Decoto (Jr.):

Last services for Mrs. Neva Jarvis Decoto, wife of Ezra Decoto Jr., were held February 21, 1931. Mrs. Decoto passed away on February 18, 1931, at Providence hospital from the effects of influenza. She was 53 years old. Mrs. Decoto was born at Jarvis Landing in southern Alameda County, of a pioneer family, her father being the late Howard Jarvis, rancher, lumber and grain dealer, after whom Jarvis Landing was named. She was widely known in Alameda County, and was a member of the Oakland Forum and the Ebell Club. Mrs. Decoto was survived by her husband, two brothers and two sisters.

Obituary dated October 17, 1931:

James Logan:

John Whipple:

James Logan, 65 Alvarado, accompanied by John Cleveland Whipple, 51, prominent Decoto farmer, drove a light coupe into a gravel truck. Mr. Whipple is believed to have been killed instantly, while Mr. Logan died at the Hayward Hospital about 6 o'clock, three hours after the accident. They had been returning from a fishing trip.

Logan is believed to have dozed at the wheel of his car. It shot across the four-lane highway striking the truck and pushing a front wheel axle back against its body. The coupe was telescoped in fearful fashion, both men being caught in the seat, crushed and deeply cut by the wreckage.

Mr. Whipple was a Decoto school trustee and a native of California. He is survived by his wife Edith, and three sons, John C. Jr., Thomas and Keith. He was a member of the Centerville Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Logan, newly elected trustee of Washington Union High School at Centerville, is survived by his wife, Rebecca, six sons and five daughters and two sisters.

September 23, 1932:

Mrs. Mary Coit:

Many in this community today mourn the death of Mrs. Marie F. Coit, who died this morning, September 23, 1932, at her home in Decoto. She was the widow of the late Manuel Coit and was born in the Azores Island 70 years ago. She was the mother of Mrs. Maria Janeiro, Mrs. Rose Moniz, Mrs. Margaret Travis, Mrs. Viola Rose, Joseph F., Gabriel and Manuel Coit and sister of Frank Janeiro of Decoto.

Obit of November 3, 1932:

Vidal Martinez:

Funeral services were held here yesterday for Vidal Martinez, 15 years a resident of Decoto. Martinez is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Martinez. There were no children.

Funeral November 16, 1932:

Ezekial Martinez:

Funeral services were conducted this afternoon, November 16, 1932, for Ezekial Martinez, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martinez of Decoto. Following services at the Decoto Pentecostal Church, burial took place at the Mt. Eden cemetery.

May 10, 1933:

Mrs. John H. Ralph:

Mrs. Elizabeth Ralph, wife of John H. Ralph of Alvarado, died May 10, 1933. Mrs. Ralph was a native of Decoto, nee Miss Laura E. Lowrie. John H. Ralph of Alvarado was partner of John Olson's in Decoto just after the turn of the century.

May 18, 1933:

Mrs. Rose Pimentel:

The many friends of Mrs. Rose Pimentel, late of Decoto, today mourn her death, which occurred at her home at 11th and "I" Streets, Decoto the evening of May 18, 1933. She is survived by her husband, Frank Pimentel and a daughter, Mrs. Mary Rosala. She was the daughter of John Moura and the late Mrs. Phyllis Moura, and sister of Mrs. Minnie Costa, Mrs. Julia Fields, Mrs. Agnes Borges and Manuel, Anthony, Mary and Josephine Moura.

June 13, 1933:

Mrs. Mary Ann Artz:

Mary Ann Artz passed away in Decoto on June 13, 1933. She was the beloved mother of Madge and Clarence Artz, a native of Pennsylvania, aged 85 years.

June 20, 1933:

Ernest Sequeira:

Ernest Sequeira passed away at Highland Hospital on June 20, 1933. Ernest was the victim of an automobile collision at 10th & "H" Streets in Decoto yesterday afternoon that left him with a fractured skull. His car struck that of Leon Mendonca, 22, while both men, members of the Decoto Volunteer Fire Department, were rushing to answer an alarm caused by a grass fire near Decoto. Mendonca was exonerated of blame in the accident. Funeral services will be conducted at the family Sequeira home at 607 Ninth Street, Decoto. Mr. Sequeira was born in 1890 in New Bedford, Mass. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Sequeira, two daughters, Miss Ida Sequeira and Mrs. Alice Enos, both of Decoto; a brother Tony Sequeira, and four sisters living in New Bedford, and his father, also in Mass.

July 13, 1933:

Enos Corneil:

Enos Corneil, whose death occurred Thursday, July 13, 1933, at a San Jose hospital was buried at Mt. Eden Cemetery. Funeral services were held at the family home on Fifth Street, Decoto. Mr. Corneil was a native of Porto Rico, 53 years old.

From an obituary dated July 8, 1934:

Tony Ramos:

Despondent and ill, Tony Ramos, 45, proprietor of a general store and poolroom in Decoto, took his own life with a self-inflicted gunshot. Two men walking nearby,

Ralph Lopez and John Roberts heard the shot and battered in the door, finding Ramos unconscious. He died before Dr. E.C. Grau arrived. Ramos is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Ramos, and five children.

June 26, 1935:

Antonio D. Goularte:

Antonio D. Goularte was killed on June 26, 1935, by a Southern Pacific train. He was identified as A.D. Goularte pioneer Decoto resident and ex-saloon keeper. He had been blind for many years and of late had been despondent because of ill health and money difficulties. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Goularte, and five children, Edward, Elizabeth, Wilbert, Edith and Anthony Goularte.

September 16, 1935:

John Paniagua:

John Paniagua of Decoto died en route to a Tracy hospital after a truck he was driving was struck by a westbound Southern Pacific passenger train at the Grant Line Road crossing near Tracy on the evening of September 16, 1935. Witnesses said the driver apparently failed to see the approaching train and attempted to cross the tracks. The train hit the truck and demolished it. Paniagua was extricated from the wreckage by a brother, Peter Paniagua, who was following the truck in a passenger car.

December 27, 1935:

Mrs. Louise Rodriguez:

Mrs. Louise Rodriguez, 50 Decoto, died instantly in a head-on collision in San Jose on December 27, 1935.

January 6, 1936:

Elmer Brewer:

Elmer Brewer, farmer at Decoto for six years, died at his home on January 6, 1936. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Brewer, and three children, Leslie, Ola and Bernice Brewer.

Manuel Antone Pimentel, January 9, 1936:

Enos Antone Pimentel, January 12, 1936:

Dying three days after the death of his son, Enos Antone Pimentel, 82, passed away Sunday (January 12, 1936) night at his home in Decoto. Mr. Pimentel is survived by his wife, Mrs. Annie Pimentel and six children, Mrs. Mary Nunes, Mrs. Margaret Lazarus, Helen, Tony, William and Ernest Pimentel. A son, Manuel Antone Pimentel died last Thursday (January 9, 1936).

He had resided in Decoto 62 years, occupied as a farmer and laborer. Funeral services will be held at the family home on "I" Street in Decoto, with mass to be conducted at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Niles.

Funeral Services March 5, 1936:

Germania Marquez:

Funeral services for Germania Marquez, 13, of 601 Fifth St., Decoto, were held March 5, 1936, from her home. The child, who succumbed to pneumonia, was the daughter of Aureto Marquez and the late Christina Marquez.

April 2, 1936:

Anthony Goularte:

Anthony S. Goularte, 61, died at his home in Decoto on April 2, 1936. He was the son of Mrs. Mary Goularte and the late Joseph Goularte, and brother of Mrs. Mary C. Cunha and Joseph Goularte Jr. He was a native of the Azores Islands and had lived in Decoto for five years.

From an obituary dated April 6, 1939:

Joseph Pepitone:

The death of Joe Pepitone, barber in Decoto for 17 years, in Decoto was mourned by his many friends. He is survived by his wife Virginia Pepitone, and the following children, Mrs. Grace Bettencourt, Melvin, Joe, Eleanor, Marie, Theodore and Robert Pepitone. A granddaughter Grace Bettencourt also survives. Mr. Pepitone was born in Italy 48 years ago and had lived in California 34 years.

July 14, 1936:

John J. Rose Jr.:

John Joseph Rose Jr., life long resident of Alameda County and well known in the Alameda County bar, died July 14, 1936 at Merritt Hospital in Oakland. He was born in Decoto, October 21, 1871 and was educated in the Decoto Grammar School and later attended high school in Oakland. He entered the San Francisco Law School and studied in the law office of Reed, Black and Reed.

Rose was admitted to the State Bar in October 1901. He was interested in the legal welfare of the Portuguese. During recent years he had been in retirement, but maintained offices in the Tribune Tower. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Etta Rose; a son, John S. Rose; a brother Louis Rose, and three sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Eastman, Mrs. Mary Swartz and Mrs. Rose Armell.

Funeral Services August 21, 1936:

Victor Hernandez:

Funeral services for Victor Hernandez, 70, father of Philip Hernandez, Vice-President of the Decoto Junior Chamber of Commerce will be held August 21, 1936. The deceased is a native of Spain and has been a resident of Decoto for 18 years. He is survived by five sons, Philip, Frank, Joseph, and Peter of Decoto, and Alphonso of Argentina.

