

THE HISTORY OF DECOTO
CHAPTER 09
NOVEMBER 1940 THRU 1949

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* **DECOTO DEMOGRAPHICS** *

Again, the 1940 census has people in the Decoto School District mixed up with the Niles School District. The largest example was those people listed as living on Bell Ranch Bridge Road, which is actually Decoto Road.

The Bell Ranch Bridge Road originated in the late 1800's and was the name then given to what was in 1940 the Jarvis (Landing) Road and the Decoto Road.

People born in the U.S. to parents who were born in the U.S. grew to over 32% this census, compared to 13% in 1930. Some of this is attributed to the children of foreign born raising their own families now and an influx of people from states like Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri during the depression years.

The biggest population shift, other than U.S. born, was the 10%+ Mexican population which rose from 20% to 30%. The Porto Ricans (Puerto Ricans today) percentage of the population in Decoto fell from 21% in 1930 to about 8.5% in 1940. The Portuguese population fell from 20% in 1930 to about 8% in 1940. The population of Spanish held steady at about 16%.

So this is where the Decoto population stood as we entered 1940.

1940 DECOTO CENSUS						
US Born to US Parents		Foreign Born & Children of Foreign Born				
State	Pop.	Country	For. Born	US Born	Total	Pct.
Arizona	12	Argentina	5	0	5	0.2%
Arkansas	17	Brazil	1	2	3	0.1%
California	451	Canada	3	3	6	0.3%
Colorado	3	China	3	2	5	0.2%
Connecticut	2	Colombia	1	0	1	0.0%
Hawaii	66	Denmark	2	1	3	0.1%
Idaho	3	Germany	2	1	3	0.1%
Illinois	5	Italy	29	12	41	1.9%
Kansas	7	Japan	2	3	5	0.2%
Kentucky	3	Mexico	265	382	647	30.6%
Louisiana	2	Philippines	1	1	2	0.1%
Massachusetts	3	Porto Rico	96	82	178	8.4%
Minnesota	2	Portugal	82	78	160	7.6%
Missouri	18	San Salvador	2	2	4	0.2%
Nebraska	4	Scotland	1	1	2	0.1%
New Mexico	6	South Africa	1	0	1	0.0%
New York	4	Spain	140	210	350	16.5%
Oklahoma	17	Sweden	2	3	5	0.2%
Texas	40	Switzerland	15	3	18	0.9%
Utah	3					0.0%
Washington	3					0.0%
States W/Only 1	7					0.0%
		Total U.S.			678	32.0%
Total U.S.	678	Total:	653	786	2,117	100.0%

Does not include 362 persons from the Masonic Home

 * **BIOS OF NOTABLE PERSONS** *

Auto Garages and Mechanics / Auto service Stations / Bakers / Banking Assistant / Barbers / Baseball Player / Beautician / Billiards and Poolrooms / Cactus Garden / Carpenter / Civic Leaders / Dry Cleaner / Foreman / Hotel / Library / Mfg, Canneries and Large Employers / Mechanical - Industrial / Merchants / Plumbing / Produce and Packing Houses / Registrar / Restaurants / Saloons / Shoe Shops / Tailor / Theater

AUTO GARAGES & MECHANICS:

"C" Street Garage / Byron Justus

C Street Garage, "C" & 4th St:

Unable to locate name of proprietor

Byron Justus:

Byron Justus was born in Washington State in 1910. He was married to Florinda Justus who was born in California in 1910. They had two children, Phyllis Anne and Byron Jr. In 1935 he was living in Centerville. Byron was employed as an auto mechanic in 1940, the location of the garage is not known. He was a member of the Decoto Booster's Club in 1941, and was on the Boy Scout committee for the club. After 1941 nothing was found for Mr. Justus.

AUTO SERVICE STATIONS:

Johnny Sanchez / Deane Keltner / Martin Neilson / J.B. Catlin / Norman Murdock

Johnny Sanchez:

Johnny's Shell Station:

Johnny Sanchez, a young man from 7th Street in Decoto, purchased the Shell Service Station formerly owned by Manuel "Mose" Silva in February 1949. Johnny is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sanchez. He has everything to offer that you'd expect from a first-rate service station and we feel sure he'll make out just fine in his business venture.

Johnny Sanchez intends to sell to M.D. Silva, 625 First Street, Decoto, all gasoline, lube, oil, greases and other petroleum products, tires, batteries, automobile accessories and personally owned equipment, all of which are located at 625 First Street Decoto per a newspaper article dated October 13, 1950.

Deane Keltner:

Mobil Gas Station:

The only information about this gas station and its owner was garnered from an ad in *The Alvarado Pioneer* issue dated October 17, 1941:

"D. KELTNER, DECOTO
Co-operates in
GENERAL PETROLEUM'S
WINTER PROOFING
CAMPAIGN TO MOTORISTS
Latest Methods of Lubrication
MOBIL OIL -- MOBIL GAS"

Nothing further was found on Mr. Keltner

Martin Nielson, Gas & Lunch Room:

Sycamore Gas Station & Auto Court:

Martin Nielsen was born in Denmark in 1865. His wife Olga was born in Denmark circa 1880. Their date of entry into the U.S. unknown. They had three children, Carl, Stuart and Karen. In 1930 they were living in San Bernardino in Southern Los Angeles where Martin worked as a Reclamation Engineer. Shortly after 1935 they came to northern California where Martin operated the gas station at the mouth of the Nilas Canyon. Later he would operate the Sycamore Gas Station and Auto Court in Decoto, but about 1945 that seemed to end. After that there was nothing further found for the Nielsen's.

J.B. Catlin:

Sycamore Gas Station & Auto Court:

The Sycamore Gas Station and Auto Court were operated by J.B. Catlin starting in May 1945. J.B. was married to Annie Catlin and they came to Decoto with one child Jim, his wife Estella and their little daughter Peggy Sue. The Catlin's had come to Decoto from the Los Angeles area just before settling in Decoto. They planned to expand the cabins on the property. This all that was found for the Catlin's in Decoto.

Norman Murdock:

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Murdock of San Francisco have bought the Faletti Service Station in Decoto in November 1949. The Murdock's will live at the place and operate the service station.

BAKERS:

Ken Garcia / Rudolph Caminada

Ken Garcia, Baker and Civic Leader:

Decoto Bakery:

Ken Garcia was born 1919 in California to Antone and Mary Garcia of Spain. Antone and Mary Garcia entered the U.S. in 1912 with the following children who were born in Spain: John, Ralph, Mike, Sam, and Frances (a daughter). Paul was born at sea and Rafael, Frankie and Kenneth were born in the U.S.

By 1920 they were located in Decoto where Antone Garcia and his two oldest sons worked at the nursery. In 1930 Antone was working on a farm while sons Ralph, Sam and Paul worked as laborers in the stove foundry.

As 1940 dawns Ralph and Frankie are at home and working for the stove foundry. Kenneth is also still at home but doing farm work. On March 9, 1941 Ken married Mary L. Ramos of the Ramos Grocery Store business on Fourth Street. Both were 20 years of age at the time. Mary and Ken settled in a home at 519 4th Street near Mrs. Ramos, Mary's mother.

Ken & Mary Garcia and John & Jessie Delcrew purchased Mike's Grocery on Russell Road in Hayward in June 1943. Jessie Delcrew was Mary Garcia's sister. The property was located in Russell City and besides being a grocery store they also had an off-sale beer and liquor license and a gasoline station business.

But Ken and Mary pined to get back to Decoto, the hometown of both, and in 1946 an opportunity came up in Decoto. Alex Ferrante was quitting the bakery business and his Decoto Bakery was up for sale. In January 1946 Ken purchased the Decoto Bakery and would continue to run the business under that name.

Ken was also deeply interested in the welfare of the town of Decoto. In January 1948 he was voted president of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. Ken would be one of the Decoto patriots that stood by the town in the

turbulent years (Feb 1955 – Jan 1959) when the City of Hayward grabbed Alvarado and Decoto territory as their own.

In January 1948 Ken was re-elected to the Presidency of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. In April 1948 Ken ran for a seat on the Board of Trustees for the Decoto School against incumbent William S. Davis of the United Steelworkers Union. Ken failed in his attempt to win that seat and he wrote to *The Alvarado Pioneer* to express his gratitude for those who voted for him and to offer full support on the ongoing efforts of the present board. Wrote Mr. Garcia in May 1948:

“With some 300 votes cast, and only losing out by 36 votes in my first attempt at public office in the interests of my school at Decoto where I attended as a boy, I feel that I have made a very fair showing, thanks to the votes of many friends. So I want to express the sincere appreciation of this support, and have already expressed good luck to the winner, William Davis, and my continued support of the school to help make it grow and keep its place among the leaders of the township. I felt also that as I have children in the school, my interest was sincerely one of a home town boy who endeavored to take a place on the board to bring to it’s the greatest support and appreciation which I think it deserves.
Sincerely, Kenneth Garcia”

In February 1949 Ken was again elected President of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce and in November 1949 Ken was seen in town of Decoto in a fire engine along with Manuel and Joe Seoane, Al Roderick, Joe & Don Martin. Fighting a fire perhaps? No, these local fire-eaters were busy going house-to-house selling tickets to the annual ball to be held December 3rd in the Newark Pavilion.

September 1952 saw Ken try to gain a seat on the Decoto Sanitary District. The district had three seats and they were occupied by Bernie Joseph, Fred Sanchez and Manuel White. The election saw three new hopefuls vie for the three occupied seats. When the election was complete the incumbents remained in power and Manuel Hidalgo, Ken Garcia and R.L. deCordova failed in their attempts to gain a seat. The incumbents who retained their positions were: Bernie Joseph, 287 votes; Fred Sanchez, 243 votes; and Manuel White, 239 votes. Contestant candidates were Manuel Hidalgo, 182 votes; Kenneth Garcia, 154 votes; and R.L. deCordova, 64 votes.

Ken Garcia served the Decoto Volunteer Fire Department for many years. In January 1953 *The Alvarado Pioneer* printed the names of the Decoto Fire Department volunteers who served with Ken Garcia:

Roland Bendel	Fire Chief	Chris Guerra	Ass’t Chief
Don Martin	Captain	Joe Martin	Lieutenant
Kenneth Garcia	Lieutenant	Joe Ferraris	Engineer
Lloyd Cambra	Joe Garcia	Manuel Garcia	Peo Paniagua
Gonsalo Paniagua	Paul Garcia	A.L. Costa	Joe Seoane
Frank Sanchez	Alfred Ferreira	Manuel Seoane	Al Roderigues
Paul Shields	Hoseman		

Edward Delgado	Louis Leimbach	Auxiliary Fireman
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Ken was a founding member of the Washington Township Democratic Club that was forming in June 1953. On the list of things to do for starting the club was the election of permanent members. "Now is the time to let your voice be heard," said Ken Garcia, temporary chairman, in urging all township Democrats to attend. "Our club is in the process of being formed and welcomes the attendance at this meeting of everyone interested in the aims of our party." Candidates for office from Decoto were: Ken Garcia, president; and Raymond F. Marsh, Hillview Crest, treasurer.

In December 1953 Ken Garcia was elected president of the Alameda County Fireman's Association.

Then in February 1955 the Hillview Crest annexation to the City of Hayward became an issue. Ken Garcia, as secretary of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce said that his personal opinion was that the chamber should take no stand on the matter. "If they (Hillview Crest) want to go to Hayward, let'em go," Garcia said. "All they want is to see what they can get for nothing anyway."

Frank Borghi Jr. as President of the Decoto Chamber said he had "no comment," but he concurred in Garcia's opinion that the organization would probably take no stand on the matter. "Hillview Crest is actually a liability to us, if we should incorporate the township," he pointed out. He said, "The tract contributes only \$1,800 a year, or half of one paid fireman's annual salary to the Decoto Fire Department."

Over the next four years until the actual incorporation of Alvarado and Decoto Ken Garcia was involved in a number of organization and committees involved in the defeating the Hayward City takeover of Alvarado and Decoto land and the incorporation of the towns.

One of the major problems with the incorporation of Alvarado and Decoto was flood control. The Alvarado area was the lowest in township and flooded regularly. Progress could not come while flooding still plagued the area. When the plan was submitted to the citizenry many balked at the price of project, which went from Hayward to Fremont and included Alvarado and Decoto. In addressing the problem of passing the bonds to pay for flood control Ken offered his opinion: "We are going to get flood control whether we like it or not. If we don't pass the bond issue the supervisors will tax us an equal amount and do the work anyway."

In January 1956 Ken was a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce, the towns of Alvarado and Decoto decided to merge their Chambers for the benefit of the incorporation effort. The officer chosen were:

From Alvarado: Henry Leidsen, Joseph Lewis and Leslie Maffey.
From Decoto were: Frank Borghi Jr., Ken Garcia, Jesse Perry, S. Robert Infelise, Bernie Joseph, Jack Faletti and Harold Schoenfeld.

Wilbert Hendricks of Alvarado and Ken Garcia of Decoto, two members of the Union City Steering Committee for the incorporation of Union City, submitted to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors a petition for the incorporation of the City of New Haven to be composed of the towns of Alvarado and Decoto.

But unlike the Union City effort to incorporate, the City of New Haven would include only that portion of the towns that were not being annexed by the City of Hayward, thus sparing this effort the problem of litigation of overlapping boundaries.

When Wilbert Hendricks of Alvarado and Ken Garcia of Decoto were told they had been ousted by Frank Borghi Jr., chairman of the Union City Steering Committee, Garcia retorted, "He can't kick us out, we quit! The reason we filed the petition was because the Union City group wasn't doing anything and we thought we would expedite matters." Garcia added he and Hendricks were "not interested in the Treeview annex. We just want to preserve what we have." The New Haven effort eventually failed and everyone again put their effort into the incorporation of Union City.

On December 18, 1957 unification meeting was held at which time it became known that a faction of Decoto people had delivered to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors a petition signed by eight people of Decoto that asked the City of Fremont to annex 8.6 square miles of Decoto into their town. Fremont heartily accepted. This left Alvarado and unwanted parts of Decoto out in the cold. The incorporation meeting of December 18 broke up with hard feelings and the incorporation of Decoto and Alvarado into the town of Union City seemed doomed to failure.

Ken Garcia, as head of the Decoto Chamber in January 1958 led the Decoto effort along with the Alvarado Chamber to re-ignite the effort to get Union City up and running again. In a team effort between Alvarado and Decoto, they managed to thwart Decoto's move to Fremont and the eventual Union City incorporation effort was a success.

Had this been all of what Ken Garcia accomplished it would be noteworthy but also at this same times Ken was working with Bernie Joseph to bring sidewalks to the town of Decoto. Without sidewalks there would be no in-town mail delivery for Decoto citizens. The issue of sidewalks in the town of Decoto had been discussed for three decades. In October 1957 Ken and Bernie Josephs canvassed the town of Decoto signing up homes and businesses without sidewalks to have them installed by December 1957. Their successful final push succeeded in getting home mail delivery in March 1958.

When the new city of Union City came into life in 1959, Ken Garcia served as the fire chief for the new city.

Rudolph Caminada:

Rudolph Caminada was born in Decoto in 1923. In 1940 he was living with his uncle and aunt, Ettore and Angelina Caminada and cousins Rinaldo and Lydia. He was employed as a baker's helper at this time.

Rudy partnered with Tony Correia of Niles in April 1946 to buy the Excelsior Bakery in Centerville from F. and Marie Ponti. They purchased all the stock-in-trade merchandise, consisting principally of bakery products and groceries at the business location at 102 North Main Street in Centerville.

Mr. & Mrs. Ponti of Centerville announced the engagement of their daughter, Barbara Ponti, to Rudy Caminada of the Excelsior Bakery. Rudy was born in Decoto and was in WWII for 4 years.

BANKING ASSISTANT: **Miss Mary Paniagua:**



Miss Mary Paniagua was born in California circa 1922 to Ignacio and Saturnina Paniagua. Ignacio and Saturnina were born in Spain as were their first three children, Florence, Marcelina, and Frank. These five entered the U.S. in 1921. The couple had three more children in the U.S., Mary, Antonio, and Avelino.

Mary grew up in Decoto and graduated from Washington Union High School in 1940. Mary then joined the banking staff at the Central Bank in Alvarado. The first mention of Mary at the Alvarado bank was in 1944 when she was noted as one of the assistants to the branch manager, John (Jack) Blacow.

Mary worked with fellow Decotan's Manuel Hidalgo, Manuel Seoane, Emma Amaral, Davie Janeiro, and Rose Silva in organizing the Decoto Recreation Club in June 1944. The program was initiated with the Alameda County Sheriff's Dept. With the cooperation of this dept., it was hoped that the recreation program, which was to be carried out on the Decoto Grammar School grounds. It was planned for the program to be in place before the end of summer.

Miss Mary Bernice Luiz, a young lady who resides on the Creek Road, was hired in mid-October 1944 at the Central Bank in Alvarado. Miss Mary Paniagua was placed in charge of the training of Miss Luiz.

When Walter Oakey became manager Mary would assist Mr. Oakey by training new employees in banking procedures. In 1948 Mary was honored by being made the Notary Public for the Alvarado Bank. Mary was active with the youth of Decoto, in 1944 Mary was a member of the Ways and Means Committee of the Decoto Recreation Council.

In 1949 Mary took off three months to tour the home of her parents in Spain. Mary left in September 1949 and returned to her duties at Central Bank in December 1949.

Upon returning to the bank from her three month vacation, Mary who used to be an assistant at the Central Bank branch in Alvarado was advanced to higher position at Central Bank's new San Lorenzo Village Branch.

Mary met and would later marry Bruce Lawrence. The wedding was planned on Easter Sunday in the San Lorenzo Community Church in April 1952. Mrs. Lawrence would eventually reside in Oakland.

BARBERS:

Rinaldo Caminada / James Silva / Manuel Soliz

Rinaldo Caminada:

Decoto Barber Shop:

Rinaldo Caminada was born in Decoto to Ettore and Angelina Caminada. Also in the family were a sister Lydia and a cousin Rudolph Caminada. In 1940 Rinaldo was already the owner of his own barbershop at 813 10th Street in Decoto. The Decoto Barber Shop became a fixture in Decoto for many years.

In June 1946 Rinaldo Caminada and Grace Vigorito of Livermore took out a marriage license.

Grace Caminada was very active for many years in the Decoto PTA and also with Brownie Scout Troop No. 204 of Decoto. In 1952 Grace became the correspondent for *The Alvarado Pioneer* in Decoto, a function she performed for several years.

In March 1954 Rinaldo and Grace Caminada moved into their new home on 613 Railroad Avenue in Decoto.

James Silva:

James Silva was born in Massachusetts circa 1917 to Manuel E. and Maria Silva, both of whom were immigrants from Portugal. In 1940 James was living with his parents on Railroad Avenue. He was employed as a barber. Living with James and his parents were his brothers George and Ricardo, and a sister Beatrice.

Manuel Soliz:

Manuel Soliz was born in Mexico circa 1895. He came to Decoto from Cucamonga, California, in San Bernardino County sometime between 1935 and 1940. Manuel showed he was single and that he was a self-employed barber.

BASEBALL PLAYER:

Leonard Kelly:

Leonard Kelly lived on Fifth Street in Decoto with his parents (father: Joseph Kelly) and a brother (Joseph Kelly Jr.). I do not have any info on his mother or other siblings. He had attended the Decoto Grammar School.

In the mid-1940's Leonard played baseball in the East Bay City League and then in March 1946 he went to training camp with the St. Louis Cardinals. He reported for training on April 10, 1946.

Two years later Leonard signed a contract with the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League. He was listed as a 24-year old infielder with no previous pro experience. He would be farmed out to Albuquerque of the West Texas - New Mexico League in 1948.

Leonard Kelly reported to the El Paso Texans in March 1949. Leonard had made a name for himself with El Paso in 1948, being one of the two top men in home runs, runs batted in, and batting average in the league.

In January 1950 Leonard signed a contract with the Detroit Tigers of the American League. He left at the beginning of March 1950 for spring training in Florida. After spring training Leonard was assigned to Del Rio Cowboys of Texas. He was reportedly doing some heavy hitting and was sold to a high league.

In May 1950 *The Alvarado Pioneer* gave this enthusiastic article about the career of Leonard Kelly:

"Just in time to usher in the baseball season comes the news that Leonard Kelly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kelly of Decoto, has climbed another run in the ladder of success in professional baseball.

Leonard, for the past three years has played for several club in the Texas Leagues, including San Antonio and the Del Rio Cowboys club, where the hard hitting 2nd baseman caught the eye of a higher league, the Robstown Rebels club, of Robstown, Texas, a Rio Grande Valley League team. The new owners felt that their new addition, who has been hitting well over the .300 mark. Leonard has a brilliant future in baseball.

Prior to embarking for Texas and his baseball career, Mr. Kelly resided in Decoto with his parents and his brother, Joseph Kelly Jr., and played ball with the San Leandro Merchants, and more recently with the Alvarado baseball club. Judging from the enthusiastic write-ups about our local boy in the *Laredo Texas Times*, that southern city shares our pride in Leonard Kelly.

In 1954 *The Alvarado Pioneer* had another article on Leonard Kelly:

"Leonard Kelly of Decoto was offered a good contract to play professional baseball in Laredo, Mexico. Eusebio Elizarrey, recently discharged from the service, tried out with the San Francisco Seals last week. He might also consider playing ball with Kelly in Mexico. Johnny Chacon, Decoto catcher, just signed with the San Francisco Seals. He is being farmed out to the West Texas – New Mexico League.

BEAUTICIAN: Carmen Luevano

Carmen Luevano was born Carmen Lambereau in Mexico circa 1917. Her date of entry into the U.S. is unknown. In the 1930's Carmen was operating a beauty salon in Alvarado next to the Catholic Church. In November 1936 Miss Carmen Lambereau handed over the proprietorship of the Alvarado Beauty Salon to Miss Mary Rodrigues of San Francisco.

Carmen married Lawrence Luevano of Decoto who was working for the steel mill in Decoto. Lawrence had also been in Alvarado in the mid-1930s. The couple had two children, Cecilia and Richard.

In 1940 Carmen gave her profession as a beautician and as an owner of a beauty shop in Decoto. In 1953 a news article gave her home address in Decoto as 710 4th Street. Mrs. Luevano was a very sociable person and there

are many articles of Mrs. Luevano holding get-togethers in Decoto where she was either the hostess or a guest.

Carmen was an active member of the Decoto Homeowners Association. She was one of the organizers of the association in 1954. The homeowners association was also very active in the funding of recreation programs for the youth of Decoto.

Carmen was also noted as a member of the Decoto Community Coordinating Council in 1954. She served on the nominating committee for council in 1954 - 1955.

BILLIARDS AND POOLROOMS:

Carlos Torres (1) / Carlos Torres (2) / Manuel Ortega / Augustine Cardona

Carlos Torres (1):

Decoto Pool Hall:

Carlos Torres was the proprietor of the Decoto Pool Room in March 1947 when a burglary occurred with the thieves getting off with \$2.60. The info on Mr. Torres was that he was 57-years old and lived at 411 5th Street in Decoto. No other information was found on Mr. Torres.

Carlos Torres (2):

Carlos' Pool Hall:

Killed in a crash at the Alameda Creek near Niles in April 1958 was Carlos Torres, 45-years of age who was the owner of Carlos' Pool Hall in Decoto. The car in which Mr. Torres was a passenger was being driven by a Mrs. Alice Imperial when it went out of control on the flood impaired Niles Canyon Road at approximately 10:30 pm just outside the Fremont City limits. It sped off the road and plunged down a 40-foot embankment, and 350-feet further, overturning before coming to rest in the creek. Thrown into the water, Torres was dead, either from drowning or injuries by the time a rescue team arrived on the scene. Torres lived at 33427 5th Street, Decoto.

Manuel Ortega:

Manuel Ortega, 38, Decoto Poolroom operator was cremated in his car on the Alvarado Niles Road a quarter mile south of Alvarado when his machines gas tank exploded despite the effort of a passing motorist. Ortega's light sedan swerved off the road and overturned at the bottom of a four-foot embankment. It caught fire immediately. Vincent Dias tried to pull the man from the car but was thrown to the ground by the explosion of the gas tank. Mr. Ortega had been in Decoto for a year and a half and was the proprietor of a Decoto pool room. Mr. Ortega was born in 1903 in Mexico and had recently come to Decoto from Los Angeles. Mr. Ortega was single and lived alone.

Augustine Cardona

Augustine Cardona was born in Mexico in 1904. In 1940 he was lodging in the home of Jose Vega on Eleventh Street. He was single at this time and he showed that he was the proprietor of a Decoto poolroom. In November 1955 Augustin Nunez Cardona was sworn in as a U.S. Naturalized citizen. At this time he gave his address as 401 Eleventh Street in Decoto.

CACTUS GARDENS:

Frank J. Thomas / Charles E. McHenry

Frank J. Thomas:

[See Bio Chapter 7 Page 26](#)

Charles E. McHenry:

Cactus Mac's:

Charles McHenry was born in Kansas circa 1900. His wife Irene was born in California circa 1903. They had four children: Charles Jr., Lara, Lorrene, and Arlene.

Charles was working at the Chevy plant in San Leandro in 1940 while living in the City of Hayward. In January 1946, Frank J. Thomas, owner of the Thomas' Cactus Gardens on Mission Blvd. in Decoto put his cactus nursery up for sale. Frank described his property as a "Highway business property" 250 feet by 90 feet in the town of Decoto on the Niles Road. The property included two houses, the cactus nursery, and a tile kiln with moulds.

The business was bought McHenry and was renamed Cactus Mac's. *The Alvarado Pioneer* described the business in a September 1946 as a "show site at Decoto" on the Niles Highway, by the sign of the cement colored "donkey." Many people were stopping to enjoy the cactus display and buy the rejuvenated cactus ornamental lines again.

In March 1952 the City of Hayward put on a flower show and Cactus Mac's would put on a display of premium cacti. However, sometime before 1955, Cactus Mac would move his nursery and show room to Tennyson Road, where his mother owned a lot at the end of Tyrell Road.

CARPENTER:

Frank Ariza / Cesareo Delgado / John J. Enos Jr. / Miguel Palmera

Frank Ariza:

Frank Ariza was born in Spain circa 1894. His wife, Teresa Ariza was born in Spain circa 1896. They had a son Frank who was born in Hawaii circa 1916. Their son James and daughters Maria, Carmen, and Isabel were all born in California.

In the 1930 the family was living in Sacramento where Frank worked as a carpenter in a cannery. In 1935 they were living in Tracy and by 1937 they had relocated to Decoto. In 1940 they were living on Sixth Street in Decoto where Frank Sr. was employed as a carpenter. Frank Jr. was a carpenter's helper at this time. Mrs. Teresa Ariza was active in the Decoto Spanish American Club.

Cesareo Delgado:

Cesareo Delgado was born in California in 1922 to Jesus and Sebastiana Delgado of Spain. Cesareo had seven brothers residing the home of his parents, Valentino, Angelo, Julio, Primitivo, Florentino, Jose, and Francisco. Cesareo was a carpenter in 1940 in Decoto. Nothing was found for Cesareo

after 1940. Primitivo, Florentino, Valentino, Joseph, and Julio all served during WWII.

John J Enos Jr.:

John J. Enos Jr., was the son of John and Mary Enos, Portuguese immigrants, of Decoto. John Enos Jr. is shown as John J. Inez Jr. in the 1940 census, but I deemed this person to be John J. Enos.

John was born in California in 1907. His wife was Alice Enos who was born in California in 1913. They lived on "G" Street in Decoto and in 1940 had two children Barbara and Bette Enos. John was a carpenter in the town of Decoto.

Alice Enos served as a Decoto Precinct Ballot Official in November 1940, November 1946, and again in November 1948.

Miguel Palmera:

Miguel Palmera was born in Puerto Rico in 1906. His wife Jessie was born in California in 1915. They had three children residing with them in 1940 on Fifth Street in Decoto, a daughter Clara and two sons Raul and Paulo. Miguel was a carpenter in Decoto.

The only other information on the Palmera's was a December 1940 newspaper article stating that a car driven by Miguel C. Palmera, 34, 301 5th St., Decoto, struck Lenore Thompson after it caromed into the curb when Manuel S. Raymond of Hayward failed to stop at the sign at Decoto and Nursery Roads, and ran into Palmera. Raymond said he did not see the sign. Lenore Thompson, 16, 922 11th St., Decoto, was slightly injured when struck while standing at Decoto and Nursery Roads.

CIVIC LEADERS:

Frank Borghi Jr. / David Janeiro / Manuel Seoane

Frank Borghi, Jr.:

Frank Borghi Jr. was born to Frank and Bessie Borghi on February 22, 1924. The Borghi's had a second son, Henry. Originally the family lived in Newark where Frank Sr. worked on one of the family's dairies. But on September 2, 1939, Frank Sr. and Bessie were separated and on April 6, 1940, Bessie Borghi was granted a divorce.

At the end of April 1942, Louise Borghi (Frank's grandmother), Bessie Borghi (Frank's mother), Frank Jr. and Henry, were living on Decoto Road in Decoto. Although Bessie Borghi had been divorced from Frank Sr., she retained an interest in the Borghi dairy farms.

Frank (hereinafter I will no longer use Frank Jr.) graduated from Washington Union High School in 1942. Frank married Miss Elvamae Rose of Newark in October 1953 at the Holy Ghost Church in Centerville. Frank began asserting himself in civic matters early on, becoming an officer in the Decoto Chamber of Commerce in 1946.

Henry (Hank) Borghi (Frank's brother) attended the University of California where he became a star athlete on the football team. Hank graduated from Washington Union High School and was awarded a life membership in the Washington Chapter of the California Scholarship Federation. At the ceremony Frank hosted the testimonial for his younger brother. Also attending was Judson Taylor, coach at Washington Union High School, who was associated with Henry Borghi during his football days at the school. Hank Borghi had attended Cal Berkeley in 1944, 1946, 1947, and 1948. Hank was a member of the 1948 Cal team that played in the Rose Bowl.

As early as 1952 it was recognized by some of the citizenry in Decoto that a new school was needed in Washington Township, and specifically in Decoto. In November 1953 the Decoto Chamber of Commerce appointed Frank Borghi, Bill Gordon, Clyde Martin, and Dr. Harold Schoenfeld to look into the matter of a high school located in Decoto. At the same meeting a street light committee of Clyde Martin, Frank Borghi, Bill Davis, and President Manuel Hidalgo were appointed to work with the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to investigate which streets needed lights.

Frank Borghi was also very busy in the dairy business with his mother, Mrs. Bessie Borghi. Although he was very busy in this business venture, Frank also devoted much of his time to the town of Decoto and its civic affairs.

In April 1954 he would be taxed by a new challenge, the City of Hayward's Treeview Annex, which would take 2,400-acres of prime Decoto and Alvarado industrial land, plus the U.S. Pipe & Foundry plant in Decoto, the American Concrete Pipe Co. and the Holly Sugar Mill in Alvarado.

The Decoto Chamber of Commerce took immediate opposition to Hayward's intrusion into Washington Township. Frank Borghi, Manuel Hidalgo, and Henry Rivera were appointed by the Decoto Chamber as a committee to meet with county planners to discuss overall plans for Decoto and Hillview Crest.

This problem called for strong leadership and Frank Borghi stepped up to the plate to serve his town. In January 1955 Frank was voted in as president of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce.

February 1955 saw a Chamber meeting to discuss the encroachment of the City of Hayward into our township. Hillview wanted an annex vote to be taken into the City of Hayward.

Chamber Vice President Ken Garcia said the chamber had been unaware the issue would arise so soon, and so had no stand on the matter. "If they (Hillview Crest) want to go to Hayward, let'em go," Garcia said, "All they want is to see what they can get for nothing anyway."

Borghi said he had "no comment" as president of the Decoto Chamber, but he concurred in Garcia's opinion that the organization probably would take no stand on the matter. "Hillview Crest is actually a liability to us, if we should incorporate the township," he pointed out. He said the tract contributes only \$1,800 a year in taxes, or half of one fireman's annual salary to the Decoto Fire Department.

Borghy forecasted that the Chamber would take definite steps to guard Decoto's industrial sites against any possible Hayward "encroachment" in the future. "If the township should incorporate, our industrial land will be needed here," he asserted, "And I know the Decoto Chamber of Commerce will do everything it can to save that industrial land for the township. Hillview Crest is one thing, but our industrial land is something else."

Alvarado joined forces with Decoto to fend off the Hayward land grab. On February 17, 1955, a steering committee of Decoto and Alvarado civic leaders was formed to combat the annexation by Hayward. The committee was composed of: Frank Borghi, President of the Decoto C of C; Henry Leidsen, President of the Alvarado C of C; J.A. Ratekin, Supt. Holly Sugar; R. Tinsley, Supt. U.S. Pipe & Foundry; Mrs. T.P. Harvey, Alvarado rancher; Herbert Harrold, engineer; Keith Whipple, Decoto farmer; Manuel Hidalgo, Decoto Merchant; Warren Silva, Alvarado Banker; Harold Faria (Decoto); George Hocking, Alvarado School Trustee;

Borghy's Steering Committee swung into action and on March 22, 1955, a writ of alternate mandate was served upon the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and councilmen of the City of Hayward. The petitioners were Frank Borghi and Keith Whipple, both of Decoto, and LeRoy Broun, Centerville attorney. They signed as the executive sub-committee of the Union City Steering Committee.

So this was the beginning of many thrusts and parries by both sides as they battled it out in court. The original 2,400 Treeview annexation, which took in three vital Decoto and Alvarado industries was pared down to less than half, and the U.S. Pipe and Foundry and the Holly Sugar Mill remained in Decoto and Alvarado.

On December 17, 1957 an ominous death knell was heard in the Union City incorporation camp. A petition to annex 8.6 square miles of the Decoto area was to be presented to the City of Fremont. The annex excluded the contested 1,132-acre Hayward industrial annex that received a favorable ruling from the Superior Court on December 10, 1957.

Battle lines were drawn, on one side was the Decoto faction favoring taking the town of Decoto into the city of Fremont, and on the other side stood the forces wanting Decoto and Alvarado to incorporate under the name Union City. The Union City incorporation forces were able to win when their petition was able to deliver more than 50% of the assessed valuation in the district, thereby dooming the effort bring Decoto into Fremont. The way was now open for an election on the incorporation of Union City.

Frank Borghi served many terms on the Board of Trustees of the Washington Union High School District, and also on the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Water District.

Frank Borghi Obituary:

Frank Joseph Borghi, Jr., passed away at his home on November 12, 2015. He was born on February 22, 1924, in the Niles area of Fremont. Frank was a graduate of Washington Union High School in 1942 and went to work with his family on their numerous dairy operations. He would manage dairies in both

Santa Clara and Newark for his uncle, Franzo Borghi. His Newark operation milked 500 cows daily until it was sold in February 1964.

In 1964 Frank became a New Haven Unified School District bus driver as well as an independent agricultural businessman. Athletes and Logan Band members have fond memories and stories of "Bus driver Frank."

He was also the Decoto Fire Commissioner on the eastside of Union City prior to incorporation. He was appointed to the original formation committee, which established boundaries and procedures for all of the Southern Alameda County School District.

Frank served 26 consecutive years in Tri-City government. He never lost reelection. Over the years Frank faithfully served, from 1956 – 1965, the Washington Union High School District, then the New Haven School District, and the Alameda County Water District from 1963 – 1992, and was the president of the Association of California Water Agencies 1990 – 1992. Frank was an influential part of the school district and water agency. Five local schools display plaques bearing his name along with the one million gallon ACWD tank along the Union City – Fremont border.

In retirement, Frank and his wife enjoyed cruises and tours. Together they managed to see much of the world and he returned to his beloved Italy. The thing Frank enjoyed most was attending his grandson's events.

Frank was a member of the Chaparral Country Club, a 55-year member of the Fremont Elks Lodge, a member of the Sons of Italy, Sons in Retirement, the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Martin C. Kauffman 100 Club of Alameda County, the Stanford Buck Club, and the Knights of Columbus.

Frank was preceded in death by his father, Frank Sr. in 1969; his mother Bessie in 1986; his son Frank III 1992; and his brother Henry in 2007. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Elvamae, and sons Robert and David.

David Janeiro:

David Janeiro was born circa 1903 in Decoto to Anton C. and Mary Janeiro, both of whom came from Portugal. The couple had five daughters, Magdalene, Hazel, Mary, Vernie, and Margaret; and they had three sons, Fred, Anton E. and David.

Dave's wife, Edith, was born in California circa 1903. In the 1940 census they had two children, a daughter Rosemary and a son David Jr. Also living with Dave in 1940 was his widowed mother.

In 1940 Dave was working in a vegetable packinghouse as a box maker. He would change jobs early in 1940 becoming a custodian for the Decoto Grammar School.

Starting in 1940 Dave became very active in Decoto civic affairs. By November 1940 Dave became affiliated with the Decoto Boosters Club. By May 1941 Dave was the president of the booster club.

Dave was named on the Washington Township March of Dimes for the Infantile Paralysis campaign on January 1942 along with his sister Mary Janeiro. Five months later Dave was named by the Decoto Chamber of Commerce to the chairman's duties of the Decoto Boy Scout Troop.