December 6, 1936:

Isaac Lorenzi:

One child was killed; two others were hurt in an auto crash on the Niles Road last night, December 6, 1936. The dead child is Isaac Lorenzi, 12, of Decoto. He was in an auto driven by his brother, Consuelo Lorenzi, 27, which struck a machine driven by Frank Dias Souza of San Leandro at Mission Blvd. and Harder Roads.

Officers said Lorenzi passed one car, then his left rear hub struck the left front hub of Souza's car. Lorenzi's car skidded and overturned. Isaac was pinned under the car, a hub resting on the nape of his neck. He was dead on arrival at Hayward Hospital. Also injured in the crash were Jenny Torres, 9, and Virginia Torres, 11, children of Mrs. Vincent Torres, Decoto.

January 24, 1937:

Frank Calderia:

Friends today mourn the death of Frank S. Calderia, who died Sunday (Jan 24, 1937) at his home in Decoto. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary G. Calderia, and daughters and sons, Mrs. Mary Silva, Mrs. Frances Williams of Decoto, Mrs. Anna

Avila of Niles, Frank D., of Paradise, Antone of Livermore, Manuel I., and Joseph P. Calderia of Decoto. He was a native of the Azores Island, aged 81 years.

February 18, 1937:

Mrs. Sophia (C.K.) Andersen:

Friends today mourn the death of Mrs. Sophia C.K. Andersen, which occurred at her home in Decoto on February 18, 1937. Aged 92, she resided in the Decoto district for 60 years, and in California 64 years. She was the wife of the late Christian E. Andersen, mother of Christine M. and William A. Andersen. She was a native of Denmark. The pallbearers were: Peter Decoto, Harry Searles, Ludwig Olson, Harry Haines, Herbert Harrold, Henry May, John C. Whipple and Fritz Swanson.

Funeral Rites March 16, 1937:

Matalia Paniagua:

Final rites were held for Matalia Paniagua of 717 4th Street, Decoto, on March 16, 1937, with services at the home followed with mass and interment at the Holy Ghost Church in Centerville. The deceased was a native of Spain.

April 17, 1937:

Edwin Kendall Dies:

Edwin F. Kendall, 76, operator of an auto camp near Decoto, died here Saturday, April 17, 1937. He is survived by three children, Martha M., Raymond F. and Earl C. Kendall. He was a native of Ohio.

June 2, 1937:

Salvador Alvarez:

Schoolmates of Salvador Alvarez, 15, leader of the graduating class of the Decoto Grammar School, are in mourning his death, which occurred somewhat mysteriously by drowning at Santa Cruz Wednesday, June 2, 1937. The graduating class held its annual outing at the seaside resort. His classmates did not miss him until his body was found in the Casino Plunge. It was reported no one saw him enter the pool, and even a lifeguard who was about 50 feet away. It is supposed by some that his heart failed to withstand the shock of strangulation when he fell into the pool. Salvador was the son of Salvarado Alvarez Sr., Decoto merchant, and is survived by his mother, five brothers and two sisters. He was an outstanding member of the baseball and track teams at the school, was a school monitor and had a leading role in the class play.

July 6, 1937:

Mrs. Mary G. Calderia:

Mrs. Mary G. Calderia passed away in Niles on July 6, 1937. She was the dearly beloved wife of the late Frank S. Calderia and loving mother of Mrs. Mary Silva, Mrs. Frances Williams of Decoto, Mrs. Anna Avila of Niles, Frank D., of Paradise, Antone of Livermore, Manuel I., and Joseph P. Calderia of Decoto. She was a native of the Azores Island.

October 31, 1937:

Edward L. Haines:

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday morning for the late Edward Lee Haines, native and resident of Decoto, who died Saturday, October 31, 1937, in Hayward. Mr. Haines was a brother of Mrs. May Williams, Henry S. Haines, and the late Robert T. and Joseph B. Haines. He was the son of Decoto pioneer Israel B. Haines.

Elario Gavarra, January 9, 1938:

Tony Silva, January 9, 1938:

The death of Tony Silva, 21, and his nephew, Elario Gavarra, 14, both of Decoto, in an auto accident on the Whipple Road near Alvarado Sunday night, January 9, 1938, brought to three the 1938 score of traffic deaths for southern Alameda County. State Highway patrol officers learned that Silva, accompanied by two sisters and four nephews, was en route to Alvarado to attend a theater. Silva was killed instantly, while young Gavarra died of his injuries Sunday morning. Both suffered basal skull fractures and hemorrhages. Also injured were Theresa, 14, and Ameilia Silva, 14, and their cousins, David, Amadera Gavarra and Jardeno Durant, all of Decoto.

From an obituary dated January 15, 1938:

Mrs. Alvena Crane:

Many Hayward acquaintances of Mrs. Alvena Crane, well known in Southern Alameda County, will be sorry to learn of her death, which occurred last week at her home in San Jose. Mrs. Crane was the widow of the Carlton C. Crane, pioneer railroad man who for 56 years was passenger agent of the New York Central Railroad.

Mrs. Crane was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Meyer, pioneer residents of Decoto. Mr. Meyer operated a general merchandise store in Mt. Eden in the 60's. In 1866 he sold his business to Henry Petermann Sr., of San Francisco. Mr. Meyer and his family moved to Decoto and later to Irvington, where he became a large landowner. Mrs. Crane still owns a large apricot orchard in Decoto. She leaves to mourn her two sisters, Mrs. Helen Crane Guyman and Miss Amalia Meyer of San Jose and a brother, Frederick Meyer of Oakland.

January 24, 1938:

Antonio Abrao:

Antonio Abrao, 83, died Monday, January 24, 1938, at his home in Decoto. He was the husband of the late Mrs. Marina Abrao and father of Mrs. May Oliver and Joseph Abrao. He was born in the Azores.

From an obituary dated February 28, 1938:

Frank Janeiro:

Frank C. Janeiro, 70, resident of Decoto for 51 years, died Monday morning at his home at 715 Railroad Avenue. He was a native of the Azores Islands. Mr. Janeiro is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary E. Janeiro and the following children: Mrs. Doris King and Charles Janeiro of Decoto, Mrs. Daisy Leitch of Pleasanton, and Cecilia and Mary Janeiro of Decoto.

From an obituary dated May 17, 1938:

Marcelino Cunha:

Final rites for Marcelino Cunha, 73, of Decoto were said at the Holy Rosary Church with interment at the Holy Ghost Cemetery in Centerville. The deceased was a native of the Azores Island and passed away at his home after a lingering illness. He is survived by his widow, Mary and several children.

Last Rites July 7, 1938:

Frank Margarido:

Last rites were said Saturday for the late Frank Margarido, 79, for 60 years a resident of Decoto who died Thursday, July 7, 1938. Mr. Margarido served as mail carrier at Decoto for many years. He was the husband of the late Mrs. Mary

Margarido and father of Mrs. Mary Duchine, Mrs. Katherine Rose, Frank and Jerry Margarido. He was a native of the Azores Island.

July 12, 1938:

Miss Eva Shepherd:

Miss Eva Shepherd, 82, resident of Decoto for 13 years, died Tuesday, July 12, 1938, at the home of her niece, Mrs. Charles Brown, 1006 "D" Street, Decoto. Miss Shepherd is survived by a sister in Saratoga and three nieces, Mrs. May Brown of Decoto and Misses Elsie and Jessie Walker. She was a native of New York.

August 19, 1937:

Henry May:

One of southern Alameda County's oldest and wealthiest pioneer residents, Henry May, succumbed to a short illness Friday morning, August 19, 1937, at his home on May Road in Decoto. Mr. May was a farmer and was a native of Alvarado. Death overtook him at the age of 67 years. Mr. May leaves his wife, Mrs. Clara Hawley May, and three children, Mrs. Gertrude Kennedy, Hayward, and Marjorie Sturcke and Henry May Jr. His passing is also mourned by his two brothers, George B. May of San Jose and August May, Jr., wealthy retired banker, and a sister, Mrs. Bertha Meyers. Pallbearers were J.L. Olson, Harry Searles, John Scribner, Arthur Riddle, Peter Decoto and H. Harrold.

From an obituary dated November 4, 1938:

Mariano Deniz:

Final rites were said for Mariano Deniz of Decoto. The deceased was the husband of Isabel and the father of Mrs. Irene Watkins of San Francisco, Mrs. Dorothy Wasson of San Francisco, Alvin Deniz of Honolulu, and Ned and Elmer Deniz of Decoto. He was a native of Santa Clara and was 45 years of age.

November 12, 1938:

Sylvester Moreno:

Sylvester Moreno, 415 E. 6th St., Decoto, was found dead on his front porch here Saturday, November 12, 1938, slumped forward in a chair. Deputy Sheriffs reported that death was apparently due to natural causes.

April 11, 1939:

Joseph Mendonca:

Funeral services were conducted in Centerville and Niles Friday for the late Joseph A. Mendonca, who died in his home in Decoto Tuesday night, April 11, 1939, after only a two-day illness of a heart attack, which he never previously had noted. He was but 60 years old.

Mr. Mendonca, a native of Mission San Jose, was widely known throughout southern Alameda County, having been a produce buyer for 30 years. He formerly worked as field man for the California Pea Growers Association and with the California Supply Company at Mountain View.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Annie E. Mendonca, and their five children, Laverne and Leon Mendonca, and Mrs. Stella George of Hayward, and the Misses Ellen and Agnes Mendonca of Decoto.