The Fourth War Loan Campaign started in January 1944. The War Bond campaigns were necessary to finance our war effort in Europe and the Pacific Ocean theaters. Joining Dave were his sister Mary who campaigned the Decoto area, Mrs. Elsie Madruga campaigned for the Alviso School District, and Dave Janeiro and Roland Bendel canvassed Niles. The 7th War Bond Drive in June 1945 again saw Dave take an active part in raising funds for the ongoing war.

The Decoto Recreation Council was organized in May 1944 and officers were elected in Jul 1944. Manuel Seoane was elected President, Manuel Hidalgo Vice President, and Dave Janeiro was elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

A proposal for improvement of street lighting in Washington Township was voted unanimously by the Washington Township Planning Committee at its meeting in September 1944. Dave Janeiro was the Decoto representative at this meeting.

The possibility that the Alameda County Water District would offer to buy the rights of the Public Utilities, California Corporation at Decoto developed at a meeting of the district's directors here coincident with a visit of delegates from the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. Appearing at this meeting was Dave Janeiro, President of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce and Peter Decoto, chairman of the Decoto Water Committee.

Dave Janeiro resigned his position as President of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Decoto Water District (PUCC), and moved to his newly bought home in Stockton. His daughter Rosemary was a freshman at the Washington Union High School in Centerville and would stay with her uncle in Decoto, Tony Janeiro, until the school term ended. Dave moved to Stockton for the health of his young son.

Manuel Seoane:

Manuel Seoane was born in Hawaii circa 1915 to Jose and Juana Seoane. Jose and Juana were both born in Spain and entered the U.S. through the island of Hawaii. They left for the mainland and Joseph Jr. was born stateside in 1915. Daughters Josephine and Jessie were also born stateside circa 1923 and 1924 respectively. Manuel's wife, Antoinette, was born in Hawaii circa 1915. In 1940 Manuel was working in a nursery.

Manuel was a member of the Decoto Booster Club. In December 1939 Manuel was elected president of the booster club and quickly set to work for the town. In February 1940 Manuel announced that the Western Pacific Railroad would install a wig-wag signal at the 11th and "H" Streets crossing in answer to a request from the Decoto Boosters Club.

The following month Manuel was named as a member of the Decoto March of Dimes campaign, joining with Miss Mary Janeiro, Lewis W. Musick, and Mrs. A.A. Amaral.

Manuel worked with other citizens from Decoto in organizing the Decoto recreation Program in June 1944 for the benefit of the youngsters in Decoto. Manuel joined with Miss Mary Paniagua, Mrs. Emma Amaral, Dave Janeiro, and Rose Silva.

Manuel was also a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. In July 1946 he added a seat on the Board of Directors of the Decoto Chamber to his list of civic duties. His other duties as a Chamber member was being named chairman of the Decoto Boy Scout Committee. Here he joined with A.L. Costa, Fred G. Sanchez, Bernie Joseph, Pat Luna, and Jack Faletti.

Manuel was also a member of the Decoto Volunteer Fire Department. Here he joined Fire Chief Roland Bendel, Ass't Fire Chief Chris Guerra, Captain Don Martin, Lieutenants Joe Martin and Kenneth Garcia, Engineer Joe Ferraris.

When Hayward annexed Decoto and Alvarado property in 1956, Manuel was named to the Union City Steering Committee and was named to the Board of directors for the combined Alvarado-Decoto Chamber of Commerce.

DRY CLEANER:

Henry Miller Dry Cleaners, 929 10th St:

Henry Miller Cleaners had offices in four towns, the main office in Centerville, another processing plant and office in Niles, offices in Decoto and Alvarado. Henry Miller would have an agent pick up clothes to be cleaned or laundered in Decoto, take them to the cleaning plant and then deliver the clothes back to Decoto. The business opened in Decoto on November 20, 1945. It was located at the corner of Decoto and Depot Roads. Bernice Dias of Alvarado will manage the office.

FOREMAN:

Henry Hernandez:

Henry Hernandez was born in Spain in 1906. His wife Hester was born in California in 1903. The couple lived on Tenth Street in Decoto and in 1940 they had Myrtle and a son Harvey. Henry worked in a cannery as a foreman.

At the start of 1942 there were local fund raising drives in the township for money to Red Cross services in the township area. Half of the quota of \$400 was raised by the start of 1942. The Red Cross Committee in Decoto was headed by Harry Searles, chairman. Solicitors included Mrs. Catherine Morales, Mrs. Norman Murdoch, Henry Hernandez and L.W. Musick.

HOTEL:

Clarence Silva:

Decoto Hotel:

In November 1941 the alleged owner of the Decoto Hotel was a Mr. Clarence Silva, who was forty-six years of age. Mr. Silva apparently entered into an

agreement with O.W. Wally Ebright, Alameda County Deputy Sheriff, in establishing a brothel at his Decoto Hotel. Both Ebright and Silva were convicted of receiving a bribe. Ebright had to serve a one to fourteen year term in San Quentin. Clarence Silva received five years' probation. The Judge cited that Clarence Silva appeared to be a hardworking man that took a bad turn that got him into trouble. The judge also ruled that Clarence Silva had to sell his hotel. I could find no biographical information for Mr. Clarence Silva in Decoto.

LIBRARY:

Mrs. Elsa Walker:

[See bio in Chapter 08 page 15](#)

Mrs. Ethel Avilla:

Mrs. Ethel Avilla was born in Nebraska circa 1909. Her husband, Walter Avilla was born in California circa 1908 to Manuel and Frances Avilla. Walter's father operated a grocery in Decoto for many years. Walter was a maintenance man in a chlorine plant in 1940 while Ethel Avilla worked in the laundry of the Masonic Home. The couple resided at 919 Railroad Avenue and had two children Donald and Jerry.

Mrs. Ethel Avilla was appointed to succeed Mrs. Elsa Walker as the librarian for the Decoto Branch Library on November 1, 1946. Mrs. Avilla was a member of the Decoto Discussion Group and the Decoto Birthday Club.

MFG., CANNERIES, LARGE EMP'S:

Claude T. Lindsay / New Colma Mill and Lumber Co. / Campbell Products Co. / Joseph Pearce Cannery / Marlo Packing Co. / Wilms Associated Packers

Claude T. Lindsay:

Claude T. Lindsay Homes:

Claude T. Lindsay, homebuilder of San Francisco, purchased the old Willett & Burr Construction Yard in Decoto in April 1942. The firm would construct prefabricated homes for defense workers on the site.

Work was begun immediately to recondition the property, which at one time was operated as a railroad construction yard. More recently it has been used for the storage of machinery and equipment by various contracting firms. Large sheds and shops were situated on the 15-acre site, but according to plans, materials in car load lots will be delivered to one end of the plant and prefabricated houses will emerge from the other. Employment would be given to between 100 and 200 men.

Construction of a housing project costing \$396,000 by the Claude T. Lindsay of Decoto was started in December 1944 at Upland California. The homes would be for the defense plant workers at the Kaiser Steel Mill's shell plant. The project would consist of 200 portable family dwelling units and a community building. The site would be ready for occupancy by February 1945.

After the war Lindsay started selling their pre-fab homes to the general public. Prefabricated homes were being built by the Claude T. Lindsay

Housing Company in Decoto at the rate of 10 per day in February 1946, and that production schedule was expected to be doubled. Homes built by the Decoto firm were already in use throughout Northern California, and requests from other western states were pouring in daily.

The housing company, which during the war years built hundreds of prefabricated homes for temporary housing of war workers and the families of service personnel, was converted to the construction of fine permanent houses. Fifty persons were employed in the actual building operation, and an additional 75 employees of the New Colma Lumber Mill in Decoto were required to keep the firm supplied with building materials.

Of the four model homes under construction the most popular was the three-bedroom unit with combination bath and shower, which was built to sell for from \$978 to \$1,400. Styled with a gable roof, the model was constructed with 8-foot ceilings, 2X4 studs, 2X6 joists, and 16-inch centers. Outside finishes were of three types, board and batten, waterproof plywood, and V shape rustic. Inside walls are finished in plywood, and floors were either in hardwood, fir or plywood construction. The home was completely insulated, in conformance with state building

Lindsay Homes at Decoto California advertised two new three-bedroom homes in February 1948 that had just been completed at 707 and 709 Railroad Avenue in Decoto. Their ad stated that the homes were beautifully finished with hardwood floors; tile kitchen and bath linoleum, attached garage and lawn planted and were ready for occupancy

Lindsay Homes was one of three firms in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties that was approved by the FHA to build 400 rental units programmed for the Pittsburgh-Camp Stoneman Critical Defense Housing units in the area. The Decoto firm would build 50 units, estimated to cost \$500,000, on an extension of Palo Verde Drive. These will be two-bedroom homes to rent at \$70 a month including a garage.

By 1953 the Lindsay Company of Decoto, which now also operated the New Colma Mill in Decoto, was building many beautiful homes in Decoto. They started work on 18 homes at 8th Street between H and Decoto Road, and had finished and sold about 16 on 9th Street. They planned to continue to build more of these homes in Decoto.

Then on July 8, 1954 a fire swept over part of the 15-acre Lindsay Lumber Company causing an estimated \$250,000 in damage. Chief damage was done to finished lumber products stored in a 400-foot corrugated iron shed, which was destroyed. An adjoining building suffered partial damage, but firemen kept the blaze from the company's open storage yards.

But the fire did not keep the company down. In August 1954 they had already started selling new homes between Niles and Mission San Jose called Canyon Heights. Canyon Heights was a 230 home development made up exclusively of single residence homes featuring:

1. Large lots
2. Beautiful curved streets

3. 3 bedrooms 1 & 2 baths
4. 5 basic home plans, 12 elevations
5. Hardwood floor, large rooms
6. Hardwood paneling in living room
7. Large windows, brick fireplaces
8. Sliding glass doors to patio
9. Central heating, double garages
10. Paved streets, all utilities
11. New Grammar school under construction

There was no down payment required for veterans. Also the latest FHA terms were available. Cost of a home per month at this location was \$56.50, plus taxes & insurance.

As of 1958 Claude Lindsay's operation was still located in Decoto.

New Colma Lumber & Mill Co.:

The New Colma Lumber Co. maintained its main office at 569 Market St., San Francisco. The company also had a retail lumberyard in Daly City and a prefab unit in Decoto along with several subsidiary sawmills and or concentration yards. The Decoto operation was described as the pre-fab division of New Colma. After the war ended the company advertised for machine operators and hand nailers for piecework in their Nailing Department at the New Colma Mill and Lumber Company at Decoto.

The New Colma Mill suffered two fires; the first in October 1943 caused only \$500 in damage. The second occurred in June 1945 and caused \$150,000 damage and put some 100 men out of work.

But by October 1945 the company was again in full swing and the company advertised for lumber truckers for hire to haul lumber from sawmills to the mill in Decoto.

The New Colma house came in four models, ranging in price from \$1,087.90 to \$2,418.57, and incorporating two, three or four large rooms with hardwood floors and full insulation; they do not include foundations, plumbing or wiring. "They meet every standard building specification in every instance as far as possible under present conditions," a company official said.

"During the war, the idea of prefabrication got associated with emergency housing, a very unfortunate situation. As a matter of fact," said a company official, "our houses have 25 per cent more frame work than the usual custom-built home, and the workmanship is no less in quality."

In August 1946 a treble damage suit for \$1,106,414 was filed by the Office of Price Administration in San Francisco against the New Colma Mill and Lumber Company of California, which also operates a planing mill and lumberyard at Decoto. The suit charges the firm with violating price

regulations in the sale of 13,000,000 board feet of lumber to customers throughout the United States.

The suit alleges that the defendants shipped lumber directly from concentration yards to customers and issued false invoices under the heading of the Daly City retail yard, thereby taking what apparently was the retail markup allowed at the Daly City yard. This was a price in excess of the ceiling price permitted concentration yards, the suit alleges, and involved \$306,000 in overcharges.

In addition, the government agency asserted that the lumber was shipped out of the Decoto yard prior to its qualification as a retail yard on April 23rd, and was improperly billed out of the Daly City retail yard at the retail markup. Overcharges amounted to \$20,000 in this instance, the OPA alleges.

Then a fire again raged through the New Colma Mill and Lumber Company at Railroad and "D" Streets at Decoto on May 7, 1949 causing damage estimated to be \$50,000. Fire Chief Roland Bendel said the fire apparently had burned for some time before it was discovered shortly before 3 a.m. by a watchman. The watchman thought the fire started from spontaneous combustion in a pile of sawdust in one of the mill buildings. The flames destroyed and damaged a large quantity of lumber and mill building and equipment used to manufacture prefabricated homes.

The Alvarado Pioneer wrote in February 1953 of the New Colma Mill:

"The Lindsay Company of Decoto, who also operate the New Colma Mill here in Decoto, is building many beautiful homes in town, which should do much to improve this town. They are starting work on 18 homes at 8th Street between H and Decoto Road, and have finished and sold about 16 on 9th Street. They plan to build more of these homes in the near future."

It appears from this article that the Lindsay Homes of Decoto either owned or operated New Colma Mill & Lumber Co. by 1953.

Claude T Lindsay was born in Utah on December 28, 1902. His wife Agnes was born in Utah in 1909. They both lived in San Francisco in 1940 and showed no children residing with them.

With the recent purchase (April 1942) of the old Willett & Burr Construction Yard at Decoto by Claude T. Lindsay of San Francisco and Richmond, builder and associates, mass production of prefabricated houses for defense workers is expected to get underway within 30 days. Workers are already engaged in reconditioning the property, which at one time was operated as a railroad construction yard. More recently it has been used for the storage of machinery and equipment by various contracting firms.

Large sheds and shops are situated on the 15-acre site, and according to plans, materials in car load lots will be delivered to one end of the plant and prefabricated houses will emerge from the other. Employment will be given to

between 100 and 200 men, it is said. The Decoto yard is said to have been started by Walter M. Willett and Percy Burr, who is now a captain the Army.

After the war Lindsay was building prefabricated homes at the rate of 10 per day, and that production schedule is expected to be doubled soon. Homes built by the Decoto firm are already in use throughout Northern California, and requests from other western states are pouring in daily.

The housing company, which during the war years built hundreds of prefabricated homes for temporary housing of war workers and the families of service personnel, has now converted to the construction of fine permanent houses. Fifty persons are employed in the actual building operation, and an additional 75 employees of the New Colma Lumber Mill in Decoto are required to keep the firm supplied with building materials.

Of the four model homes now under construction most popular is the three-bedroom unit with combination bath and shower, which is built to sell for from \$978 to \$1,400. Styled with a gable roof, the model is constructed with 8-foot ceilings, 2X4 studs, 2X6 joists, and 16-inch centers. Outside finishes are of three types, board and batten, waterproof plywood, and V shape rustic. Inside walls are finished in plywood, and floors may be selected in hardwood, fir or plywood construction. The home is completely insulated, in conformance with state building codes. Models of the homes now under construction may be seen at the Claude T. Lindsey Housing Company's yard at Decoto.

Campbell Products Co.: **Wilber Cox:**

The Joseph Pearce cannery of Decoto has been purchased by the Campbell Products Company, a Campbell dehydrating company. Wilber Cox is the new manager, all other personnel will remain the same at the Decoto location.

Wilber Cox of San Jose was named manager of the new company. Wilber had been the sales manager for Campbell Products Co. He was born in Missouri in 1910. In 1940 Wilber was single living with his parents in San Jose.

JOSEPH PEARCE CANNERY: **Joseph Pearce:**

[See bio in Chapter 8, Page 24](#)

The pupils of the Decoto Grammar School received a combined Christmas and patriotic program in the school auditorium on December 19, 1941 preceding dismissal of school for the holidays. A Christmas tree drill will make up the program after which 250 pounds of candy donated by Joseph Pearce Cannery will be distributed.

The Jos. Pearce Cannery carried on throughout the war years and along with the Hunt Brothers at Hayward and the F. E. Booth Cannery at Centerville suffered through labor shortages from 1942 to through 1945.

Then after war the cannery was hit with treble damages in the amount of \$72,431.40. Also an injunction against further alleged violations of Office of Price Administration regulations was asked for on October 3, 1945 in the U.S.

District Court against the Jos. Pearce Canning Company of Decoto. The complaint alleges the defendant sold canned diced carrots, tomato puree and spinach at over ceiling prices to civilian purchasers. The total overcharge on these particular sales being \$7,420.89. The complaint further alleges that the defendant sold diced carrots and spinach to buyers for various procurement agencies of the U.S. Government at over-ceiling prices totaling \$16,722.01. The damages sued for represent three times the combined totals of actual overcharges.

In August 1946 the Joseph Pearce Cannery was sold to the Campbell Products Company of San Jose.

Joseph Pryor Pearce, 59, former owner of the Joseph Pearce Canning Company in Decoto and production manager for many years at Hunt Bros. Cannery in Hayward, died suddenly on September 27, 1949 at his home in Hayward. He was the victim of a heart attack.

Marlo Packers aka Marlo Preserving Co.:

Marlo Packing's first appearance I could locate in Decoto was in the spring of 1949. That summer Marlo employed over 200 people and were canning about 3,400 cases of peaches daily. They started the tomato harvest in September 1949. During 1949 the company sponsored the Marlo Packing Co. softball team of Decoto. But they were sold to the Alaco Preserving Company in June 1950.

Wilm's Associated Cannery:

Associated Cannery Inc.:

In 1942 Wilm's Associated Cannery leased the Joseph Pearce Cannery at Decoto. The company was canning peas in April 1943, but two months later Joseph Pearce took back the cannery back from Mr. Wilm's and the Decoto cannery was again canning under the Pearce label.

MECHANICAL, INDUSTRIAL:

Alwin & Alma Searles:

Alwin Searles was born in 1907 in California to Harry C. and Lillian Searles. He graduated from Washington High School in 1926 and in that year he entered the University of California. His wife Alma was born in California in 1908 and was a sister-in-law to Judge Allen G. Norris of Centerville. The couple had a son Harry who was born in 1934. In 1940 Alwin was employed as an industrial mechanic for the salt company.

In the 1940's Alwin became a trustee for the Decoto School District, thus equaling the feat attained by his father H.C. Searles. Besides his service to the school district Alwin also served as a leader of Boy Scout Troop #1 at Decoto and received recognition, along with George Castro, for the accomplishments of his Scouts.

But his greatest recognition came with the completion of the Barnard School when the Board of Trustees, Alwin, Manuel White and George Davis brought the new school to fruition.

Mrs. Searles was also very active in community affairs. Just three weeks after the bombing of Pearl Harbor Mrs. Searles was one of the 30 graduate nurses in Washington Township to be mobilized into emergency service for the wartime effort. Mrs. Searles was made the graduate nurse in charge of Decoto.

In the beginning of 1942 Mrs. Searles led the Red Cross Committee in Decoto in raising funds for the Red Cross in the township. She also led a group of some 30 women who met regularly at the grammar school each Tuesday afternoon for home hygiene instruction in 1942.

In March 1942 Alma worked with the Washington Township County Club to collect books to be sent to camps for servicemen. Joining Mrs. Searles from Decoto was Mrs. Lewis Musick.

The Black Market was a problem during WWII and with rationing in effect some people sought a way around rationing by buying scarce goods on the Black Market. Mrs. Harvey Granger and Mrs. Alwin Searles were appointed as OPA (Office of Price Administration) to take a survey of prices at local stores to see that local merchants were adhering to price guidelines. WWII had strict guidelines for prices on certain commodities.

Mrs. Searles would also serve as Vice President on the Country Club of Washington Township in 1944 and she was also a member of the Washington Township Child Welfare Club in 1946.

MERCHANTS:

John and Jesse Delcrew / Frank Robiejo / Ramon Orozco / Salvador Alvarez / Mrs. Josephine Robiejo / Bridget Hernandez / Manuel Hidalgo / Primitivo Diaz / Frank Luna / James Gonzales / Fred Costa / Bernard Joseph / McGill and Valenzuela / M.L. Avilla / Raymond Berrios / Tony Ybarra

John and Jessie Delcrew:

Fourth Street Market:

John Delcrew was born in California circa 1915. His wife, Miss Jessie Ramos, was born in California circa 1919. In September 1938 John Delcrew and Miss Jessie Ramos took out a license to marry. In 1940 they had one daughter Marian.

Ken & Mary Garcia and John & Jessie Delcrew purchased Mike's Grocery on Russell Road in Russell City (Hayward in June 1943. Jessie Delcrew was Mary Garcia's sister. The property was located in Russell City and besides being a grocery store they also had an off-sale beer and liquor license and a gasoline station business.

John Delcrew, returning from a month's vacation in Mexico in June 1946, purchased the Fourth Street Market in Decoto, the façade of the store still bearing his name, and his wife's, J & J Delcrew. Delcrew bought the store from the man to whom he previously sold it, Frank Robiejo. After a 7,000-mile trip through parts of old Mexico, Delcrew says that he is finished with running around now, he is in Decoto to stay. He has sold his grocery store in Russell City, and will make his living in Decoto now.

Later in the 1940's John and Jessie moved to Modesto in the dairying business. The final article on John Delcrew was the final divorce granted Jessie Delcrew in 1963.

Frank Robiejo:

Fourth Street Market:

Frank Robiejo, who is a carpenter by trade, hailed from Ashland, near Hayward, Calif. Frank married Mrs. Mary Ramos's youngest daughter Josephine. The Ramos family was the owners of the Fourth Street Market in Decoto. John Delcrew and his wife, Jessie Ramos Delcrew, operated the Fourth Street Market until they sold it to Frank Robiejo and wife Josephine who ran the store until 1946, when John Delcrew and Jessie bought the store again. Frank Robiejo fades from view after this, although his wife opened Babe's Modern Apparel in Decoto. Soon thereafter the Robiejo's are no longer mentioned in Decoto.

Raymond Berrios:

Rav's Market:

Raymond Berrios, owner of the Berrios Grocery Store at 514 "F" Street in Decoto, has sold to Ramon Orozco all fixtures, stock, goodwill, and a certain license issued by the State Board of Equalization.

Salvador Alvarez:

Alvarez Grocery:

During the 1940's there existed in Decoto a store called Alvarez Grocery. The name of the store was mentioned in a newspaper article, but it gave no mention as to the name of proprietor. The 1940 census of Decoto shows a Mr. Salvador Alvarez who stated that he was the proprietor of a Decoto grocery store. Here is Mr. Alvarez' bio.

Salvador Alvarez was born in Mexico circa 1881. His wife Alejandra was born in Mexico in 1893. Residing with the couple was a son Liceo who was born in Mexico circa 1912. They also had a son Andres living with them who was born in California in 1931. Their daughter, Juana Alvarez who was born in Mexico circa 1895 was also living the family with her husband Jose Alvarez and their son Ricardo age 2, and daughter Olga age 1. This is all the information on the Alvarez family.

Mrs. Josephine Robiejo:

Babe's Modern Apparel:

Babe's Modern Apparel was the name of Decoto's newest business. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frances Rebiejo, this store with clothing for every member of the family was opened on Thursday January 1946.

Mrs. Rebiejo, who is called Babe by her many friends, needs no introduction to the citizens of Decoto. She is the youngest daughter of Mrs. Mary Ramos, one of Decoto's first merchants. That store is now the 4th Street Market, and was first opened many years ago by the late Tony Ramos and Mrs. Ramos. Since then the Ramos girls have all entered the business world. Mrs. Ramos' oldest daughter Annie is the wife of Joe Boliba at the Niles Garden Basket. Then comes Jessie, who with her husband, John Delcrew, operated the 4th

Street Market until a year and a half ago. They are now in the dairy business near Modesto. Mary runs the Decoto Bakery and Grocery with her husband, Kenny Garcia, Decoto Chamber of Commerce President. And last is Babe. She and her husband have a wonderful store that promises to give shopper values for their money in all types of clothing and dry goods.

How long the business lasted is not known as there is no mention of the business after this one article.

Bridget Hernandez:
Decoto Clothing, 205 2nd St.:

Bridget Hernandez was the wife of Frank Hernandez, owner of the Decoto Theater. See their bios under "Theater" on page 41.

Manual Hidalgo:
Decoto Variety & Fountain:

Manuel J. Hidalgo married Miss Florence Paniagua of Decoto. They had three children, Manuel J. Jr., Patricia, and Robert, born between the years 1939 to 1941. Manuel is first mentioned locally in April 1947 when he received a permit to erect a \$9,000 Quonset type building to house his Decoto Variety Store. The store was located at the corner of 6th and "H" Streets in downtown Decoto.

In April 1948 the *Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper noted:

"Manuel Hidalgo, who used to own the Junction Inn at the main junction of highways in Warm Springs, sold that business a year ago. With his wife, the former Miss Paniagua, whose hometown is Decoto, they decided to open the big store. They have a fireproof building, housed in the Quonset type. The courteous treatment to customers plus a big stock rightly priced has opened up a big business. Mrs. Hidalgo is eager to help customers and her efforts compliment her husband well. They have dry goods for all the family, such as would be most used in that section together with notions, etc., and a modern fountain where sandwiches are served, makes it quite a big emporium under one room. Their home is next door."

Manuel became a force in the betterment for the town of Decoto. In September 1948, as a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce, Manuel had surveyed the town of Decoto and noted that there were twenty dark spots in the town due to insufficient night-lighting.

In March 1952, Manuel was voted president of the Decoto of Chamber of Commerce. In 1954 Manuel became the President of the Washington Township Chamber of Commerce. In the mid-1950s Manuel was a representative of the Decoto Homeowners Assoc., a member of the Union City Steering Committee, and the president of the Decoto Merchants Assoc. Manuel was also a member of the Washington Township Democratic Club.

In November 1956 Florence Hidalgo divorced Manuel J. Hidalgo. Mrs. Florence Hidalgo was the former Florence Paniagua of Decoto. Mrs. Hidalgo got the family variety store located at 6th and "H" Street and a home at 505 H Street.

Mr. Hidalgo is to get the home located at 712 6th Street, half the value of the variety store and his financial holdings.

Primitivo Diaz:

Retail Newspaper Vendor:

Primitivo Diaz was born in California circa 1919. He was single and living alone on 11th Street in Decoto. In 1940 he gave his employment as a retail newspaper vendor. Nothing further was for Primitivo Diaz.

Frank Luna:

Retail Newspaper Dealer:

Frank Luna was born in California circa 1885. His wife, Mary Luna, was born in California circa 1894. Residing with them in 1940 was a son Melvin, who was twenty years old, and two daughters Mavis 18 and Jeannette 11. Also residing with them was Frank's mother-in-law Mary Duarte. At this time the family was residing on Decoto Road in Decoto.

Melvin Luna became engaged to Miss Harriett De Leon of Centerville in January 1941. Melvin would later be taken in the U.S. Armed forces during WWII.

The Luna's also had two daughters what had left home before 1940, Lola and Vivian. In 1934 Lola married Anthony Knobles of Newark. In the 1930s Frank owned a nursery.

Frank Luna, 60, Oakland Tribune circulation representative in Decoto for the last 10 years, died at his home in Decoto on February 4, 1945. A native of Decoto, he had lived here throughout his lifetime. He leaves his wife Mary and five children. One son, PFC Melvin Luna is presently serving in the South Pacific. Two of his children, Mrs. Elmer Peixotto and Jeanette Luna both reside in Decoto. Frank was a member of the Decoto Boosters Club.

James Gonzales:

James Gonzales was born in Spain circa 1913. His wife Delores was born in California circa 1914. In the 1940 census they had two daughters, Betty aged five, and Rosemarie aged 3. James Gonzales gave his occupation as a merchant, but the name of the store or its location was not found.

James Gonzales was a member of the team that founded the Decoto Recreation Council in July 1944. James joined with Manuel Seoane, Manuel Hidalgo, David Janeiro, Mary Paniagua, Mrs. M. Amaral, and Mrs. Rose Silva.

Betty and Rosemarie were active in Decoto and Washington Township activities in their formative years.

Joe Gonzales:

Joe's Market, 6th St:

One newspaper article made reference to Joe's Market on 6th Street in Decoto, which was owned by Joe Gonzales. I could not locate a Joe Gonzales in Decoto who was a proprietor of a grocery store, nor could find another article about Joe's Grocery.

Fred Costa:

Mercury Radio Shop, 848 8th St.:

Fred Costa was born circa 1929 to Antone L. and Leontine Martin Costa of Decoto. Antone and Leontine were married circa 1926 and had three children, Fred, Roselyn, and James.

Fred's Mercury Radio Service, owned by Fred Costa of Decoto, will move into a new building next to the Decoto Grammar School when the building is completed in September 1945. The new shop will also feature electrical appliances and supplies, along with the already established radio service. Costa graduated from the National Radio Institute of Washington D.C. last year.

Bernard Joseph:

Olson General Store:

Bernard (Bernie) Joseph was born in California circa 1904 to Frank Jr. and Rose Joseph of the Alviso District. He married Evelyn Roderick was born in California in 1908. At the time Evelyn was a schoolteacher; the couple had two children, Robert and Jackie.

Bernie became a member of the Decoto Volunteer Fire Department in 1938. In December of 1939 Bernie became a founding member of the newly organized Decoto Booster Club along with Walter Monese, Bert Martin, Manuel Seoane, Walter Walker, Ralph Leiva, and Marion Delgado.

Bernie began his career retail store experience about this time with the firm of Olson & Co. of Decoto, which was owned John L. Olson. People began to take notice of the young Joseph and in November 1940 The Alvarado Pioneer said of the young man:

"Take for instance Bernie Joseph of the firm of Olson & Co., and you have a young man who is pulling hard for the community. Mr. Joseph and his associates are trying to raise funds to help along the fine work of the Boy Scouts. To achieve this needed end they are selling tickets for a whist party to be given at the Decoto School the night of Tuesday, November 26, 1940. There will be numerous prizes including a turkey. Many merchants have donated prizes and there is to be a dandy door prize."

The Decoto Sanitary District was just underway in 1940 and in the following year Bernie Joseph joined Charles Brown, George Smith, Manuel White and William Hurst as directors of the sanitary district.

Bernie added more duties to his civic mindedness when, as a member of the Decoto Booster Club, he became a commissioner of the Decoto Boy Scout Troop along with Charles Brown, Byron Justus, Peter Decoto and Lewis W. Musick.

On Christmas Day in 1941 John L. Olson, owner of the J.L. Olson & Co. store in Decoto passed away from a heart attack. He was a native of Alvarado and was 66 years of age. It appears that Mrs. Olson operated a store for a time

and later on sold the business to Bernie Joseph who kept the name Olson & Co.

Bernie was also active the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. In July 1946 Bernie would be elected Secretary of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. He would hold this position for many years and he handled all of the correspondence for the Decoto Chamber. As an example of his duties in January 1947 the Decoto Chamber instructed Secretary Bernie Joseph to write to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and legislators endorsing the proposed amendment of the local hospital law, which would allow the establishment of a hospital district in Washington Township. Bernie would handle many letters of correspondence on a wide variety of issues for the Chamber.

Bernie was busy maintaining his general store but he also kept his hand in civic matters. In August 1952 he was still a board member of the Decoto Sanitary District and he was running for re-election along with Manuel White and Fred Sanchez.

Business was good for Bernie and in February 1953 his Olson's Grocery Store was enlarged into the next building, which used to be occupied by the Post Office. The remodeling would make this a much larger store in which to shop. Bernie would add many new features and a more complete line of groceries and meats at popular prices.

The Decoto Chamber of Commerce honored Bernie on March 2, 1954 for his many years of service to the community. He was presented with a pen and pencil set by the chamber members. Bernie, a resident of Decoto for the past 21 years, he attended the Alviso Grammar School in Washington Township). He had been a member of the Sanitary Board for 14 years, has served as the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and as treasurer of Boy Scout Troop #1.

With the Treeview Annex by the City of Hayward of Decoto and Alvarado land a whole new set of challenges awaited Decoto and the Chamber of Commerce. This brought on the incorporation talk of Decoto & Alvarado. A steering committee was named for the towns of Alvarado and Decoto to incorporate Decoto and Alvarado into the City of Union City. Those chosen from Decoto were: Bernie Joseph, Frank Borghi, Kenny Garcia, Oscar Dowe, and Manuel Seoane. Those chosen for the Union City Steering Committee representing Alvarado were: Frank George, Joe Lewis, John Ratekin, Wilbert Hendricks, Mrs. Mae Santos, Mike Salido and Mrs. Mabel Rogers.

With the Decoto and Alvarado incorporation still being fought in the courts the issue of sidewalks for the town of Decoto was again raised. This question had raged since 1912 with little progress. Finally the U.S. Post Office said there would be no house-to-house mail delivery without sidewalks.

Homeowners then started putting in their sidewalks, but there were those that had not. In October 1957 Ken Garcia and Bernie Joseph were tasked with talking to the remaining homeowners in Decoto that had not installed sidewalks. They had 45 days to get the sidewalks in the remaining homes in Decoto that did not already have them. If the deadline was met Decoto would have home delivery of U.S. Mail. Ken & Bernie were successful in their duties.

In August Decoto rancher Carl Zwissig resigned from the Board of Directors of the Decoto Fire district because he was moving to Sunol. The two remaining directors, Bernie Joseph and A.A. Amaral, said they would recommend that county supervisors appoint Washington Union High School Trustee Frank Borghi Jr. to fill the vacancy.

But Bernie was not the only civic-minded person the Joseph family. Bernie's wife Evelyn was also fully committed to helping the community. Prior to 1943 Evelyn had been a substitute teacher in the Decoto School system.

Evelyn helped her husband with his Chamber duties, being a good steno and typist she was generally the person called on to prepare and send out Chamber correspondence and letters of congratulations.

Evelyn not only did this work for her husband, and the Chamber, but in 1948 when Decoto started a PTA Evelyn was chosen as secretary for that recently formed body.

She had the occasion in August 1948 to type out a letter from the Chamber extending congratulations to the PTA. And right away she had to type out another letter from the PTA thanking the Chamber for its nice words. Anyway, she saved postage.

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Evelyn was also an active member of the Decoto Discussion Group and in April 1952 was named Red Cross Chairman for Decoto. For her service as the long time secretary to the Decoto School PTA Evelyn was awarded an honorary life membership of the Decoto PTA.

**Hernandez Country Market, 452
Street:**

In the year 1949 there was a store operated in Decoto known as Hernandez Country Market at 452 C Street & Niles Road. Dionisio Hernandez was a storekeeper in Decoto in the early 1940's.

Whether Dionisio had any connection to this country store I could not determine.

McGill & Valenzuela:
Phonographs & Music:

McGill and Valenzuela sold automatic phonographs and pin games. They were located in Decoto and Oakland. To the left is an ad from August 1946.

M.L. Avilla Groceries:

In September 1941 it was noted that M.L. Avilla Groceries was located on 10th Street in Decoto. They carried general groceries, vegetables, lunch meats, gardens seeds, candy and soft drinks.

Raymond Berrios, Grocery:

Raymond Berrios was born in Hawaii in 1902. His wife Lola was also born in Hawaii in 1902. As of 1940 they had six children the oldest of which, David, was born in Hawaii in 1922. The other children were all born in California: Frances (daughter), Alice, Raymond, Cristina and Robert. In 1930 Raymond was living in Decoto and he was employed as a farm laborer, but by 1940 he had opened his grocery business in Decoto. Raymond was a supporter of the Decoto Boy Scouts, by donating groceries as prizes for the Boy Scout Whist Party held in November 1940.

It was noted in April 1946 that Raymond Berrios, owner of the Berrios Grocery Store at 514 "F" Street in Decoto, had sold to Ramon Orozco all fixtures, stock, goodwill, and a certain license issued by the State Board of Equalization.

Tony Ybarra, Grocery:

Tony Ybarra, former owner of Ybarra's Grocery, abandoned his business in January 1941 and went to study the barber business. The store went back into business under the management of Donisio Hernandez, the owner of the location.

PLUMBING:

Martin & Dias Sewer Contractors & Plumbing Supply:

Their office was located at 931 10th Street in Decoto. They did sewer work and plumbing service and sales.

PRODUCE PACKING HOUSES:

Williams Packing Shed / L.E. Bailey Packing House / Hemphill and Gordon Packing House / Levy-Zentner Packing House

Williams Packing Shed:

Lee Williams of Irvington leased the Southern Pacific shed in Decoto as a packing and storage shed for his produce business. In June 1944 the shed caught fire and was totally destroyed. The shed was filled with wood and completed boxes used in the packing business.

L.E. Bailey Packing House:

The Bailey Packing House in Decoto was located about two blocks west of the Jos. Pearce Canning Co. on the Southern Pacific frontage. The man in charge of operations at the shed was R.D. Cadman. In August 1946 they were shipping about one carload of green tomatoes to the east daily. By September 1946 it was estimated that they would be shipping three carloads of green tomatoes east. R.D. Cadman was a farmer on the Whipple Road who also took on the duties of managing the Williams Packing Shed.

Hemphill and Gordon, Packing House:

Hemphill & Gordon were marketers of vegetables for many farmers in the area. In June 1946 they took over the packing shed of A. Levy & Zentner of Decoto. Their bookkeeper was A.E. Lawrence. They shipped a couple of carloads of lettuce east each week. But they also served Oakland and San Francisco shipping stuck load of produce to each side of the Bay.

Levy-Zentner Packing House:

Levy Zentner was a large fruit and vegetable packinghouse and shipper. Their headquarters was in San Francisco, but they also had a large operation out of San Leandro and of course they had a packing shed in Decoto.

REGISTRAR:

Mrs. Constance Amaral, Decoto Registrar:

Constance Amaral was born in California in 1908. Constance's husband, Antone E. Amaral, was born in California in 1902. They had a son David. Antone was a Decoto storekeeper who passed away in March 1947 at the age of 45 years.

Constance was the registrar for the town of Decoto in 1942. She had six assistants to aid her. Constance first shows as a teacher in 1949 and I found her teaching up until 1958. She taught at the old Decoto School and was very active in the Decoto PTA.

RESTAURANTS:

Café Las Palmas / El Paseo Restaurant / Mrs. Lloyd Guzman / Joe Valenzuela / Lucille's Café / Dwight Shields / Manuel Perez /

Café Las Palmas Restaurant:

The only information on this business was the confiscation of a pinball machine allegedly used for gambling in April 1937, and a fire in a fruit drying shed behind the Las Palmas Inn on December 11, 1943.

El Paseo Restaurant:

In June 1946 it was noted that the El Paseo Restaurant was located at 604 4th Street in Decoto. The restaurant offered Mexican dinners, tacos, enchiladas, tamales, and beer. They have tortillas and tamales to take out. They also had a selectin of Mexican novelties.

Mrs. Lloyd Guzman:

Loma Linda Café:

Prior to Joe Valenzuela the Loma Linda Café in Decoto was operated by Mrs. Lloyd Guzman. Nothing further could be found for the Guzman's.

Joe Valenzuela:

Loma Linda Café:

Jose (Joe) Valenzuela was born in Mexico circa 1894. His wife Lupe was born in California in 1908. They showed having no children. The couple came from Portola in Plumas County in the late 1930's. In 1940 they were living on 2nd Street in Decoto and Jose showed that he was the proprietor of a liquor store.

Sometime prior to 1946 Joe purchased the Loma Linda Café from Mrs. Lloyd Guzman. Joe's slogan was, "We have the best Mexican Food in Town"

Joe remodeled the café with a new barbeque pit and a new kitchen. His menu now included barbequed chickens, spareribs and other delicious barbequed items. In 1949 Joe took in a partner, Roger Gomez.

Joe was an active member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. He was appointed to the committee to get sidewalks installed in Decoto in 1953. Joe was on this committee for several years before the sidewalks were installed in March 1958.

Lucille's Café:

The only information found on this location was the classified ad below:

Classified Ad:

FOR SALE REAL ESTATE:

Lucille's Cafe, with beer and wine license. Reasonable if taken at once.

624 Niles Highway, Decoto

The Hayward Daily Review, May 28, 1949

Dwight Shields

Main Street Café:

The only information on this business was the following article:

"Dwight and Roberta Shields, of the Tennyson district, owners of the recently established Main Street Café in Decoto motored to Reno Tuesday morning." The Alvarado Pioneer, February 22, 1946

Manuel Perez:

Mi Rancho Café:

The only information this business was a burglary reported in March 1947 by Manuel Perez, 50, of 331 D Street. He reported that his café had been broken into and four cartons of cigarettes, \$1 in pennies and four partly filled bottles of wine were taken. The establishment was a combination restaurant and bar.

SALOONS:

Annie Lapete / Tony Boliba / Lawrence Delgado / Paul Pagan / John Ruperto / William Agundez

Annie Lapete:

Annie Lapete Tavern:

The advertisement below in The Alvarado Pioneer in September 1949 was the only information on this establishment.

ANNIE LAPETE TAVERN
624 Niles Road, Decoto, Calif.

Tony Boliba:

Boliba's Club Bar:

Antonio (Tony) Boliba was born in Spain 1901. His wife Mary was born in Hawaii in 1908 as was his oldest daughter Frances. Their other four children were all born in California. The sons were Anthony and John and the daughters were Annie and Elaine.

Tony Boliba operated a bar and pool hall at 504 4th Street in Decoto. In November 1947 \$60 was taken from the cash register. Sheriff's deputies were unable to catch the thief.

In June 1950 two men were captured in an attempt to burglarize Boliba's Pool Hall in Decoto. One of the men was shot by a deputy sheriff. Both men were 22 years old and both of the men captured were from Decoto.

Lawrence Delgado:

Del's Place, Saloon:

Lawrence Delgado (of Hayward) and Enos & Perfelia Delgado (of Decoto) have sold their interest in Del's Place in September 1946. The bar is located at 505 6th Street. The buyer was Gus Barrios of Decoto.

In March 1957 the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Department revoked the beer and wine license of Maria Leyva, operator of Del's Place, 505 6th Street, Decoto, for allegedly permitting minors to buy and consume beer and for disorders including fights. It was also alleged that the names of the true interested parties were not shown on the license.

Paul Pagan:

Pagan's Inn, 608 "E" Street:

In the late 1940's Pagan's Inn at Decoto was owned by Paul Pagan of Oakland. Paul's brother, Leopoldo Pagan was a resident of Decoto. Pagan's Inn was located on 7th and "E" Streets in Decoto.

John Ruperto:

Star Bar, 608 "E" Street:

In 1941 John Ruperto was the owner of the Star Bar at 608 "E" Street in Decoto. He was also the manager in charge of the hall in which they show talking pictures on Saturday. On June 24, 1952 John died at a nearby hospital after an extended illness. His home was at 500 4th Street in Decoto.

William Agundez:

Puerto Rico Club:

William Agundez was born in Mexico in 1911. His wife Asuncion was born in Texas in 1925. They had four children: Ignacio, Dorothy, Lillian and Robert.

William conducted the Puerto Rico Club on 610 "E" Street in Decoto. In October 1948 the State Board of Equalization denied an on-sale beer license to William Agundez of the Puerto Rico Club.

Two weeks later William applied to the board of supervisors to conduct dances at the Puerto Rico Club; Decoto on each Friday, Saturday and Sunday for three months commencing in October. The petition was forwarded on for further consideration.

SCHOOL EXECUTIVES AND TRUSTEES:

Ephraim "Eph" Musick / Joseph Seoane Jr. / William S. Davis / Harvey T. Granger

Ephraim "EPH" Musick:

Decoto School Principal:

Eph Musick was born in California in April 1878 to Lewis W. and Frances Musick. Eph's wife Gladys was born in South Dakota in 1886. The Musick's had two children: Lewis W. and Claire.

Eph was teaching school in Crescent City in 1900. In 1910 Eph was married and teaching school in Weaverville, Trinity County. By 1920 Eph Musick and family had come to Newark where he would teach until he retired in the early 1940's.

Meanwhile, Eph's son Lewis W. had made a name for himself as principal of the Decoto Grammar School. Lewis was forward thinking and had led the Decoto School through some turbulent years during the beginning of WWII.

But in April 1943 Lewis Musick was called into active duty as a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy. The younger Musick had graduated from Stanford and his country needed his talent.

The Decoto School Board made a wise decision when they coaxed the elder Musick out of retirement to come back and teach in the school in Decoto. Musick, formerly principal of the Newark School until his retirement a couple of years ago, was back in the saddle, succeeding his son, as he was appointed to finish out the term of his son.

Lewis Musick returned from the service to begin his duties as principal of the Decoto Grammar School in 1946. At this time Ephraim Musick again became "retired."

Joseph Seoane Jr.:

Union Official & School Trustee:

Joseph Seoane Jr. was born in California circa 1917 to Jose & Juana Seoane. Jose & Juana were both born in Spain and entered the U.S. through the island of Hawaii. Their eldest child, Manuel Seoane, was born in Hawaii circa 1915. Thereafter they left for the mainland and Joseph Jr. was born stateside in 1915. Daughters Josephine and Jessie were also born stateside circa 1923 and 1924 respectively.

Joe Seoane and Miss Rose Azevedo announced their intention to marry in September 1939. Joe was 22 years of age and Miss Azevedo was 19 years of age. Rose and Joe were married in October 1939 at a ceremony performed at Mission San Jose. Attending the couple were Miss Jessie Seoane of Decoto and John Del Crew of Sunnyvale. A reception, attended by 200 friends, was held at the Warm Springs Grammar School auditorium following the wedding.

Joe and Rose were living with John and Carmen Azevedo in Warm Springs in 1940 while Joe was working at a nursery. But Joe could not sever his ties with Decoto and in December 1940 he was playing ball for the Decoto Athletic Club Baseball team under the management of Ralph Lopez. In mid-December 1940 the Decoto club defeated the Hayward Puerto Rican Club, 5 to 3. Pitching was Tom Ashton and catching was Joe Seoane.

Joe showed that he was also a civic-minded person. He was a member of the Decoto Volunteer Fire Dept. in 1945. Joe would enjoy a long career in the Fire Department that almost took his life in February 1954.

A fire in Hillview that took the life of an eight-week old infant almost proved fatal for Joe. The child's father, Charles Duthie, tried to save his infant daughter but was overcome by smoke and he lay unconscious near his daughter. Joe Seoane went into the burning house after them, but he too was overcome by smoke. Other firemen dragged the pair to safety. They were taken to Fairmont Hospital for treatment, but the baby was declared dead on arrival. Duthie and Seoane were not seriously injured. Two other Duthie children, Linda 6, and Jimmy 5, ran from the house unharmed when awakened by their father's shouts. The baby's mother, Naomi, 26, was at work at the time at a Hayward drive-in restaurant.

Joe was a member of the Decoto School Board of Trustees where his hardnosed position on thrift favored the taxpayer. He sometimes found himself at odds with other members of the board.

There were five members of the school board plus District Superintendent Dr. Harold Schoenfeld. The discourse between Schoenfeld and Trustee Seoane could be colorful and entertaining, as proven by Hayward Daily Review reporters who liked to take down, word for word, entire debates between the two.

But Joseph Seoane Jr. was colorful for a reason; he was tight-fisted when it came to the school's purse strings. The taxpayers voted in trustee Joe and that was who he was accountable to, as can be seen in the following article from the Daily Review of February 9, 1956:

"Plain land grabbing" was the charge hurled at the Decoto Elementary School District Trustees last night. Mildred Meyers was the speaker and she referred to the board's action in seeking to acquire three acres of land owned by her and her two sisters, Jeanette and Dr. Edith Meyers.

The land would bolster the El Rancho Verde School site to 10 acres. The school trustees offered \$5,000 per acre as the purchasing price, an amount the Meyers sisters considered inadequate. "You are taking

the choicest part of our land," declared Mildred. "It's worth far more than your offer."

Trustee Charles O. Plummer replied, "That's as much as we have paid for any land in the area."

"But it hasn't been land like this," countered Jeanette.

Upon questioning by the sisters, the board admitted one reason it would like to purchase the land immediately is that real estate prices are continually on the rise.

"Do you think that is the right thing to do?" asked Mildred.

Trustee Joseph Seoane, Jr., answered, "When I sit on this board I am going to do everything possible to save the taxpayers money. If the land can be purchased today for \$5,000 per acre as opposed to \$10,000 in five years, then I'm for purchasing it today."

The Meyers property fronts Highway 9 between Cypress Cemetery and El Rancho Verde."

An indication of the testiness between Schoenfeld and Seoane can be shown in the following debate in the May 24, 1956 issue of the Daily Review:

"...Seoane and Schoenfeld exchanged verbal fire over what appeared to be a routine item on the agenda. Schoenfeld said he thought it should be within his jurisdiction to remove any custodian from grounds supervision at Sunday baseball games if he man proved incapable of preventing violations of district rules. Seoane countered that it was up to the board to make such a decision upon the recommendation by Schoenfeld.

"Then I resign," said Schoenfeld, "You don't need a superintendent."

"I'm getting sick and tired of your throwing that at us," declared Seoane.

"You can disagree with me at these meetings, and I wish you'd reserve for me the same right," countered Schoenfeld.

On a motion by Harry Spooner, Seoane's fellow board members backed up Schoenfeld and gave the superintendent authority to determine which custodians were qualified for the job.

Even the Daily Review took note of Seoane's stance at Board meetings. To this end the Daily Review wrote an editorial just about Seoane:

"It takes the new Hayward Chamber of Commerce map to show beyond a doubt that schools are an industry in Southern Alameda County. The map shows schools in the Hayward area and they cover it like measles.

Schools are big business in the South County, \$22 million this year, provided by the taxpayers. Ranging from one school, Independent District, to the 21-school San Lorenzo; the 20 districts employ 2,536 teachers and administrators teaching in 104 schools. That doesn't include hundreds of person in maintenance and service staff.

In this situation the tired overburdened taxpayer has few champions. The atmosphere is one of easy spending where it is sacrilege to question ever-greater taxing. That's why a CTA (California Teachers Association) representative in Decoto called Joseph Seoane a "traitor." School Trustee Seoane had the temerity to vote against the board of CTA backed legislation increasing cigarette and beer taxes to boost school funds. CTA has had its way so long it expects school boards, citizen groups, and everyone else to unquestioningly vote "yes" on more taxes for school funds."

Nothing escaped Joe's eyes when it came to fiscal responsibility and maintaining costs as evidenced by this give and take between Schoenfeld and Seoane in the May 3, 1957 issue of the Daily Review:

"School Trustee Joseph Seoane Jr., of the Decoto School District may someday rate a medal. He's the tightest-guardian of public funds you ever saw. The other night at the school board's budget meeting Trustee Joe was dragging his feet through the district's plans to spend the 1957-58 funds, making them explain every box of chalk and ream of paper.

"Now about these phone calls," Joe asked Supt. Harold Schoenfeld. "Can't we get district personnel to cut down the length of their phone calls and save on message units? We ought to be able to cut our phone bill in half."

"Consider it cut in half," Schoenfeld said. "The Alameda County Schools Office is moving from San Leandro to new offices on Winton Avenue in Hayward, that cuts the toll rates by about 50 per cent."

Even Trustee Joe, without easing a bit on budget badgering, smiled at the news of a fiscal windfall.

There is nothing dearer to a CPA's heart than the annual budget of any company, organization or business. Schools are no different. The August 5, 1957 issue of The Daily Review caught the highlights for next year's budget at this meeting:

"Trustees of the Decoto School District last night passed a \$799,067 budget but not without complications. Trustee Joseph Seoane, requested and got permission to sit in the audience and speak against the budget as "Citizen Joe Seoane."

Seoane called for a \$19,000 slash in the \$54,000 reserve fund that would keep the tax level at \$1.75 instead of the proposed \$1.90. He argued that only \$25,000 was budgeted for the reserve fund last year and something close to this amount would be adequate this year.

But the other trustees countered that good practice call for a 10 per cent budget reserve and \$54,000 only represents six per cent. After his objections, Seoane returned to his seat on the board, and the budget was passed 3 - 1."

One would believe that reading the above give and take between Seoane and Schoenfeld that there may have been some animosity between the two. That was dispelled when Schoenfeld ran for the office of Superintendent of Alameda County Schools. One of his biggest supporters on his campaign for Superintendent of Schools was Joseph Seoane Jr. "

Joe would again answer the call of duty in November 1958 when he took out papers to file for a position on the ballot of the Union City Council.

On December 11, 1958 several candidates gathered before the citizens of Decoto to stress why they should be among Union City's new city council. Incorporate or be swallowed up by the cities to the south or to the north seemed to be mantra of the candidates.

Tom Kitayama stressed, "Would you like the city council of Hayward or Fremont to tell you how to live? Let's incorporate and control our own future."

Joe Seoane Jr. followed by stating that; "We'll be gobbled up by the monster to the south (Fremont) or octopus to the north (Hayward) if we do not incorporate."

These gentlemen struck a chord with the people of Decoto and Alvarado and both were voted into office on January 13, 1959. Here are the official results of the election of January 13, 1958:

January 13, 1959 - 11:59:59:

This is the date and time of the last official second for the towns of Decoto and Alvarado's existence on earth. At 12:00:01 they became known as the district of Alvarado and the district of Decoto. Goodbye "Old Decoto & Old Alvarado."

January 14, 1959 - 12:00:01:

Hello Union City. Here are the particulars:

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

City Council:

Tom Kitayama, 35, Alvarado Nurseryman, 701 votes.

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

Joseph Seoane, 41, Decoto Chemical Worker/Union Official, 574 votes

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

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

William S. Davis:

Union Official & School Trustee:

William S. Davis, William Davis was born in Howell, Missouri in 1898. His wife Jennie was born in Minnesota in 1906. In 1940 they were shown living in

Niles Canyon and had no children living with them. They did have a son William Jr. in Pennsylvania and a daughter Barbara English of Sunnyvale. William was employed as a sheet metal and steel worker at the Pacific States Steel Plant.

By 1946 William Davis had become the president of the United Steel Workers Union, CIO, Local No. 3367 which was representing workers at the Pacific States Steel Plant in Decoto. In April he was nominated for appointment (and approved) as trustee of the Decoto Elementary School to succeed Herbert Harrold, veteran of about 30 years on the board who had resigned. In 1948 Ken Garcia looked to unseat Bill Davis on the Decoto Grammar School Board of Trustees. But Ken was unsuccessful and Bill Davis kept his seat.

Bill Davis received accolades along with Principal Lewis Musick, and Trustees Alwyn Searles and Manuel White for getting a the new Barnard School for Whipple Road.

Bill Davis was also a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. In November 1953 he was voted in as one of the directors of the Chamber joining Bernie Joseph, Jack Faletti and Keith Whipple.

Bill Davis was also active during the City of Hayward's attempt to annex land in Washington Township. It was extra troubling for him because with the grab Hayward got Hillview Crest and part of Fairway Park and El Rancho Verde housing tracts. This was troubling to the school because those tracts that are in Washington Township (and pay school taxes to Washington Township) were now in the City of Hayward. Hence the children in these tracts were driven to high school in Centerville even though they lived within the City limits of Hayward. William S. Davis died on April 21, 1973.

Harvey T. Granger: **Farmer & School Trustee:**

Harvey Granger. Harvey's grandfather, Farley B. Granger Sr., had been in Alvarado since the early 1850's and built the Riverside Hotel on New Haven Street. Harvey's other grandfather, Sylvester P. Harvey, had also been in Alvarado since the early 1850's. S.P. Harvey Park on Alvarado Blvd. was named for SP Harvey and was once part of his property.

Harvey's parents, Farley B. Jr. and Susan Granger moved from Alvarado to Broadmoor in San Leandro in November 1912 where the children grew up and finished their education in the public schools.

It was in 1934 that Harvey Granger moved to Decoto and established his home on the Creek Road, and became interested in civic matters in the community. Harvey would marry Janet Granger who was born in Puerto Rico in 1912. They had one child Farley who was born circa 1937.

In 1941 Harvey gave up his seat on the Board of the Decoto Grammar School. Alwin Searles would fill Harvey's seat. Harvey went off to the service of his country and spent 50 months with the infantry having seen action in the Pacific Theater including Guadalcanal. While Harvey fighting overseas his wife Janet was busy with her son and civic affairs in the town of Decoto.

In 1943 Janet was voted a delegate to a convention held in Stockton as a member of the Country Club of Washington Township.

In 1944 she served as a volunteer of the OPA (Office of Price Administration, a federal agency). The OPA volunteers would go to local retail stores and check prices of certain items (usually rationed) to see that no price gouging or black marketing was going on.

After the war Harvey turned to farming his land on the Creek Road (Alvarado Niles Road). He was a member of the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association joining there with his uncle Fred C. Harvey, and cousins Theodore and George Harvey.

SHOE SHOP:

Charles Brown / Lester Watkins / Frank Scorpiniti

Charles Brown:

See Bio Chapter 8 Page 38

Lester Watkins:

Watkin's Shoe Shop:

Lester and Mae Watkins apparently came to Decoto just after 1940. Mae Watkins was the sister of Charles Brown, the Decoto Shoemaker.

No bio info was found for the Watkins'.

In April 1946 Charles Brown announced that he was leaving Decoto. In 1949 he settled in Fair Oaks Calif. where he passed away in 1956. When he left Decoto in 1946 his business was taken over by his brother-in-law Lester G. Watkins.

In 1948 Lester placed the following ad in The Alvarado Pioneer:

Announcing:
Experienced
SHOE REPAIRMAN
Cowboy Boots a Specialty
WATKINS SHOE SHOP
(Formerly Brown's Shoe Shop) Near the Decoto Post Office

Lester was a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce and Mae Watkins was town Librarian for Decoto in the 1950's. Both were avid members of the Decoto Pinochle Club.

Frank Scorpiniti:

Frank Scorpiniti was a resident of San Jose when he purchased the business shoe repair business of Lester Watkins in February 1948. Shown below is the ad Frank placed in The Alvarado Pioneer on February 20, 1948:

The only other information on Mr. Scorpiniti is the following newspaper article in The Alvarado Pioneer, "Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scorpiniti from Des Moines, Iowa, have been visiting their son, Frank Scorpiniti and family."

TAILOR:

Albert Garcidueno, Tailor:

Albert Garcidueno was born in Mexico in 1893. He was single, living on Railroad Avenue with a roommate Peter Paniagua. Albert gave his profession as a tailor and Peter as a farm laborer. Nothing further was found for Mr. Garcidueno.

THEATER:

Tony Bautista / Frank Hernandez

Tony Bautista:

Decoto Theater, 2nd & E Street:

**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
DECOTO SHOE REPAIR**
Frank Scorpiniti of SanJose--Prop
FRANK SCORPINITI
of San Jose has purchased the
shoe repair shop from Mrs. Watson
—New Stock of—
WORK SHOES—RUBBER BOOTS
Also new line of **WORKMEN'S**
Wearing Apparel—Jeans, etc.

Tony Bautista appears in Decoto in 1946, prior to that I could find no info on Antonio or Tony Bautista in Decoto. Tony's name appears in Decoto as the owner of the Decoto Theater and only appeared because his name appeared when he tried to spearhead the incorporate the town of Decoto into the City of Decoto in 1946.

So here is the story Tony Bautista in Decoto which can best be best told by

the following article in The Alvarado Pioneer:

"On Monday, February 25th, at 7:30, in the school auditorium, the people of Decoto will gather in a town meeting to discuss the incorporation of the town. Attorney Frank Nunes of Hayward and Oakland will represent the argument in favor of incorporation. He will be backed by Tony Bautista, the dynamic owner of the Decoto Theater,

whose vital personality and constant drumming for streetlights, police protection and other urgently needed civic improvements, has brought home a large and active following in the town. Tony will preside as chairman of the evening, Joe Juarez and vice president, Luiz Triana as secretary and Roque Feliciano as under-secretary.

The argument is that the Supervisors of Alameda Co. have not given enough attention to Decoto, a town with one of the largest unincorporated populations in the county. Decoto covers lot of territory, scores of streets and numerous industrial concerns. In a rough estimate, the town is now worth more than a million dollars, according to one of its leading citizens, who repeats: "but where do the taxes paid by the townspeople go? To the County Court House in Oakland! And what does Decoto get out of it? No streetlights. Too slight police protection. Not enough public health measures. Too little attention for juvenile delinquency problems!"

The incorporation of Decoto into a city was opposed by the Chamber of Commerce and some of the downtown businesses. The incorporated area apparently did not take in all of Decoto, only the downtown section. The name given the committee to push for the incorporation was "El Progreso Del Pueblo." There were hard feelings on both sides of the issue.

Tony Bautista declared in June 1946 that the petition for the incorporation of Decoto being circulated by the Progressive Club was complete with 133 signatures. All eyes were on Decoto now, Bautista said, and "We are more encouraged as we go along, for many who opposed originally us, are on our side now."

The incorporators presented their petition to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors who, after verifying the signatures, disqualified the petition on the grounds lack of qualified signatures and the ambiguousness of the boundaries described in the petition. The reason for the lack of proper signers was that some of those signatures on the petition were indeed the owners of the property, but they had neglected to record their deeds with the county recorder, hence they were not the property owners of record.

The last newspaper article on the subject was in January 1947. In March 1948 Antonio Bautista sold the Decoto Theater to Frank Hernandez.

Frank Hernandez:

Decoto Theater:

Frank Hernandez was born in Spain circa 1896. He entered the U.S. in 1913. His wife Bridget was born in Spain circa 1902. She entered the U.S. in 1912. The couple had seven children: Five daughters: Mary, Serfa, Frances, Elinor and Madeline. They had two sons: Justo and Christopher.

In 1930 the family was living Hollister Calif. where Frank was a farm worker. Frank then bought a walnut orchard in Tres Pinos, just outside Hollister California.

Frank Hernandez purchased the Decoto Theater at 201 "E" Street in March 1948. He also bought the adjoining cafe. Anthony Bautista was former owner of the properties.

In September 1949 Bridget Hernandez opened the Decoto Clothing Store on 2nd Street.

The Decoto Post would have a new building. The \$15,000 building was expected to start construction about May or June of 1952, according to Frank Hernandez, owner of the building site at the corner of 2nd and "E" Streets.

The new Post Office building received accolades from many citizens who could see the big growth just west of that area. The builder and owner of the new Post Office was Frank Hernandez.

In October 1953 Frank Hernandez leased out his theater. Frank and Bridget will be taking life a little easier now.

* **DECOTO GRAMMAR SCHOOL** *

School Staff / Decoto School Graduates / Decoto School Activities /

SCHOOL STAFF:

Principals / Teaching Staff / School Trustees

Principals:

Lewis W. Musick Eph Musick

Teaching Staff:

These are teachers at the Decoto School that I could locate:

Rita Frasier	Lawrence Clark	Alice Marsten	Kathryn Marrs
Jeanette Schaaf	Martha Casterson	Alice Dickson	Mrs. Bernie Joseph
Clarence Jorgensen	Arthur Swenson	Elizabeth Richmond	Claire Quilllici
Stella McClintock	Harold Wood	Helen Williams	Marjorie Horwood
Mrs. Fred Duffie	Irma H. Boland	Eugene Jacks	Jean Berry
Hazel Bowman	Anna Hoffmeister	Mildred Johnson	John Kane
Jack P. Lee	Clara Poduska	Helen Larson	Gladys Fairbanks
Constance Amaral	Ruby Rogers	Vivian Dunn	Lorraine Smith
Blanche Kuykendall	Pauline Modesitt	Esther Tyrell	Madelyn Miller
Shirley Liston	Tillie Goid	Rose Lewis	Mary Smith
Lorrin Smith	Russell Skidmore	Dorothy Johnson	Eleanor Bower
Irene Evensen			

School Trustees:

Harvey T. Granger	Alwyn Searles	Herbert Harrold	Manuel White
William S. Davis	Dave Janeiro	Byron Justus	

DECOTO SCHOOL GRADUATES:

1940:

Forty Decoto children received their graduation diplomas on June 12, 1940. They were:

Clemencia Agundez	Marie Bernard	Frances Berrios	Isabel Caraballo
Mary Delgado	Frank Delgado	Ralph Duran	Chris Garcia
Flora Garcia	Mary Garcia	Gregory Garcia	Victoria Garcia
Walter Galarsa	Louis Gonzalez	Peter Gonzalez	Isabel Gonzalez
Claudia Hernandez	Peter Hernandez	Toshiko Katsumoto	Diego Kelly
John King	Santiago Leyva	Julia Loma	Artemiza Merino
Barbara Monte	Joe Monte	Manuel Navas	Tony Paniagua
Alvin Rabello	Vernon Rabello	Arbutus Rose	Manuel Robles
Ralph Sarmiento	Frank Serbantes	Frank Silva	Janes Torres
Jesse Triana	Martin Vasquez	Ida Van Moos	Isabel Zumaquero

1941:

Decoto Grammar School Graduating Class 1941:

Lorenzo Acosta	Frances Boliba	Henry Caravalho	Stella Delgado
Joe Delgado	Edward Delgado	Frank Flores	Melvin Flores
Manuel P. Garcia	Joe Garcia	Manuel Garcia	Susie Gonzalez
Leon B. Hearon	Isabel Jiménez	Nadine King	Ambrose Leyva
Andrew H. Martin	Florence Milina	Nancy Miramontes	Isabel Navas
Julia G. Pagan	Louis G. Pagan	Alvin B. Paniagua	Henry L. Rivera
Andrew Perez	Joe G. Romero	Cecelia S. Ruiz	Peter G. Sanchez
Fred J. Sandoval	Rich Torres	Harold Torquemada	Carmen Valdez
Esther Vasquez	George West	Charles West	Shirley Zamora
Mary Zumaquero			

1942:

Graduation ceremonies for the Decoto Grammar School will be held Sunday, May 31, 1942 at 3 p.m. The commencement will be held during daylight hours to avoid possible black outs if held at night.

1943:

June 9, 1943 - Graduates:

Albert Andrade	Mary Abel	Alice Berrios	Antonette Bolivia
John Bolivia	Johnny Bolivia	Lydia Bravo	Lora Burton
Cyrus Caldeira	Eva Corchero	Beatrice Costa	Harold Delgado
Frank Escalona	Isabelle Garcia	Thomas Garcia	Emily Gallegos
Gertrude Guerra	Don Hitchen	Rosemarie Janeiro	George Milina
Elisa Miramontes	Frances Monte	Consuelo Montes	Eloisa Montes
Flora Nieves	Paul Ortiz	Ernest Orozco	Ignacio Ruelas
Ernestina Samora	Jim Sanchez	Henry Sanchez	Ruth Sanchez
Leonard Smith			

1944:

The Graduates were:

Andrew Alvarez	Donald Andrade	Ernest Andrade	Josephine Aguilar
Isabel Ariza	Jose Aseldo	Joyce Bryson	Aline Carabello
Mary Corchero	John Castro	Sarah Coria	Jesse Coria
Melvin Correia	Geneire Elizarrey	Ida Delgado	Carrie Garcia

Victoria Lopez
Amy Ramirez
Al Silva

Dolores Mognaga
Eddy Rivera
Esther Abel

Lorraine Rabello
Virginia Ruelas

Carmen Navas
Theodore Soto

1946:

The graduates were:

Virginia Aguilar	Domingo Alcon	Juventino Alvarado	Efrand Cantu
Daniel T. Elizarrey	Rosemary Faletti	William Grandstaff	Manuel Garcia
Patsy Jo Halliwell	Myrtle Hernandez	Esther L. Jergentz	Emma Jaimes
Juanita R. Jergentz	Gloria Lorenzi	Christina Macias	Margaret Nieves
Alice J. Rabello	Paul L. Ramirez	Elizabeth Ramos	Ralph Rojas
Raymond J. Rojas	Henry O. Ruelas	Robert Sausedo	Peter Sausedo
Henry Serbantes	Loveada Cisneros	Adolph T. Cisneros	Aurora Valdez
Rose Marie Tejada	Robert de la Torre	Margaret M. Williams	

DECOTO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

School Play / 1940 Jr. Traffic Patrol / Kite Day / Student Awards 1941 / Students Work in the Fields / Scrap Drive for the War Effort / Decoto Loses its Principal / Decoto gets a new Principal / May Day 1946 / May Day Dances 1946

School Play:

"Dippy Dudes," a cowboy play in three acts was given at the Decoto Grammar School on Friday night, March 15, 1940, for the benefit of the student body. Mrs. Jeannette Schaaf had general charge. There was a small admission and the public was invited. Approximately 75 children took part in the cowboy songs and dances, Mexican numbers, old-time dances, accordion chorus and Wild West stunts. The first act depicted arrival at the rodeo; the second was the rodeo events and the third, the rodeo dance. Music was furnished by 35 members of the school orchestra directed by Miss Rita Frasier.

1940 Junior Traffic Patrol:

The Decoto Grammar School Junior Traffic Patrol stated off the year with a bang in September 1940! The Members of the Decoto Jr. Traffic Patrol were:

Captain:	Joe Garcia		
Lieutenant:	Harold Torquemada		
Sergeants:	Joe Romero	Henry Carvalho	Harvey Hernandez
	Fred Costa	Louis Carvalho	
Corporals:	Andrew Martin	Louis Pagan	Richard Torres
	Manuel Garcia	Donald Hitcher	Albert Carvalho
	Peter Sanchez		
Privates:	John Torquemada	Cyrus Caldeira	Edward Delgado
	George Alcon	Harold Delgado	

Kite Day:

The old-fashioned kite day for the Decoto Grammar School has given way to a streamlined version of high-fliers with the announcement of the first annual aeronautical meet to be held on Friday, February 21, 1941, at 1 o'clock at the school. Over 50 boys are taking part in the miniature plane contest and prizes purchased with money donated by the Boosters Club will be given to owners of planes making the highest and longest flights, for structural and artistic merit and for essays on aviation. Upper grades will compete for prizes with essays and flight

models while the lower grades will submit solid models, according to L.W. Musick, Principal.

Students receiving awards in June 1941 at Decoto Grammar School were:

Eloisa Montes	Delores Martin	Ida Delgado	Mary Corchero
Lydia Bravo	Carmen Ruiz	Emily Gallegos	Victoria Toro
Carmen Navas	Emily Navas	Elisa Miramontes	Carrie Garcia
Frank Escalona	Victoria Escalona	Esther Abel	Victoria Lopez
Andrew Alvarez	Frances Dominguez	Mathilda Bents	Isabel Ariza
Cecelia Governor	Airline Caraballo	Jose Cepeda	Petra Lozano
John Goat	John Gonzales	Donald Andrade	Esther Banuelos
Tommie Katsumoto	David Duran	Annie Navas	Alicia Diosdado
Jerry Brown	Daniel Duran	Nellie Perez	Carlos Lorenzi
Christina Macias	Margaret Williams	Carmen Soto	Pat Guerra
Annie Banuelos	Eva Bassignani	George Apadoca	Simon Martinez
Rose Tejada	Margaret Diosdado	Ernestine Zamora	Tommie Gallegos
Gertrude Guerra	Alicia Berrios	Ruth Sanchez	Susie Jaramillo
Albert Carvalho	Jimmy Sanchez	Paul Ortiz	Norberta Lorenzi
Beatrice Lopez	Victoria Benites	Consuelo Montez	John Boliba
Henry Sanchez	George Milina	Rose Janeiro	Isabel Garcia
Cy Caldeira	Eva Corchero	Beatrice Costa	Albert Andrade
Irene Aviles	Mary Abel	Amelia Gallegos	Frances Monte
Helen Seagram	Antoinette Boliba	Alvin Silva	John Martinez
Leonard Smith	Julio Ortiz	Harold Delgado	Albert Loma
Donald Hitched	John Sanchez	Tony Gonzalez	John Garcia
Peter Alcon	Gilbert Galarsa	Irving Williams	Mary Gutierrez
Charlotte Janeiro	Marie Milina	Clara Feliciano	Ermine Lopez
Emily Montes	Perfervid Guerro	Lupe Acosta	Ernest Vega
Gilbert Bravo	Alphonso Aguirre	Henry Gutierrez	Fred Costa
Harry Hernandez	Ignacio Quiroz	George Alcon	Frank Gallegos
Mary Soto	Daniel Corchero	Margaret Acosta	Arthur Brown
Virginia Feliciano	Janet Luna	Gertrude Machado	Esther Serbantes
Dorothy Rebello	Isabel Navas	Manuel Toro	Joe Romero
Frances Bolivia	Nadine King	Susie Gonzales	Julia Pagan
Florence Milina	Sophie Carvalho	Nancy Miramontes	Joe Delgado
Charles West	Alvin Paniagua	Ambrose Leyva	Henry Carvalho
Stella Delgado	Joe Garcia	Melvin Flores	Manuel Garcia
Isabel Jimenez	Andrew Martin	Louis Pagan	Harold Torquemada
Mary Zumaquero	Richard Torres	Fred Sandoval	George West
Peter Sanchez	Shirley Zamora	John Torquemada	Andrew Gonzales
Tony Ramos	Jesus Correia	Dolphin Hernandez	Daniel Feliciano
John Miramontes	John Quiroz	Theodore Soto	Alexander Garcia

Students Work in the Fields:

L.W. Musick, principal of the Decoto Grammar School, surveyed his school district and found 2,400 acres of tomatoes ready for picking. He sent 85 students of the seventh and eighth grades into the fields today (October 8, 1942) under teacher supervision. There was a severe labor shortage due to WWII.

Farmers in Washington Township, in Southern Alameda County, can look forward to a coordinated program of school student harvest labor next fall to replace the hit-and-miss volunteer movement of the current season.

The huge Alameda County tomato crop will probably be saved this season if the continued efforts of volunteer workers, men, women, boys and girls, continue for the next ten days or two weeks. This was the prediction made by Walter Gamman, manager of the Hayward office of the United States Employment Service. "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 Gamman. "Some of the classes of Washington Union High School at Centerville are also closed," he concluded.

The Centerville High School and Grammar school, the Alvarado Grammar School, the Decoto Grammar Schools and the high and grammar schools of the Livermore Valley have turned out their students to pick tomatoes October on the afternoon of October 27, 1942. The Board of Trustees of the Hayward Union High School decided to suspend classes for the remainder of the week to help pick the tomato crop in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, where farmers are hard pressed to save their crops. The farmers pay the students and teachers for their work and the high school here will furnish as much transportation as possible in its buses to the fields. In this way the pupils will help do their part in winning the war, and a most necessary part it is, too.

Scrap Drive for War Effort:

Decoto Grammar School children have collected 1,315 keys and 200 locks in March 1943 for the scrap metal drive. Prizes in war stamps were presented with David Janeiro placing first with 85 keys. Others winning prizes were Ernestine Zamora, Rosalind Costa, Jerry Brown, Leonard Zamora, Francis Monte and Esther Abel.