March 21, 1939:

Mrs. Mary Dutra:

Friends are mourning the death of Mrs. Mary Goularte Dutra, former resident of Hayward and for 22 years a resident of Decoto, who died at her Decoto Home early Tuesday, March 21, 1939. Mrs. Dutra is mourned by her husband, Frank S. Dutra and their five children, Frank, Lena, Marie, Anthony and Henry Dutra. She was a native of the Azores Island and was aged 55 years.

May 19, 1939:
Fred Corchero:

Fred Corchero, 31, was critically injured on the morning of May 19, 1939, when the car he was driving was hit by the Southern Pacific's morning train to San Francisco. He drove his auto on the tracks at Tennyson Road, the train crashed into it, shoved it along for about 60 feet, and then threw Corchero 10 feet farther along the right-of-way. Corchero was brought to the hospital by Mike Montellano of Decoto, who had followed him in another car and witnessed the accident. He is near death at Hayward Hospital as a result. A news article dated May 25th showed him still to be unconscious nearly one week later. On June 1, 1939 the Deputy Coroner announced that they would be conducting an inquest into the death of Mr. Corchero.

July 3, 1939:
Christian Runckle:

Funeral services were conducted in Berkeley for the Christian H. Runckle, for 25 years secretary of the Alameda County Water District, who died Monday July 3, 1939 at the age of 70. Born in Dutch Flat in 1869, Mr. Runckle became a schoolteacher at the age of 18. Runckle taught school in Decoto and Pleasanton and at the same time published the *Washington Township & Niles Register*; for a long time he owned and published both papers.

OTHER EVENTS:

April 1930:
The Forgotten Election:

Decoto was scheduled to hold its annual election last Monday, April 7, 1930, but it didn't, it forgot to. The event was duly announced, advertised and prepared for. But when Election Day came it completely slipped everybody's mind. City commissioners forgot to establish a balloting place and if there was one voter in the community who didn't forget to vote, he registered no complaint when he was unable to find a polling place.

Nearly a week later the ballots that had been prepared turned up in the drawer of someone's desk, all of them as clean of marks as the day they left the printing press. And now Decoto wants to know what it can do about it. Fire Chief Roland Bendel has written to District Attorney Earl Warren asking for advice.

Fire Commissioner William Hurst, who was to have been re-elected, finds himself in office without a vote having been cast. He doesn't know whether he's still fire commissioner or not. No one has ousted him. But then, on the other, no one has voted him into another term.

Hurst's name was the only on the ballot, and that, Bendel feels, was the reason why the election was marked by so little interest and so much forgetting. "The fire commissioner's election is not taken very seriously out here in the country," the fire chief explained in his letter. "There is seldom a contest, and it is asking a great deal for the poll watchers to sit around all day for about a half dozen voters."

Bendel suggested that Alameda County District Attorney Earl G. Warren think up some legal way of consolidating hereafter the fire commissioner's election with the annual school election, which comes a week earlier, and asked what could be done about the present situation.

A month passed and Decoto would have liked to forget about this embarrassing lapse of memory. But on May 6th the forgotten election was held in Decoto for the only candidate on the ballot for Fire Commissioner. The election officers remembered to open and close the polls. Voters even remembered to vote. Decoto passed the day's memory test at nearly 100 percent. Fifty-two ballots were cast, with no write-ins.

Today the town trustees wrote into the blank where the election results should have been posted on April 7th the fact that William Hurst, incumbent, unopposed, has been re-elected fire commissioner. There being no other candidate or office involved, that is what the election was about. For 30 days Hurst, who, like all the other Decoto citizens, forgot he was running for office, has been wondering whether he held a job or not. He wasn't ousted, 'twas true, but neither was he re-elected. After due deliberation, Deputy District Attorney Frank Ogden said that it would be legally possible for Decoto to tie a string around its corporate finger and try again.

May 1930:

Township Population:

The population of Washington Township towns for the year 1930 was 12,705 people. In 1920 the township had a population of 8,494. By town the population was:

Alvarado	1,889 (Probably includes the Alviso District)
Centerville	1,657
Decoto & Niles	4,129
Irvington	1,234
Masonic Home	313
Mission San Jose	902
Newark	1,533
St. Mary's Orphanage	198
Warm Springs	850

July 1930:

New Masonic Home Addition:

The new \$300,000 central unit of the Masonic Home near Decoto will be completed by the end of July 1930. Only a few interior details remain to be completed before the building is ready for inspection and approval of the California Masonic Grand Lodge.

The structure has five stories and a basement. The first floor will house the administration department, superintendent's office, matron's office, library, information office and a reception salon. The four upper stories are divided into 90 rooms for women inmates.

As one enters the new structure, which is a sturdy giant in architectural features, he ascends a flight of brick stairs with stone masonry on the sides. The porch is long and shaded with five gothic arches and cement pillars of exquisitely carved figures adorning them. The porch roof is made into a balcony and there are two other

balconies constructed on the outside of the second floor, on each side of the porch roof.

August 1930:
Dynamite Explosion:

The delayed explosion of a stick of dynamite in the salt beds of the Arden Salt Works of Newark caught two workmen off-guard, literally blew their clothing off, but by a strange turn of fortune left them alive and with a possibility of recovering.

The two men are Enos Delgado, 30, of Decoto and Manuel Costa, 48, of Newark. They were brought to Hayward Hospital, where physicians said they were suffering from bad burns and innumerable "punctures."

The stick of dynamite was buried in the salt for loosening it by blasting, and the explosion had all the effect of the discharge of a shotgun loaded with salt. The men were suffering agonies from the salt driven into their bodies when brought to the hospital.

Dynamite is habitually used to break up the salt "pan" and a careful count is kept of the stick, salt works authorities said. They could not explain how the one stick of dynamite that did the damage was not exploded with the rest of the explosive when the charge was set off by the workmen.

September 1930:
Spelling Bee:

Lola Luna, a senior student at Washington Union High School, placed 13th in the State spelling match held at the State fair at Sacramento Saturday. She received a prize of \$10. A written contest was held first, and the 14 people scoring highest in this were entered in a final oral competition. Miss Luna represented Washington Union High School and Alameda County. She is a resident of Decoto.

January 1931:
Peter Decoto Shows Alaskans Articles from 1890's:

The Mt. Eden School is preparing an exhibit of early schoolbooks and other memorabilia. Mrs. Roland Bendel of Decoto is making a collection of old manuscripts, letters and books, and Peter Decoto, former Alaskan sourdough, has offered a number of Alaskan mementoes which date back to the famous stampede to the Klondike in 1897 and 1898. The articles offered by Mr. Decoto include a pair of mukluks, or Eskimo waterproof boots, a pair of moose hide gauntlets, and a receipt for 60 ounces of gold taken from Mr. Decoto's claim at Gauvin Gulch. The Receipt was for \$819.

February 1931:
Poultry Continue to Plague Citizens:

After a layoff of several weeks, poultry thieves resumed their raids on ranches of Washington Township, according to Constable Tom Silva. Mrs. M. George of Decoto had her flock of approximately three dozen birds stolen in a recent raid. How the thieves are able to get away with such large quantities of birds without disturbing their owners is a mystery, which the sheriff's office has not been able to solve.

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### **Thieves Steal Preserved Fruit from Barn:**

Constables Tom Silva and O.W. Ebright made a speedy run to Decoto last night to catch a couple of burglars who were said to have stolen a barn. However, it was found that Mrs. Asuncion Gutierrez, owner of the barn, had been excited when she telephone and had intended to say that preserved fruit valued at \$50 had been taken from the barn.

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Decoto Man Spends Six-Weeks in Hospital:

Frank George, a member of a Decoto trucking company, has returned to his home here after being confined to a Hayward Hospital for six weeks with a broken leg and head injuries received when his truck was demolished by a Western Pacific train.

March 1931:

The Professionally Unemployed:

Washington Township is becoming headquarters for the professional unemployed of the Bay district and Constable O.W. Ebright has asked for assistance from the sheriff's office in reducing the "floating" population of the district.

The practice of feeding tramps at the Masonic Home, near here, and the convent at Mission San Jose are blamed by Ebright for the situation. "Reds" in a large group, which dines at the Masonic Home this week caused a near riot when they objected to the menu. They threatened to raid the kitchen and take what they wanted but officers arrived in time to avert serious trouble.

According to Ebright, the tramps make their home in the plant of the Dickey Clay Manufacturing Company, less than a mile from the Masonic Home. When the whistles blow in the morning they arise and saunter up to the home for breakfast. Then they return to the plant, gather up their blankets and make their way to Mission San Jose for lunch at the convent. They return in time for dinner at the Masonic Home.

No special meals are served them at the home or the convent. They are given the food that is left over from the regular meals, Ebright said. However, if this food does not meet with the approval of the "reds," then trouble could be anticipated by the authorities. On a recent visit to the Masonic Home Ebright said that he found a group of 23 enjoying a free lunch.

May 1931:

Decoto Enters lone float from Alameda County:

It remained for the little town of Decoto to enter the lone float from Alameda County in the parade of the Fiesta de Las Rosas at San Jose last Saturday. The float was constructed to represent a Spanish garden. Riding on it were two Spanish dancers and groups of musicians attired in Spanish costumes. William Thomas, the cactus king of Washington Township, designed the float and drove it in the parade. Beautiful floats were also entered by San Francisco, Fresno, Pasadena, Gilroy, Santa Clara, Watsonville and Santa Cruz. Oakland was not represented.