Decoto Loses its Principal:

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

Decoto gets a new Principal:

Eph Musick, formerly principal of the Newark School until his retirement a couple of years ago, is back in the harness again succeeding his son, as he has just been appointed to finish out the term. Eph Musick may be long in the teaching profession, but he seems as capable as ever, and we wondered why he ever quit. His fine sense of humor, and ability to get all classes to cooperate was outstanding. His outspoken sentiments for betterment of home and national scope were sincere and capable of helping for better government. His experience has been tremendous, and much to be desired in any big school district. The Decoto Trustees used good judgment in hiring Eph Musick.

May Day 1946:

May Day came again to the Decoto Grammar School in May 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.

Among the simultaneous events at Decoto will be:

A pet parade by the three primary grades, with prizes awarded for the cleanest, the most unusual, the biggest and the smallest pets. A baseball game between the Fourth & Fifth Grades. A track meet by the regular squads of the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades, scores made in the meet will add to points for the semester awards. The Sixth Grade girls will contest the Eighth Grade girls in volleyball. 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, Principal Louis Musick said.

Decoto School hold United Nations Dances in May 1946:

Bleking (Swedish):

Irene Navas	Gloria Quiroz	Beatrice Quiroz	Marlene Bolivia
Bertha Hernandez	Dorothy Agundez	Frances Banuelos	Dorothy Soto
Lorraine Fletcher	Juanita Mandina	Elise Lopez	

Norwegian Mountain Dance:

Susie Banuelos	Phyllis Cosio	Esther Lambaren	Esther Valdez
Josephine Macias	Dolores Lorenzo	Shirley Rabello	Lydia Hale
Irene Jimenez	Arline McHenry	Christina Martinez	Lydia Ramos

Finnish Reel:

Lillian Montellano	Mary Lou Jaimes	Antoinette Navas	Mary J. Lopez
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Minuet (French):

Alice Rebello	Elizabeth Jergentz	Esther Jergentz	Ray Galan
Andrew Gonzales	Roque Feliciano	George Pagan	

English May Pole:

Margaret Coria	Virginia Lorenzo	Betty Galarza	Barbara Cosio
Shirley Cambra	Santos Villa	Irene Delgado	Anita Garcia
Louisa Campa	Virginia Villa	Eva Salazar	Lucy Valdez
S. Galan	Socorra Gonzalez	Gloria Martinez	Mary Duran
Shirley Rodrigues	Margaret Banuelos	Betty Ward	

Flag Drill:

Clarence Souza	Wesley Reid	Angelo Gonzalez	Robert Vegas
Ralph Martinez	Leonard Rodriguez	Raul Orozco	Annie Bolivia
Betty Rabello	Pauline Gonzales	Ramona Sausedo	Velia Sausedo
Velia Lorenzo	Margaret Diosdado		

Property Man:

Eduardo Romero

Program:

Salutation: Henry Serbantes, Class President

DECOTO SCHOOL SPORTS:

Washington Township Basketball League / Volleyball Game / July 1947 Basketball Tournament / Decoto Football October 1947 / Decoto Champs / Decoto Dominates Track Meet

Washington Township Basketball League:

The Elementary School principals have organized their annual Basketball League. The 1941 winners were Centerville in the lightweight division and Warm Springs in the unlimited division.

The principals who are directors of the league are:

James C. Wasley, Alvarado	Thos. P. Maloney, Centerville
L.W. Musick, Decoto	Jack Prouty, Irvington
John I. MacGregor, Newark	E.B. Hodges, MSJ
E. Dixon Bristow, Niles	Leslie H. Maffey, Warm Springs

Volleyball Game:

On April 10, 1942, the Decoto School girls defeated the Newark School girls in a volleyball game played at Newark. Those girls who played for Decoto were:

Asuncion Lopez	Elizabeth Ramos	Myrtle Hernandez
Margaret Neves	Antoinette Neves	Alice Rebello
Patty Halliwell	Mary Ann Ramirez	Louisa Quiroz
Antoinette Sanchez	Margaret Williams	Patty Guerra

July 1947 Basketball Tournament:

The Alvarado boy's basketball team will fly the championship pennant of the Boy's Invitational Basketball Tournament for the coming year. Alvarado defeated Bret Harte 11 to 8 for the championship. In the consolation round Decoto took third place by defeating Centerville 22 to 16. Playing for the Decoto team was:

William Ruelas	John Rivera	Ray Marchelona
Andrew Gonzalez	Manuel Nieves	Edward Romero

Decoto Football October 1947:

Decoto Football – By Margaret Diosdado:

On October 21st, Decoto played a 12 to 12 tie game at Alvarado. Decoto scored on their first play, when Tony Nieves passed to Ed Caravallo. Decoto scored again early in the first quarter when Tony Nieves, behind some beautiful blocking, ran around the end. When Coach Graves put in the second string, Alvarado scored twice.

The 1st string for Decoto was:

James Bolivia	Ray Sattas	Jesse Diaz
John Fletcher	Ed Caravalho	Pete Cervantes
Angelo Gonzalez		

The 2nd string for Decoto was:

Ray Orozco	Clarence Sousa	Paul Orozco
Fred Vizcarra	Sam Ramirez	Manuel Garcia
Fred Sanchez	Dick Guerra	

Decoto Champs:

Decoto Elementary School will try and defend the 1948 championship trophies for football, baseball, basketball and track events. They are proudly displaying these cups and trophies in the entrance hall at the school. Special mention is made of Tony Nieves who was Captain and quarterback on the football team that not only captured the Washington Township trophy but also those of the Eden (Hayward) and Murray (Livermore/Pleasanton) Townships playoffs for 1948. He played first base on the baseball diamond, center for the basketball team five and was an all-sports high point man for the season, says Principal L.W. Musick. Tony is the son of Mrs. Justina Nieves of 518 10th Street, Decoto.

Decoto Dominates Track Meet June 1949:

In the Washington Township Track Meet Thursday, June 2nd, at W.U.H.S., Decoto Grammar School virtually made a clean sweep of it. They totaled 48 points, with Centerville next with 21.5 points and Niles and Irvington tied with 18.5 points. Alvarado was fourth with 11 points.

Decoto winners:

50-Yard Dash	Jose Martinez, 1 st in 6 th Grade		
50-Yard Dash	Ed Carvalho, 1 st in 6 th Grade		
50-Yard Dash	Paul Orozco, 1 st in 7 th Grade		
Frog Stand	Manuel Garcia, 1 st standing on head for 4:55 minutes		
30-Yard Tandem Relay	Decoto, 1 st Place		
6 th Grade	Joe Martinez	Ralph Martinez	Andrew Flores
	Eddie Fletcher	Willie Galan	Manuel Avilla
	Kennie DuPont	Ernest Soto	
440 Relay	Decoto, 1 st Place		
8 th Grade	Tony Nieves	Ed Carvalho	Red Fletcher
	Jessie Dias	Dick Guerra	Mike Ramirez
	Manuel Garcia	Pete Cervantes	
440 Relay	Decoto, 1 st Place		
30-Yard Dash	Decoto, 1 st Place		
7 th Grade	Johnny Arenas	Desilio Mendonca	Paul Orozco
	Marcellino Campa	Charles Ramirez	Fred Sanchez
	Martin Lozano	I. Agundez	

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS AND ISSUES:

Improvements July 1941 / School attendance 1945 / Double Sessions Begin November 1946 / More Space Needed for Students / New Three Room Primary Building July 1947/ Student Population 1949 / New Grammar School Announced July 1949

Improvements July 1941:

Improvements at the Decoto Grammar School estimated at approximately \$500 are in progress this week. Arcades joining the outdoor courts are being built to give protection to the children in rainy weather and benches are to be installed for use during recess time. The hedge has been removed from the front yard and a concrete curb is being installed with plans to lay a sidewalk later. The exterior is to be painted, also the interior woodwork. Plans are being drawn up for a workshop to be added to the rear of the primary annex. A.L. Costa, local contractor, has charge of the job.

School attendance November 1945:

1944 to 1945 School District Growth				
School	1944	1945	Inc/Dec	Pct. Chg
Alvarado	174	224	50	28.7%
Alviso	85	91	6	7.1%
Centerville	215	235	20	9.3%
Decoto	380	420	40	10.5%
Irvington	240	240	0	0.0%
Mission San Jose	75	65	-10	-13.3%
Newark	213	243	30	14.1%
Niles	330	371	41	12.4%
Warm Springs	77	92	15	19.5%
Washington High	525	569	44	8.4%
TOTALS:	2,314	2,550	236	5.5%

School principals, prepared to record a decreased enrollment with the opening of the 1945 fall semester due to the reported exodus of Mid Westerners from California have been surprised at an increase of approximately 250 enrollments in Washington

Township schools. Eight of the 10 schools in the district report substantial increases, one has the same as last year and one has 13½ per cent less. Attendance is listed on the table shown above.

Double Sessions Begin November 1946:

Split sessions of the 1st Grade class numbering 130 children at the Decoto Elementary School will be inaugurated this week due to inadequate classroom space, according to Principal L.W. Musick. The second group will begin class at noon. The school's all-time high enrollment has reached 500.

More Space Needed for Students:

January 10, 1946, is the date for the voters of Decoto to decide whether they want to expand their school buildings to keep pace with the growth of the town, or to go on with the present over crowded conditions. It was found necessary in November to begin what is called "split sessions" of the first grade class, which numbered 130 children. The primary room was not large enough to accommodate so many pupils, consequently one group came for the morning session and the second group came for the afternoon. The fact of the matter is that the present building is capable of handling a twelve room school, while the present influx of students makes a seventeen room school a necessity.

When this fine modern school was built back in 1926, at a cost of some \$57,000, it was like so many of the schools of the township, considered adequate for a long time. Now, in order to bring the school up to the proper level of efficiency and scholarship, practically five more rooms are needed. It is proposed to extend the north wing of the school, which will give additional office space, a crafts shop and provide space for a kindergarten, this last would be new because it was only recently that funds could had for this training.

The proposed present bond issue of \$72,000 will provide 5 new classrooms besides other facilities, and if found necessary would enable the school to purchase more land. A two-thirds vote is necessary.

New Three Room Primary Building July 1947:

Following opening of bids this week by the trustees, the construction of a three-room primary unit at the Decoto Elementary School will begin on August 1st. The new annex will be built on the northwest corner of the school property and it will be separate from the school building. The remainder of the \$77,000 provided by a recent bond election will be used for a health room, office equipment and quarters for speech correction.

Student Population January 1949:

The enrollment at the Decoto Grammar School has jumped to 621 pupils, only 69 less than the enrollment of W.U.H.S. Eleven new pupils have started school since the first of this week.

New Grammar School Planned July 1949:

The Decoto Grammar School District is planning on adding a second Grammar School to their district. The new grammar school building will include administration quarters, kindergarten, 13 classrooms and 100 by 60 foot multi-purpose room equipped with a stage, to serve as an auditorium and a cafeteria. Plans also include a community ball diamond and playground. It is possible, according to Musick, that the

junior high school program will be set up here eventually, if the enrollment continues to grow as it is expected to within the next few years.

The news is out! The official announcement of the new grammar school is to be erected on Whipple Road about seven blocks from the Hayward-Niles Highway. We were talking to Louis Gutierrez; one of the owners of that land purchased for the school site and he stated that everything went very smoothly in the legal matters pertaining to the selling of the property. The other owners selling were Gutierrez's mother, Mrs. Luisa Pacheco and another son Mike Gutierrez, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cadman. This is to be a \$450,000 project. Decoto needs another school as the old plant on H Street is over crowded and by next year the enrollment should top the Washington High's at Centerville.

*** SOCIAL, CIVIC, PUBLIC & REL ORGS ***

Alameda County Water District / Alvarado Eagles / Alvarado NSGW / Boy Scouts / Catholic Church / Chamber of Commerce / Decoto Athletic Club / Decoto Booster Club / Decoto Discussion Group / Decoto Outdoors Club for Girls / Decoto Pinochle Club / Decoto Recreational Council / El Progreso del Pueblo / Fire Department / Girl Scouts / Juvenile Club / Library / March of Dimes / Mosquito Abatement District / PTA / Pacific Telephone Co. / Puerto Rican Club / Post Office / Protestant Church / Sanitary District / Red Cross / Roads / Union Funeraria de Decoto, Inc. / Voting / Washington Township Concert Club / Washington Township Country Club / Washington Township Men's Club / Washington Township Welfare Club

Alameda County Water District:

In March 1944 an election would be held for two directors of the Alameda County Water District. The two candidates were: Louis S. Amaral, and E.M. Grimmer

The possibility that the Alameda County Water District would offer to buy the rights of the Public Utilities California Corporation at Decoto developed at a meeting of the district's directors in December 1945, coincident with a visit of delegates from the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. Appearing at the meeting was David Janeiro, President of the Decoto Chamber and Peter Decoto, Chairman of the water committee. Following a recital of the needs for increased water service at Decoto, directors of the water district voted to investigate a possibility of relieving the situation through the mutual assistance with the public utilities body or by independent action. It was suggested that the best way to bring about this relief would be for the water district to make an offer to the utilities body to purchase the rights to water in Decoto. However, no definite steps have been taken to notify the company of such an offer, said W.D. Patterson, chairman of the water district.

In April 1946 Dave Janeiro of Decoto resigned his position as President of the Chamber of Commerce, school trustee and member of the Decoto Water District. He has moved to his newly bought home in Stockton. His daughter Rosemary, a freshman at W.U.H.S., will stay at the home of Dave's brother Tony until the present school term is ended.

Alvarado Eagles:

The Alvarado Aerie of Eagles signed up three new members from Decoto in March 1946. They are: Tony O. Paniagua, Philip P. Monte and Frank R. Sanchez.

Alvarado N.S.G.W.:

The Wisteria Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West of Alvarado is considering merging with the Centerville Parlor. A vote will be forthcoming shortly. The Alvarado Parlor is one of the oldest in the State of California, having been organized in 1888. Decoto has always been well represented in the Alvarado Parlor. There are two charter members still active in the Parlor, Peter L. Decoto and E.M. Foley of Alvarado. Also in the Alvarado Parlor from Decoto are H.S. Haines (1903), and Herbert J. Harrold (1936). Haines of Decoto is currently President of the Parlor.

Boy Scouts:

Boy Scout committeeman Charles Brown of Decoto received his five-year award in February 1941. In May 1941 it was noted that the Decoto Boy Scouts was being led by Scoutmaster Tom Whipple. Then in June 1941, the Decoto Booster's Club took on the responsibility of sponsorship of the Decoto Boy Scouts. Decoto Booster's Club President Dave Janeiro appointed the following committee to act as commissioners: Charles Brown Bernie Joseph Byron Justus Pete Decoto
L.W. Musick

The Decoto boys will participate in a demonstration of agriculture as one of the means of earning one of the more than 100 badges offered by Scouting for merit badges. Scoutmaster Tom Whipple has general charge of the Decoto boys. The exhibit will include all troops of the Oakland Area Council and will be shown for three evenings and one afternoon.

In December 1941 the Washington District of the southern division conducted a surprise mobilization and 88 out of 100 registered Scouts turned out to their meeting places in less than 15 minutes. Participating troops were Decoto, Niles, Newark, Irvington and Centerville. Decoto had the best time average reported W.T. Lindsay, Ass't Scoutmaster. The Scouts will be utilized as messengers to relay important data as assigned.

Peter Decoto has received an award from the Boy Scouts in January 1942 for his fifteen years of dedicated service to the Decoto troop.

Decoto Boy Scouts began to deliver copies of an OPA (Office of Price Administration) leaflet entitled, "What You Should Know about Price Control," to every home in Decoto during July 1942. L.W. Musick was in charge of the program for Decoto.

Decoto Scouts are still talking about a fishing trip they took to Half Moon Bay in December 1945. Dave Janeiro, Scoutmaster, directed a unique contest in net fishing of smelt from the surf. Art Brown and John Torquemada were winners of the contest. Others who participated were:

Henry Gutierrez Paul Mongo Henry Mendoza George Pagan
Eli Elizarrey Ray Berrios Rudolph Carter Robert Towe
Andres Sanchez

Decoto Troop 1, led by George Castro and Harry Searles, accepted special recognition for the achievements of their boys in December 1947. The boys were:
Kenneth Lester David Dickie Donald Brentlinger Robert Brown
Richard Flood Don Gotelli Richard Laux Lawrence Gustafson

Boy Scouts who received awards in February 1948 were:

John Fletcher
Paul Orozco
Grable Ramirez

Manuel Alcon
John Orenaz

James Faletti
Fred Viscarra

Marcelino Montellano
Marcelino Campa

Twenty-six Boy Scouts were invested at the district court of honor held December 1949 at the Irvington Elementary School. The investiture ceremony was conducted by the Irvington Scouts, directed by Bob Zwissig, assistant scoutmaster.

Decoto placed first with 13 scouts:

Bob Delgado

Manuel Avila

Jesus Avila

Wm. Gomez

Richard Gonzales

Ernest Soto

Don Martin

Ramon Orozco

William Galan

John Flores

Terry Halliwell

Benjamin Morales

John Santiago

At the same time Jack Navarro, an employee at Olson's Store, was appointed assistant Scoutmaster of Decoto Troop I, according to Bernard Joseph, chairman of the troop committee. Navarro will assist Lewis J. Fine troop Scoutmaster. The committee has also announced the appointment of Harold B. Delgado as advisor for the Explorer Crew of the Decoto Troop.

Catholic Church:

Miss Celeste Bunker, teacher at the Niles Grammar School, is leading a membership drive for the National Council of Catholic Women in September 1943.

In June 1944 it was noted that Catholic children have been granted one hour's leave each week to receive religious training for some time now, and religious leaders of the Protestant Churches have been discussing a one-hour a week training for Protestant children. Local schools which are looking toward doing this are Alvarado, Centerville, Decoto, Irvington, and Newark. Warm Springs and Mission San Jose do not have a sufficient amount of Protestants to take part in this, and Niles is now becoming interested in the concept.

The fourth bell from the original St. Joseph's Church at Mission San Jose, long regarded by historians as stolen was discovered in the belfry of St. Mary's Church, 7th & Jefferson Streets, Oakland in April 1947. Father Francis F. McCarthy, administrator of the Sacred Heart Church, Oakland, reveals the "discovery" in a book he is writing on missions.

He explains that he learned from documents that the missing bell had fallen and lain in the dirt for many years. After the secularization of Mission San Jose, no one there wanted the bell, so it was given to the new mission, St. Mary's, where it hangs and rings today with a plaque telling of its past, "Cast in 1826, Recast in 1856." Note: the dates were blurred and very difficult to read, hence 1826 and 1856 may be erroneous dates.

A fifth, small "call" bell that hung in the front of the Padre's house at Mission San Jose, was moved to the intersection of what is now southwest quadrant of Decoto Road and the Alameda Creek. The farm there is still called the Bell Ranch and the bridge over the creek there is known as the Bell Ranch Bridge. The present whereabouts of this small bell is not known. The finding of the missing bell came as Mission San Jose prepared to observe its 150th birthday with a celebration May 30th and June 1st.

Chamber of Commerce:

In September 1945 Decoto Chamber President David Janeiro called a meeting to discuss plans for numerous civic improvements. In April 1946 Dave Janeiro resigned his position as President of the Chamber of Commerce, Decoto School Trustee, and member of the Decoto Water District. He will move into his newly bought home in Stockton. His daughter Rosemary, a freshman at W.U.H.S., will stay at the home of Dave's brother Tony until the present school term is ended.

The newly reorganized Decoto Chamber of Commerce went on record in July 1946 as opposing the recent attempts to form a municipal government (incorporation on the grounds that the benefits to be derived would not be commensurate with the tax required.)

Meanwhile new officers were seated at this time. They were:

President:	Tom Whipple		
Vice President:	Jack Faletti		
Secretary:	Bernie Joseph		
Treasurer:	Peter Decoto		
Directors:	Manuel Seoane	Howard Bradbury	Frank Borghi

In August 1946 it was announced because of the energetic work of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce, there will be safety crossing signals installed in the near future at the crossing of the Western Pacific Main Line and "H" Street at Decoto, and also at the crossing of the Alvarado Niles Road near Pacific States Steel. The installation will be done by the Western Pacific Railroad Company.

In September 1948 the Chamber of Commerce took on another gargantuan task when they submitted a request to the Board of Supervisors and PG&E asking that 10 additional streetlights be installed in downtown Decoto. The Chamber claimed that some of Decoto's streets are still entirely unlighted. Manuel Hidalgo in a submitted report asserted that there are 20 or more "very dark spots" throughout the town, but suggested that the original list be cut to ten. Those suggested for installation are:

10th & "F"

3rd & "C"

4th & "F"

5th & "C"

7th & "D"

10th & "G"

11th & "J"

14th & "I"

Railroad Avenue & "E"

And one opposite the fire hall on Tenth Street.

The Decoto Chamber of Commerce held a very important meeting in November 1946. They accepted the new zoning law and sent a letter to the County Planning Commission asking them to take such steps as were necessary to zone the town of Decoto. They also endorsed the Community Chest, and appointed President of the Chamber, Jack Faletti, Fred Sanchez and Raymond Pagan as its representatives. Supervisor Stanley presented \$145 to this movement, as representing donations from the county employees living or working in the township. They also voted participation in the Sesquicentennial of the Mission San Jose de Guadalupe, and

designated J.P. Faletti, George Smith and Howard Bradbury to represent the town in making the coming arrangement for this celebration.

In a bid to secure heavy industry for the Decoto area, the Decoto Chamber of Commerce voted to recommend to the County Planning Commission in 1947 that the land between the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific railroads in Decoto be zoned for such a purpose. Recommendation of the Chamber must be reviewed by the County Planning Commission and is subject to change at the demand of property owners, Jack Faletti, president of the Decoto Chamber pointed out.

At a recent meeting held in January 1948, the Decoto Chamber of Commerce elected Kenneth Garcia as the new president. He follows P.J. Faletti, who has been a hard working leader. Mr. Faletti will continue his interest in the Chamber of Commerce work and like Bernie Joseph, the re-elected secretary, will cooperate in every way to make a great success of the coming term.

The election of officers for the year 1949 was held:

President:	Kenneth Garcia		
Vice President:	Eddie Paniagua		
Treasurer:	Pete Decoto		
Secretary:	Bert Joseph		
Directors"	Frank Borghi	Manuel Hidalgo	Manuel Seoane

The Chamber of Commerce held its regular meeting in June 1949 at the Decoto Fire House with President Kenneth Garcia presiding. Guest speaker of the evening was the new manager of the Public Utilities Corp. at Nilas, Mr. Clifford Dennis. He said things look pretty good for Decoto in the water situation. The Decoto Chamber again became the sponsoring body for the Boy Scouts. Bernie Joseph and Manuel White reported on the progress of sewers for 7th and 8th streets, bids for the jobs would be opened June 21st.

In August 1949 the Chamber of Commerce meeting covered some heavy issues with President Ken Garcia President presiding. The discussion was bout Christmas decorations for the town of Decoto. One of the ideas was that decorations should be put up from Olson's store to the Decoto Bakery, but that was defeated. It was then 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 were Jack Faletti, Frank Borghi and Manuel Hidalgo.

Decoto Athletic Club:

In July 1940 the Decoto Athletic Club baseball team beat the Oakland De Molay's 8 to 4, in an exciting game. The outstanding hit of the game was made by Peter Corchero of Decoto, who, with the bases loaded hit a home run into left center field to clinch the ball game for Decoto. Decoto didn't want to tire out their pitchers so they started out with Peter Gonzales, who struck out seven men; Ted Ortiz followed and then Joe Sanchez finished them off.

The Decoto Athletic Club played in Oakland December 1, 1940, and won from a fast baseball team there. Among the Decoto players were: Eddie Caldeira (catcher), Tom Ashton (pitcher), Joe Sanchez (pitcher) and Henry Dutra (1st base).

Then under management of Ralph Lopez won a good game on December 6, 1940, against the Hayward Puerto Rican Club, 5 to 3. The pitcher was Tom Ashton and the catcher was Joe Seoane. Tom Ashton and Joe Sanchez each knocked a homer to aid the winning.

The Decoto Athletic Club started off 1941 with the following players on board:

Henry Dutra	Pete Pacheco	Elmer Dennis	Joe Sanchez
Tom Ashton	Tony Cortez (Corky)		

Decoto Booster Club:

The February 1940 meeting was highlighted by the possibility that the Western Pacific Railroad would install a wig-wag signal at the 11th & "H" Streets crossing in Decoto. Manuel Seoane, president, had sent in a request to the Western Pacific for this safety feature to be installed at that crossing. A similar request was made to the Southern Pacific in regard to the crossing at Whipple Road, but has not been heard from as yet.

In April 1940 the Decoto Boosters Club and the Decoto Chamber of Commerce have asked that "F" Street be opened from the highway to 13th Street and that 3rd Street between "E" and "F" Streets be paved.

The Boosters Club of Decoto announced in November 1940 that the membership now stood at over 100 members. They have secured better road improvements and lighting because of their civic pride. Take for instance Bernie Joseph of the firm of Olson & Co., and you have a young man who is pulling hard for the community. Mr. Joseph and his associates are trying to raise funds to help along the fine work of the Boy Scouts. To achieve this needed end they sold tickets for a whist party to be given at the Decoto School the night of Tuesday, November 26, 1940. Many merchants donated prizes and there was a dandy door prize. Principal Musick of the Decoto Grammar School and Mr. Clark, Scoutmaster took a big interest in this benefit and pronounced the community 100 per cent behind this whist party. All of the organizations in the valley really backed it up. The party turned out to be a huge success. Bernie Joseph of the Boosters' Club thanked the public for its response and the merchants for their generous list of prizes, some 40 in number. Scoutmaster Lawrence Clark was in charge of the event. Former Scoutmaster Peter Decoto was on hand and did everything he could to make it a success, including buying 10 tickets and giving them to the scouts.

The Decoto Boosters Club and the Library Association were working to raise funds for a new library building in February 1941. On the building committee were Mrs. Elsa Walker, Librarian, Mrs. Emma Amaral, Mrs. Herbert Harrold, Principal L.W. Musick, and Manuel Seoane.

Sponsorship of the Decoto Troop of Boy Scouts and plans for an amateur talent program for the benefit of the new library building were voted at the May 1941 meeting of the Decoto Booster's Club. President Dave Janeiro appointed Lawrence Clark and L.W. Musick to take charge of the amateur program, which will be given at the grammar school on Thursday night, May 15th at 8 o'clock. Money raised will be used for the new library building to be built in a NYA project.

The Decoto Boosters Club and the Library Association were working to raise funds for a new library building in February 1941. On the building committee were Mrs. Elsa

Walker, Librarian, Mrs. Emma Amaral, Mrs. Herbert Harrold, Principal L.W. Musick, and Manuel Seoane.

Decoto Discussion Group:

The Decoto Discussion Group started off 1940 with a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Lee Frates. A Valentines Day motif was the setting for the luncheon. Serving with Mrs. Frates as hostess was Mrs. Leontine Costa. Miss Mary Janeiro had charge of the program, which consisted of a review of Madame Curie by Eve Curie as an example of a recent outstanding biography. Several guests from around the Washington Township area attended including Mrs. Lawrence Clark of Decoto. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Musick on March 1st. Travel books will be discussed, and Mrs. Rosida Cunha, leader for the day will conduct an intensive study of "Wind, Sand and Stars."

The May 1941 meeting of the Decoto Discussion Group was held at the home of Miss Mary Barmby, Alameda County Librarian, at Berkeley. Mrs. Elsa Walker, local librarian, had charge of the discussion of the Biblical subject, the Book of Ruth.

Following a study of the opera "Carmen," the Decoto Discussion Group attended a recent presentation by the San Carlos Opera Company in San Francisco in March 1942. A dinner at the home of Mrs. Elsa Walker, leader of the group preceded the journey to San Francisco. Those attending the opera were Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Jessie Taylor, Mrs. Francis Mara, Mrs. Leontine Costa and Mrs. Ethel Avilla. Guests at the dinner included their husbands and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown and Miss Linda Cunha.

The Decoto Discussion Group held its annual poetry meeting in February 1943. Robin Lampson's "Laughter Out of the Ground" was discussed. The meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Elsie Walker.

Mrs. Ina Zwissig Gwerder will lead the discussion of the opera "Don Juan" at the luncheon meeting of the Decoto Discussion Group at the home of Miss Cecilia Janeiro on Thursday, August 5, 1943.

The life of David was chosen for study by the Decoto Discussion Group at the annual Bible meeting at the home of Mrs. Elsa Walker, branch librarian. Mrs. Amy Brown was the leader. Mrs. Evelyn Joseph entertained the December 1943 gathering with Mrs. Ethel Avilla in charge of the travel program. Mrs. Helen Brown reviewed the book, "Why Japan Was Strong."

Mrs. Dorothy Musick was hostess to the Decoto Discussion Group in March 1946. The book discussed was "The Ballad and the Source" by Rosamunde Lehman. The April meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Florence Wallace. Mrs. Frances Mara will lead on a biography of Jack London, titled "A Sailor on Horseback" by Irving Stone.

The Decoto Discussion Group met at the home of Mrs. Howard Bradbury, Wednesday June 2, 1948. Mrs. Louise Johnson led the group with "Vain Shadow" by Hartzell Spence.

The Decoto Discussion Group was entertained at a delicious luncheon in May 1949 by Katherine Goularte. After lunch they spent a most enjoyable time discussing the adventures of three people, a man, his wife and child, in a small boat along the Inlets of the Pacific Northwest.

The Decoto Discussion Group, which met with Mrs. Clifford Johnson in July 1949 and enjoyed a delicious luncheon and a delightful book. Let by Mrs. Ethel Avilla they discussed the recent book entitled, "Cheaper by the Dozen."

Decoto Outdoors Club for Girls:

The newest organization, which has its headquarters at the Decoto Library building, is the Outdoor Club for girls 11 years and up.

Officers elected in January 1941 are:

President: Susie Jaramillo
Vice President: Alice Berrios
Secretary-Treasurer: Clara Feliciano
Guard: Mary Gutierrez

The girls meet at the library each Tuesday and Friday afternoons after school for games or amateur entertainment programs. Hikes are being planned for the summer.

Decoto Pinochle Club:

Mr. & Mrs. Lester Watkins entertained the Decoto Pinochle Club last Saturday, November 9, 1946. They had a fine time, with Harold Wallace winning high score, Mrs. Wallace second and Mrs. Costa third.

Club members are:

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mara of Niles	Mr. and Mrs. Tony Costa	Rosalyn Costa
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Avila	Miss Linda Cunha	Miss Linda Cunha
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wallace	Mr. and Mrs. Lester Watkins	

They meet once a month.

The Decoto Pinochle Club met at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Lester Watkins in May 1948. High score went for Mrs. Harold Wallace and second for Mr. John Mara.

The Decoto Pinochle Club held its June 1948 meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Costa on June 12th. High score went to Mae Watkins and second to Joseph Martin; Edna Mara held the low score. Attending from Decoto were Mr. & Mrs. Lester Watkins, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bradbury and Mr. & Mrs. A.L. Costa.

The Decoto Pinochle Club met at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Lester Watkins in February 1949. Fruit pie with whipped cream and coffee was served Valentine luncheon cloths with napkins to match.

Decoto Recreation Council:

Active preparations were made on the night of June 29, 1944, for a Decoto Recreation program. Committees were appointed that would speed up the organization work. Appointed to the ways and means committee were Manuel Hidalgo, Manuel Seoane, Mary Paniagua, Emma Amaral, Dave Janeiro, and Rose Silva. Working on the program committee are Elsa Walker, Manuel Seoane, Adeline Fletcher, Jim Gonzales, Joseph Andrade and Clara Feliciano. Mrs. Emil Del Tora was made temporary chairman of the organization. With the cooperation of these people, it was hoped that the recreation program, which will be carried out on the Decoto Grammar School grounds, will be in operation before the end of the summer, Sheriff Degnan said.

With a permanent organization perfected at a July 1944 meeting, the Decoto Recreation Council held their first project, a benefit picture show at the grammar school. Funds derived were used for operational expenses. Officers elected were: Manuel Seoane, President; Manuel Hidalgo, Vice President; David Janeiro, Secretary-Treasurer. The ways and means committee consists of Seoane, Hidalgo, Mary Paniagua, Mrs. M. Amaral, Janeiro and Mrs. Rose Silva. The committee on program and activities consists of Mrs. Elsie Walker, Seoane, Adeline Fletcher, Joseph Andrade, Clara Feliciano, James Gonzales and Hidalgo.

Further activities of the Decoto Recreational Council was planned at a meeting of the executive committee August 17, 1944 at the fire hall, Manuel Seoane, president, presided. More than 45 young people and 10 adults attended the picnic and old-fashioned hayride to Niles Canyon this week. The wagon was loaned by the Silver Spur Stables on Foothill Boulevard and the horses by Leonard Costa of Decoto. Dave Janeiro was driver and arrangements were made by Deputy Sheriff Carl Degnan.

In September 1944 a skating party at Hayward was given under the auspices of the Decoto Recreation Council. The council furnished free transportation but skaters paid for their own admission. Trucks were loaned by Lloyd Cambra of Decoto and Al Rogers of Hayward. According to Manuel Seoane, president, the council is attempting to locate quarters here for a clubhouse, which would be open each evening. The Paniagua's are staunch supporters of the recreation council led by Miss Mary Paniagua who is one of the committee leaders of the Decoto Recreation Council. Her brother, Private Frank Paniagua, with the U.S. Forces in Italy, sent \$5.00 to put in the Recreation treasury.

At the July 1946 meeting of the Decoto Recreational Council held in the home of Mrs. Leontine Costa, the membership voted to purchase a tennis net for the soon to be opened court on the grounds of the Decoto school, and to buy some baseball equipment for the Decoto Red Caps, a team of Grammar School boys sponsored by the Council. Council President Mel Seoane and secretary Gloria Arribas and the membership join in a request for more members, in order that the council and its aim of better recreational opportunities for the children may be strengthened. The council recently passed its third birthday.

El Progreso Del Pueblo

A club formed for the purpose of incorporating the town of Decoto in 1946. See the entire story of this club's attempt to incorporate Decoto, which is presented as its own story in this section "[Decoto Incorporation](#)."

Fire Department:

Fire Chief:

For the 1940's the Fire Chief for Decoto was Roland Bendel.

Fire Commissioners:

Persons who served in the 1940's were:

Walter Walker Carl Zwissig Keith Whipple A.A. Amaral
Louis Zwissig

Volunteer firemen:

Persons who served in the 1940's were:

Teddy Caldeira	John Ferrante	Ray McNulty	Alfred Ferreira
Joe Ferraro	John Garcia	David Arribas	Frank Garcia
Al Rodriguez	Joe Garcia	Joseph Martin	Paul Garcia
Manuel Garcia	Joe Seoane	Don Martin	Chris Guerra
Don Hitchen	Manuel Seaone	Al Roderick	Lloyd Cambra
Ken Garcia	Paul Paniagua		

Fire Station Events & Equipment:

The war created a large demand for scrap metal and the Decoto Fire Department headed a drive in October 1942 to collect scrap metal left in front of Decoto resident's homes. The trucks made house-to-house collections, householders being requested to leave scrap metal on sidewalks. Proceeds of the junk sale were for the benefit of the Fire Department's insurance fund.

Fire Chief Roland Bendel asked the County Board of Supervisors in March 1943 to pass an ordinance to limit the use of sirens in unincorporated districts, which may be mistaken for Fire Department sirens. The new Planing Mill near 10th and "D" Streets has a whistle that resembles the toot of the Fire Department, Bendel said, and the toot of the planing mill's siren has been mistaken for the Fire Department's fire signal.

In October 1944 the new pumping apparatus, built especially for grass and range fires has been ordered by the Decoto Fire Department at an approximate cost of \$3,500. The delivery of the new engine was made shortly after January 1945.

Besides putting in time on their own without pay, the Decoto firefighters were also involved in fighting for our country. Nine of the seventeen members of the Decoto volunteer Fire Department were drafted or enlisted in the armed services. The men who served during World War II earned nine stars on the Fire Department's service flag. The nine stars on the department's service flag are represented by:

Al Rodriguez	Teddy Caldeira	John Ferrante
Ray McNulty	Alfred Ferreira	Joe Ferraro
John Garcia	David Arribas	Frank Garcia

Fires:

A fire broke out at noon Wednesday, August 13, 1940, destroying five-frame buildings occupying a quarter block near the Pearce Cannery and the old depot in Decoto. All the buildings were destroyed, with a loss estimated at \$25,000. Firemen of the Decoto, Niles, Centerville, and Newark fire department fought the blaze but were handicapped by low pressure in the local water system. In an hour and a half of effort they could do little more than control the blaze and save some contents of the buildings. The buildings destroyed were the Decoto Branch County Library, with all books; the Manuel Avilla Grocery and Market, in which the blaze was said to have started, with all contents; and Brown's Shoe Store, with partial loss; and two small garages. About 30 firemen fought the blaze. One fireman was shocked by a power wire and a small boy was reported injured during the fire.

A forty-acre grass fire destroyed some fence posts on the Ruus property (Alquire & Ruus Roads) in Tennyson in September 1942. The Alameda County Fire Patrol, stationed in the Fairview District, with the aid of Roland Bendel's Decoto Firemen and James Wasley's Alvarado Fire Department aided in putting out the blaze.