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### **Poolroom Raid nets 51 Barrels of Wine:**

Tony Ramos' poolroom was raided and sheriff's deputies found 51 barrels of assorted wines in Ramos' place.

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Stash of Wine Nets Record Fine:

According to the sheriff's office, a precedent was established in Alameda County when Tony Ramos, Decoto poolroom owner and merchant, was assessed \$1,000 as a penalty for not declaring wine seized in a recent raid, plus \$1,924.30 for internal revenue tax. Ramos was recently arrested by sheriff's deputies and charged with possession of intoxicating liquor after 51 barrels of assorted wines had been found in his building. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$250 by Judge Jacob Harder Jr. of Hayward. The total of \$2,924.30 claimed by the government stands as a lien against the property until Ramos pays, according to Sheriff Driver. This is the first known time in the county that the government has stepped in to collect internal revenue taxes after raids disclosed large liquor holdings.

September 1931:

Motorcycle Run off of Road:

Three young Filipinos, residents of Decoto, were injured in a traffic accident on Hesperian Boulevard, near Mt. Eden, when the motorcycle and sidecar on which they were riding was forced off the road and struck by a light auto, according to reports. Tito Ramos, 21, sustained a severe injury to one foot. Ezekiel Ortiz sustained internal injuries of undetermined extent. Fernando Rodrigues suffered a broken leg.

March 1932:

Men Quarrel over Living Accommodations:

Two men were arrested last night in Decoto with connection with the stabbing of Jesus Torres, 22, apparently in a quarrel over joint occupancy by the three of living quarters. Peter Martinez and Joseph Sepulveda, alias Gilberto, are being held in the county jail on assault charges. Torres, stabbed in the forearm, was treated at the Hayward Hospital and later sent home. Martinez and Sepulveda are said to have been living in Torres' home. They are alleged to have met Torres in a Decoto poolroom yesterday and to have quarreled with, and the stabbing followed. Torres' wife called the officers to Decoto to investigate.

April 1932:

Wm. Hurst hit by Train:

William Hurst, plant superintendent for the W.S. Clay Manufacturing Company, escaped with a cut on the nose when his auto was demolished by a Western Pacific train on a crossing beside the tile plant at Decoto yesterday afternoon. So terrific was the impact that the pilot was ripped from the engine and the train was delayed for repairs.

June 1932:

Man Returns to Decoto and Faces Larceny Charge:

Returning to Niles after an absence of more than a year, Fred Duarte was greeted with a warrant sworn to by E.F. Kendall of Decoto, charging him with petty larceny. Kendall charged Duarte with stealing five gallons of gasoline from him shortly before he left Washington Township. Duarte denies the allegation and will be given a jury trial before Justice of the Peace J.A. Silva, Tuesday.

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**Raid in Decoto Uncovers Still:**

While county officers were preparing yesterday to arraign three men held following a raid on a gigantic liquor distillery on Niles Road Friday night, they conducted a second raid in Decoto, just to while away the time.

Joe Keles, 45, alleged owner of a homemade still, and John Martinez, 50, alleged operator, were arrested and charged with possession and operation of a still. They were held under \$500 bail each, set by Judge Jacob Harder Jr., in justice court here.

The officers said they found a still consisting of a five-gallon coal oil can over two coal oil burners, two big dishpans, a piece of rope and a Mason jar. The mash was heated in the coal oil can. The vapor rose there from through a tube into the first wash pan, cooling and condensing on the second dishpan within it, which was filled with cold water. Thence the liquid soaked the rope and dripped into the jar, through a funnel filled with charcoal. The officers said the resulting "jackass" was "extremely potent."

A five-gallon copper still was being set up and was nearly ready for operation, the officers said. About a gallon and a half of liquor was found in the place located at 711 Fifth Street, Decoto.

### **December 1932** **Beautiful Snowfall Recorded:**

Hayward was blanketed with its heaviest snowfall in recorded history last night; today witnessed the first snowball battles in its streets in thirty years. A two-hour snowstorm last night reminded former residents of eastern states and mountain areas of their old homes. The "beautiful white" swirled down last night between 5:30 and 7:30 o'clock in a fashion reminiscent of a Wyoming blizzard. During the night the temperatures descended to 24 degrees above zero, the lowest recorded here in several years at least. The maximum temperature yesterday was 45 degrees, making yesterday perhaps the coldest day in the memory of the oldest residents. Jack Carr, engineer for the Decoto Fire Department, recalled driving from Decoto to Oakland during a snowfall lighter than yesterdays about 28 or 30 years ago.

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Professionally Unemployed Elect President:

George B. Anderson, a veteran of the break rods and holder of a P.H.D. (Panhandler's degree) has been elected president of an exclusive hobo union, which has its headquarters in Decoto. The purpose of the organization is to preserve the ancient art of eating without labor.

Anderson contends that the art of hoboeing came near being destroyed when the depression caused thousands of amateurs to take to the road. His little group is all veterans, and no one is admitted to membership, it is reported, unless he can prove pre-depression experience. The "union" does not believe in physical violence, but its members are sworn to keep outsiders from the little domain in which it has been operating for several months.

The members are satisfied with two meals a day and a lot of rest. The shed of a tile plant here is used for sleeping quarters at night. In the morning, the members appear at the Masonic Home for breakfast. They are given what food is left by the residents of the institution, but it is always sufficient to satisfy their needs. Then the

group scatters, but assembles again at the Dominican Convent in Mission San Jose in time to prevent leftovers from lunch from finding their way into the garbage cans.

The afternoons are usually spent in the "jungles" of Alameda Creek, where the members loll around and meet old friends who happen to stop off between trips for meals.

April 1933:

Liquor License Applications:

The following applications for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses were presented to the Board:

OFF SALE:

P.J. Faletti, Decoto Service Station, Decoto
A.D. Goularte, Lunch Counter, 922 "D" St., Decoto
Raymond Soares, Country Lunch, Decoto

ON SALE:

P.J. Faletti, Decoto Service Station, Decoto
A.D. Goularte, Soda Fountain, 922 10th St., Decoto
Raymond Soares, Country Lunch, Decoto

On the motion of Supervisor Richmond, seconded by Supervisor Wixson, the applications were approved and the Clerk directed to request the Tax Collector to issue said license upon the payment of the required fee.

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##### **Farmers Burdened by Closure of SP Depot:**

In April of 1933 civic leaders of Decoto, joined by the Niles Chamber of Commerce, vowed to fight the recent announcement of the closing of the SP Train Station at Decoto. Decoto fought hard to keep the station, but in June 1933 the closure of the station was complete. Although it has weathered many depressions since it was constructed in 1869 the Decoto Southern Pacific station has been losing money for the last two years.

The station was established shortly after the Civil War, when the Central Pacific transcontinental railroad entered Oakland. The State Railroad Commission held that the company was justified in closing it.

#### **July 1933:**

##### **Stolen Car:**

Jack Carey, of Decoto, reported to police last night that his car was stolen sometime before midnight from its parking place on "B" Street, near Castro Street. The license number is 9F-10-27.

#### **August 1933:**

##### **Decoto Pair Disappears:**

The simultaneous disappearance of Joseph Goularte, 32, Alvarado farmer, and his wife's aunt, Mrs. Mary Perry, 39, today had caused relatives to appeal to the authorities to find them. Mrs. Perry is the wife of Frank Perry, Decoto farmer, and the mother of two children, Clarence 18, and Elvira, 15. Goularte has a wife Helen.

Frank Goularte, brother of Joseph, reported to Constable Tom Silva of Centerville, that he and Mrs. Perry disappeared Friday afternoon. Mrs. Perry, he said, left a note

to her daughter saying she was going away, and Goularte left a note to his wife saying he was departing. Both, according to Frank Goularte, took all their clothing. Mrs. Perry's automobile was found parked on the country road near Decoto while Goularte's car is missing. Mr. Perry was last seen, according to Frank Goularte, in Hayward about 3 p.m. Friday.

"If you see my brother, tell him to hurry home," Frank Goularte told the Constable. "His wife is prostrated, and his mother is seriously ill from the shock of his disappearance. Tell him his wife will forgive him if he'll only return."

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Crude Still Found on Kitchen Stove:

Pete Rodrigues is being held in the county jail this morning for "investigation" as a result of an unexpected call made at his home at 610 Eighth Street, Decoto, by Deputy Sheriff Hugo Radbruch.

According to reports made to the officers, the Rodrigues home had been the source of a supply of liquor, which had caused several Mexicans to run amok in Decoto during the past few weeks. Radbruch called upon Rodrigues yesterday to give him a warning, and when he entered the house he found a five-gallon still, made from a kerosene can, in operation upon the kitchen stove.

Although the officer had no power to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment, the outfit was so crude that he decided to hold him and let the Federal authorities do the "investigating."

October 1933:

Richard Kennedy Expands Operation:

Richard C. Kennedy, well known rancher and gardener, has purchased a 65-acre ranch on Alameda Creek below Decoto. The land is sedimentary and well adapted to vegetables. Mr. Kennedy will farm the acreage in addition to a 300-acre ranch he has leased for some time. The new purchase is part of the 350-acre Bell Ranch.

November 1933:

The Forum: Tribune Letters to the Editor:

To the Editor of the *Tribune*:

I wonder how many people, as they listened to the President's (FDR) speech, could hear his hungry cry for help in his effort to bring happiness and prosperity to the American people. He is up against the world-old problem of trying to convince the mass of humanity as to the righteousness of his cause.