The Decoto Volunteer Fire Department is being credited with preventing what might have been three disastrous fires near the end of September 1943. The latest fire was at the New Colma Mill and Lumber Company, where sparks from an incinerator ignited several piles of lumber. The loss was estimated at \$500.

Earlier in the morning an automobile belonging to Bert Paredes caught fire from a smoldering cigarette in the cushions, according to Fire Chief Roland Bendel. The car parked within 10 feet of the Bailey fruit shed, and was badly damaged, but the fire was extinguished before the gas tank exploded. A dozen other cars were parked near.

The first incident of the week was a \$5,000 fire at the Salz Warehouse, where spontaneous combustion was blamed for destruction of several hundred sacks of peanut skins and fragments to be used for stock feed. Also in the warehouse was 700 tons of hay, which was not damaged.

Damage estimated at \$250 resulted from an early morning fire at the home of John Martinez, F Street and Railroad Avenue. This was the fourth call to the Decoto Fire Department in the past 10 days.

Fire at the Decoto home of Joe Juarez, at 617 7th Street, was well handled on Monday, October 8, 1943. The fire kept the Fire Department busy for an hour. For a time the whole block was threatened.

A fire of undetermined origin on December 10, 1943 destroyed a fruit drying shed behind the Los Palmas Inn at Decoto. The property is owned by Mrs. Rose Goularte, 1170 Russell Way, and is valued at \$1,000. The blaze was extinguished by the Decoto Fire Department.

Southern Pacific train service to and from Oakland and San Francisco had to be rerouted through Alvarado on May 29, 1944 when a fire of undetermined origin destroyed large packing shed here and burned out the railroad signal system. The packing shed, leased by Lee Williams of Irvington, one of the larger packing offices for these parts, was filled to the roof with "brittle shook," which was to have been used for lug boxes in shipment of fruits and vegetables. A problem being faced by the packer, it was said, because the shook wood, due to war demands, is difficult to obtain. Damage could not be estimated immediately, but it was believed the loss will run at least several thousand dollars.

Fire, starting it is believed from a blow torch used to repair a band saw, destroyed the main unit of the new Colma Mill and Lumber Company at Decoto Sunday, June 10, 1945. Loss was set at \$150,000. Some 100 persons working on government contracts have been put out of work.

Two homes were destroyed by flames, which whipped through them in a matter of minutes during the heavy rain and windstorm of April 29, 1948. Damage was estimated at \$15,000. The Gail Brown family, including three children, were made homeless by the blaze, which burned everything but the clothes they were wearing at the time. Brown rushed to the house but the intense heat kept him from removing any furnishings or clothing from the building. A small home also owned by Brown had been rented to a transient laborer who was not at home at the time.

Fire raged through the New Colma Mill and Lumber Company at Railroad and "D" Streets at Decoto on May 7, 1949, causing damage estimated to be \$50,000. Fire Chief Roland Bendel said the fire apparently had burned for some time before it was discovered shortly before 3 a.m. by a watchman. The watchman thought the fire started from spontaneous combustion in a pile of sawdust in one of the mill buildings. The flames destroyed and damaged a large quantity of lumber and mill building and equipment used to manufacture prefabricated homes. Bendel made the damage estimate but said he had not yet been able to reach any company officials for a more accurate damage figure.

On May 10th the officers of the New Colma Mill and Lumber Co. said the firm has not been hampered "one bit" in its production of prefabricated homes by a \$50,000 fire, which waged through the lumber mill Saturday. A.J. Lancaster, office manager for the company, said his company can promise "just as good delivery on prefabricated homes as it ever did."

Girl Scouts:

Approximately 20 girls in Decoto are ready to sign up for the new troop of Girl Scouts to be organized in November 1941. Mrs. Robert Whipple is completing her training as leader at the Oakland headquarters of the Girl Scout organization. The local group will meet at the library here.

Juvenile Club:

An application from the Juvenile Club for a permit to conduct a dance in the Insurance Hall, Decoto, on March 15th was presented to the Board of Supervisors on March 11, 1947.

Library:

In August 1940 the Decoto Library temporarily moved into the Decoto Presbyterian Church on Main Street, after their building on Railroad Avenue was destroyed by fire recently.

Mrs. Elsa Walker, our Decoto librarian, was delighted with her new quarters in the resident formerly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Hurst between "F" and "G" Streets and 11th Street. The library occupied the home in November 1940. The home has a large living room and dining room with adjoining space for the general reading room. Other parts of the home will offer meeting rooms.

At this time the Decoto Library Association met and elected new officers. Those seated were:

President:	Mrs. Elsa Walker
Vice President:	Mrs. Emma Amaral
Secy-Treasurer:	Miss Mary Janeiro
Exec. Committee:	Mrs. Elsie Walker, Manuel Seoane, L.W. Musick, Mrs. Ethel Avila, and Herbert Harrold

The residents are hoping that a new library will be built shortly. The town received a \$1,000 grant from the Homes and Children's Alliance in Oakland towards the building of the library in February 1941. The supervisors have promised help from the NYA (a New Deal organization). The Decoto Boosters Club and the Library Association are working to raise funds for the project. On the building committee are Mrs. Elsa

Walker, Librarian, Mrs. Emma Amaral, Mrs. Herbert Harrold, Principal L.W. Musick, and Manuel Seoane.

On April 18, 1941, the formal acceptance of the deed to property on 10th and "C" Streets in Decoto, where a new Library building is to be constructed in an NYA Project sponsored by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, was recorded at a recent meeting of the supervisors. A committee composed of Mrs. Elsa Walker, Librarian; Mrs. Herbert Harrold, Miss Mary Janeiro, and Walter Walker delivered the deed to the \$300 lot, which had been purchased with donations from the Boosters' Club, individuals and J.L. Olson, property owner. Plans for the building are now being drawn up and as soon as blueprints re approved by the supervisors the work will begin.

In May 1941, more bad news was delivered to the people of Decoto about their Library. Vandals had broken into the Decoto Branch, Public Library, three times within the last ten days and done extensive damage, according to a report from Mrs. Elsa Walker, 409 Railroad Avenue, who is the librarian. Mrs. Walker delivered her report to Deputy Sheriff H.A. Vervais and an investigation is now underway. Principal Louis Musick, of the Decoto Grammar School, is cooperating and will interview a number of the boys in his classes. The first entry was made some ten days previous to the report and again on April 23rd. Mrs. Walker told Deputy Vervais that the vandals had again returned this week. Small change was taken from the library, books 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.

This writing may lead to apprehension of the vandals, as there is definite peculiarity to the penmanship. 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. The library is now located in a residence following a fire which destroyed the previous quarters. Entry to the building was made through a side window and a back door, it was reported. The building is at 610 11th Street in Decoto.

In March 1945 the Board of Supervisors authorized the signing of a lease between George L. and Geneva E. Smith and the County of Alameda for rental of branch library building at Decoto and authorizing and directing chairman to sign same.

In January 1946 the Decoto Library moved into the George Smith building next to the post office where a limited service will be carried on to collect books in circulation after which the service will be discontinued until repairs are completed.

The Decoto Library reopened in April 1945 after being closed for two months. The new quarters are very attractive as the landlord, George Smith, went through considerable expense and labor to remodel the building which, had not been in use for several years. The walls are done in a new wall material in knotty pine effect, and light paint. This had made the library one of the nicest looking libraries in the township. A large consignment of new books will be added at once.

On April 10, 1945 the Decoto Branch of the Alameda County Library System was in their new quarters at 905 10th Street, which was across the street from the old library. Mrs. Elsa Walker was in charge of the branch.

In April 1946 the *Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper took the Alameda County Board of supervisors to task for their low pay in the library system. Mrs. Leontine Costa of Decoto was substituting 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.

Mrs. Elsa Walker, who came from Arkansas to California nearly 25 years ago, is leaving Decoto in October 1946 for Auburn where she and her husband, Walter Walker are to engage in ranching. Mrs. Walker has had charge of the Decoto Branch of the Alameda County Library for a number of years and has increased its book circulation greatly. She will also be missed for her work with the Decoto Discussion Group, which has been outstanding in many ways.

The Alameda County Library has announced the appointment of Mrs. Ethel Avilla to succeed Mrs. Elsa Walker as custodian in charge of the Decoto Branch of the County Library. The appointment is effective November 1, 1946. Mrs. Walker had been in charge for the 12 years, and has been most active in the discussion group, which has been so successful.

March of Dimes:

Representing the town of Decoto in 1940 for the annual drive to cure "Infantile Paralysis" are:

Manuel Seoane Mary Janeiro L.W. Musick Mrs. A.A. Amaral

Representing the town of Decoto in 1942 for the annual drive to cure "Infantile Paralysis" was: Dave Janeiro and Mary Janeiro.

A total of \$228.05 was collected in February 1943 for the March of Dimes in Washington Township, reports Ed Enos, chairman. Donations from Decoto included: Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers Union at Pacific States Steel, \$25; Decoto Grammar School, \$14.75; and the Decoto Post Office, \$10.10.

The Washington Township March of Dimes to fight infantile paralysis opened January 1944 under co-chairmanship of Ed Enos of Niles and J.V. Goold of Centerville. School principals are acting as town chairmen. Eph Musick represented Decoto and was assisted by Mary Janeiro.

Mosquito Abatement District:

The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District constructed a small warehouse and garage at the Decoto yard early in 1940 to house equipment used by the Washington Township crew. The district will also install an underground storage tank for gasoline at the Decoto yard. Harley M. Dennis of Decoto will succeed L.P. Mapes in Decoto. Harley has been with the district since 1937; Mr. Mapes will be transferred to Oakland in April 1944.

PTA:

A large group of mothers met at the Decoto Grammar School and voted to form a Parent-Teacher Association in May 1948. A nominating committee was appointed consisting of Mrs. Florence Hidalgo, Mrs. Vernon Peixotto and Mrs. Betty Margarido. The group will meet again on Wednesday, June 2, 1948. Refreshments will be served by Anita Ferreira as chairman of that committee.

Officers of the first P-TA unit at the Decoto Elementary School were elected and installed June 2, 1948.

Officer's chosen were:

President:	Mrs. Elvie Cardoza	
Vice Presidents:	Mrs. Elmer Peixotto	Principal L.W. Musick
Secretary:	Mrs. Barnard Joseph	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Louis J. Fine	
Auditor:	Mrs. Robert Deeke	
Historian:	Mrs. Alfonso Rodrigues	
Parliamentarian:	Mrs. Alfred Ferreira	
Delegate:	Mrs. Frank Margarido	

Mrs. Edna Ebright, public health nurse, announced June 17th as the date for the child health conference to be held at the school from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Decoto P-TA held their regular meeting in February 1949 at the school. Mrs. Janet Schaaf was in charge of the Founders Day Program. A candlelight ceremony was held with Mrs. J.L. Fine, Mrs. Elmer Peixotto, Mrs. Norman Luna, Mrs. J.P. Caldeira, Mrs. T.E. Amaral and Mrs. Elvie Cardoza. Entertainment was put on by several High School pupils who are Decoto youths. Bob De la Torre sang with Margaret Williams at the piano. Songs by a sextet who were Catalina Duarte, Carol Saucedo, Velio Saucedo, Dora Ramirez and Olivia Morina. Sandwiches, salad, cake and coffee were served by the refreshment committee chairman, Mrs. Clarence Frates. Mr. J.V. "Pop" Gould, Principal of the W.U.H.S. was present.

Pacific Telephone & Telegraph:

In October 1946 the Hayward area phone service will include Hayward, Decoto, Alvarado and Trinidad exchanges as part of the five-cent message rate on all calls from the Hayward area. The service will be expanded to include all individual and business phone subscribers in the area thereby eliminating the present charge for this same extended service.

Important directions for using the Dial Telephone after midnight tonight, February 1, 1947:

- 1) Out-of-town calls from extended service Dial Telephones:
On calls to **Trinidad (TR = 87)**, **Sweetwood (Sw = 79)** and **Lockhaven-8 (Lo = 56)** numbers: Dial the complete number in the regular manner.
- 2) On call to **Lockhaven-9 (Lo = 56)**, Alvarado and Decoto: Dial "Operator" (red figure "0") and the give the number to her.
- 3) Calls to other nearby points preceded by a star (*) in the list of rates on the inside cover of the Telephone Directory: Make the call in the following manner:
Station to station calls: Dial "Operator" (red figure "0") and give the number to her.
Person to person calls: Dial "211" and give the number or the details of the call to the operator that answers the call.
- 4) Calls to all other Out-of Town Points: Dial "211" and give the number or details of the call to the operators who answers.

Puerto Rican Club:

An application from Peter Okendo for a permit to conduct dances in the Puerto Rican Club, Decoto, each and every night was presented to the board and referred to the district attorney for investigation and report in December 1943.

A permit application filed by William Agundez to conduct dances at the Puerto Rico Club, Decoto, on each Friday, Saturday and Sunday for three months commencing in October 1948 was presented to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Post Office:

Washington Township Postmasters captured all three offices in the Alameda County Postmaster's Association at a recent election at Castro Villa at Hayward in January 1941, with Manuel Joseph of Irvington being chosen President. He succeeds Ed Enos of Niles. Other officers elected were Julia Ruschin of Newark, Vice-President and Miss Mary Janeiro of Decoto as Secretary-Treasurer.

John L. Olson, 66, native of Alvarado and a merchant and postmaster in Decoto for many years, died at his home, 1017 "I" St., Decoto, on Thursday Dec. 25, 1941. The late Mr. Olson was well known throughout southern Alameda County. He had been in the general merchandising business in Decoto for many years. Mr. Olson was the husband of Harriet Olson.

Mrs. Mary Janeiro, Postmistress of Decoto, attended the 1943 wartime conference of the California Postmaster's conference to be held at Hoberg's south of Clear Lake on June 10th, 11th & 12th.

The Decoto Post Office receipts in 1949 totaled \$8,023.26, which was slightly less than they took in 1948.

Protestant Church

Mrs. C.B. Rios, Decoto, wife of the Presbyterian pastor for the Spanish-speaking people of this district, was a special speaker at the January 1940 meeting of the Losepra Club at the Hayward Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Rios spoke of the work being done by the Rev. Rios in Decoto and of their missionary in Mexico.

The congregation of the Presbyterian Church enjoyed a "Mexican" dinner in February 1940, prepared and served at the church by Mexican ladies of the Presbyterian Home Mission Church of Decoto. Leading the group was Mrs. C.A. Rios, wife of the pastor of that church. Mr. Rios, a native of Mexico, is serving as a Presbyterian missionary among Spanish speaking peoples of this area, with headquarters at Decoto. He is a young man, unable as yet to speak the English language. However, he addressed the congregation in Spanish with Mrs. William Auley Pankey (Hayward) acting as interpreter. He explained the work at Decoto and thanked his audience for the cooperation of the Hayward Church in helping raise money to meet outstanding debts.

August 1944:

After 11 years of service in the Sunday school at the Niles Congregational Church, six years of which she spent as superintendent, Mrs. Fred Duffie, 810 2nd St., has turned in her resignation. Owing to the fact that her teaching position takes up so much of her time at Decoto Grammar School, and to the extra studying she is doing

at home in connection with her jobs, Mrs. Duffie finds it impossible to continue the Sunday school work. She gave her resignation in August 1944.

In July 1949 the possibility that the dormant Presbyterian Churches at Decoto and Alvarado could be reactivated was learned here this week in connection with a request by the Decoto Boy Scout's for the use of the church structure on "H" Street. Officials of the San Francisco Presbytery have granted the request from the Scouts and the local Chamber of commerce has donated a cash sum for the repair of a portion of the building, which will be used by the Scout troop, according to Bernie Joseph, chamber secretary.

News that a resident pastor the church is being sought was released here by Dr. Henry J. McCall of San Leandro, former missionary in Brazil for over 30 years, who has charge of the Latin missions under the San Francisco Presbytery. Dr. McCall now retired as an active pastor, points out that it has been difficult to find a minister who can speak Spanish and Portuguese as well as English.

If such a person is found, it is planned that he will reside somewhere in the area and take over both the Decoto and the Alvarado churches. Regular services are not conducted in either location at present. The Alvarado congregation has joined with the Centerville church, but the building is used for daily release time religious education classes during the school term. The Ladies Aid Society is still active and holds monthly meetings.

Sanitary District:

The Decoto Sanitary District met on February 3, 1941 for their monthly meeting. Charles Brown, secretary for the district, reported that three hundred thousand gallons a day is going through the Decoto sewer. The directors of the Decoto Sanitary District are:

Charles Brown	George Smith	Bernie Joseph	Manuel White
William Hurst.			

Five sanitary districts in Washington Township will hold elections for commissioners on September 14, 1942. All candidates with one exception are incumbents and are running without opposition. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

At Decoto Dave Janeiro is a new candidate for election to the position vacated by William Hurst, who has resigned. George Smith, incumbent, is a candidate for re-election. Polls will be located at the grammar school. Other commissioners are Bernie Joseph, Charles Brown and Manuel White.

The only contested seat in the Sanitary District elections in Washington Township took place at Decoto, where Clarence Frates defeated Dave Janeiro for the position vacated by the resignation of William Hurst. Frates polled 96 votes and Janeiro 77, George Smith, incumbent, was re-elected with 82 votes.

Miss Viola George was elected assessor with 157 votes in the September 1942 election.

Tuesday, August 29, 1944 is the deadline for filing petitions by candidates in the five sanitary districts of Washington Township. Election will be held on September 18th. To date there are no indications of opposition to the incumbents.

Decoto:
 Polling Place: Fire Hall
 Officers: Charles Brown Bernie Joseph Manuel White

No immediate action was taken following a public hearing in Hayward in November 1948 on protests against the granting of a permit to the Decoto Sanitary District to construct and operate a sewerage system and disposal plant.

Members of the State Board of Health, before whom the hearing was held and who have the power of granting the permit, took the matter under advisement after hearing arguments both for and against the proposed sewage plan.

Red Cross:

The Red Cross War Chest Campaign for April 1943 has been closed and Washington Township has again shown that it can be depended upon to do its full share in support of the American Red Cross. Below is the detail report as rendered by Town Chairmen, making a total of \$11,770.72.

RED CROSS WAR CHEST DRIVE	
Alvarado & Alviso Dist's	\$2,290.08
Centerville	\$2,176.00
Decoto	\$953.59
Irvington	\$1,065.60
Mission San Jose	\$451.00
Newark	\$1,702.75
Niles	\$2,815.95
Warm Springs	\$315.75
TOTAL:	\$11,770.72

The Township donors of blood at Niles see that a local Alvarado lady, Mrs. Pat Hill, tops the list of blood donors at giving nine times as of March 1944.

Local Decoto people:
 Six Times: Ruby Garcia
 Four Times: Clara Garcia
 Two Times: Paul Garcia

Furniture for a service man's family was desperately being sought by the Red Cross in February 1947. Mrs. Joseph Smith and her eight children, who just moved into Decoto are living in two rooms at 401 5th Street Decoto, while Mr. Smith is in the Army. The Smith family is without furniture, and their requirements are some beds and a cabinet or dresser. The children, Elmon, age 15; Betty June, age 13; Rexford, age 12; Gloria, age 11; Marilyn, age 9; Sylvia, age 7; Joseph James Jr., age 6, and Frederick the baby, who was born last year.

Roads:

A request for additional streetlights in Decoto was made in August 1940 by the Decoto Boosters Club in a letter to be sent to supervisor George Hellwig by Marion Delgado, Secretary.

Supervisor Hellwig of Alvarado deserves credit for having the streets of Decoto fixed up after the installation of the sewer pipes in October 1941. A certain amount time was allowed for the fill-in to settle and he decided this was the time to have the roads improved before winter set in.

In November 1945 the residents of Decoto asked The Board of Supervisors to take over maintenance of some downtown streets. They requested the following streets be maintained by the county:

- 1) "A" Street from Whipple Road to 9th Street
- 2) "A" to "F" on 9th Street
- 3) "H" Street to Decoto Road

The Board of Supervisors referred the request to the Planning Commission,

In November 1946 9th Street was being widened from 30 feet to 60 feet. When it is completed it will be the nicest street in Decoto.

Also at this time, the Chamber of Commerce endorsed plan to open "E" Street across the Southern Pacific tracks, not only as a convenience for the townspeople, but as the removal of a fire hazard. Sometimes the S.P. track is blocked by long freight trains and this makes it impossible to reach the other side quickly.

Chamber President Kenneth Garcia instructed Bernie Joseph in April 1948 to write Southern Pacific Railway representatives requesting that the crossing at "H" Street be improved and another letter was ordered sent to the Alameda County Road Department asking that a stop sign be placed at the intersection.

In September 1948 the Chamber of Commerce submitted a request to the Board of Supervisors and to PG&E asking that 10 additional streetlights be installed in downtown Decoto. The Chamber claimed that some of Decoto's streets are still entirely unlighted. Manuel Hidalgo submitted a report asserting that there are 20 or more "very dark spots" throughout the town, but suggested that the original list be cut to ten. Those suggested for installation are:

10th & "F"

3rd & "C"

4th & "F"

5th & "C"

7th & "D"

10th & "G"

11th & "J"

14th & "I"

Railroad Avenue & "E"

And one opposite the fire hall on Tenth Street.

It was wonderful to hear at the chamber meeting of November 1949 that the non-existent roads near 8th and 9th Streets, which have caused so much controversy lately, are county roads. So, the county is supposed to care for them, so contractor Mennett is supposed to build about thirty homes there, so Decoto is supposed to become bigger.

Union Funeraria de Decoto, Inc.

Last Sunday, January 26, 1941, the Union Funeraria de Decoto, Inc., celebrated the first session of the year under the new board elected last December. The officers are follows:

President: Alfonso Chamorro
Vice President: Primitivo Cordoba
Treasurer: Joe Priego
Secretary: Dionisio Hernandez
Directors: Basilio Pacheco Emilio Paniagua Andres Sanchez
Joe Priego is a well-known businessman of Alvarado. Primitivo Cordoba is also of Alvarado.

August 1941:

In August 1941 it was announced that three hundred and sixty members now comprise the membership of the Union Funerario de Decoto. Treasurer Joe Priego reported that the lodge has bought a big building on Castro Street (Mission Blvd) in Hayward for \$3,500 cash and that they meet there every month. It has a big hall and is located near the Hayward Plunge on valuable property. Al Chamorro, Decoto barber, is the president of the lodge.

Voting:

September 26, 1946 is the last day to register for voter registration. If you have changed your residence within the state or are a new voter or have moved to California from another state you must register on or before September 26th to be able to vote in the November elections. In Decoto you may register with P.J. Faletti.

Here is a list of polling places and officers for the Decoto Precincts of the general election to be held on November 5, 1946:

Precinct 1:

Polling Place: Fire Station, 926 10th Street
Inspector: Emma S. Amaral
Judge: Geneva E. Smith
Clerks: Anna Freitas and Bessie Borghi

Precinct 2:

Polling Place: Decoto Grammar School
Inspector: Marion Zwissig
Judge: Alice Carey
Clerks: Alice Enos and Stella B. Caldeira

Precinct 3:

Polling Place: Library Room, Masonic Home
Inspector: James E. Briggs
Judge: Clarence E. Childs
Clerks: Florence B. Henderson and Lillian W. Peates

Precinct 4:

Polling Place: Library Room, Masonic Home
Inspector: Edward A. Vorsanger
Judge: Wesley Heidt
Clerks: Laura B. Seymour and Lucy A. McLean

You may register with the following people in Decoto to be eligible to vote in the 1948 elections: Mr. T.B. Brown, 925 13th St., and P.J. Faletti.

Decoto School District Voting Precinct:
November 1948:

CONSOLIDATED PRECINCT 1:

Comprising all of Decoto School District, which includes within its boundaries general election precincts Decoto 2, 3, and 4, and all that portion of each of general election precinct Alvarado 2, Decoto 1, Niles 5, and Valle Vista situate within Decoto School District of Alameda County.

POLLING PLACE:

Decoto School, corner of 6th and H Streets, Decoto

Inspector: Mrs. Marion Zwissig

Judges: Mrs. Alice Carey & Mrs. Alice Enos

Washington Township Concert Club:

Mrs. Clifford Johnson, Mrs. Bernard Joseph, Mrs. Anita Ferreira and Eddie Costa joined the Washington Township Concert Club in May 1948. The club is under the leadership of Mr. Dwight Thornburg.

Washington Township Country Club:

Members of the Washington Township Country Club have formed a group to collect books to be sent to camps for servicemen. Aiding the collection will be Mrs. L.W. Musick and Mrs. Alwin Searles of Decoto.

Election of new members and delegates to the district convention occurred at March 1943 meeting of the Country Club of Washington Township. Delegates to the convention, to be held in Stockton, include Mrs. Harvey Granger of Decoto.

In September 1946 it has been four years since the U. of Cal. Alumni Club of Washington Township held their last meeting. Ezra Decoto Jr., and Miss Guglielma Crocker told some of their early years in W.U.H.S. Judge Decoto were one of the first pupils and Miss Crocker one of the first teachers.

Washington Township Men's Club:

Robert R. Gross, public relations representative of the P.G. & E., will address the Men's Club of Washington Township at a dinner meeting at the Country Club Monday night, June 1, 1942. His topic will be "America Meets the Challenge." The musical program will include a reading by Marilyn Casterson, harmonica numbers by her brother and violin solos by Miss Elizabeth Richmond, accompanied by Miss Rita Fraser, all of the Decoto Grammar School.

At their March 1949 meeting the Washington Township Men's Club chose J. F. Merrill of Decoto as one of their Directors.

Washington Township Welfare Club:

October 16, 1946: The Washington Township Child Welfare Club met at the home of Mrs. Alwin Searles in Decoto on Monday.

*** DECOTO INCORPORATION ***

On Monday, February 25, 1946, at 7:30, in the Decoto School auditorium, the people of Decoto gathered in a town meeting to discuss the incorporation of the town. Attorney Frank Nunes of Oakland presented the argument in favor of incorporation. He was backed by Tony Bautista, the owner of the Decoto Theater, whose vital personality and constant drumming for streetlights, police protection and other urgently needed civic improvements, has brought home a large and active following in the town. Tony presided as chairman of the evening, Joe Juarez and vice president, Luiz Triana as secretary and Roque Feliciano as under secretary.

The argument is that the Supervisors of Alameda Co. have not given enough attention to Decoto, a town with one of the largest unincorporated populations in the county. Decoto covers lot of territory, scores of streets and numerous industrial concerns. In a rough estimate, the town is now worth more than a million dollars, according to one of its leading citizens, who repeats: "but where do the taxes paid by the townspeople go? To the County Court House in Oakland! And what does Decoto get out of it? No streetlights. Too slight police protection. Not enough public health measures. Too little attention for juvenile delinquency problems!"

The town meeting convened at 7:30. By 7:10 and there were forty men gathered in knots on the steps of the school discussing the issues. In the auditorium, the custodian was arranging the table and chairs, assisted by the Committee for Incorporation of Decoto, *El Progreso Del Pueblo*, "the Progressing Town."

There were men in business suits, in slack suits and in work clothes; men of Anglo-Saxon origin, Puerto Rican origin, of Portuguese origin, of Spanish and of Mexican origin. The majority spoke Spanish either solely or fluently, but they were all Americans, and most were citizens.

It was dark outside. You could barely see across the unlit, unpaved streets of this town of 4,200 souls. A few women were there, but not many women walk through the mediievally dark streets of Decoto as late as 7:30, except in groups or with their men.

Antonio Bautista, theater manager, organizer of the Committee for Incorporation, took his place at the head of the table and brought the meeting to order. Seymour Feit of the committee introduced attorney Frank Nunes of Oakland who presented the facts and figures compiled from visits to the County Courthouse and numerous small-incorporated towns of the Bay Area. He named the officers required by the State of California laws for a town of the size of Decoto, such as the mayor, city council, the attorney, the marshal, the recorder, etc., and brought out the fact that in most cases, nearly all but the marshal serve without salaries for the first year or two of incorporation.

Then questions were raised. "Decoto pays taxes with the other people of the township," Bautista declared, "but Decoto does not receive benefits in proportion to her population."

Then Bautista shot a question at school trustee Herbert Harrold:

"Have you ever walked in the streets of Centerville at night?"

"Yes," Harrold replied in his slow and deliberate way.

"Have you ever walked the streets of Niles at night?"

"Yes," Harrold replied.

"Have you ever walked the streets of Decoto at night?"

"Not any more than I have to," Harrold admitted.

"There you have it! Decoto, with the largest population in the township, has not received a single street light since 1912. About a year ago, when Niles was instituting a program to curb juvenile delinquency, I went to one of the leaders of the program and asked that Decoto children be allowed to share in the program. That man said to me (and I am not mentioning any names), but your own city dad's in Decoto don't take care of the kids, why should we."

Then Bautista asked the assembly to hear the testimony of Jose Juarez whose house had burned some year ago, not because the volunteer fire department was lax in performing its duties, but merely because there was no fire hydrant near enough to his home to permit action by the fireman. Because Juarez, though long a resident of Decoto, could not speak well enough in English for all to hear, his words were to be interpreted immediately by Roque Feliciano.

Juarez began, and had spoken perhaps two sentences in Spanish when he was interrupted from the floor by Harrold:

The trustee said: "I don't think the man out to be allowed to speak in Spanish."

"But he doesn't know English well enough," it was objected.

"Then he should not be allowed to speak in the school," Harrold insisted.

The assembly was stilled. One lady angrily said that language had nothing to do with the drafting of their sons in to the Army. Attorney Nunes declared that the Constitution of the United States guarantees freedom of speech, without reference to language. His words were followed by almost unanimous applause, and the trustee left the hall.

Two other trustees, H. Searles and Manuel White, said that there should be no objection to Juarez talking, but Juarez too, had left the meeting.

The day after the meeting Bautista announced that the women of Decoto are forming a women's committee for incorporation. The original committee was as follows:

Chairman:	Antonio Bautista		
Jose Juarez	Luiz Triana	Roque Feliciano	Seymour Feit
B. Cantu	J. Medina.		

Decotoans, to whom the idea of incorporation is either a good or a bad dream, met for their second town meeting on the subject of incorporating Decoto on the evening of March 12, 1946 and talked things over again, this time at a well-attended regular monthly meeting of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. What they looked at was the other side of the picture that had been presented at two previous public meetings, which had been called by advocates of incorporation.

The talk at first was mostly in figures, which, as Manuel Seoane presented them, grew quite astronomical. Take the cost of two officers and a car and a jail for your police department, take the cost of equipment and four laborers and buildings for your street department, take the cost of city administration, forgetting for the time being about a fire department and few odds and ends, and you're into big figures, according to Seoane's report.

Taxes couldn't possibly supply all this money, and you'd have to take up the matter of a bond issue with your voters. Then, assuming that your bond issue is passed, who, as someone remarked from the floor would take your bonds?

Following Seoane's talk, President Dave Janeiro of the Decoto Chamber called upon Attorney E. A. Quaresma to clear up a few legal points about the proposed incorporation of the little town. The gist of Quaresma's remarks was that incorporation is a big step and one, which deserves the most careful thought.

He pointed out that, contrary to information given Decotoans by another attorney, 25 per cent of the property owners in a town must sign a petition in order to put the matter of incorporation to a vote. He suggested that a study be made of incorporated towns comparable to Decoto in size and assessed valuation. President Janeiro appointed Joe Caldeira and P.F. Falletti to make this study.

Falletti, who stated explicitly that he did not favor incorporation, said that he believed Decotoans 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 shrubs and flower, having garbage collected, and connecting with the sewer system. Those who do not comply he said, will be subject to legal action.

The third and last town meeting to be called by the Committee for Incorporation of Decoto took place March 27, 1946 at the school. The committee was represented again by attorney Frank Nunes of Oakland and by a second lawyer, Aldo P. Guidotti of Oakland, both serving free of charge.

Decotoans opposed to incorporation, most of them extensive property owners and businessmen, were represented by city attorney C.W. White of Hayward, who said when he was introduced that he wanted to make it clear that he had been retained, and paid a fee in advance, to represent his clients.

Attorney Nunes, opening the meeting, which was attended by about 150, declared that it was the hope of the committee that "This will be a town meeting in which the whole people, rather than a few, will do the talking. The meeting is yours, now say what you think about the incorporation." The proponent's hope was realized. Not only thoughts, but feelings, too, were vociferously aired.

A man in the assembly asked the committee: "Why do you want to incorporate? What's the good of it?"

Seymour Feit of the committee said he thought it was necessary to incorporate in order to get by civic action certain baldy needed civic improvements, better police and fire protection, zoning ordinances, etc., which the county either will not or cannot provide the town.

Then the man asked, in effect, why the committee wanted to force the town in incorporation. One of the committeemen, Frank Medina, asked in reply, "Why are you afraid of incorporation?"

Nunes and Guidotti presented new figures, the result of recent investigations, saying that the income of the city government would be about \$20,000, and the cost about \$16,000. Attorney White pointed out that, with a possible revenue of only about \$6,500 a year from real property taxes, according to his estimate, the cost of city government would be too great in Decoto for a successful venture.

"You may incorporate to get the improvements you need, but you may find that you cannot get them even then," White said. Guidotti said that the "Christmas tree bill," recently passed by the (state) legislature, would provide a temporary source of revenue for Decoto if it incorporates. The money would be in a shape of a gift from State. The bill was passed for the purpose of returning to the cities some of the State's large wartime revenue.

Two tries were made by those against the incorporation to bring the matter to a standing vote. Chairman Bautista objected that the meeting was not called for that purpose, and that a vote at that time would be inconclusive because only a small fraction of Decotoans are present. The objection was raised from the floor that a standing vote in this case in view of the strong feelings involved would be undemocratic. "A worker might be influenced by his employers vote," it was claimed.

Bautista declared that the next step was the circulation of the petition, to be signed by 25 per cent of the assessed valuation of the town would be circulated in two or three weeks, and the time for voting would be in the general election to follow the success of the petition.

So it appeared that the proponents were ready to move ahead with the incorporation with the plan to bring Decoto to the status of a city when they received a setback on April 2nd as the Chamber of Commerce of Decoto voted unanimously in opposition to incorporation after a stormy session. Daniel Janeiro, president, was forced to bang away with his gavel several times to restore order as the meeting became boisterous. He had announced at the outset that anybody with something to say on the issue of incorporation would be given the floor. Approximately 75 persons were present.

Objectors to the incorporation plan included representatives of the New Colma Mill and Lumber Company and the Pearce Canning Company, the town's largest employers. Chamber members said their opposition was based upon increased taxes and pointed out that the present time is not favorable because of inflated prices and material shortages.

A declaration that incorporation would result in lowered fire insurance was answered by Hayward City Attorney C.W. White, counsel for protestants, who said the

community' status had nothing to do with insurance rates, which are fixed by the Underwriters Board and based upon fire protection facilities.

It was brought out that the proposed corporate area is less than a half-mile square, contains 508 dwellings and has five miles of paved streets and four miles of graded roads. Farmers protested that incorporation would rob them of fire protection since the city would take over the fire department.

Declaring that the petition for incorporation of Decoto being circulated by the Progressive Club was complete with 133 signatures, Bautista stated that Decotoans might well anticipate a general election on the matter of incorporation in September it was learned on a June 21st meeting of the Progressive Club of Decoto. This contingency hangs upon the question whether the petition meets the approval of the County Board of Supervisors, to whom the petition would be presented. It now bears in excess of 140 signatures, which "quite probably represents 25 per cent of Decoto's estimated evaluation of one half million dollars."

Anthony Bautista, president of the club, arranged to hold a meeting on Monday, June 24, 1946 for those who favor incorporation and those who signed the petition. The meeting was held at the International Hall, Decoto, and was attended by Frank Nunes, Oakland attorney aiding the Progressive Club, and by Captain Al Mitchell, consulting engineer who surveyed the town of Decoto last week. All eyes are on Decoto now Bautista said, "We are more encouraged as we go along, for many who opposed us originally are now on our side now."

About sixty people attended the meeting, the purpose of which was to discuss finances and future action to be taken by the club. The membership, including in general everyone favoring incorporation, learned that incorporation proceedings, up to the general election, will cost around \$500, of which \$150 has already been spent, \$250 more must be raised by subscription or other methods. With dues for membership in the club set at \$4.00 per year, several men in the audience stepped forth to pay their dues, bringing the paid membership up to 28. It was hoped that everyone who signed the petition would pay dues into the club.

An affidavit attached to the petition was signed by three property owners acquainted with Decoto and its lay out, who verified the signatures to the petition. They were Louis Triana, Louis Gutierrez and Antonio Bautista. Al Mitchell, consulting engineer of Oakland who was to attend the meeting, was unable to be there.

In July 1946 Antonio Bautista declared that 20 out of about 40 business houses in Decoto have signed the petition for the incorporation of the town. The petition would be delivered to the County Board of Supervisors in mid July. Among the business houses mentioned were:

Loma Linda Café	Decoto Theater	Main Street Café
Fourth Street Market	Alvarez Creamery	Del's Place
Salazar Market	Manolo's Place	

The Establishment of Decoto as an incorporated city was under study by county officials July 19, 1946 after presentation to the Board of Supervisors by a petition for incorporation signed by 147 residents of the area. The petition, supervisors stated, must first be checked by the county assessor, treasurer and tax collector and after being cleared by these offices will be turned over to the District Attorney's Office who will set a date for an election on the proposal.