Those of us who have lived many years know how hard it is to convince ourselves that at last humanity in the mass will wake up and do the right thing in support of NRA and the President's noble efforts to make it a solution for our problems.

This effort will succeed, and it will be a miracle of ages and make Moore's Utopia come true and Dumas' "Musketeers" come to life again. One for all and all for one. What a world we will then live in, where selfishness is placed in the discard and all of us march steadily onward to make our country the best and finest place on earth. Speed the day, play your part and do what every red-blooded American should be more than proud to do. Support our President to the limit, and thank god for your glorious privilege.

DR. H. WARREN NICE
Decoto, Calif. November 18th

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**Cat Causes Accident:**

Because Ben Gonsalves, 26, 801 Fourteenth Street, Decoto, did not want to hit a cat he saw scurrying across the road ahead of his machine last night, his wife, Mrs. Beatrice Gonsalves, 23, is in Hayward Hospital today with a badly cut forehead. Swerving the machine, Gonsalves lost control and the car slid over an embankment, crashing into a telephone pole, he told hospital attendants. The accident occurred near Alvarado.

**January 1934:**

**Decoto Trio Hurt in Auto Accident:**

Three persons were injured last night in an auto accident near Valle Vista. Fernando Rodriguez, driver, reported that his car skidded and overturned as he attempted to avoid striking a truck in the rear. The injured, none seriously hurt, included Mrs. Paul Rodriguez, John Caravallo and Jose Munoz, all of Decoto.

**July 1934:**

**Longshoremen Strike Affects Decoto Farmers:**

"Oakland docks at the foot of Fourteenth Street were guarded today by riflemen and machine gun units of the National Guard, brought here on the eve of the general strike crisis from Los Angeles. The men are stationed in a barracks in a warehouse. Field telephones are used to maintain communication to all points. Sentries with bayoneted rifles were posted and men set to work cleaning their guns even before the troops assumed tactical control. Machine gun "nests" were set up in commanding positions along railroad tracks and atop dock buildings. Police officers who have been on duty at the Outer Harbor since May 9, 1934, when Pacific Coast Longshoremen walked out, were relieved for other duty by the action of the Guard in taking over the protection of the harbor."

With only one attempt reported during the day and night to prevent the flow of foodstuffs into the strike area, convoying of trucks gathered momentum today. Wholesale districts reported an ample supply of fresh vegetables and fruit on hand. The problem remained with retail distribution rather than receipts at wholesale houses.

Traffic at Decoto, source of large quantities of vegetables, was halted temporarily last night when the Decoto road was found blocked by two telephone poles, which had been thrown across it. By the time deputies had arrived, motorists had rolled the poled off the roadway.

On both sides of the Bay convoying of trucks kept up today with an increasing number being seen on the highways. Attempts were to be made today to begin deliveries to canneries. The cannery at San Leandro opened this morning with 800 workers on hand. A police guard was present. Officials reported produce on hand for operations and declared they had been assured of a continued supply.

Report from the wholesale district of Oakland said that 200 trucks arrived there during the day and night. The trucks included all kinds of produce and it had also been noticed that some movement of trucks to warehouses.

The supply of fruits and vegetables in the wholesale district began to assume the proportions of a problem due to lack of sufficient delivery to retail markets. Hauling to the retail district was limited to private cars and these came only from such stores as actually needed supplies.

**August 1934:**

**Hermosa's run into Feliciano:**

Frankie Hermosa, 2, son of Mrs. Remunda Hermosa, 19, Decoto, was cut and bruised yesterday in a collision between his mother's machine and one driven by Silio Feliciano, 24, also of Decoto, at Tenth and "H" Sts. Neither Mrs. Hermosa nor Feliciano were hurt.

**November 1934:**

**Decoto Man in Hospital by Hit and Run Driver:**

As the result of an alleged hit-and-run driver, Manuel Garcia, 65, of Decoto, was in Alameda County Emergency Hospital in critical condition today, and Sixto Rodriguez, also of Decoto, is in the county jail. Rodriguez, said to have been under the influence of liquor, is alleged to have struck Garcia with his automobile then to have gone to his home.

**January 1935:**

**Miss Isobel Thomas Seriously Injured:**

Miss Isobel Thomas, 23, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Thomas of Niles Road, Decoto, lies seriously injured today as a result of an automobile accident Sunday evening about 5 o'clock in the San Joaquin Valley. Miss Thomas suffered a broken jaw and had all her lower teeth knocked out in a head-on collision with a truck loaded with wood. The other three occupants of the car in which Miss Thomas was riding were not injured, except for the driver, who suffered a fractured rib. Miss Thomas was operated on this morning, and when able to be moved will be transferred to an Oakland Hospital.

**February 1935:**

**Miss Isobel Thomas Moved to Parents Home:**

Miss Isobel Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Thomas of Decoto, who was injured in an automobile accident at Stockton two weeks ago, was moved to her parent's home in Decoto, where she is slowly recovering from the effects of a broken jaw.

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Miss Isobel Thomas Recovering Rapidly:

Miss Isobel Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Thomas, is recovering rapidly from her recent accident. She was able to go to her apartment in Berkeley Thursday, but will return to her home in Decoto Friday after a visit to a dentist.

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**Liquor License Renewal Terms must be met:**

As the first move in a drive to "clean up" the liquor situation in the Eastbay, renewal licenses of 25 resorts have been denied by the State Board of Equalization. Most of the denials of new licenses resulted from failure of the operators to comply with the control act, which provides that places selling liquor must be equipped for and



engaged in serving bona fide meals. Failure to comply with restaurant requirements cost Decoto operators William H. Strohm, 10<sup>th</sup> and "H" Streets and A.D. Goularte, 922 10th Street the renewal of their licenses.

**April 1935:**

**Airplane Awakens Sleepy Decoto Residents:**

Residents of Decoto community are accustomed to waking at dawn to pursue their daily tasks. But being roused out of bed by 5:30 a.m. by the thunder of an airplane just over their heads is a little unusual. For the past three days an airplane has been dusting the 400-acre pea field of the Andrade Brothers here. The plane, operated by Independent Crop Dusting, Inc., of San Francisco, is dusting the pea field for pea aphid, a disease, which presents a serious problem in some districts.

Two hundred twenty pickers are at work in the field, with more expected. Recent rains caused many of the shells to become marked with tip rot, although the peas were not damaged thereby.

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Andrade Bros. Improve Pea Picking Operation:

The Andrade Brothers, largest pea growers of the Decoto area, have installed a grader belt on their lower ranch, employing 18 additional workers. Another grader will be installed. Three carloads of peas were shipped east yesterday. More than 300 pickers are employed in their fields.

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**Janeiro Family Reunion:**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Janeiro entertained a family reunion Sunday with a steak barbecue. Attending were Mr. & Mrs. Frank Janeiro and:

|                 |                   |                       |                |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Cecilia Janeiro | Miss Mary Janeiro | Mrs. Emma Bettencourt |                |
| Grace Faria     | Loraine Faria     | Dorothy Faria         | John Faria     |
| Joseph Faria    | Mollie Fury       | Charlotte Janeiro     | William Amaral |

**May 1935:**

**Joe Chavaria Enlists in U.S. Army:**

Joe Chavaria of Decoto was one of fourteen recruits whose enlistment into the U.S. Army has been accepted. He, and the thirteen others, are awaiting shipment to Fort McDowell in Honolulu.

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Antone Janeiro Builds New Home:

Antone Janeiro, pioneer rancher of the May estate, has retired and is now building a new \$3,500 home on "G" & 3rd Streets here. Gabriel Coit is the builder.

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**Raymond Perry Builds New Home:**

Raymond Perry is building a new \$4,000 home at 12<sup>th</sup> and "J" Streets, with Charles Malani as contractor.

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Gonzalez Paniagua Builds New Home:

Gonzalez Paniagua has started a \$1,700 home, to be erected at 11th and "H" Streets. Manuel Brown is building a \$1,200 structure, to be used as a barbershop, with Dick White of Centerville as builder.

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**Salz Family Reunion at Stonybrook Park:**

Fifty members of the Salz family gathered at Stonybrook Park, Niles Canyon, Sunday for their annual picnic and outing. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Henry Salz and their family, the gathering included Mr. and Mrs. E. Salz of Centerville, and other relatives from San Francisco, Oakland and San Mateo.

**June 1935:**

**Township County Fair Queen Contestants:**

The formal announcement of the girl who is to reign as queen of the Washington Township Fair, planned in conjunction with a Fourth of July celebration, will be made at a queen contest ball in Centerville on Saturday evening.

The race began with 16 girls and has now been narrowed down to the following contestants:

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Niles:            | Miss Florence Martinelli |
| Centerville:      | Miss Mabel Lewis         |
| Decoto:           | Vivian Luna              |
| Newark:           | Eleanor Silva            |
| Alvarado:         | Irene Freitas            |
| Irvington:        | Evelyn Bettencourt       |
| Mission San Jose: | Mildred Santos           |

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Revenge Factor Cites in Cause for Derailing a Train:

Ten years of brooding over the death of his father in a railroad crash drove a son to seek revenge by attempting to wreck a train near the scene of the parent's death. That was the strange revelation disclosed by the questioning of Jesus Gutierrez, 40, of Decoto, regarding the attempted wrecking of a heavily loaded southern Pacific commuter's train near Decoto early Thursday. The elder Gutierrez was one of four railroad laborers killed in an accident in December 1925. The men were proceeding to work from Decoto to a section of track east of Niles. They believed no train was due from the east, but a switch engine bore down on them from around a curve. Several of the men leaped from their car, but three of them, including Gutierrez, were killed instantly.

July 1935:

John Paniagua Home Robbed:

Theft of \$17 in cash from his home at 4th and "F" Streets in Decoto while he was away at work was reported by John Paniagua. This is one of a series of burglaries reported in the Decoto and Alvarado area during the past week. A transient who gave his name as Mike Heney, claiming to be a former Hetch-Hetchy worker, was questioned by Constable Tom Silva after being discovered under suspicious circumstances in the back yard of Mrs. Rosalie Donovan, but was released.

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### **Carolyn A. Proctor Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday at Masonic Home:**

Carolyn A. Proctor has done a lot of living since she was born a hundred years ago at Hillsboro New Hampshire, but she had no recipe or rule for longevity beyond that of "a sweet, clean character, no drinking or smoking, simple food and honest labor." Those who have known her during the five years she has spent at the Masonic Home here praise her for these attributes, and one seeing for the first time is impressed with her serenity, her capacity for friendliness, her independence and her zest for living. She is looking forward to the birthday party her son, Frank L. Proctor, and her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Babbit are planning for her on August 5<sup>th</sup> in Oakland to celebrate her century of living.

### **December 1935:**

#### **Mrs. Agatha Zwissig Birthday Party:**

Re-uniting of friendships made many years ago in Switzerland marked the dinner party given Saturday night for Mrs. Agatha Zwissig at her home here in honor of her 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday. In addition to seven friends she knew in the old country there were seven of her children and nine of her grandchildren present, 40 guests in all having been bidden to the celebration. Mrs. Zwissig was born in Switzerland, December 10, 1862. She came to San Francisco when 26 years of age and moved to Newark shortly after the fire and earthquake. Her late husband was one of the pioneer dairymen of this township; her sons still operate one of the largest dairies in this section. Her native city was Burglen, home of William Tell.

### **February 1936:**

#### **Caldeira's Celebrate 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

Mr. and Mrs. F.S. Caldeira, of Decoto, are looking forward to celebrating their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month. Caldeira will be 83 years old next June and his wife will be 78 of February 14<sup>th</sup>. Both have resided in Decoto for more than 50 years. Mrs. Caldeira has quilted more than 100 coverlids during her life and her husband frequently aids her.

### **May 1936:**

#### **Shoot-Out at the Rabbit Pens:**

Shot in the legs while prowling around poultry and rabbit pens operated by John M. Goularte and Ricardo Iriarte on Niles Road, north of Decoto early today, Jose Flavela is in Fairmont County Hospital.

Flavela was arrested shortly after 6 a.m., after he had laid the Goularte-Iriarte home under a threatening siege for two hours. Two pistol bullets fired by Iriarte lodged in Flavela's left thigh and right ankle joint, the right leg being broken.

The two poultry-men said they saw the prowler about 4 a.m. Goularte seized a shotgun and Iriarte a pistol. Shouting at Flavela, they received this answer: "I didn't come to steal no roosters."

They ordered him off the premises, whereupon, they said, he approached them shouting, "Go ahead and shoot."

Goularte fired in the air but Flavela continued to approach, Iriarte fired twice from his bedroom window, both bullets taking effect. Flavela disappeared amid the pens. Some time later, after dawn, he reappeared in front of the house and dared the two occupants to "Come and fight."

When officers arrived, Flavela dropped his club and submitted to arrest. He told the officers he had gone to a carnival the night before, and Officer Ritchie said he "smelled strongly of alcohol" and may have been "hopped up" on marijuana.

Flavela has been employed recently as a pea picker at the Decoto farm of Richard C. Kennedy of Hayward. His parents live in Durango, Mexico. Iriarte was not held.

#### **June 1936:**

##### **Cock-Fight in May Canyon:**

A gathering in May Canyon, near Decoto, looked like a perfectly religious Sunday afternoon picnic. But three deputy sheriffs visited the place and arrested 11 persons connected with a cock-fighting tournament, as a result of which Judge J.A. Silva held a special justice court session in Niles, collecting \$95 in fines.

About 350 persons were attending the affair. The three deputies, James M. Ritchie, O.W. Ebright and Tom Silva, strolled quietly into the picnic grounds and were getting an eyeful of the proceedings. One of the picnickers, apparently "spotting" Ritchie's pistol, walked up to him and said, "Say buddy, I don't believe I've seen you before. Are you a member of this club?"

"No," said the officer.

"Well, I want to tell you something. Just come over here in the chicken house and I'll tell you something."

The cock fighting, Deputy Ritchie learned, was being conducted under the auspices of the East Bay Good Fellows Social Club, having a number of prominent citizens of Eden and Washington Townships as members. Four bouts had been held and six more were scheduled when the officers arrived. The tournament was one of a series being held in the state.

The 11 persons arrested were booked under a state law forbidding possession of birds or animals intended for fighting exhibitions. Owners of the birds were fined \$10 each by Judge Silva and pit assistants \$5 each.

The game birds were equipped with sharp gaffs (razors).

Mr. Ritchie, having read of a Los Angeles raid in which police found birds armed with "boxing gloves," remarked, "Well, I always knew those birds down south were sissies and this proves it."

#### **July 1936:**

##### **Tomato Blight Seen in Fields:**

With the approach of the tomato-canning season expected to open August 1<sup>st</sup>, many cases of devastating blight are reported in Alameda County tomato fields. A few instances in which portion of fields have been plowed under because of the destruction have been reported from Mt. Eden and Decoto. Destruction of the total product of a field or parts of fields afflicted is reported in a few cases, while the product of many is expected to be reduced materially. The blight is spread mostly by virus diseases transmitted by leafhoppers.

#### **September 1936:**

##### **The War on Pin-Ball Machines:**

Nearly 100 pinball machines were seized by Oakland Police today in a new war against the alleged gambling machines, which have automatic "pay off" provisions. The action came on the heels of a decision by a Centerville jury, backed by testimony of a University of California professor, that all pinball machines are gambling devices and not "games of skill." The Centerville jury reached its opposite decision after hearing Dr. B.M. Woods, head of the mechanical engineering department of the University of California, solemnly describe how he played 3,571 theoretical nickels to lose a theoretical total of \$21.25.

Dr. Wood's testimony was given during the suit of William S. Marshall, Decoto storekeeper, to recover a machine confiscated May 22<sup>nd</sup> by deputies from the sheriff's office. The professor explained he had played the machine by hand and later by a mechanical contrivance which applied an unvarying amount of pull to the spring handle that sends the balls in action against the pins that guard "paying" holes. Scientific control of the spring by use of machines in place of human hands fails to increase the percentage of winning games, Professor Woods testified. He declared that the machine "can not be controlled by the skill of the player."

### **October 1936:** **Child Drinks Kerosene:**

The bottle was half-filled with "water" and 16 months old John Ruperto of Decoto was thirsty, so he thought he'd take a drink. Little John did take a drink and it wasn't long afterward that he was undergoing treatment at the Alameda County Emergency Hospital for swallowing kerosene. Luckily for the child, his father happened by the kitchen door of the Ruperto home just as John was drinking from a half-pint bottle of the fluid which Mrs. Ruperto used to start kitchen fires. The boy's father took him to the hospital immediately. After treatment at the hospital, physicians said the child would recover.

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Ax Wielding Woman Drives off Four Intruders:

The aftermath of a lively affair at Decoto Sunday, in which a Decoto woman, Mrs. John Castro, repulsed four asserted intruders into her home by wielding an ax, occurred in justice court here yesterday.

Joe Muniz and Phil Ortiz, slightly injured by Mrs. Castro's ax, were sentenced to jail for 60 days. Their companions, Bill Muniz and Charles Nunes, are yet to appear. All were charged with malicious mischief.

The affray started in a pool hall, John Castro having incurred the enmity of the quartette in a quarrel. He fled to his home, the four following closely. Castro locked the front door, sped out through the rear. Not knowing that Castro was no longer present, the four undertook to break in according to Deputy Sheriff O.W. Ebright, who later arrested them.

Mrs. Castro's objections finally reached fighting pitch. She seized an ax and went to work. Muniz suffered a smashed knuckle on his left hand. Ortiz suffered a cut lip. Several windows of the Castro house were smashed. Muniz and Nunes fled when the ax came into play.

November 1936: **A Talking Motion Picture Machine Donated to Masonic Home:**

A recent gift of a \$2,000 talking motion picture outfit will be installed at the Masonic Home at Decoto as soon as required acoustical improvements can be made in the auditorium. The donor of the gift desires to remain anonymous. This will be the first time the residents of the home can enjoy talking movies, pictures for the silent screen having been shown for some time. It is hoped that the new apparatus will be installed in time for the Christmas celebration.

January 1937:

What's a knife in the back between friends?

"What's a knife in the back between friends?" queried the astonished Capt. James M. Ritchie of the Hayward Sheriffs Office yesterday. The query was evoked by the spectacle of two Decoto Mexicans going out of his office door, arm in arm. They were Armando Martinez and Juan Chavaria, living at the same Decoto address.