But the petition tended to polarize the people of Decoto and it seemed it had their opinion on the subject. Eph Musick, principal of Decoto Grammar School during the latter years of the War and father to present Decoto School principal L. W. Musick said in a July 26, 1946 *Alvarado Pioneer* news article:

"About Decoto's move for incorporation. Decoto's favorable location near the beautiful background and its gently sloping land give the town one of the best sites in California. The men who planned and laid out the town evidently recognized these advantages.

But a town site and an incorporated town are two very different things when the latter takes the other too much for granted. Often incorporation does give dignity to a village. After almost three years of continuous residence herein, I see Decoto under incorporation very much as a wealthy man pictured his daughter whose hand in marriage was asked by a very gallant but practically penniless suitor.

"Young Man," said the father, "do you think you will be able to care for my daughter in the way that has been her custom?"

"Oh, I intend to live here with you and help you do it!" replied the young man.

Five generations of Musick's have pioneered in California and the sixth is off to a fairly good start. The experiences of my long gypsy life in and out of both incorporated and unincorporated towns in California and several other Western states as a teacher and as a printer impels me to state that not a town in Washington Township has anything to gain by incorporation in its present status."

In August 1946 the Incorporation Committee received a blow from the County Clerk, who stated that the County Assessor had found the boundaries as described in the petition were inaccurate and ambiguous. The petition, filed July 18th and bearing the signatures of 147 freeholders of Decoto lacked the required number of signers; described inaccurately the boundaries of the area proposed for incorporation and failed to represent the required valuation percentage of total land involved, according to County clerk G.E. Wade.

Specifically, the petition contained only 19.5% of the 25% of recorded landowners in the district. Further, the value of persons within the described petition area only totaled to 16.07% and not the 25% as required by law.

Boundaries described in the petition were "inaccurate" and "ambiguous," according to findings of the surveyor's office, Wade reported. Supervisors, who temporarily halted the incorporation move by a resolution declaring themselves without further jurisdiction to proceed, directed that Frank C. Nunes Jr., Oakland attorney for the petitioners, be informed of Wade's findings, presumable for correction of the petition.

But Tony Bautista was not one to give up easily. He was ready to defend his cause and the cause of his people. To this end Tony placed the following article into *The Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper on September 6, 1946:

"To All Citizens and Taxpayers of Decoto:

Let's look back to August 12, 1946. At about 12:30 a.m. a citizen was murdered. What is the protection that any citizen of any taxpayer has? Nothing but a lonely moon, if there is one, and a rocky road to go through.

Also let us look back to eight months ago, when Mr. Baptista, member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce at that time put before the members of the Chamber of Commerce a petition for more lighting, which Decoto taxpayers are entitled to through their payment of taxes. Remember, 40 years ago our last street light was installed, it was stated in various meetings.

Getting back to our meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Glassbrook of the Water Department promised improvements. The Water Department has done some improvements for which we are thankful. We feel everything should be appreciated. The Supervisors have promised improvements, but we are still waiting to see them.

Our Chamber of Commerce as an active body of Decoto, what are they doing as regards the safety of our children, and the safety of the taxpayer, where there is not sufficient lights, or stop signs, and there is a need of protecting life after sundown.

To all businessmen or to whom it may concern, you should demand the safety of your children, and the safety of all Decotoans. The Progressive Club of Decoto was organized by a group of people, electing their president, and other officers. The Progressive Club of Decoto has sponsored the move for incorporation of our city, which means more lighting, more policing, and everything else that goes with a city governed by itself. But yet our opposition was very strong. They disapprove of our Progressive Club, but deep in their hearts they don't disapprove of the Progressive Club of Decoto, they fear that \$1.00 per \$100.00 of city taxes.

But which is more important, the \$1.00 per \$100.00 valuation or the safety of our children? Decotoans who fear incorporation and those who favor incorporation wonder if the incorporation has vanished into thin air. But yet today, the incorporation of Decoto stands better than the day it was born.

Sincerely,

PROGRESSIVE CLUB OF DECOTO

By: Tony Bautista"

In December 1946 the Progressive Club decided to regroup and set a path to the incorporation of Decoto. Now the El Progreso del Pueblo organization of Spanish speaking citizens wanted to know the exact sentiment of the residents of the town. So they took to the post card as a way of finding out. They mailed to every one in the town who is eligible to vote a postcard asking them to say yes or no to the question of incorporation. If the response if favorable, another effort would be made to secure the required number of signatures for an election to be held. If the result was unsatisfactory the matter will be dropped for the time at least.

The proponents claim that all of the signatures on the first petition were bona fide property owners, but that some of them had neglected to have their deeds recorded, and thus were disqualified. Manuel Hidalgo and Louis Gutierrez were appointed to contact the school trustees and ask for the use of the school building for their meetings. Considerable trouble developed in this regard last spring.

Whether or not the move to incorporate Decoto will be decided at a public meeting Wednesday night, January 8, 1947 called by Tony Bautista, president of the El Progreso del Pueblo organization of Spanish-speaking citizens, which has been sponsoring the move. The meeting will be held in the basement of the Fourth Street Market at 7:30 p.m. Frank Nunes, Oakland attorney who has been representing the incorporationists during the past year, will be present. The move to incorporate Decoto had been opposed by the Chamber of Commerce. Attempts to bring the matter to a vote failed due to the fact that many of the property owners who signed the incorporation petition were disqualified because they had not recorded their deeds.

After this article I could not find another on the Incorporation of Decoto.

* **WORLD WAR II** *

Pearl Harbor / U.S. Selective Service Classifications / Rationing, a National Outlook / Scrap Drives, a National Outlook / the OPA, a National Outlook / World War II Enemy Aliens / Decoto Men in the Service / Air Raid Wardens / Civil Defense / Local Labor / Niles Draft Board / the OPA, Local Outlook / Red Cross / Rationing and Scrap Drives, Local Outlook / War Bonds / the Decoto Monument

Pearl Harbor:

This morning, December 7, 1941, the Japanese unleashed a sneak attack upon our battle fleet at Pearl Harbor and strategic areas on the island of Hawaii. This was the start of World War II for the U.S.

Four days later, December 11, 1941 Adolph Hitler of Germany and Benito Mussolini of Italy joined Japan in declaring war on the United States.

World War II had officially begun for the United States. But in other parts of the world wars had been raging for a decade. The Japanese had invaded Northeastern China in 1931 setting up the puppet state of Manchuko. The Spanish revolution of 1936 gave Germany a training ground for its new weapons. The NAZI's took over Austria by an 'Anschluss' in 1938 followed by the occupation of Czechoslovakia and finally the outright invasion of Poland in Sept. 1939. In May of 1940, the NAZI's invaded the Low Countries and France, and finally, the NAZI's invaded Russia in June 1941.

Although we were taken by surprise in Hawaii there appears to have been a premonition to the war prior to this date. Alvarado, for instance, had a Ground Observer Corps unit stationed at the Hall Station (the railroad track crossing on the Alvarado Centerville Highway one mile south of the town of Alvarado) as early as September 1941. It was manned by several shifts of Alvarado citizens whose job it was to scan the skies looking for enemy planes. When the weather became colder

this unit was shifted to the guard shack at the gate of the sugar mill on Alquire Road in Alvarado.

The Second World War was in no way similar to the Korean War, the Viet Nam War, the Afghanistan War or the Gulf Wars. For the most part these wars did not create a hardship on the average American family on the home front. During the Second World War commodities were scarce because many goods were earmarked for war usage. Gas was rationed, and there was just enough to get you to work and back. If you planned carefully you might have been able to visit nearby relatives. Tires and new automobiles were almost impossible to get. Our auto industry was turning out tanks, airplanes, Army vehicles and munitions. Most foodstuffs were rationed and if you did not have a ration stamp for the particular commodity you wanted you did without. Meatless meals became the buzzword, as did the term "Victory Garden" to grow your own food.

A further word about life during the big war. In 1941 there was no internet, there was no TV, but there were radios in about 90% of American homes. Of course there were no communication satellites either. News of the attack on Pearl Harbor reached the American people through radio broadcasts on the afternoon of December 7, 1941 hours after the attack had been completed. The attack also coincided with the Japanese attacks on the Philippines, Singapore, and other East Asia areas.

Americans got the news slowly compared to that we are used to today, and the activity of the Japanese running rampant in the Pacific led to hasty and sometimes panicky actions, which are still being second guessed today. The only videos the American citizens could view at the time were the newsreel footage shown at movie theaters. Also during the war President Roosevelt would have his "fireside chats" with the American people detailing the progress of the war.

Registration of the potential manpower in California for America's military services was completed in February 1942, when the third Registration Day during the present emergency was held throughout the state. The State Director of Selective Service pointed out that it affects every male resident in California between the ages of 20 to 45, with a few exceptions made by Congress. All male persons not previously registered, who attained their 20th birthday on or before December 31, 1941, and who have not attained their 45th birthday on or before February 16, 1942 had to register at one of the registration places between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on the registration days.

U.S. Selective Service Draft Classifications:

Draft registrants were classified in four general groups from I to IV, with subdivisions under the first and last. Class I is the first to be called, in general, Class II the second and so on. The keys to the classification are these:

- I-A Available and fit for general military service
- I-B Available and fit for limited military service
- I-C Members of the land and naval forces
- I-D Students fit for general military service
- I-E Students fit for limited military service, available later
- II-A Men necessary in civilian activity
- III-A Men with dependents
- IV-A Men who have completed service
- IV-B Officials deferred by law

- IV-C Non-declarant aliens
- IV-D Minister of religion or divinity student
- IV-E Conscientious objector
- IV-F Unfit for military service

This was the criterion for the drafting of young men into the armed forces of the United States. Draft Boards (which had already been in effect) geared up for the induction of boys into the service. The Induction Notices were mailed out with the date and the place where the inductee was to report for their physical inspection.

Rationing, a National Outlook:

With the onset of World War II, numerous challenges confronted the American people. The government found it necessary to ration food, gas, and even clothing during that time. Americans were asked to conserve on everything.

In the spring of 1942, the Food Rationing Program was set into motion. Rationing would deeply affect the American way of life for most. The federal government needed to control supply and demand. Rationing was introduced to avoid public anger with shortages and to curtail the power of the wealthy to purchase commodities.

While industry and commerce were affected, individuals felt the effects more intensely. People were often required to give up many material goods, but there also was an increase in employment. Joining together to support and maintain supply levels for the troops abroad meant making daily adjustments. Their efforts also included scrap drives, taking factory jobs, goods donations and other similar projects to assist those on the front.

Government-sponsored ads, radio shows, posters and pamphlet campaigns urged the American people to comply. With a sense of urgency, the campaigns appealed to Americans to contribute by whatever means they had, without complaint. The propaganda was a highly effective tool in reaching the masses.

Rationing regulated the amount of commodities that consumers could obtain. In one of the ironies of this war sugar (an Alvarado product) was on the ration list.

Registration usually took place in local schools. Each family was asked to send only one member for registration and be prepared to describe all other family members. Coupons were distributed based on family size, and the coupon book allowed the holder to buy a specified amount. Possession of a coupon book did not guarantee that the commodity would be available. Americans learned to utilize what was available during rationing time.

While some food items were scarce, others did not require rationing, and Americans adjusted accordingly. "Red Stamp" rationing covered all meats, butter, fat, and oils, and with some exceptions, cheese. Each person was allowed a certain amount of points weekly with expiration dates to consider. "Blue Stamp" rationing covered canned, bottled, frozen fruits and vegetables, plus juices and dry beans, and such processed foods as soups, baby food and ketchup. Ration stamps became a kind of currency with each family being issued a "War Ration Book." Each stamp authorized a purchase of rationed goods in the quantity and time designated, and the book guaranteed each family its fair share of goods made scarce because of the war.

Rationing also was determined by a point system. Some grew weary of trying to figure out what coupon went with which item, or how many points they needed to purchase them, while some coupons did not require points at all.

In addition to food, rationing encompassed clothing, shoes, coffee, gasoline, tires, and fuel oil. With each coupon book came specifications and deadlines. Rationing locations were posted in public view. Rationing of gas and tires strongly depended on the distance to one's job. If one was fortunate enough to own an automobile and drive at the then specified speed of 35 mph, one might have a small amount of gas remaining at the end of the month to visit nearby relatives.

Rationing resulted in one serious side effect: the black market, where people could buy rationed items on the sly, but at higher prices. The practice provoked mixed reactions from those who banded together to conserve as instructed, as opposed to those who fed the black market's subversion and profiteering. For the most part, black marketers dealt in clothing and liquor in Britain, and meat, sugar and gasoline in the United States.

While life during the war meant daily sacrifice, few complained because they knew it was the men and women in uniform who were making the greater sacrifice. A poster released by the Office of War Information stated simply, "Do with less so they'll have enough." And yet another pleaded, "Be patriotic, sign your country's pledge to save the food." On the whole, the American people were united in their efforts.

Recycling was born with the government's encouragement. Saving aluminum cans meant more ammunition for the soldiers. Economizing initiatives seemed endless as Americans were urged to conserve and recycle metal, paper and rubber. War Bonds and stamps were sold to provide war funds, and the American people also united through volunteerism. Communities joined together to hold scrap-iron drives, and schoolchildren pasted saving stamps into bond books.

Others planted "Victory Gardens" to conserve food. For a small investment in soil, seed and time, families could enjoy fresh vegetables for months. By 1945, an estimated 20 million victory gardens produced approximately 40 percent of America's vegetables.

Training sessions were held to teach women how to shop wisely, conserve food and plan nutritious meals, as well as teach them how to can food items. The homemaker planned family meals within the set limits. The government's persuasion of people to give up large amounts of red meats and fats resulted in healthier eating.

The government also printed a monthly meal-planning guide with recipes and a daily menu. Good Housekeeping magazine printed a special section for rationed foods in its 1943 cookbook. Numerous national publications also featured articles explaining what rationing meant to America.

Then there were the food manufacturers who cleverly used advertising to their advantage of wartime shortages by flaunting their patriotism. The familiar blue box of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese Dinner gained great popularity as a substitute for meat and dairy products. Two boxes required only one rationing coupon, which resulted in 80 million boxes sold in 1943. Food substitutions became evident with real butter being replaced with Oleomargarine. Cottage cheese took on a new significance as a

substitute for meat, with sales exploding from 110 million pounds in 1930 to 500 million pounds in 1944.

After three years of rationing, World War II came to a welcome end. Rationing, however, did not end until 1946. Life resumed as normal and the consumption of meat, butter, and sugar inevitably rose.

Scrap Drives, a National Outlook:

World War II was an industrial war. And metals were needed to build the weapons that won the War. The shortage of rubber was the most serious impediment to the Allied war effort, but metals of all kinds were also needed and in huge quantities. Building tanks, ships, planes, and other weapons required massive amounts of metals, more than any other war in history.

An Army Sherman M-4 tank required more than 20 tons of metal. A Navy battleship needed more than 900 tons. And building the world's largest Air Force meant that aluminum would be needed in unprecedented quantities. Thus the Government, after Pearl Harbor, either cut off the supply of metal to the consumer or strictly rationed it. Everything from barbed wire to farm equipment was rationed. Kids were unable to get bicycles, tricycles, and pedal cars, both because of the metal and the rubber.

Expanding mine production took time. And increasing imports meant that ships had to be built which also took time. But there was metal that was immediately available.

One estimate suggests that 1.5 million tons of scrap lay useless on U.S. farms. And there were also large quantities in the cities as well. The Government urged Americans to turn in scrap metal for recycling, and schools and community groups like the Scouts across the country held scrap metal drives.

Celebrities pitched in to help promote these drives. The metals that could be obtained through scrap drives included aluminum, copper, iron, nickel, steel, and tin. Given the need for aluminum for aircraft production, drives were launched for old pots, cans, and even tin foil was collected. People saved tin foil from gum wrappers. Often they made tin foil balls, which were taken to the collection sites.

The Victory Key campaign was launched as some keys (especially Yale and Corbin) contained large quantities of nickel needed by the Navy. Americans got caught up in the patriotic feeling and sometimes brought historic cannons or even monuments to the collection sites that after the War they wished they had saved.

The OPA, a National Outlook:

The OPA (Office of Price Administration) became an independent agency under the Emergency Price Control Act of January 30, 1942. The OPA had the power to place ceilings on all prices except agricultural commodities, and to ration scarce supplies of other items, including tires, automobiles, shoes, nylon, sugar, gasoline, fuel oil, coffee, meats and processed foods. At the peak, almost 90% of retail food prices were frozen. It could also authorize subsidies for production of some of those commodities.

When the OPA came on the scene in 1942 price control was foreign to many people. Radios were still not in every home in the U.S. Hence word had to get out about the OPA. Local Boy Scouts delivered an OPA leaflet entitled: "What you should know

About Price Control." Its intent was to get everyone on board in accepting price controls and not becoming involved in black marketing or price gouging.

The Washington Township War Price and Rationing Board tried to educate the public that the OPA were assisting dealers and consumers, rather than "snooping" on them. 14 volunteer assistants to the price panel were appointed in Washington Township to instruct the public on the duties and the mission of the OPA.

As with many of the U.S. Government information services for the public many were volunteers to aid in educating their fellow Americans. Service award certificates from the Office of Price Administration were presented to these volunteers based upon their service. Topping the list for the Washington Township War Price and Rationing Board was Mrs. Blake Hill of Alvarado with 940 hours of volunteer service.

Did these agencies take their jobs seriously? You bet they did! American boys were dying in Europe, North Africa, and the Pacific. The Japanese even had a foothold in the Aleutian Islands in North America. Nonsense, black marketing, and consumer fraud was not tolerated in the U.S. during the Second World War!

World War II Enemy Aliens:

This part of World War II is one of the most regretted actions by the U.S. done upon some of its citizens. Soon after the Japanese bombing of December 7th, and the subsequent Japanese running wild over most of the Pacific Theater, the U.S. gained its equilibrium and started into action an effort to drive the Japanese back to their home islands.

At the beginning of 1942 the issue about what to do with enemy aliens (Germans, Italians, and Japanese) in the U.S. arose. A census of enemy aliens and where they lived and worked was begun. By the middle of February it was determined that there were about 235 enemy aliens that had registered at the Niles Justice Court (as was required after the start of the war). It was pointed out that many enemy alien residents of Washington Township had registered at other points and, in some cases, in other counties. Of the number registered at Niles about 190 were Japanese, 40 were Italian and 5 were German.

At this same time there was a drive in Northern California to capture enemy aliens thought to be "potentially dangerous." The raids netted 182 Japanese, Italians and Germans. The majority of the numbers were Japanese.

Hints of a possible mass evacuation of Japanese aliens from California and other Pacific coast defense areas to abandoned CCC Camps was received in the East Bay on February 21, 1942 as a special Congressional committee meeting in San Francisco opened hearings into the enemy alien population. California State Attorney General Earl G. Warren, appearing before the committee headed by Rep. John Tolan of Oakland, warned, "We too, will have a Pearl Harbor unless something is done immediately. California is the most likely objective of the first blow of fifth columnists."

Warren says he believed the greatest potential threat lies with American born Japanese, and not Japanese Aliens. He said that all enforcement officers with whom he has consulted are of similarly convinced. There are twice as many Japanese who are United States citizens, he said. And the majority of Japanese aliens, he added,

are elderly, about 55 years of age. He asserted that while the aliens have become "far removed" from their native land, many of their children have gone to Japan for their education and have become "indoctrinated with the ideas and policies of Japanese Imperialism."

The operation started out as a logical plan to safeguard American citizens from a possible fifth column attack degraded into a witch-hunt. Jack Gleason, Chief of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department revealed on February 28, 1942 portions of the contents of a Tokyo published dictionary of the Kendyusha Japanese Language School at Alvarado.

Gleason was the authority for the statement that the text had been used there and had been found in the possession of M. Tsutsui, secretary of a Japanese association who was taken into custody on February 21st. After stating in the foreword "should an emergency arise, offer yourselves courageously to the State; and thus guard and maintain the prosperity of our Imperial Throne co-equal with heaven and earth," the text adds.

"The way here set forth is indeed the teaching bequeathed by our Imperial Ancestors, to be observed alike by their descendants and the subjects, infallible for all ages and true in all places."

"The text was apparently written primarily for Japanese subjects but had been utilized," Gleason said, "in local language schools."

By March 5th the state of California had mapped the locations of Japanese households. The maps showed that Alameda County's 1,785 alien and 3,382 American-born Japanese were settled on property along main railroad lines, adjacent to the Livermore airport, entirely around the Newark power station, along the Hetch-Hetchy aqueduct at Mission San Jose, near approaches to both the Dumbarton and San Mateo-Mt. Eden bridges, and adjacent to the Alvarado sugar refinery. (Apparently no thought was given to the fact that the Japanese may have lived near where they were employed.)

Two days later F.B.I. Agents and deputies from the Hayward Sheriff's Substation, armed with presidential warrants, conducted raids in Southern Alameda County and arrested two Japanese aliens. Arrested was Jingo Takeuchi, 54, Box 215, Alvarado, father of eight children, who said he formerly taught in a local Japanese language school, but now is a carpenter by trade. The only contraband found in his home, it was reported, was an eight-inch dagger. Also taken into custody was Tsuno Minoru, 57 year-old farmer of Alvarado, father of six children, of Box 154 Alvarado. The two men were booked enroute to immigration authorities.

Speculation grew on March 9th whether the Southern Alameda County hamlet of Alvarado was a pre-war nerve center of the dreaded Black Dragon Society, as Japanese groups in San Francisco quarreled among themselves in an attempt to achieve unity on an evacuation plan. From one quarter came the report that while Alvarado was the "ostensible" National Headquarters of the half-century old group whose "front" organization was the mysterious Military Virtue Society or Botoku-kai, San Francisco furnished the actual directive force. This theory was supported by Sheriff Gleason who declared that it was "merely a coincidence" that some of the Black Dragon leaders lived in Alvarado, and that it was a remote control organization with financial and administrative headquarters in San Francisco.

There were some calls for calm from organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union of New York City who asked its California branches to seek moderation in evacuating Japanese to internment camps. It stressed its position that the Japanese should receive individual hearings before relocation. But this too was for naught, for eventually the Japanese were rounded up and sent off to camps around the West.

A month or so ago, when the prohibited zones for Japanese residents was created on the West Coast, many Japanese moved into Washington Township. Now the tide is running the other way. Japanese families are moving into the interior and the regular Japanese students in the Township are running the other way. In March 1942, Decoto had five students (out of 379) who were Japanese.

The 1940 Census showed Decoto had five persons of Japanese ancestry: Kumamoto, Yokoshiro, relocation record for detention not found Ushijima, Sugino, George, Harry & James, relocated to Central Utah, Abraham.

Decoto Men in the Service:

The following men were identified as being inducted into the U.S. Service. Unfortunately this is not a complete list. Persons whose names appear in bold red print signify they died in the war. The date associated with the name is the date of the newspaper article, not the date of their death.

Nicholas F. Martin 06/40	Edward Olivas 01/41	Rocha Cambra 01/41
August R. Duarte 02/41	Philip Caraballo 02/41	Russell Thurman 02/41
George E. Silva 02/41	Leonard Conklin 02/41	Julius Ramos 03/41
Bennie Santiago 03/41	Dan S. Hopkins 05/41	George J. Silva 05/41
Anthony Dutra 06/41	Aurio Nieves 07/41	Delbert Costa 07/41
Joseph Roderick 07/41	Phillip Valenzuela 07/41	Anthony Escalona 07/41
Walter Duran 07/41	Frank Paniagua 07/41	Raymond Montes 07/41
Joseph Kiles Jr. 07/41	Lester Mederos 07/41	LeRoy Naia 07/41
Ignacio Hernandez 07/41	Jesus Hernandez 07/41	Frank Sanchez 07/41
Thomas Whipple 07/41	Peter Gilli 07/41	Primmitivo Delgado 09/41
Ignacio Garciduenos 10/41	Fernando Santiago 10/41	Raymond Montes 11/41
Lester G. Watkins 03/42	Lawrence Rose 08/43	Joseph Escalona 12/43
Frank Silva 01/44	Earl Maderos 01/44	Manuel Enos 01/44
Milton Castro 01/44	Ken Santiago 02/43	Mauro Bautista 05/44
Peter L. Corchero 02/44	Charles Y. Gallegos 08/44	Florentino Delgado 09/44
William W. Rose 01/45	Joseph Delgado 01/45	Valentino Delgado 01/45
Julio Delgado 01/45	Leo M. Moore 03/45	David Castro 06/45
John M. Ferrante 03/45	Vernon Vargas 04/45	Joseph Udovick 06/45
H.J. Ariza 11/45	Frank G. Perez 11/45	John Martinez 11/45
Jesus Valencia 12/45	Edward Bettencourt 12/45	Riley Bailey Sr. 12/45
Manuel Hernandez 12/45	Joseph Janeiro 12/45	J.G. Duarte 12/45
Tony Paniagua 01/46	Gregory O. Garcia 01/46	John Ferrante 01/46
Richard Kelly 01/46	Louis Pagan 03/46	J.A. Grandstaff 03/46
Louis Goularte 03/46	Manuel Boliba 04/46	James L. Siba 04/46
Eddie Caldeira 05/46	Salvador Orozco 05/46	Tony G. Lopez 05/46
Henry Borghi 06/46	Joe Medina 06/46	George Fields Jr. 04/42
Joe Sanchez, 05/44	Pedro Jiminez 10/47	Joseph Del Toro 07/49
Andrew Arroyo 08/49		

Air Raid Wardens:

The Niles and Decoto Sheriff's Deputies met in Decoto pm December 26, 1941, to perfect their plans and organization with school Principal L.W. Musick in charge. Sector wardens were assigned and a census of every home in each deputy's sector, with their names, was ordered. Some 35 citizens volunteered their services at the Decoto meeting, but had no assignment given to them.

Air Raid Black Out Instructions:

By Lewis W. Musick, Decoto Chief Deputy:

The Decoto area is divided up into 21 convenient areas of control. Each area has several wardens who will assist the residents of Decoto carry out regulation AIR RAID ORDERS. An understanding of mutual benefit should exist between the residents and the wardens. The wardens, in turn, are to cooperate with local fireman and regular Alameda County Officials.

The present emergency is not an occasion for the establishment of officiousness on the part of the wardens or citizens. Our STRENGTH will depend upon how well we are able to work together under sudden pressure.

Central Location for Decoto is the Fire House Air Raid Warning Signal: (Several short blasts on fire siren!)

When Sounded at Night:

1. 62 Wardens assume responsibility for assisting residents of Decoto completely blacking out the town.
2. All lights visible outside must be put out.
3. If lights are left on in the house, the shades must be constructed and installed so that no light can be seen on the outside
4. All automobile must be parked at the side of the road immediately so that the progress of emergency vehicles will not be delayed in any way.
5. Car lights must be turned out at the time of parking. Make sure your foot is not resting on the brake pedal for that would turn on your stop light.
6. Do not use flashlights, strike matches, or smoke in an open area.
7. Above all, stay inside until the "all-clear" signal has been sounded.

When Sounded During the Day:

1. Those who do not have definite outside responsibility should stay inside. Fewer people will be endangered.
2. Roads must be kept open for emergency traffic.
3. At School:
 - A. Continued short bell ringing directs students to a special air raid shelter positions in the building.
 - B. When school is not in regular session, 5 (five) short bells signal pupils to form fire drill lines in the yard preparatory to additional directions.
 - C. When pupils are not in class, 2 (two) long bells signal pupils to three corners of the school yard. This would not be necessary unless the school building became completely unsafe.
 - D. No student is to go home unless he has received instructions to do so.
 - E. Each class must leave its room in order as in a fire drill.
 - F. No pupils are to return to class rooms until the "all clear" signal has been given.

G. GENERAL:

1. If an air raid should come while your children are at school, see to your own safety. Stay home, go to your refuge room, and stay away from windows.
2. Do not try to reach the school. You could accomplish no good. You could do a great deal of harm by such action.
3. If an air raid, Rule No. 1 is to stay off of the street, get under cover. On the street there is risk of falling shell fragments, racing cars, and fire apparatus. Stay indoors.
4. Do not try to telephone. The wires must be kept clear for the wardens, the police, and the fire department. You might prevent an urgent message from getting through.
5. This is hard advice. It is not easy to take. But it is for your best interest and the welfare of your children.

Approximately 500 assistant air raid wardens were up signed for duty and undergoing a strenuous course of training for their work. Each individual session was held under the auspices of their respective chief wardens with the county coordinator attending to give all necessary help and instruction.

Throughout the entire area the workers were drilled in the need for courtesy in meeting the public. Each assistant warden has been asked to personally visit all those within his area. He was asked to know them personally in a "Hi neighbor" policy. It has also been asked that each assistant warden make a survey to learn the names of every resident within his district, the type of house, how many are living in it, and all the vital industrial centers that may be targets of saboteurs. The Chief Air Raid Warden for Decoto was L.W. Musick, who was in charge of 21 sectors.

Chief Sheriff's Deputy, Lewis Musick, announces the town has been districted for air raid and black out work with deputies and wardens assigned as follows:

AREA I:

Name	Address	Name	Address
Eddie Goularte	101 A St.	Tony Dias	406 8 th St.

AREA II:

David Janeiro	227 3 rd St.	William Graves	2 nd & Whipple
J.P. Caldeira	405 1 st St.	Tony Escalona	5 th @ Kelly
Henry Rivera	"C" @ 1 st	John Murdock	414 4 th St.

AREA III:

Joe Seane	331 1 st St.
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AREA IV:

Joseph Andrade	609 2 nd St.	Delmer Martinez	701 2 nd St.
Ray Monte	701 3 rd St.	Manuel Bernard	309 4 th St.

AREA V:

Kenneth Garcia	519 4 th St.	Elmer Dennis	701 4 th St.
Ralph Leiva	707 4 th St.	Frank Leiva	707 4 th St.
Manuel Seoane	710 6 th St.	Sammy Cortez	532 9 th St.

Edmond Francis 609 7th St. Bill Morales 529 4th St.

AREA VI:

Tony Costa 703 Decoto Road Manuel White 806 6th St.
L.W. Musick 602 H St. H.A. Searles 725 8th St.

AREA VII:

Lester Watkins 505 R.R. Ave. Walter Walker 409 R.R. Ave.
Charles Brown 1006 D St. Arthur Swenson 500 11th St.
Bernie Joseph 403 R.R. Ave.

AREA VIII:

Richard Silva 627 R.R. Ave. Eddie Bettencourt 701 R.R. Ave.
Herb Brown 600 11th St.

AREA IX:

George Fields 807 10th St. Marion Delgado 718 11th St.
Byron Justus 701 10th St.

AREA X:

Alfred Ferreira 807 10th St. Henry Hernandez 815 10th St.

AREA XI:

Ralph Garcia 933 10th St. Clyde Lewis 913 11th St.
John Garcia 919 11th St. George Smith 907 10th St.
Renaldo Caminada 1001 11th St.

Name Address Name Address

AREA XII:

Paul Pagan 725 12th St.

AREA XIII:

David Arribas 723 13th St. Joseph D. Andrade 727 12th St.

AREA XIV:

Manuel Silva 813 14th St.

AREA XV:

Gallo Gonzalez 718 15th St.

AREA XI:

Ray Perry 901 12th St. Charles Nunes 927 12th St.
Bill Enos 940 12th St. Clarence Freitas 905 12th St.

Area XII:

Carl & Louis Zwissig Niles Road Adolphus Rose Niles Road

Area XIII:

John Flores End of lane at the Steel Plant

AREA XIX:

Jessie Perry Bell Ranch Road (Decoto Road) RFD Box 375
Manuel Rose Bell Ranch Road (Decoto Road) RFD Box 376

Antone B. Vierra Bell Ranch Road (Decoto Road) RFD Box 373

AREA XX:

Ernest Perry Creek Road near Alvarado Line (Alvarado Niles Road)
Joe Maciel Creek Road

AREA XXI:

H.F. Harrold Whipple Road
Charles Dana Whipple Road
John Howard Whipple Road

Deputy Sheriff Pete Starisinic, coordinator of Civilian Defense in Washington Township, announced in Hayward that Deputy District Attorney Leonard J. Meltzer would address a mass meeting of Niles, Alvarado and Decoto air raid wardens Friday night, January 13, 1942 at the Decoto Grammar School. Meltzer will discuss work of the air raid wardens and their equipment, Starisinic said.

Civil Defense:

The formation of a Southern Alameda County Citizens Defense Committee was underway on July 4, 1941 and the start was begun with the naming of a coordinating council. Paul Garcia, Decoto Fire Captain, and L.W. Musick, Decoto Grammar School Principal were named on committee from Decoto. The citizen's defense committee was tasked with setting procedures and an infrastructure to deal with a major disaster or an enemy invasion.

Alameda County Sheriff Jack Gleason deputized 100 township men in Alvarado on September 15, 1941, and an almost same number in Pleasanton, as this county marches forward in the drive to be ready for any defense emergency. The two communities have been conducting classes during the last three months preparing the men. Two thousand fingers (with but a few missing here and there) were massaged over a fingerprinting pad Monday night as 100 emergency deputy sheriffs were organized at Alvarado under the direction of Division Chief Douglass Webb and Detective Richard E. Condon of the Hayward substation. Each man had to be fingerprinted twice, once for Alameda County Records and once for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A total of 1,702 postal cards were mailed to Civilian Defense registrants in Southern Alameda County, more than half of them in Hayward, notifying of the first of the basic training meetings to be held on February 2, 1942. Division Chief Douglass Webb of the Hayward Sheriff's substation, who is in charge, reported that training in all phases of the Civilian Defense program will be started Tuesday, January 3, 1942, evening and will continue each Tuesday and Friday evening for a total of ten courses.

Courses to be provided have been listed as follows:

- 1) Civilian Defense plan, extinguishing small fires.
- 2) Incendiary bombs and their effect.
- 3) Explosive bombs and their effect.
- 4) Chemical warfare and its effect.
- 5) Equipment and duties of Civilian Defense wardens.
- 6) First aid, communication, identification of person and property and public relations.

L.W. Musick and Jack Prouty, grammar school principals at Decoto and Irvington have returned home after a 65-hour course in chemical warfare conducted under the auspices of the War Department at Stanford University in April 1942. They are now certified as teachers on the subject and will probably arrange classes under the civilian defense council in this district. Training was given in aerial attack gas defense, incendiary defense plant protection, citizen defense corps and special subjects. Night demonstrations augmented classroom instruction.

Two announcements of importance were made during the week of April 26, 1942 at a meeting of the Washington Township Co-coordinating Committee of the Civilian Defense Council, one was the scheduling of a series of chemical warfare demonstrations and the other was officially designating first aid and warden headquarters. Deputy Sheriff Pete Starisinic said that the official headquarters for air raid wardens in each town have been established at the fire halls except at Niles where the office of the water company will serve, and at Alvarado, Warm Springs and Alviso where wardens have established headquarters at grammar schools. Demonstrations of gas bombs, incendiary fires and other matters of interest to civilians will be given at each town. In Decoto it will be given at the Decoto Grammar School on May 20, 1942.

A concerted effort on the part of Washington Township civic organizations to obtain special bus service in July 1942 for local defense workers employed in the Oakland area showed promises of success. Representatives of the Peerless Stage Co. have expressed a willingness to cooperate if sufficient patronage is assured and permission can be secured from proper government authorities for additional buses. Arrangements are being handled by a committee composed of Joe Pashote and the Rev. Jackson L. Webster of Newark, Manuel Lewis of Centerville, Manuel Seane of Decoto, Carl Christensen and Wayne Day of Irvington and Frank Machado of Alvarado. Endorsement of the program has been expressed in letters to the Peerless Stage Company from the Newark Sportsmen and Booster Club, the Centerville Lions Club, the Decoto Booster's Club. The Niles Chamber of Commerce will lend its cooperation as well.

One of the biggest civil disasters of the Second World War in the Bay Area occurred on July 17, 1944 in Port Chicago. Munitions were being loaded onto a cargo ship when an explosion suddenly ripped through the port. A reported 377 persons died in the blast with an additional 300 others injured. Tony Bolivia of Decoto is one of the lucky survivors of the blast.

An eyewitness to the blast said, "I was sitting in my truck, waiting for a train to pass and watching the Marine guard, about half a mile from the scene. Suddenly the whole countryside lit up brighter than day. I saw what looked like a gigantic smoke ring, all varicolored, red and blue and green and orange and purple. It seemed like every color in the world, and went up and up into the air and then suddenly came showering down like a waterfall. The next thing I knew I was blown through the right hand door of the truck. I don't remember opening the door. If I had hit on the left side of the truck I would have been killed as a heavy steel flange fell right there and imbedded itself more than a foot in the earth."

"I finally got up and got back into the truck but when I started to back up the truck was caught in a tangle of fallen wires. I finally managed to drive it away. Every window in my truck and in all the cars for miles around were broken. Steel tops on cars were caved in. I stayed around for a while helping with the dead and wounded,

many injured who were able to walk were helping others more seriously hurt. Many had their clothes almost entirely torn off. I gave my extra coverall to one nearly naked Negro workman."

"There was no disorder. Everyone seemed stunned. Finally I left to start for Hayward, as I was afraid my wife might worry. When I passed through Concord all the windows in the downtown section were broken and at Walnut Creek many more windows had been broken by the blast."

Local Labor:

The fall of 1942 left many farmers wondering where they would get labor to harvest their crops.