On Sept. 28th, the sheriff's records reveal, Juan stabbed Armando in the back with a knife. Juan was arrested Monday by Deputy Sheriff Tom Silva of Centerville, after having been "absent without leave" nearly four months.

Armando and Juan "made it up" at the city hall yesterday. Asked to file a complaint against Juan so he could be put in jail, Armando intimated the stabbing occurred a long time ago, was merely an old Mexican custom, and was just in fun. Arms about each other, they chorused, "Where's a good place to get a drink?"

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#### **Mrs. Ramos' Burglarized:**

Mrs. Mary Ramos, operator of a store in Decoto, yesterday reported to deputy sheriffs the theft of \$25 worth of wine and gasoline from her place. The thieves broke into the store's wine cellar, she said, taking a barrel of claret wine. Then they entered the garage, taking 40 gallons of fuel from two trucks.

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Amaral Blacksmith Shop Burglarized:

Sheriff's deputies yesterday investigated the burglary of a blacksmith shop at Decoto, operated for 25 years by A.A. Amaral. The thief removed two panes of glass in a window to gain entry, and then selected a half-inch hand electric drill, three dozen files and some skeleton keys from a variety of similar instruments in the shop.

February 1937:

Decoto Pair Injured in Car Accident:

Miss Lena Dutra, 25, of Decoto, was treated at Hayward Hospital for cuts and bruises received when the automobile in which she was riding with Manuel Seoane 22, of Decoto, collided with the car of Lawrence Gronley, 19, of Centerville, on the State highway near Centerville. Highway patrolmen said Gronley made a sharp turn into the path of Seoane's car.

March 1937:

Burglar Cut by Glass:

Deputy Sheriff Vincent Strobel was called to Decoto by Fire Chief Roland Bendel this morning to investigate a burglary there. A vacant house had been entered, the front door and a rear door window were smashed, and a trail of blood led away from the

place for two blocks, apparently indicating the burglar had been cut when smashing the window. Nothing was stolen from the house.

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### **Decoto Claims "Biggest Little Town in Southern Alameda County":**

Claiming to be "the biggest little town in Southern Alameda County," Decoto is located on the Oakland-San Jose Highway (the Hayward to Niles Road is known as the "High Road", whereas Alvarado-Centerville Road was known as the "Low Road" from Oakland to San Jose), with a population of 2,400. It is 21 miles from Metropolitan Oakland and the San Francisco Bay Bridge. Via the Oakland and the San Mateo-Hayward bridges one may reach San Francisco in a little more than a half hour.

A large part of the country's cauliflower, early peas and other truck garden products come from Decoto ranches. Sugar beets are grown in large quantities. Fruit and poultry find favorable locations here. One of the largest dairies in the county is at Decoto.

Several warehouses, a cannery, two tile factories, a bakery, stores for general business, and an attractive, well equipped grammar school, two churches, clubhouse, up-to-date fire department with club rooms for public meetings and modern homes are to be found in Decoto. Bus service is given students of the grammar school to the union high school at Centerville.

In testimony to the climate and scenic setting of Decoto, the Masonic Home has been located here. Four hundred residents are accommodated in the spacious brick buildings on picturesque hillsides overlooking San Francisco Bay. The home was built in 1898. The grounds cover 267 acres of fertile farmlands.

Hundreds of tourists visit Decoto to see the varied assortment of rare cacti plants and Mexican pottery at the Thomas Cactus Gardens, located on the main highway and known to thousands of rock-garden enthusiasts. Blue ribbons and medal from State fairs and Metropolitan Oakland flower shows have been won by the Thomas Cactus Gardens, bringing publicity to this community.

Both the Senior and Junior Chambers of Commerce are active in Decoto. Boy Scout troop, Junior Traffic Patrol and other organizations furnish recreation for the young people, residents of Decoto belonging to Washington Township social, civic and fraternal groups.

A \$100,000 sanitary system is about to be installed, local bonds having already been voted. A new \$40,000 steel bridge (Bell Ranch Bridge) has been recently completed on the Decoto-Centerville Road. An automatic dialing telephone service has been installed during the past year.

Prospective farmers, home seekers or manufacturers will be given a welcome and assistance in locating by the Junior Chamber of Commerce which is glad to answer all inquires.

### **April 1937:**

### **Deputies Confiscate Decoto Pin-ball Machine:**

Giving effect to official warnings against pinball and similar gambling machines, Deputy Sheriff George Wisner and Vincent Strobel last night confiscated a pinball machine at the Las Palmas Café in Decoto. Capt. James Ritchie of the sheriff's office said merchants are being warned these machines must be removed, pursuant to a recent ruling of U.S. Webb, State attorney General, or they will be confiscated.

**May 1937:**

**Early Cattle Brands Found:**

Reminders of Alameda County's colorful early history when vaqueros rode the unfenced range on vast rancho's came to light yesterday when a box of cattle brands and "ear marks," some filed as early as 1854, were found in the County Recorder's Office. They recalled the splendor and romance of early California and they bespoke the early steps in the building of a rich and powerful County.

A few of the brand "samples" had been burned into wood. But for the most part they were seared into green or tanned bits of steer hide. Attached to many of the samples were small bits of leather bearing replicas of the ranch "ear marks." Here the County's early-day ranchers showed their originality or flare for the "artistic." Some notched the ears of their long-suffering cattle like a crosscut saw. Others resorted to diamond shaped holes, trimmed corners, squared ends and scrolls, all inflicted with a sharp knife.

But it was the registering of these brands that ended the sanguinary conflicts between ranchers at "round-up" time over ownership of steers and "gave the maverick a home." It also eliminated brand duplication.

The first brand registered in the collection was that of Francisco Bernal in 1854. Then there were brands by John Chisolm in 1861, Peter Harrington (the "HP") from Murray Township in 1862; Jose Jesus Peralta, (the "JP) in 1866; Alexander Baldwin, Eden Township in 1868; and John Decoto (the "JD) in 1868.

**June 1937:**

**Louis Zwissig Home Burglarized:**

Using a 5-foot stepladder to enable him to enter a window, a burglar robbed the home of Louis Zwissig, Decoto dairyman of \$70. The money was taken from two purses and a bureau drawer.

**August 1937:**

**Chickens and Pigeons Stolen:**

Theft of several pigeons and chickens from Jose DeSoto of Decoto was reported to Constable Henry Vervais yesterday. The thieves evidently wrung the necks of the fowls, two of them having been left in this condition in the pen.

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Sheep Rustlers Sentenced:

Three modern rustlers were given six month in the County Jail and two years probation yesterday when they appeared before Police Judge Jacob Harder on charges of stealing a sheep. Armando Martinez, 25, and Charles Emery Fisher, 25, of Decoto, with Jack Bosford, 26, of Susanville, pleaded guilty to the charge of petty theft.

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### **Antone Janeiro Runs into Lawrence Gonzalez:**

Antone Janeiro, 35, Decoto, was thrown through the windshield of his auto when it collided with the machine of Lawrence Gonzales, 27, also of Decoto, early Friday. He was taken to Niles for treatment of cuts and bruises.

### **October 1937**

#### **Leonard Kelly:**

Leonard Kelly, a promising young shortstop, who tried out with the Cincinnati camp recently, would like to get on with a Winter League club, his address is: 711 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Decoto.

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Brothers Fight with Ax and Sledgehammer:

Joe Rivera, 31, of Decoto, is in Fairmont Hospital today and his brother is in the Hayward City Prison, as the result of a family argument last night during which an ax and a sledgehammer allegedly were swung by Raymond. The fight started when Joe's brother allegedly came to his home in a drunken condition and started a brawl. During the fracas, Joe's brother grabbed an ax and made several passes at his brother, wounding him on the thigh, hand and arm. Chased from the house, his brother was working over the fenders of Joe's car when deputies arrived. He was booked for investigation. Joe was treated for a deep laceration of the left thigh and partial amputation of the right thumb and a gash on the left arm.

May 1938:

Daffodil Bulbs Stolen:

2,000 daffodil bulbs, valued at \$100 a thousand, were taken from the farm of Mrs. Antone Freitas, living on the Creek Road a mile west of Decoto. The bulbs are believed to have been stolen in small lots at intervals during several months. In the same neighborhood, Harvey Granger reported the theft of 100 bean hampers, valued at 16 cents each.

June 1938:

Oakland Man Cited for Dumping Garbage in Decoto:

Capt. Harry Adams of the Hayward Sheriff's office and Joseph a Schenone, deputy district attorney, have acquired credit for being students of Shakespeare, particularly that passage from the "Merchant of Venice" referring to "Justice tempered with mercy." They had in custody Monday an aged Oakland man suspected of having dumped garbage along the highway side of the farm of Richard C. Kennedy at Decoto. The officers have received many complaints recently about motorists dumping garbage by the roadside in rural section adjoining Hayward, and have been aching for some time to throw the book at the first offender they could catch.

And so, when Oliver M. Johnson, 65, deaf and wearing an ear trumpet, called at the sheriff's office Monday afternoon in answer to a citation, the officers were "all set to make an example." They were "plumb tired," they said of Oaklanders dodging their city garbage fees at the expense of rural communities.