- 1) Mrs. Edith Whipple, operating a 200-acre ranch at Decoto wonders, as do many other farmers, where tomato pickers and other harvesters are to be found. She and her son Keith, a student at U.C. Davis, have just completed the hay harvesting during which neighbor girls supplemented the harvester crew. Miss Vivian Logan, San Jose State College student, operated the binder.
- 2) L.W. Musick, principal of the Decoto Grammar School and Niles Rotarian, is spending the summer working in the Salz Warehouse at Decoto, and Arthur Swensen, one of his teachers, is employed at the Pacific States Steel plant at Niles.
- 3) Nobody knew just where all the workers are coming from for the September harvest of tomatoes, sugar beets, walnuts and prunes. But nobody knew where the apricot cutters, pickers and dry yard crews were coming from, but the cots are finished and few if any were left to spoil.

In September 1942 Oakland canneries and Woodland area tomato growers gave the most urgent appeal for workers to get the essential crop from the fields and into cans for the National's Armed Forces, for lend-lease and for home consumption and health. The canneries were caught shorthanded by an influx of ripe crops registered their immediate need for 350 more day and night workers and the growers put in a call for 300 pickers. With 200 students in harvesting work, Decoto Grammar School postponed school opening for the second time. The new date for school to open was October 5, 1942.

The first contingent of what may prove to be part of the National Student Land army to harvest food for the United Nations was attempted in Washington Township during the week of September 27, 1942. Experimental importation of 100 San Francisco high school boys to pick tomatoes here is being watched with interest by farmers, labor-employer groups and schoolmen. Discussion as to the efficacy of student labor has marked Farm Bureau meetings for several months. The answer on the whole, is favorable.

Students from the local high and elementary schools took part, several having postponed opening until October 5th. Lewis Musick, principal of the Decoto School says 200 of his students are in the fields. Ninety out of 220 enrolled at Irvington are employed in the harvest, says Jack Prouty, principal. Arthur Villalobos, 15, at Irvington, picks 70 boxes of tomatoes in a day at 11 cents a box. Most of the boys interviewed like the setup. Two who saw a greener hill yonder in the cannery decided to stop picking, they were sent home.

At the end of September 1942 the long-awaited imported Mexican laborers would top beets in Southern Alameda County if the area's allotment of 75 workers arrives on schedule. The first contingent of the workers brought in to relieve the farm labor shortage was by agreement of the Mexican and American governments. They are due to arrive in Stockton where trucks were ready to transport them to three camps in Washington Township. Beet growers and officials of the U.S. Employment Service Monday requested of Washington Union High School authorities the continued use of facilities at the Centerville School for the contingent of San Francisco students due Saturday. They would be shifted from tomatoes to sugar beets. The high school will open Monday on a minimum day basis to permit students who work in the fields in the afternoons. To continue student harvest help, Mission San Jose and Warm Springs Grammar Schools delayed the start of the fall term another week. Irvington, Decoto and Alvarado Grammar Schools have already postponed the opening of the school.

The war years continued to be plagued by labor shortages in the field. In July 1944 a cry went out for help to can apricots and carrots in local canneries of the Hayward and Southern Alameda County area. There was an acute shortage of help that grew more acute as the season advanced.

The major canneries of Southern Alameda County, the Hunt Brothers at Hayward, the F. E. Booth Cannery at Centerville, and the Jos. Pearce cannery at Decoto all suffered from labor shortages from 1942 to through 1945.

To compound labor problems Mexican Nationals went on strike September 1, 1944 at the L.E. Bailey bean fields in Decoto with a demand for a half-cent increase a pound. The problems were ironed out in a process that included the exclusion of seven alleged troublemakers who were sent back to WFA headquarters in San Jose after they refused to work for the prevailing wage of 2¢. The approximate 25 workers remaining on the jobs average over \$10 a day, Prouty says. And those who complete the harvest will receive a bonus of a further cent a pound.

Niles Draft Board:

The first peace-time conscription act (draft board) required men to sign up at the local draft board headquarters in Niles. On the first day, October 16, 1940, 2,559 men signed up in Washington and Murray townships. Two-hundred and sixty-four men signed up from Decoto.

On July 25, 1941, 10 numbers were drawn in the Nation's second draft lottery at Washington. The second lottery call of the draft saw one man called from Washington Township, an Alvarado youth, Yoshio Nakagawara."

Registration of the potential manpower in California for America's military services would be completed February 14 thru 16, 1942, when the third R-Day (Registration Day) during the present emergency is held throughout the state. Brigadier General Joseph Donovan, State Director of Selective Service, today pointed out that it effects every male resident in California between the military ages of 20 and 45, with a few exceptions made by Congress.

The registrations places for the Niles Draft Board, No. 75 are:
Altamont: Library Building

Livermore:	Arroyo Sanitarium, U.S. Veterans Facility, City Hall Medical Building
Pleasanton:	City Hall
Dublin:	Hotel
Sunol:	Sunol Grammar School
Alvarado:	I.O.O.F. Hall
Decoto:	Decoto Grammar School
Irvington:	Irvington Grammar School
Centerville:	Centerville Justice Court
Mission San Jose:	Solon Building
Newark:	Newark Fire House
Niles:	Niles Justice Court
Warm Springs:	Springs Grammar School

U.S. Commissioner Dudley Nebeker issued a batch of 134-arrest warrants for draft delinquents on April 10, 1942. Among the names was one young man from Decoto.

By mid April 1942 approximately 2,400 men between the ages of 45 and 65 were expected to appear at the Niles Draft Board, No. 75 for the fourth registration, April 25 thru 27, 1942 according to Judge Allen G. Norris, board chairman. All men whose 45th birthday has occurred on or before February 16th and whose 65th birthday came after April 27, 1942, are required to register. In Decoto the location to register was the Decoto Grammar School.

The OPA, Local Outlook:

The Office of Price Administration was instituted to control wages and prices during the WWII. In August 1943 the OPA set Establishment of a ceiling wage of 17¢ a box for round canning tomatoes. Pear shaped tomatoes, which are smaller and more difficult to pick, will have a 21¢ ceiling. Growers are prohibited, under the penalty of \$1,000 fine or one-year imprisonment from paying more than the ceiling price except where special permission has obtained. Such was the power of the OPA during the war.

To inform the public of the OPA's mission, letters were sent to 38 grocers and about 200 other dealers regarding the price control program in Washington Township. The request for co-operation was made by George Coit chairman of the price panel. The OPA volunteers would conduct surveys and instruct dealers how to prevent a dealer from being fined through an inadvertent violation of the price regulation. Dealers had to post a price list for products being sold and consumers were being told to check all prices with the community price list to be posted in each store. Surveys will begin this week by the following volunteers: From Decoto, Mrs. Alwyn Searles and Mrs. Harvey Granger.

Treble damages in the amount of \$72,431.40, with an injunction against further alleged violations of Office of Price Administration regulations were asked October 3, 1945, in the U.S. District Court against the Jos. Pearce Canning Company of Decoto. The complaint alleges the defendant sold canned diced carrots, tomato puree and spinach at over ceiling prices to civilian purchasers. The total overcharge on these particular sales being \$7,420.89. The complaint further alleges that the defendant sold diced carrots and spinach to buyers for various procurement agencies of the U.S. Government at over-ceiling prices totaling \$16,722.01. The damages sued for represent three times the combined totals of actual overcharges.

A treble damage suit for \$1,106,414 was filed by the Office of Price Administration in San Francisco August 29, 1946, against the New Colma Mill and Lumber Company of California, which also allegedly operates a planing mill and lumberyard at Decoto. The suit charges the firm with violating price regulations in the sale of 13,000,000 board feet of lumber to customers throughout the United States. The Main Office was listed as 569 Market St., San Francisco. The company also had a retail lumberyard in Daly City, with several subsidiary sawmills and or concentration yards.

The suit charges:

1. Violation of ceiling prices for ponderosa pine and allied species shipped from mills and concentration yards.
2. Violation of retail ceiling prices after April 23, 1946, the date on which the Decoto yard qualified as a retail yard.
3. Alleged overcharges of \$6,000 in above-ceiling sales from the Decoto yard after April 23rd by reason of the practice of selling 1 5/8 inch lumber as 1 3/4 inch lumber.

The suit alleges that the defendants shipped lumber directly from concentration yards to customers and issued false invoices under the heading of the Daly City retail yard, thereby taking what apparently was the retail markup allowed the Daly City yard. This was a price in excess of the ceiling price permitted concentration yards, the suit alleges, and involved \$306,000 in overcharges.

In addition, the government agency asserted that the lumber was shipped out of the Decoto yard prior to its qualification as a retail yard on April 23rd, and was improperly billed out of the Daly City retail yard at the retail markup. Overcharges amounted to \$20,000 in this instance, the OPA alleges.

Red Cross:

On December 19, 1941, the ladies of Decoto met at the grammar school to organize a Red Cross unit, and do their part for the War relief effort.

A new Red Cross sewing room was established at Decoto on December 26, 1941, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Emma Amaral with 20 women present. As with all emergency situations, the Red Cross is there to help and they rely on help from volunteers. Within weeks after the start of the war the Red Cross established sewing rooms to furnish bandages and dressing for the Nursing Emergency Services. This brings the number of sewing rooms in the Township to six.

In keeping with President Roosevelt's goal of \$50,000,000 for the Red Cross, the Washington Township Red Cross is busy working to meet its goal of \$5,000 in January 1942. Township chairman Frank Dusterberry has named Harry Searles to lead money effort for the town of Decoto.

In conjunction with Red Cross activities after the start of the war the Nursing Emergency Service, organized under the direction of the Alameda County Health Department, a corps of approximately 30 graduate nurses was assigned duties in the county area. In charge of the Washington Township nurses was Mrs. Edna Ebright. The graduate nurse in charge of the town of Decoto was Mrs. Alwin Searles.

At the start of 1942 there were local fund raising drives in the township for money to Red Cross services in the township area. Half of the quota of \$400 was raised by the start of 1942. The Red Cross Committee in Decoto was headed by Harry Searles, chairman. Solicitors included Mrs. Catherine Morales, Mrs. Norman Murdoch, Henry Hernandez and L.W. Musick.

At this same time the Red Cross Sewing Room had been busy making more than 50 garments, including dresses, sweaters and other clothing under the direction of Mrs. Emma Amaral. This work has been accomplished in just two weeks at their homes.

Rationing & Scrap Drives, Local:

There was a countywide drive to collect aluminum to aid America prepare for the defense of our shores in July 1941. In Decoto the drive was spear headed by Robert Whipple. He was aided by L.W. Musick and Fire Chief Roland Bendel. The Boy Scouts also assisted in making collections. Handsome window stickers, on which the words "We Will Give Aluminum for Defense" emblazoned against the background of an American fighting plane, were distributed to every home in the Township this weekend. Persons having aluminum to give for defense purposes must place the stickers on the windows of their homes so that volunteer workers can be aided in making house-to-house collections starting Tuesday.

The Washington Township tire-rationing board began functioning on Wednesday, January 21, 1942 at the Centerville Justice Court following an organization meeting. J.R. Blacow, of Centerville is chairman of the board. Ray McNulty of Decoto has been appointed as an alternate inspector. The Washington Township Tire Rationing Board's office will be open every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Persons who have made written applications for new tires on Wednesdays will have their old tires examined by duly appointed inspectors and may call back at the board's office each Thursday following from 10 to noon to learn the status of their application. A tire inspector has been appointed for the Decoto district, he is Ray McNulty. Considerable office work will be entailed by those making application for a new tire or tires, although only those persons engaged in public service or emergency work can be granted permits under the present government restrictions.

Seven automobile owners residing in the Hayward area were certified by the Tire Rationing Board as being eligible to purchase tires under the provisions of the tire rationing laws. In March 1942 the Rev. George Saias, pastor of a church at Decoto was granted permission to buy new tires.

Only four new cars have been apportioned to Washington Township Rationing Board, this being three less than last month's quota. New cars purchased in June 1942 were granted to Manuel F. Silva of Alvarado, farmer; Bart K. Vink, Newark, dairyman; Harry Raes of Alvarado, labor contractor; Arthur Kimber of Niles, defense worker; and Herbert Harrold of Decoto, Benecia Arsenal and Leslie Salt Co. of Newark.

The Decoto Grammar School children have collected 1,315 keys and 200 locks for the scrap metal drive in March 1943. Prizes in war stamps were presented with David Janeiro placing first with 85 keys. Others winning prizes were Ernestine Zamora, Rosalind Costa, Jerry Brown, Leonard Zamora, Francis Monte and Esther Abel. The average key contained about 80% nickel silver, which was desperately needed by the Navy, particularly the Yale and Corbin type keys.

Another key to victory was the "planting of Victory Gardens." Two Victory Gardens planted where the front lawn used to be in the Decoto Grammar School was already paying dividends in April 1943 by supplying the school cafeteria with fresh vegetables. At Irvington 1,000 square feet has produced radishes, chard and lettuce for the school cafeteria and a rotation of crops is being cared for by pupils assisted by Principal Jack Prouty.

In September 1943 the Masonic Home learned a lesson in how the rationing system works with bureaucrats:

Some time back, the Masonic Home at Decoto started a piggery. The idea was patriotic. The pork would help feed the 350 residents and 50 employees. Recently five hogs were butchered and reported to the OPA and 7,382 ration points were duly turned in so that everything would be correct.

But, in the meantime, the pigs needed rations too. So Charles M. Wollenberg asked the Department of Agriculture people at Hayward for some fodder. Six weeks later he got a request for the home's slaughtering record for two or three previous years. There wasn't any, since in previous, there had been no patriotic need for a piggery.

This information was forwarded. Three weeks later came a reply. The fodder was denied. The home was ordered to sell the pigs, which mean putting them out at 13.5 to 16¢ a pound and buying them at around 35¢.

Wollenberg asked to know how long Uncle Sam expected anybody to carry on production before running into bankruptcy. But he found out before long that the Hayward Department of Agriculture people had no choice. It did no good to get bitter with them. So 21 fine eating-hogs apparently must be sold. Probably would cost too many points to kill and smoke'em.

J.V. Goold, Principal of the Washington Union High School was chairman of the tin can drive, and he asked school children to assist in collecting cans, which are to be picked up by Oakland trucks from a central dump in each town in October 1943. The town chairman for the drive in Decoto was Bernie Joseph.

So what happens if you waste gasoline by speeding? In January 1944 two people found out the hard way. A 60-mile per hour speeding charge against Consuelo Montes, 16, of Decoto, driving the car of her father, Bonifacio, resulted in a 30-day suspension of gas rations by the Washington Township Rationing Board. Philip Valenzuela, also of Decoto, will have to wait 60 days for a reissue of his "A" book reported lost. This is a second offense on his part, indicating negligence, board members said. No book, no gas! When gas dealers bought gas they had to show they had ration coupons that totaled the amount of gas they sold. So they were not about to give someone gasoline on the sly.

A review of Washington Township "B" and "C" ration cards was carried out by the local ration board in February 1944 and cuts in progress because of deficiencies found. Six drivers were given an average of a 20 per cent cut in their allowance. One case being investigated is that of a "C" book holder was charged with speeding who is said to be riding with someone else to work and using his gas coupons for non-essential travel. Two lost books reported by Anna Azevedo of Decoto and Joseph Perry of Irvington will be re-issued the first of March.

In July 1944 the use of his stepfather's name instead of his own cost Roman Hernandez of Decoto his gas rations for the rest of this year. After a suspension on a car previously owned by Hernandez, a new application was signed with the name "Brisuela" when a second car was purchased. Discovery by the Washington Township Rationing Board that the two names applied to one man resulted in suspension of rations until January 1, 1945.

A ration book lost by Anthony Gomes of Decoto was replaced by a receipt, usable by Gomes when he sells the car but not valid for coupons. Ration board officials point out that such a receipt or ration book is necessary for transfer of ownership.

Patricia Guerra, a 6th Grade pupil at the Decoto Grammar School, won first prize in the essay contest sponsored by the Washington Township Rationing Board community service committee as a part of an educational campaign against inflation. The December 1944 contest saw two posters share a prize, as the judges were unable to decide between them. The lucky artists are Billy Koski, age 12 of Niles Grammar School and Elaine Joseph, 8th Grade at Centerville Grammar School. All three of the children will receive \$25 war bonds, money having been contributed by township organizations.

War Bonds:

A Township push to sell U.S. Savings Bonds to residents has begun to help pay for the war. In May 1942 each town had a person or group of persons to canvass their area to push for the sale of Savings Bonds. In Decoto this chairman was George Smith. Fifty residents of the town of Decoto pledged to buy \$9,474.24 worth of U.S. Savings Bonds to help support the war effort.

The Washington Township War Finance Committee called a meeting of town chairmen at the Washington Union High School. Efforts will be made to have every man, woman and child in the Township buy an extra bond in the \$15,000,000,000 national campaign, which begins September 9, 1943. George Smith is the chairman for Decoto.

Two weeks after the call for war bond sales a total of \$202,000 in war bonds were sold in Washington Township. The leader of the drive in the Decoto area was George Smith.

In January 1944 a newly organized women's committee assisted in the fourth war loan campaign in Washington Township. The quota, \$563,000, was announced by L.R. Burdick, campaign chairman. Representing the town of Decoto was Miss Mary Janeiro, Mrs. Elsie Madruga represented the Alviso district, David Janeiro, and Mrs. Roland Bendel represented Niles.

The 7th War Bond drive started in June 1945. Heading the drive in Decoto are David Janeiro, Mary Janeiro and Edith Dias.

Decoto Monument:

Work was started on a \$2,300 in October 1945 on a monument honoring Decoto's 200 servicemen, which is scheduled to be completed in mid November 1946. Ray Pagan chaired the citizens committee. Names of the servicemen are to be sandblasted on stone. The monument is to be located on a triangle at 4th and H Streets and the Decoto Road.

In March 1946 Chairman Ray Pagan reported that plans have been finally approved by the county and state departments and that construction will be under way shortly. Of the \$2,500, which the monument will cost, \$2,200 has already been raised.

Dedication of the monument honoring servicemen of Decoto has been tentatively set for Armistice Day, according to Raymond Pagan, chairman of the citizen's committee, which has sponsored collection of nearly \$3,000 for the marker at the intersection of 4th and H Street at Decoto Road.

The 10 foot square, eight-sided concrete monument was being completed this week with 231 names on the eight marble faces of the structure. It will be about 26 feet high including the flagpole. The Washington Township Post of the American Legion and the Decoto Chamber of Commerce will participate in dedicatory ceremonies.

This is the monument as it sits today having been moved from its original location at 4th & "H" Streets to its present location 140 yards west of the Bart tracks on the north side of Decoto Road.



The monument, which was dedicated to veterans of World War II at Decoto on Saturday, November 10, 1946, was largely due to the efforts of Raymond Pagan, who had three sons and three nephews in the service. Helping him to collect the money necessary for the monument were Ralph Lopez, Antonio Torquemada, Luis Gutierrez, Jose Juarez and Genaro Arenas. The festivities included a parade in which a special car carried the Gold Star mothers: Mrs. Maria Gonzalez, Mrs. Leonora Santiago, Mrs. Natividad Garcia, Mrs. Emily Del Toro, Mrs. Amalia Merino, Mrs. Maria Mesa, Mrs. Maria Arroyo, Mrs. Minnie Caldeira and Mrs. Maria Nunes.

* **MEMORABLE EVENTS** *

Deaths/ Other Events

DEATHS:

Manuel Brown, January 3, 1940:

Passed away in Decoto January 3, 1940, Manuel Brown, dearly beloved husband of Mrs. Margaret Brown, loving father of Alfred Brown, brother of Mrs. Jack Cordeiro, Frank and John Brown, all of Decoto. He lived at 603 9th St., Decoto.

Mrs. Emily Brazil, July 18, 1940:

Death came Thursday night, July 18, 1940 to Mrs. Emily Brazil (July 18th), long-time resident of Decoto and widow of Manuel Brazil. Mrs. Brazil leaves seven children, Harry, Joseph, Louis and Frank Brazil, Mrs. Mary Joseph, Mrs. Isabel Damico and Mrs. Annie Silveira.

Blanche McPherson, December 3, 1940:

Blanche M. McPherson, wife of Walter McPherson, died at her Decoto home Tuesday, December 3, 1940. Mrs. McPherson had been a resident of Decoto for the last 20 years. She was a native of Shasta County.

Frank B. Hartman, February 6, 1941:

Frank B. Hartman, for 32 years Superintendent of the Masonic Home, died February 6, 1941 at Providence Hospital after suffering a stroke. Hartman became Supt. in 1909.

Ellen Cockefair, March 31, 1941:

Ellen Cockefair died in on March 31, 1941. Ellen A. Cockefair was the daughter of the late Henry and Susan Cockefair and sister of Charles P. Cockefair. A native of Alvarado, she taught school in the Decoto School District.

Raphael D. Serbantes, August 1941:

Raphael Diaz Serbantes took his own life after he had been drinking. He was 28 years old and a railroad worker. He committed suicide in a fit of melancholy over charges of assault with a deadly weapon filed against him at Gilroy after he had found another man, Mike Flores, 30, in the arms of his estranged wife.

Anthony Montes, September 4, 1941:

Anthony Montes, 25, of Decoto, died late on the evening of September 4, 1941 at Highland Hospital of injuries received Sunday in a motorcycle accident near Truckee. He is survived by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Jose M. Montes, a sister Isabel, and two brothers, Raymond and Joseph. He was a native of Argentina.

Manuel Ortega, November 10, 1941:

Manuel Ortega, 38, proprietor of a Decoto poolroom, was cremated in his wrecked car a quarter of a mile south of Alvarado on the evening of November 10, 1941 when the explosion of the machine's gasoline tank thwarted rescue efforts by a passing motorist. Ortega's light sedan swerved off Nursery Road (today's Alvarado-Niles Road) and overturned at the bottom of a four-foot embankment. It caught fire immediately.

John L. Olson, December 25, 1941:

John L. Olson, 66, native of Alvarado and a merchant and postmaster in Decoto for many years, died at his home, 1017 "I" St., Decoto, on Thursday, December 25, 1941. The late Mr. Olson was well known throughout southern Alameda County. He had been in the general merchandising business in Decoto for many years. Mr. Olson was the husband of Harriet Olson.

Frank Cloudeane, February 20, 1942:

Frank Cloudeane, pioneer resident of Decoto, died at his home at the age of 76 years. He was born in Boston and came to California when he was one-year old. He was the husband of the late Anna Cloudeane and the father of Bertha and Leroy Cloudeane of Decoto, Mrs. Leland Martin of Centerville, Albert Cloudeane of Hayward, and the grandfather of Claudette Cloudeane of Decoto.

Walter A. McPherson, February 21, 1942:

Walter A. McPherson, 64, 800 13th St., Decoto, night watchman at the Joseph Pearce Cannery in Decoto died in the cannery office Saturday evening, February 21, 1942. McPherson had been talking with Henry Hernandez, 35, 815 10th St., Decoto, a cannery worker, when he suddenly slumped to the floor. McPherson was the husband of the late Blanche M. McPherson.

Antonio Zumaquero, From an Article July 1942:

The verdict of the Coroner's inquest into the death of Antonio Zumaquero, 46, of 615 6th St., Decoto, has been ruled as a death by a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The date of the incident was not given in the article.

Ray Macias, August 1, 1942:

Ray Macias, 32, of Decoto, was apparently instantly killed early Saturday morning, August 1, 1942, when the car in which he was driving overturned on the Niles Road three miles south of Hayward. CHP officers expressed the belief that Macias had fallen asleep and had lost control the car.

Maria Rivas, Funeral Service November 6, 1942:

Funeral services will be held November 6, 1942 for Maria Rivas, 71, who died at her home, 530 4th St., Decoto, following a short illness. The deceased is a native of Mexico and is survived by several children.

Mrs. Gertrude May Kennedy, From an Article February 5, 1943:

Mrs. Gertrude May Kennedy (daughter of Henry May) is mourning the passing of her husband, Richard Kennedy, prominent rancher and vegetable grower of Hayward, Alvarado and Decoto.

P.M. Medina, March 29, 1943:

A shipyard worker, P.M. Medina, about 30, of Decoto, was running across the Southern Pacific tracks at the foot of Myrtle Street, when he stumbled and fell to his death on March 29, 1943 beneath the wheels of a switch engine. A Decoto neighbor, Ascension Garcia, tried to pull Medina off the tracks when the engine was only 50 feet away but failed. The train engineer said he could not halt the engine in time to save Medina.

Mrs. Anna D. Pimentel, November 5, 1943:

Funeral services were held Tuesday for Mrs. Anna D. Pimentel, 76, of 1311 "I" St., Decoto, who died there November 5, 1943. She was the wife of the late Enos Pimentel. Mrs. Pimentel was the mother of Mrs. Mary Nunes and Helen Pimentel of Decoto, Tony L., William and Ernest Pimentel of Hayward, Mrs. Minnie Lawrence and William Rose of Alvarado, and the late Mrs. Margaret Lazarus of San Jose.

Agatha Zwissig, January 7, 1944:

Mrs. Agatha Zwissig, 81, of Decoto, was given final rites at Niles Friday night, January 7, 1944. She was the wife of the late Louis Zwissig, and mother to Louis Zwissig and Carl Zwissig, both of Decoto.

Manuel Ferreira, September 16, 1944:

Manuel Ferreira, of Whipple Road, Decoto, suffered a heart attack while waiting for his wife to have the family physician treat her an infected hand. He died en route to Hayward Hospital on September 16, 1944. Ferreira took his wife to Dr. J.A. Azevedo's office, and while sitting in the waiting room, became ill. Dr. Azevedo asked a patient to take Ferreira to the hospital in her car. Ferreira died before reaching the hospital.

Frank Luna, February 4, 1945:

Frank Luna, 60, Oakland Tribune circulation representative in Decoto for the last 10 years, died at his home in Decoto on February 4, 1945. A native of Decoto, he had lived here throughout his lifetime. He leaves his wife Mary and five children. One son, PFC Melvin Luna is presently serving in the South Pacific. Two of his children, Mrs. Elmer Peixotto and Jeanette Luna both reside in Decoto.

Enos Pimentel, March 1, 1945:

Enos Pimentel, of Decoto, died on March 1, 1945. He was the son of Mrs. Mary I. Pimentel and brother of Frank Pimentel, both of Decoto. A native of Decoto and a veteran of World War 1.

Antone Gomes, April 15, 1945:

Antone Gomes of Decoto is mourning the passing of his father, Esteban Gomes, 73, who died at his home Friday, April 15, 1945. He was a native of Spain.

Frederick W. Meyer, July 31, 1945:

Frederick W. Meyer, Jr., died in Oakland on July 31, 1945. He was a native of Decoto.

Vincente Caraballo, November 27, 1945:

Vincente Caraballo, 77, of 627 8th Street, Decoto died on November 27, 1945. He was husband to the late Rufina Caraballo and father to Philip Caraballo and Mrs. Joseph Pagan, both of Decoto.

B. Ramos, Final Rite January 8, 1946:

Balbino Ramos, 74, died at the family home at 740 15th Street in Decoto and was given final rites on January 8, 1946. He was a native of Porto Rico and was the father of August, Frank, Juanita and Julius Ramos, all of Decoto

Charles Baca, May 11, 1946:

Charles Baca, 73, resident of Decoto, died Saturday, May 11, 1946 in Oakland. He was a resident of Decoto for ten years and a native of New Mexico. He was the husband of the late Carlotta Baca and is survived by two sons.

Mrs. Juanita Elizarray, Last Rites August 2, 1946:

Last rites were said this morning, August 2, 1946 for Juanita Elizarray, 57 years old, who died at the Highland Hospital in Oakland July 27, 1946 A native of Porto Rico, she came to the United States 24 years ago. She is survived by her husband, Raphael, and by her children, Mrs. John Roberto, John E. Elizarray and John Martinez, all of Decoto.

William H. Peterson, October 20, 1946:

William Hampton Peterson died Wednesday from injuries received when he fell from a horse Sunday afternoon, October 20, 1946. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Jesse Peterson and three children.

Felix Flores, December 8, 1946:

Felix Flores, 26-year old World War II veteran, reportedly shot himself with a .22 caliber rifle at his home, 600 4th Street on December 8, 1946 after an argument with his family. Flores, who had received a medical discharge from the Army, had been employed by a Pleasanton nursery. Besides his parents he is survived by five brothers and sisters, Mrs. Rene Cardenas, Mrs. Leonard Zavalla, Lupe, Manuel and Miss Angel Flores.

Mary A. Caldeira, December 13, 1946:

Mary A. Caldeira, former Decoto resident, passed away in Alvarado on Friday, December 13, 1946. She was the wife of the late Frank Caldeira and sister to Tony and George Bettencourt of Decoto.

Frank Caldeira, December 14, 1946:

Funeral services for Frank Caldeira, 64, who died at his home in Sacramento Saturday, December 14, 1946 will be laid to rest in the Holy Ghost Cemetery in Centerville. Caldeira, a native of Decoto, is survived by his widow, Mrs. Virginia Caldeira, three sisters, Mrs. Mary Silva, Mrs. Annie Avila and Mrs. Frances Williams, all of Decoto, and three brothers, Anthony, Manuel and Joseph Caldeira also of Decoto.

Luis Zwissig, From an Article March 8, 1947:

Luis Zwissig died in his home at Decoto. He leaves his wife, Marion.

Antone E. Amaral, March 25, 1947:

In Decoto, March 25, 1947, Antone E Amaral, 45, a native of Decoto passed away. Beloved husband of Constance Amaral and father of Mrs. Virginia Enos of Decoto.

Dr. James C. Hanley, August 17, 1947:

Dr. James C. Hanley, Hayward physician died suddenly on August 17, 1947 at the Peralta Hospital, Oakland. The "happy-go-lucky" doctor, as friends used to call him, was a resident of Hayward since 1915. He actively practiced medicine in southern Alameda County for 40 years, having moved to Hayward from Decoto, where he started his medical practice making his daily calls on a bicycle.

Angelina Caminada, December 12, 1947:

In Decoto, December 12, 1947, Angelina Caminada, dearly beloved wife of Ettore Caminada, devoted mother of Lydia and Rinaldo Caminada, both of Decoto, loving aunt of Remo and Rudolph Caminada of Decoto and grandmother of Dianne Caminada of Decoto. She also leaves relatives in Italy, aged 59 years.

Harold Wallace, May 14, 1948:

Mr. Harold Wallace died suddenly and unexpectedly Friday night, May 14, 1948. He leaves his wife Florence and a son Warren.

Manuel Moura, August 8, 1948:

Passed away in Decoto on August 8, 1948, Manuel B. Moura, beloved husband of Mrs. Madeline Moura, father to Mrs. Maria Terra of Decoto, brother of Miss Josephine Barnard, Mrs. Minnie Costa, Mrs. Julia Fields and Anthony Bernard, all of Decoto.

Gus Hernandez, From an Article April 29, 1949:

Funeral services were held Thursday night for Gus Hernandez of Hayward, who was killed in action in Germany in 1945. Gus was the husband of the former Jessie Seoane who formerly lived in Decoto. From an article dated April 29, 1949.

Selsa Agundez, Final Rites September 12, 1949:

Mrs. Selsa Agundez of 6th Street was given final rites last Monday, September 12, 1949. Mrs. Agundez was 60 years old, a native of Mexico. She is survived by a number of relatives in Decoto.

Joseph Pearce, September 27, 1949:

Joseph Pryor Pearce, 59, former owner of the Joseph Pearce Canning Company in Decoto and production manager for many years at Hunt Bros. Cannery in Hayward, died suddenly on September 27, 1949 at his home in Hayward. He was the victim of a heart attack.

OTHER EVENTS:

February 1940:

Construction Yard Burglarized:

Manuel Silva of Hayward, foreman at the corporation yard of the W.M. Willett Construction Company of S.F. plant at Decoto, reported in February 1940 the theft of a quantity of copper and brass pipes and valves from two ancient locomotives stored in the yard. The engines are of an early type used on construction of railroad lines and kept here for sentimental reasons. They were stripped of their copper and brass by a thief who presumably intended to sell the metal for junk. Value of the metal is about \$3, although replacement value of the pipes and valves was placed at \$100 by Mr. Silva. Mr. Silva reported a hobo was seen in the yard Tuesday night, and the company was advised to disallow use of an old boxcar on the premises as a refuge for hoboes.

February 6, 1940:

Fiesta de la Sardina:

On February 6, 1940, the Spanish population of Decoto carried out the "Fiesta de la Sarina," the festival of the sardine. The festival is a four-day event carried out on the first day of the Lenten season. Features of the celebration are a bear dance, a mock bull fight and the official burial of the sardine, which is carried out with a solemn procession and gay dances after the ceremonies.

No one seems to know the significance of the festival. The custom originated in Spain, and connect the fish with the Lenten season or the early Christians who used the fish as their insignia. Some people say there is a connection with the Greek word "Isthus" on the cross, meaning "Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Savior," and others claim it is a carry-over from the past when Indians in the planting season fertilized the hills of corn with fish from the San Francisco Bay.

Lack of knowledge concerning the true reason for celebrating does not hamper the merry-making, however. Each year the colorful ceremonies and dances are carried on as heartily as ever. Among the participants and officials of the carnival this year

were the families of Ignacio Paniagua, Manuel Garcia, Dionisio Hernandez, Bernardo Corchero, and Louis Pagan, and Jose Hermoso.

April 12, 1940:

Boosters & C of C Ask to Open Street:

The Decoto Boosters Club and the Decoto Chamber of Commerce have asked that "F" Street be opened from the highway to 13th Street and that 3rd Street between "E" and "F" Streets be paved.

July 1940:

Child Struck by Automobile:

John Fletcher Jr., 7, of Decoto, was struck by an auto near his home while he was watching the fire department extinguish a small grass fire. Patrol Sgt. Edward Doyle had just finished warning a group of small boys about carelessness in crossing the highway when the mishap occurred. The boy darted from behind parked cars into the path of an oncoming machine and was knocked about 20 feet. He was taken to Fairmont Hospital with a broken hip, cuts and bruises.

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**Amateur Hour at Niles:**

Many Decotoans attended the novel amateur hour at the Niles Theater, Wednesday. Among those who participated from Decoto were John King, David Arribas and Richard Silva on a vocal trio; Tony Lopez did an Italian monologue and an accordion solo. Marie Bernard was the accompanist.

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Illegal Answers Call:

Wencesia Carrillo, 26-year-old Mexican, was in the county jail Saturday awaiting deportation to Mexico, following his arrest at the Decoto Post Office Friday by Deputy Sheriff Richard E. Condon, at the request of the U.S. Immigration Service.

With only an Immigration Service picture of Carrillo and information that he might be found in Decoto as clues, Deputy Condon walked into the post office to begin his search for the suspect. As he entered the door he saw a young man who resembled the picture.

"Hey Carrillo!" said Deputy Condon.

"Yeah, whaddya want?" said Carrillo.

"Uncle Sam wants you," said Condon.

Carrillo was deported to Mexico 10 years ago, according to Immigration Service records, but promptly walked back across the border and has been wandering up and down California since. Officials said he probably will be charged with returning to the U.S. after deportation, an offense listed as a felony.

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**Caldeira Suffers Concussion:**

Eddie Caldeira, 18, of Decoto, received a cerebral concussion and abrasions when he fell asleep at the wheel of his automobile and crashed into a telephone pole on the Niles Road Tuesday morning. He was given first aid treatment by Dr. E.E. Grau of Niles, and taken to the Alameda County Hospital.

#### **August 1940:**

##### **Locals Get Their Deer:**

Joe "Spikes" Escalona, the Decoto prizefighter, killed his first deer on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a two pointer and weighed 110 lbs. dressed. Others who have gotten their deer this season are: Sam Leiva, Johnny Delcrew, Leonard Kelly, and Harry "Hank" Brazil. Decoto seems to be deer meat hungry.

#### **September 1940:**

##### **Phantom Deer:**

Leon Mason, husband of Olivia Mason killed what was called the "phantom deer." For over two years people have hunted that deer. It is quick as a flash and can jump over bushes and cliffs. It had big hooves and ran quickly. Now the "phantom deer" is no more. Leon Mason said he killed the deer around Sunol.

#### **November 1940:**

##### **Mrs. Frances Cloudeane Hospitalized:**

Friends of Mrs. Frances Cloudeane of Decoto will be sorry to learn that she is in an Oakland hospital following a major operation recently. She will be there about two weeks more before returning home where she will be confined to her bed for about three weeks.

#### **December 1940:**

##### **Charles Brown Shoe Shop:**

Charles Brown certainly has one of the most attractive shoe repair shops we have ever seen. It is next to the Decoto Post Office. The equipment is of the best in the township, so Brown says. He put in the latest 1941 model shop. His work is always expert and his prices are right, so see Charles Brown, the old reliable, for a fine repair job. Mr. Brown lost \$3,000 worth of equipment in the recent fire but you can't keep a good man down.



##### **Pig Stolen:**

Tom, Tom, the piper's son  
Stole a pig, and away he run.

Such was the song of Lucio Gutierrez, Whipple Road, Decoto, to deputy sheriff's late Saturday night.

He wouldn't say just who he thought the culprit was who stole a nice fat, white pig from the sty at his place, but he did state that he had a few neighbors he had been quarreling with of late and the theft might have been done for revenge.