"This dumping of garbage along the roads has got to stop," they declared with firm conviction, and Mr. Johnson was well cast for the part of Daniel in the lion's den when he showed up. Meekly, somewhat frightened perhaps, Mr. John explained that he had driven to the Decoto Masonic Home Saturday to visit a relative, and had

brought along a box full of lawn clippings, on the chance of finding a place to get rid of them. When he did he was seen by Deputy Sheriff George Wisner, who cited him.

Tearfully Mr. Johnson explained he pays his garbage fee in Oakland regularly, that he had not thought of offense, that he "had never been in trouble before," was the father of two daughters, and begged to avoid the publicity of punishment.

Despite a burning zeal for enforcement of the law, the officers couldn't bring themselves to proceed against the old man, and neither could Mr. Kennedy, who was called in as a prosecuting witness. So Mr. John Johnson was let go with promises not to do it again. And the officers had to be satisfied with promising themselves that "when the next offender shows up, we'll sure fix him."

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### **VETERAN REPLIES TO MR. ABEL:**

Editor: *The Review*:

In reply to Henry Abel in regard to the German-Bund and the Swastika worn by the National Guard units of the Southwest:

The emblem has a circle in the center and as a whole means the four corners of the world with a lake in the center. It refers to a conquered tribe of Indians now living peacefully within the bounds of the United States.

I cannot say as much for the German-American Bund. Do you, Mr. Abel, realize that that the leader of the German-American Bund is none other than an ex-machine gunner of the German Army? He came to this country and became a citizen. Today he is a treacherous citizen, as treacherous as most German machine gunners were. They raised their arms high and cried, "Kamerad." But they kept working their machine guns with their feet, mowing us down.

Yes, Mr. Abel, we give credit to the German emigrants who helped to make the United States what it is today. And no doubt the member of the Bund knows perfectly well how to honor the flag of this country. We as members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart suggest that you of the German-American Bund "Hup up," for there is room for but one "ism", Americanism, in this great republic.

The United States is governed by only one Constitution. That is something which Hitler dare not refer to, to his people.

Respectfully,  
FRANK J. THOMAS  
California Department Chief of Staff  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Decoto, Calif.

### **October 1938:** **Man Returns Home after Thirteen Years:**

Thomas Garcia, now of 807 E. 11<sup>th</sup> St., Decoto was arrested after his wife, Mrs. Clara Garcia, filed a complaint that he was bothering her. It developed that, when Garcia left home 13 years ago, his wife had just filed a battery charge against him. This musty document was discovered in the ancient files of the Niles justice court after some search. Informed that this charge had been outlawed by time, Mrs. Garcia filed

a new charge of non-support of her and her three minor children. Garcia was arrested and bail of \$200 was set for his release. Asked where he had been during the 13 years, Garcia said he had been working at various ranches, his last job having been in Nevada.

**January 1939:**  
**Bad Driving Instructor:**

Frustuseo Olivera, 29, Decoto, had his most embarrassing moment Wednesday afternoon when he attempted to give a driving lesson to a companion. He took his eyes off the road in the course of instruction and as a result his car crashed into a telephone pole on Railroad Avenue, Decoto. He was treated at Fairmont County Hospital for cuts and bruises.

**February 1939:**  
**Muniz Home Burglarized:**

Manuel Muniz, 42, of Decoto, reported \$150 worth of fancywork bedspreads, pillowcases and linen, together with a ring, watch and pistol, taken by a burglar who jimmied a window of his home.

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Decoto Youth in Critical Condition:

Harold Delgado, 13, of 511 6th St., Decoto, who was struck while walking at Decoto & Niles road about 6 o'clock Tuesday night by a car driven by Louis S. Peruchena, 22, of San Leandro, according to State Highway Patrol reports. The Delgado boy is at Fairmont County Hospital reportedly in critical condition.

July 1939:
Alameda County Fair Queen Contestants from Decoto:

The contest for queen of the Alameda County Fair at Pleasanton, which runs from August 10th to 13th, was well under way Saturday. At the Decoto post office Miss Janeiro reports the following Misses as contest entries:

Jessie Seoane	Jewell King	Gloria Arribas	Beatrice Silva
Dorothy Bettencourt			

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**Shared Auto Arrangement Leads to Argument:**

As the result of a quarrel over an auto owned in partnership, Yuro "El Grande" Morales, 39, of Decoto was in a county hospital Monday with five knife wounds, one of which penetrated a lung. Luce Paramo, 46, of the same address in Decoto, allegedly confessed to sheriff deputies that he wielded the knife, which laid low "El Grande," so called because of his large size. Also arrested and questioned in the same affray were Pedro Alvarado, 29, and Tony Montoya, 30, living in the same house with the other two men.

**September 1939:**  
**Heald's Business College Students:**

Miss Josephine Ramos and Marjorie Maciel have enrolled at Heald's Business College in Oakland. They will start Friday with their studies, taking up the secretarial courses. Miss Ramos graduated from Washington Union High School last year. She is the daughter of Mrs. Mary Ramos of Decoto. Miss Maciel graduated with Miss Ramos at Centerville and resides on the Creek Road with her parents.

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Deputy Understands Spanish:

"Listen, honey, don't tell 'em about that knife," so spoke Leopoldo Biscarra, 34, Decoto, in Spanish as he foresaw that the arm of the law was about to inquire into his recent personal life. But little did he realize that Deputy Sheriff John Nunes, standing besides the car near Hayward City Hall, is a linguist and took in the situation.

About a week ago Biscarra came to the Hayward Sheriff's Office and alleged that his wife had left home with one Frank Carvalho, also of Decoto. During the weekend, officers were told; Biscarra found his wife working in a tomato field near Danville and brought her with him when he came to report the fact at the sheriff's office.

They had parked their car near the city to talk things over. William B. Heyer, retired Hayward fireman, happened along and noted that Biscarra was doing his arguing with a knife, allegedly held with the point against the ribs of the wife, Espiridona, 28.

Mr. Heyer told Sheriff Nunes of what he had seen. Mr. Nunes went to investigate, but that time the knife had disappeared. But, he said, he heard Biscarra's remark, and notified Sheriff George Wisner, who arrested him and took the knife.

Mr. & Mrs. Biscarra charged each other with having held the knife. Net result was the filing of a battery charge against Biscarra in the justice court of Judge Jacob Harder. Biscarra pleaded not guilty Monday and comes up for trial Wednesday.

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**Transient Threatens Decoto School Children:**

Joseph Quinn, a transient, was sentenced to five days in jail Saturday, after being convicted of threatening children at the Decoto grammar School, on complaint of Principal Louis W. Musick. The man was said to have thrown paper into the schoolyard and threatened several boys to "cut your heads off."

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Defendant Digs Deeper Hole:

Leopoldo Biscarra, 34, Decoto, on trial on a battery charge in justice court Monday morning, paid a heavy price for the fun of making a wisecrack at the expense of Deputy Sheriff John Nunes, who arrested him.

Deputy Sheriff Nunes, who had overheard the couple's conversation in Spanish as they sat in their car near Hayward City Hall, testified Wednesday he had heard Biscarra say: "Listen, honey, don't them about the knife." The wife was clad only in a nightgown, as she had been forced to leave a cabin at Danville by her husband.

And so, when the case came to trial before Judge Jacob Harder Wednesday, the officers and Mr. & Mrs. Biscarra testified. Judge Harder apparently was about to call the affair, just another of those friendly Mexican fights."

Then Biscarra spoke up, suggesting that Deputy Nunes had caused his arrest because he "liked" Mrs. Biscarra. The flustered officer hastily denied he had and

broke into a rash of blushes, and (denied) ever seen Mrs. Biscarra before, finally joined in the general laugh.

"Well," said Judge Harder, "we'll have to do something to protect (Sheriff) John." He sentenced Biscarra, who already has been in jail since September 30th, to an additional 30 days in jail.

Mrs. Biscarra hastily consulted Police Chief Louis J. Silva to ask what she should do when Biscarra gets out of jail, intimating she feared his vengeance.

November 1939:
Bum Koffee to Treat Children:

Bill Marshall, western booster for the U.S. Navy, is up to his old tricks again. Every Christmas he places an attractive Christmas tree on top of his coffee shop on the Niles highway at Decoto Junction and this year he plans to continue the idea. Besides this "cheerio" to the passing motorist, he has plans for the kiddies. He will give a program in front of his Bum Koffee place of business to which he invited hundreds of Decoto youngsters on either Dec. 20th or 21st. He will have a present for each Kiddie present. You see Barnacle Bill has a big heart for the little tots and by the way, we saw Santa Claus' outfit. It's the real McCoy, worth \$25.00.

December 1939:
Sammy Martin Enlists in U.S. Army:

Sammy G. Martin of Decoto, who enlisted in the U.S. Army a week ago is now stationed at Fort McDowell, has been assigned to the infantry in the Hawaiian Islands. Martin is the son of Rafael Martin, 1451 15th St., Decoto.

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**Three Young Decoto Girls Injured by Automobile:**

Three young Decoto girls were hurt slightly Sunday afternoon when struck by an auto driven by a Hayward man. Injured were Beatrice Costa, 11, who suffered punctures and abrasions of one legs; Celia Vigil, 15, cuts and bruises; and Sobeida Vigil, 19, sprained left elbow, cuts and bruises.

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Township's Largest Christmas Tree at Masonic Home:

Washington Township's largest outdoor Christmas tree, a 60-foot sequoia in front of the Masonic Home at Decoto, will be lighted Sunday at dusk to open officially the Christmas festivities at the home.