Gutierrez first noticed trouble at his home when he returned from Oakland after enjoying a roast pig (one he had personally picked from his sty) dinner. A window in his home had been broken by a piece of tile.

Investigating further, with the aid of Deputies C.S. Creel and Tom Silva, it was discovered that a slat from the pigsty had been removed and the white pig was gone. Mama pig and another little one were still nudging about in the ooze.

#### **January 1941:**

##### **Party for Mrs. Manuel Garcia:**

A party, which lasted two days, was given in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Garcia by their family. They have many grand children and great grand children. Turkey, chicken, rabbit and twenty gallons of beer was consumed at the party, which was held January 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Those who attended were: Mr. & Mrs. John Garcia and family; Mr. & Mrs. Tom Pagan and family, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pagan and family from Oakland, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Pagan and family, and Mr. & Mrs. Elojo Garcia and family. Demas Lamas, Ernie Medeiros and Paul Garcia's fiancée, Frances Lamas were also present.

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New Bicycles in Town:

A lot of new bikes arrived in Decoto for Christmas. A few of the boys who got bikes are: John Boliba, Harold Delgado, Louis Gutierrez, and Jerry Avila. Those who got tricycles are: Clarence Souza Jr., Gallo Gonzalez, Joe Monte and Manuel Navas.

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##### **Decotoans Enjoy Snow:**

A happy crowd motored to Long Barn two weeks ago to enjoy the snow sports. They were: Mrs. Mary Ramos and daughters, Mary and Josephine and son Tony; Jessie Leiva, Jessie Seoane, Mr. & Mrs. John Delcrew, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Boliba and sons Joe and John; Alice Navas, Francis Boliba, Kenny Garcia and Gussie Hernandez.

#### **March 1941:**

##### **Decoto Orchestra:**

Joe Boliba and Frank Leiva have a very good eight-piece orchestra started. They have purchased a lot of songs, a piano and a set of drums. Next they will make stands. The players are: Joe Perry, Vernon Vargas and Ysidro Gallegos, trumpets; Santos Alvarez and Earl Mederos, accordions, Marie Bernard, piano; Jewell King and Tony Lopez, drums. They are practicing very hard and soon will be ready for engagements.

#### **April 1941:**

##### **Grappo Discovered:**

Roque Feliciano, 33, of Decoto, was charged with possession of untaxed liquor following the discovery of a 20-gallon still and 19 gallons of "grappo" at his home by representatives of the State Board of Equalization. "Grappo" (or grappa) is a brandy distilled from the fermented residue of grapes after they have been pressed in winemaking.

#### **May 1941:**

##### **Decoto Athletic Club Defeated:**

The Post Enquirer team dispatched the Decoto Athletic Club 6 to 4. The line-up for the Decoto A.C. was:

H. Carvalho (3B), Dennis (CF), Corchero (SS), Berrios (C), T. Cortez (LF), Urrutia (2B), S. Cortez (RF), F. Sanchez, (1B), A. Sanchez (P), Cortez (P).

**September 1941:**

**Decoto Athletic Club Win 10<sup>th</sup> Straight:**

In semi-pro ball, the Decoto A.C. won their tenth straight when they turned back Foothill A.C. 15 to 2.

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Tony Dutra Injured in Yosemite Park:

Tony "Duke" Dutra is recovering from injuries received at Yosemite over the Labor Day holidays, when he slipped and fell over a cliff. He suffered head injuries and a bruised side. He was confined to the hospital at Yosemite and later transferred to a hospital in San Francisco.

November 1941:

Musical Instruments Stolen in Decoto Bar:

Valentin Sanchez, 62 of San Leandro, lost a valuable guitar and ukulele Sunday night while stopping in a Decoto bar. Sanchez had been playing for friends and stopped into the Berrios Bar in Decoto. There he played a few numbers for patrons and then put his \$52.50 guitar and \$32.50 ukulele outside while he returned for a while to the bar. When he returned for his musical instruments, however, they were both gone.

January 1942:

Decoto Rooster Fight:

Two Decoto residents, who admitted ownership of "fighting cocks," but denied the belligerent roosters were being used for anything by "demonstration in a sale," were arrested Sunday afternoon at the rear of the Decoto hotel by sheriff's deputies. Twenty-two others who "just happened to drop by" were released upon payment of \$5 bail to Judge Joseph Silva as "witnesses to a cock fight." The two arrested men were identified as Arthur Solis, 30, 510 10th St., Decoto, owner of a poolroom and Hilario Carrillo, 44, of Mission San Jose, a farm laborer. They were released on \$50 bail.

January 2, 1942:

Notary Public:

Tony Amaral has taken over the Notary Public duties of the late John Olson in Decoto.

February 1942:

Man Narrowly Escapes Death:

Roman Bresnela, 24, 412 4th St., Decoto, had a narrow brush with death Saturday evening when his car crashed into a freight train at Whipple Road and Railroad Avenue. Despite the fact that his automobile rolled over once before crashing into the train and twice after and was badly damaged, Bresnela escaped with bruises on his back and legs.

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**Manuel Monte Seriously Injured in Motorcycle Accident:**

Manuel Monte, 20, of Decoto, was injured seriously early yesterday when the motorcycle he was riding collided on with an automobile in Richmond. Monte was taken to Richmond Hospital with a broken shoulder and head injuries.

**April 1942:**

**Miss Jessie Seoane Engaged:**

Miss Jessie Seoane who was "Miss Decoto" in the first Pleasanton fair queen contest is engaged to Gus Hernandez of Hayward. They met at a "bull fight" at the Spanish fiesta in Decoto three years ago. Miss Seoane is secretary of the Student Body Association at the high school and is student council representative on the mobile defense kitchen, which has been recently organized. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Seoane of Decoto.

**May 1942:**

**New Citizens:**

New citizens who have been attending night school classes taught by Mrs. J.C. Shinn and Mrs. Nellie Shinn and who successfully passed the naturalization examination are: (from Decoto):

|                      |                    |                         |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Costa Delgado        | Gonsalo Paniagua   | Antonio Torquemada Ruiz |
| Joseph Ehrler        | D. Hernandez       | Mrs. Karl Von Moos      |
| Mrs. Martha Von Moos | Mrs. Joseph Ehrler |                         |

**August 1943:**

**Decoto Man Tries to Elude Sheriff's Deputies:**

It was a wild chase when two deputy sheriffs started after a car driven by Robert Duran, 21, of 309 6<sup>th</sup> St., Decoto, as they observed Duran approaching them at a rapid pace and swaying from side to side. They signaled him to halt but he dashed madly past. The deputies raced after him when he observed they were gaining on him he turned into an irrigated field where he jumped his car across a deep irrigation ditch filled with water. Two pistol shots failed to stop the fleeing man, and the officers now deserted their car and a foot race followed. The officers captured Duran who went peacefully to sleep while being driven to jail. Citizens of Decoto, where the informal "movie" was staged Wednesday evening, witnessed almost the whole affair as both cars dashed through the business section of the town.

**January 1944:**

**Drag Race Down Castro Street:**

Two 17-year-old youths appeared before Judge Jacob Harder Jr. to determine the winner of an early-morning auto race they staged down Castro Street, through the heart of the business district. Neither anticipates receiving the checkered flag. The race ended when the car operated by Lester Hamm, 17, of Valle Vista Avenue, crashed into a car driven by Antonio Mesquita, 46, of "B" Street, Hayward. Albert A. Andrade, 17, Decoto, who was driving neck and neck with Hamm, according to police, managed to avoid the collision. Police Chief F.E. Macabee was standing at the "A" Street intersection, where the accident occurred. Both youths were cited for reckless driving.

**May 1944:**

**Miss Mary Paniagua:**

That young lady at the Central Bank in Alvarado is Miss Mary Paniagua, who has been there for two years and is very capable indeed. She is the daughter of the prominent Paniagua family of Decoto. Mary has two brothers in the service, Frank in Italy and Tony in England.





### **Harry Haines Hits Train:**

Harry S. Haines, 66, of Whipple Road, was taken to Hayward Hospital Friday night after the car in which he was driving collided with a westbound Western Pacific railroad engine at the intersection of the railroad tracks and Whipple Road. According to the State Highway Patrol report, Haines' car was knocked across the tracks, to the other side of the highway. Haines told the engineer that he did not see or hear the engine.

### **August 1944:**

#### **Decoto Barber Shop Harbors Gambling Den:**

Hayward Sheriff's last night broke up a gambling den in a Decoto barbershop and took into custody eight gamblers, four of them juveniles. Held on gambling charges are Rinaldo Caminada, 21, 1001 11<sup>th</sup> Street; Paul Garcia 21, 619 3<sup>rd</sup> street; and Alex Pagan 21, 725 12<sup>th</sup> Street; all of Decoto, and Thomas Pagan of Oakland. Receiving a report that the barbershop owned by Caminada, at 813 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Decoto, was being used for dice games after business hours, sheriffs investigated at 9 o'clock Monday night, found all the shades drawn, doors locked, but could see light inside. Ordered to open the door, Caminada refused and the sheriffs pushed the front door down, some of the gamblers started for a rear door. When stopped, they denied that any crap shooting was going on. Officers took possession of dice left on the floor.

### **September 1, 1944:**

#### **Bean Workers Strike:**

Mexicans went on strike in the bean fields of L.E. Bailey in Decoto for a half-a-cent increase per pound. Their present rate of pay was 2¢ a pound. The trouble was ironed out, which included the exclusion of seven alleged trouble makers who were sent back to WPA HQ in San Jose after they refused to take prevailing wages. The other 25 workers make about \$10 a day.

### **October 1944:**

#### **Brawl at Decoto Poolroom Lands Three in the Hospital:**

Two Decoto men are in the hospital today as a result of three-cornered brawl and knifing at Boliba's Pool Hall in Decoto Friday night. One is at Highland Hospital, is critically injured and still in a semi-conscious condition today. He has a skull fracture, fracture of the left wrist, and a deep laceration of the scalp. The other is at Hayward Hospital with a six-inch slash diagonally across his forehead, a one-inch cut on his chin, a six-inch gash on the right side of his chest, and two cuts below his ribs extending from his abdomen to his back, each nine inches long. Supposedly the men got into an altercation when a third interceded with an axe handle.

### **Anger over Dinner:**

Isauro Morales, 700 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Decoto, was in custody of deputies at the Hayward substation Saturday awaiting investigation of charges of battery filed against him by Mrs. Aurora Rodriguez. In her complaint Mr. Rodriguez asserts that Morales, with whom she has been living for several months, who became angry when she did not have a meal prepared for him when he came home from work the Moore Shipyard Thursday, cut her arm with a knife and threatened to kill her. A neighbor, Balbino Ramos, interceded for her. Deputies were called who took Morales into custody.

### **September 1945:**

**Harvey Granger Home from Service:**

Old friends greeted Capt. H.T. Granger of Decoto at a barbecue at the home of friends in Niles, following his arrival home after 50 months service with the infantry. Most of this time has been spent in Pacific areas, including Guadalcanal and Hawaii.

**October 1945:**

**Decoto Farm Workers Robbed:**

Camilo Cerna, a Decoto ranch worker, reported to the Hayward Sheriff's Office today that he had approximately \$1,200 in cash and \$275 in War Bonds stolen from his parked car last night on the ranch where he works. Cerna told sheriff's deputies that he had placed the money in a wallet concealed in a paper sack, and placed it in the glove compartment of his car. Cerna also told deputies that the thief had overlooked \$1,200 belonging to Remedios Anicas, 32, concealed in the same fashion and also placed in the glove compartment along with Cerna's money. The money represents the earnings of the two men who have been picking asparagus and tomatoes.

**December 1945:**

**Tony Paniagua Injured in Auto Wreck:**

Tony Paniagua, 724 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Decoto, was injured when his car skidded into the path of a creamery truck. The accident occurred after Paniagua tried to pass another car and saw the truck when it was too late to avoid it.

**January 1946:**

**The Rawleigh Man:**

W.C. Kitchings, the local Rawleigh salesman of Centerville wants to add a few salesmen to expand his Rawleigh product sales by adding several new salesmen. Kitchings sells Rawleigh products out of his van on a sales route that goes from Decoto to the Alameda County line.

**March 1946:**

**Decoto Boy Signs Major League Contract:**

Leonard Kelly, former Decoto Elementary School baseball player and more recently with the East Bay Cities League, has signed a contract with the St. Louis Cardinals and will report for training on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**April 1946:**

**Birthday Party for Katherine Amaral:**

The following Decotoans attended a surprise birthday party of Katherine Amaral of Centerville. From Decoto: Johnny Bolivia, Len Smith, Dave Priego, Jeanette Luna and Dan Corchero.

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New Colma Mill and Lumber Company:

The prefabrication division of the New Colma Mill and Lumber Company of Decoto is building pre-fabricated houses in section and panels, which can be put up by one man in ten days, according to Henry C. Jorgensen, superintendent of the prefab division. The house comes in four models, ranging in price from \$1,087.90 to \$2,418.57, and incorporating two, three or four large rooms with hardwood floors and full insulation; they do not include foundations, plumbing or wiring.

"They meet every standard building specification in every instance as far as possible under present conditions," Jorgensen said.

"During the war, the idea of prefabrication got associated with emergency housing, a very unfortunate situation," Jorgensen said. "As a matter of fact, our houses have 25 per cent more frame work than the usual custom-built home, and the workmanship is no less in quality." Thought pre-fab is still in its infancy, it proved itself very well in shipbuilding during the war and it will prove itself worthy in home building Jorgensen said.

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**Charles Brown to Relocate to Auburn:**

Charles Brown, cobbler and old-time harness maker, is leaving Decoto where he has been in business since 1930. Mr. and Mrs. Brown will leave soon for a vacation at Auburn. Brown came to California from Missouri. A son, Leonard, resides in Hayward. The business here has been taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Lester Watkins, Brown's sister and her husband.

**May 3, 1946:**

**Water Tank:**

Construction work for a new 200,000 storage tank that will add 10 to 15 pounds pressure to the water systems in Niles and Decoto will be started soon, E. F. Glass brook, local manager of the public utilities said this week. In Decoto, a six-inch main will be laid along the whole of Sixth Street, and a four-inch line is planned for "E" Street from Eighth to Tenth streets. In Niles, locations for new six-inch lines include all of Third Street, First Street from School Street to Hillview Drive, and the new tract.

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20 Street Lights:

Twenty more lights are on the agenda for Decoto, said A. J. Petsche of the local P.G. and E. office. He announced this week that he had received an order from Supervisor Chester Stanley for installation of twenty more light in Decoto. This was good news for Decotans who have been crying for more street lights for Decoto.

July 1946:

John Delcrew Returns from Mexico:

John Delcrew, returning the first of the week from a month's vacation in Mexico, has purchased the Fourth Street Market in Decoto, the façade of the store still bearing his name, and his wife's, J and J Delcrew. Delcrew bought the store from the man to whom he previously sold it, Frank Robiejo. After a 7,000-mile trip through parts of old Mexico, Delcrew says that he is finished with running around now, he is in Decoto to stay. He has sold his grocery store in Russell City, and will make his living in Decoto now. They were accompanied on their trip by John's sister, Annie Delcrew. They stopped in at a lot of towns en route, and at four or five nightspots in Mexico City. The cost of living in Mexico is just as high as here, John said, considering the rate of exchange; 17 pesos (Mexican dollars) are worth three and a half dollars. The party saw the bull fights in Mexico's capital, and John said he likes them better than football.

August 2, 1946:

Two Decoto Rail Crossings to get Safety Signals:

As a result of the energetic work of the Washington Township Planning Committee and the Southern Alameda County Progressive Club and the Decoto Chamber of Commerce, it has been revealed that safety crossing signals will be installed in the near future at the crossing of the Western Pacific Main Line and "H" Street at Decoto, and also at the crossing of the Alvarado Niles Road near Pacific States Steel. The installation will be done by the Western Pacific Railroad Company.

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**Two Youngsters Hurt in Auto Accident:**

Manuel Romero, 14, of 516 5<sup>th</sup> Street Decoto, received minor injuries when the car in which he was riding, driven by Daniel Feliciano, 15, of the same address, was involved in an auto accident at 4<sup>th</sup> and D Streets in Decoto.

**September 1946:**

**The Cement Colored Donkey:**

A show site at Decoto, (on the Niles Highway, by the sign of the cement colored 'donkey' on the highway), is the cactus gardens of the McHenry's (formerly the F. Thomas Cactus Gardens). Many people are stopping to enjoy them and buy them in the rejuvenated cactus ornamental lines again.

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Fire Destroys Clothes on Clothesline:

A blaze, which spread from a trash pile, burned the family wash on the clothesline at the home of Mrs. Marian Enos of the Niles-Hayward Highway at Decoto. Chief Roland Bendel and the Decoto volunteer firemen prevented the spread of the flames to the residence.

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**Man Given a Ride is Beaten, Robbed, and Dumped:**

Arcadio V. Maces, 24, 521 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Decoto, told officers he was given a ride by three men who stole his wallet, slugged him over the head and left him by the side of the road.

**November 1946:**

**Suit Brought Over Walnuts:**

Mrs. Paula Torquemada, 59, of 714 14<sup>th</sup> Street, who was charged with battery by Ernest Mozzoni, of 502 6<sup>th</sup> Street, was found not guilty by Judge J.A. Silva at the Niles Justice Court, due to insufficient evidence after a prolonged hearing, arising out of a dispute as to ownership of walnuts from 25 trees at Decoto. E.A. Quaresma, who is to succeed the incumbent judge of January 1<sup>st</sup> and who happened to be in court, was called as interpreter by Judge Silva, for Mrs. Torquemada does not speak English.

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Decoto Welcomes the Hidalgo's:

Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Hidalgo and children are moving into their newly remodeled home on 6th and H Street. They were former residents of Warm Springs where they

operated the Junction Inn. Just as soon as materials are available they hope to put a double story building across the front of their property facing "H" Street.

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**Careless Driver Burns his own Car:**

Sabino Aguilar, 825 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Decoto, was cited by CHP Officer Ed Ayers for driving without a license after his car caught on fire near the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Hayward. Mr. Aguilar was driving with a spare can of fuel in the back seat of his car. Aguilar was smoking a cigarette and flicked it out the window but the wind apparently blew it back into his car and ignited the fumes causing an explosion and fire in the rear seat. The fire was put out by the CHP.

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Cy Caldeira Celebrates Birthday:

Cyrus Caldeira of Decoto celebrated his sixteenth birthday Saturday evening, November 23rd. Games were played and enjoyed by all, also refreshments were served. Many of Cyrus' school friends attended and a grand time was had by all. Those who attended were:

Elaine Joseph	Delores Santos	Antoinette Pimentel	Lena Horat
Elsie Horat	Charlotte Janeiro	Donald Andrade	Alvin Silva
Bobbie Rose	Cyrus Caldeira	Johnny Cardenas	Louie Marchy
Oliver Cardenas			

January 1947:

Valero Saves Trapped Man:

Joseph R. Valero, 40, of 511 11th Street Decoto saved his co-worker's life when a bin containing 40 tons of sulphate potash collapsed and buried Gerald Hagen, 21 of Hayward. Valero immediately started digging out Hagen at the point where he believed he had been buried. He hit the point exactly and freed Hagen's head about 12 minutes later. It took fireman an additional three and a half hours to free the trapped man.

March 1947

Mi Ranchito Café Robbed:

A \$10 burglary at the "Mi Ranchito Café" in Decoto, which occurred two weeks ago, was reported to sheriff's deputies here yesterday. Manuel Perez, 50, of 331 D Street, who reported the burglary, told officers he missed 4 cartons of cigarettes, \$1 in pennies and four partly filled bottles of wine when he opened the café Saturday morning. The front window of the combination bar and restaurant was broken.

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**Decoto Pool Hall Robbed:**

Burglars who broke into the Decoto Pool Hall Thursday night made off with \$1.50 in pennies and candy bars valued at \$1.10. The robbery was reported to the sheriff's deputies yesterday by Carlos Torres, 57, of 411 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Decoto, proprietor of the pool hall.

**May 1947:**

**Young Girl Falls from Moving Truck:**

Rachael Martinez, 11, of Decoto was injured Sunday when she fell from the rear of a truck where she was riding with several other children in San Leandro. The child's father, Rafael Martinez, 42, driver of the truck, told the CHP that one of the detachable sides on the truck bed fell off, throwing the girl to the pavement. She is in fair condition at Fairmont Hospital.

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Train Derailed:

The Western Pacific's Feather River Express was wrecked in Decoto on May 20, 1947, when the train struck a large concrete block, which had apparently been deliberately placed on the tracks. Four trainmen and one passenger were injured. The engineer, Raymond Cope, 57, of San Jose, said that his engine turned end for end after striking the block at a speed of 55 miles per hour and then turned over on its side parallel to the first two cars in the train.



Cope also expressed belief that the block had been placed on the track in an effort to wreck the train. He and the fireman, R.C. Kennedy, 41, of Stockton, both said they saw the block on the track but could not stop the train before it plowed into the obstacle. The accident, which occurred near the 11th Street crossing, sent the engine, tender and baggage car off the track. They traveled 600 feet before they plunged off the roadbed.

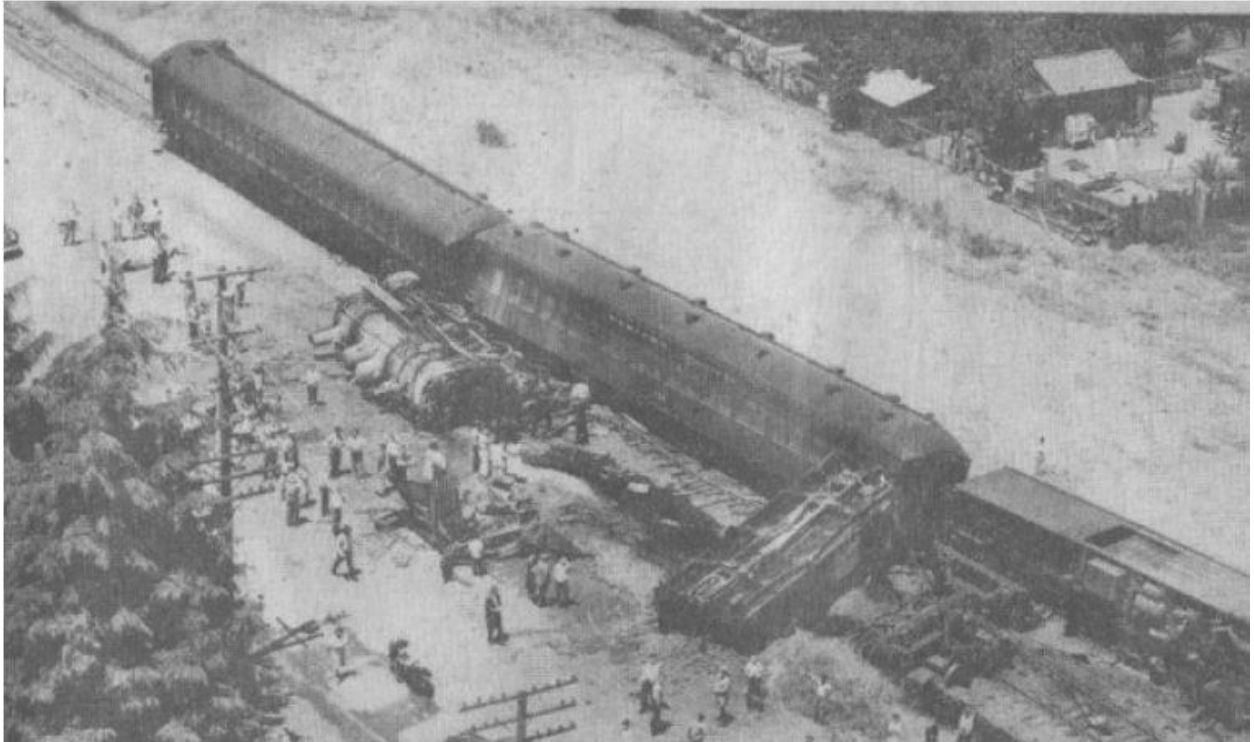
Most of the 25 passengers on the train were unaware that the accident had occurred. They stated that they thought the train was just coming to a stop. Both passenger cars remained upright, although the leading one came to a rest at a slight angle. A passenger said he was passing through the train when he felt the first jolt and went

to the end of car and looked out to find the baggage car gone and the engine careening down the track.

Cope and Kennedy were the most seriously injured. At Hayward Hospital, where they were taken, it was reported they had numerous cuts and bruises about the body, incurred as they rode engine until it came to a stop.

The following day authorities were able to locate a five-year boy responsible for the derailment. The concrete slab that was placed on the tracks was a concrete lid from a water meter box at 11th and H Street. After talking to the boy it was determined that he was responsible for the crash.





July 1947:

Theft of Piggy Bank:

That piggy bank theft recently reported by Antonio Ramirez of Decoto exemplified the difference between bank stealers and bank robbers. The thief broke into Antonio's bedroom and walked off with the bank and its contents. Bank robbers do not stoop to such tactics. They at least leave the bank behind.

September 1947

Henry Borghi:

Henry Borghi of Decoto, a junior at U.C. Berkeley, is a member of the Cal Bears varsity football team. He will play the Tackle position.

October 1947:

Decoto Man Beaten and Robbed in Alvarado:

George J. Peixotto, 26, of Decoto, was beaten and robbed at Alvarado early this morning by two men who said they would help push his stalled car. The men then beat him up, giving him a severe cut on the lip, a lacerated eyebrow and a compound fracture of the nose. The men took his wallet containing \$50.

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**Hayward Cab Driver Assaulted in Decoto:**

A Hayward cab driver last night successfully fought off two men who attacked him last night in an apparent attempted robbery at Decoto. The cab driver told police he went to a Hayward tavern last night after receiving a call to pick up fares there. He drove the pair 12<sup>th</sup> and "F" Streets in Decoto where they told him to stop. As soon as he had stopped one of the men struck the driver over the head with a ten-inch piece



of pipe. Not knocked unconscious by the blow, the driver jumped into the back of the cab and began to fight with the men. The men leaped from the cab as he yelled for help. The pair climbed over a fence and disappeared.

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Chickens Poisoned:

Anthony R. Cardoza, 34, who lives at 227 3rd Street, Decoto, told the sheriff's office today that 24 of his chickens had died last night apparently from poisoning. He valued the chickens at \$40.

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**Arsonist Destroys Car:**

An arsonist escaped into the darkness early Saturday when he saw sheriff deputies coming after he had set fire to an automobile belonging to Dolores Garcia who lives at 307 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Decoto. The car, which Garcia had left parked before a tavern in Decoto, had been driven to near-by packing shed along a railroad track, where the arsonist set fire to it after piling boxes around it. Before touching fire to the car, the destructive firebug smashed the windows and engine of the car with a hammer.

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Gang Fight at Tavern:

A gang fight in front of a tavern at 608 "E" Street early today resulted in a critical stab wound for one of the participants and the arrest of two other men for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon. Mike R. Rodriguez, 25, staggered to his home at 404 7th Street after the fight and was taken from there to Highland Hospital with a severe cut to the abdomen. Two men were taken in to custody.

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**Mrs. Eleanor Salz Seriously Injured in Car Crash:**

Mrs. Eleanor Salz, wife of Clarence Salz, a Decoto fuel and grain dealer, suffered a spinal injury in a four-car crash, which injured several others on the Bayshore Highway near Redwood City yesterday. Mrs. Salz is in Palo Alto Hospital in serious condition.

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Boliba's Club Robbed:

The burglary of Boliba's Club, a bar and pool hall at 504 4th Street in Decoto, was reported to sheriff's deputies yesterday by Tony Boliba. Ringing up a 'no sale' on the cash register, the burglars made off with \$60 taken from the register sometime between midnight and 11:30 pm Wednesday.

December 1947:

Decoto Man in Critical Condition after Car Crash:

Miguel C. Lopez, about 25, of Decoto was in critical condition today at the Highland Hospital after the truck in which he was a passenger failed to make a turn on 6th St. in Decoto and crashed into a school building at about 4:30 p.m. December 1st. Lopez, whose skull was fractured, was taken to surgery last night. He was a

passenger in a truck driven by Filberto Finajero, 22, also of Decoto. Finajero, a laborer at the Pacific States Steel Company in Decoto told CHP patrolmen he had agreed to take Lopez into Oakland after meeting him at the post office. He said that while he was turning a corner near the school something went wrong with the steering wheel and the truck jumped the curb and ran into the side of the building.

January 1948:

Two Men Suffer Injuries in Fight:

John F. Soto, 50, of Decoto was treated at Fairmont Hospital for bruises about the face and head and a bite on the upper left arm. His assailant, his son-in-law was treated for bruises around the face and head. Soto said his son-in-law entered his house about midnight carrying a rifle and threatening him and his wife and starting a fight.

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##### **Woman Abducted and Assaulted:**

On January 4<sup>th</sup> at about 7 p.m., Mrs. Margaret N. Rodriguez, 18-year old Decoto housewife, was walking home from the show with her husband. As they reached the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and E Streets a 4-foot sedan drove up and some fellows got out. They knocked down Mr. Rodriguez and he was unable to get in time to stop them from forcing his wife into the rear seat of the car. Mrs. Rodriguez was driven through and past Alvarado and stopped the car behind some trees. At this point she tried to escape but was held back by the men and was attacked by each one. Then they drove her back to Decoto and let her out at Railroad and "H" Street where she got a description and the license number of the car while it was under a streetlight.

#### **February 1948:**

##### **Stray Dogs Kill Rabbits:**

Rabbit killing stray dogs were reported to the sheriff's office yesterday by two Decoto residents. Ralph Lopez reported that two dogs broke into seven on his cages yesterday killing six does, two bucks, and 18 small New Zealand rabbits. Victor Mognaga of Whipple Road reported the killing of 16 of his rabbits by dogs that broke into 11 cages.

#### **March 1948:**

##### **Frank Hernandez Purchases Decoto Theater:**

Frank Hernandez, formerly of Hollister, has purchased the Decoto Theater at 201 E Street. He also bought the adjoining cafe. Anthony Bautista was former owner of the properties.

#### **April 1948:**

##### **Young Boy Bitten by Dog:**

A five-year-old Decoto boy received treatment in Niles late yesterday afternoon for a dog bite wound, which required four surgical stitches. Robert Vortez suffered the wound when the dog owned by Raymond Santiago, 65, of 517 7<sup>th</sup> Street bit him on the right knee. Sheriff's deputies requested Santiago to tie the dog up for ten days for observation.

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Man Robbed at Decoto Café:

Jesus B. Costello of Decoto said two men robbed him of a watch valued at \$28 and of \$2.65 after he left a Decoto cafe Friday night. The sheriff's now have two men in custody.

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**Two Youths arrested in the Decoto Club:**

Nabbed at gunpoint early in the morning the first of this week in a Decoto tavern, two Decoto youths, 19 and 24 are being held by sheriff's deputies on charges of burglary. The two, who admitted having served time for attempted rape and attack with a deadly weapon, were found hiding in the Decoto Club at 2:30 a.m. The deputies were called to the scene by Neil Neilson, co-owner of the establishment, who observed on of the suspects inside as he passed the tavern on his way home.

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Woman Loses Valuable Watch in Home Robbery:

Mrs. Catherine Gardener, who lives on the Decoto-Niles Road, reported to the sheriff's office today that 16 pieces of jewelry, including a \$400 platinum wrist-watch had been stolen by burglars who ransacked her home Saturday.

May 1948:

Dry Creek is Dry, No Fish:

The Isaac Walton's who contemplates whipping out the rod and reel on the small trout stream that usually flows through the northern part of Decoto the opening day of fishing season, but they should take along drinking water and cans of sardines for lunch. During the past winter little water trickled down the creek bed as far as the railroad tracks.

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**Decoto Girl Wins Honor:**

An honor rarely bestowed upon a freshman went this month to Miss Jeanne Leonard, former Decoto girl and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Leonard, now of Hayward. Her poem was accepted and will be published in the "Embryo," honorary Campus Literary Magazine of the Ladies University in Southern California. The volume will compete with similar publication for state and national honors. Miss Leonard graduated from Holy Name's High School last year and attended Hayward High for her first two years.

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Decoto Club Robbed:

Theft of money and cigarettes totaling \$25 from the Decoto Club was reported by Neils Neilson to the sheriff's office. He discovered the burglary when he opened the establishment yesterday.

June 1948:

Great Holiday at Monterey:

A grand holiday at Monterey was enjoyed by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Garcia, Brenda and Kenita, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Garcia and Judy of Decoto, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cortez of

Pleasanton and Mrs. Sam Garcia of Niles. The men enjoyed some fishing. They also went to Carmel and took in the seventeen Mile Drive.



House Warming for Gonzalez's:

A housewarming was given to Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Gonzalez in their new home Saturday evening, May 29th. All enjoyed accordion and guitar music with Spanish dancing. Mrs. Minnie Sanchez and Mrs. Jessie Sanchez gave this lovely party for Jimmy and Delores. The following guests attended:

Frank and Jessie Sanchez	Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ward
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Escalona and twins	Mr. and Mrs. Marion Delgado and family
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gonzales and sons	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sanchez and family
Mr. and Mrs. T. Sanchez and Peter	Mr. and Mrs. B. Gonzales and family
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Orosco	Mrs. Minnie Sanchez
Mrs. Jessie Sanchez	Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Gonzalez

July 1948:

Driverless Car Rolls Down Castro Street:

Mrs. Bertha Vegas of 517 Railroad Ave., Decoto was in Hayward to obtain her driver's license. She failed, but the inspector said he would give her a learner's permit. Mrs. Vegas parked her car and went into to get her learner's permit. Her car decided to out for a ride as it slipped its brakes and rolled down the driveway incline and headed across Castro St. (today's Mission Blvd). Traffic was snarled as Mrs. Vegas' car rolled down Castro Street and finally came to rest against the fender of a parked car. Mrs. Vegas got her learner's permit, but if anything like that happens again they're going to pick up the car's registration certificate. The car promised not to do it again.



Man Runs into Train:

Three persons suffered minor injuries this morning when the car driven by Foro Olivencia, 67, of Decoto drove into the side of a Western Pacific Train at the Whipple Road crossing. All the victims were taken to the Fairmont Hospital to be treated for abrasions and shock. The two listed as injured besides the driver were: Natalie Cicairos, 12, Alvarado and her sister Rosalie, 10. The accident occurred when, according to Olivencia, he failed to hear the train whistle. There is no signal at Whipple Road.

August 1948:

Light Plane Crashes above Decoto:

A man and two women passengers were killed when the light plane they flying in crashed on a fog-shrouded hilltop behind Decoto. They had just taken off from Hayward Airport on route to Columbia in Tuolumne County. Two men from Decoto, Eugene K. Luna, 28 of 806 13th Street and Henry Brazil, 43 of 700 5th Street, were deer hunting when they heard the roar of a plane's engine being gunned and then they heard the sound of the crash. The craft hit the top of the ridge, bounced once and then exploded and burned, Luna said the knoll was "like a ball of fire." Flames dissipated the fog revealing the crash scene and Luna and Brazil hiked down to the Niles Road and summoned the authorities. The bodies of the three victims were scattered over an area of three hundred yards along with the wreckage. The bodies

were so badly mangled that it was several hours after the crash before it was realized that three persons, instead of two, were aboard the plane.

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#### **Young Searles Brings home a Deer:**

Harry Searles Jr., 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alwin Searles of Decoto, was the youngest hunter to bring down a deer on the opening weekend. The young man brought down a running two pointer with a single shot through the neck.

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Carl Zwissig Discovers Abandoned Mine:

Carl Zwissig, Decoto dairyman who has been running cattle in the hills north of here for more than 30 years, has discovered what seems to be an old mine, its timbered shaft extending horizontally about 500 feet into a hill back of the Masonic Home. Zwissig declares he doesn't know "a mine from a hole in the ground" but he is interviewing old timers to ascertain if possible what the excavation is and when it was made.

The discovery was made several days ago while a ranch crew was "bulldozing" a damp spot with the hopes of uncovering a spring. Timbers were struck about 15 feet below the surface and further excavation disclosed the opening. Highway Patrolman Larry Fowler heard of the find and chose to devote some time off to exploring. He says he went back into the "mine" about 500 feet and was stopped by earth and rocks, which clogged the tunnel. Water was almost hip-deep all the way back.

The six-foot passage is timbered with six by six inch posts, spaced about four feet apart, and seems to have been dug out of solid rock, splotched with brownish stone. When the opening was uncovered an avalanche of water, evidently stored in the cavity, poured out. How the entrance became covered with 15 feet of earth is conjectural, but Zwissig offers the suggestion that it may have resulted from the earthquake of 1868. So far, none of the old-timers who have lived in this vicinity for 60 years or more have been found with any knowledge of the mine, if it is one.

No mining operations are known to have been undertaken in this vicinity, though prospectors were said to have made test holes along the banks of Alameda Creek in Niles Canyon. At one point, what seems to have been a coalmine has been located about four miles from Niles.

October 1948:

Decoto Man Beaten in Decoto Tavern:

Two Mexican nationals are being held in custody today by the Hayward sheriff's department as suspects in the beating of Ignacio Quiroz, 21, in a Decoto tavern last night. Witnesses told sheriff's deputies that the two nationals came into the tavern with several friends and became belligerent with Quiroz. An argument started and one of the nationals struck Quiroz over the head with a beer bottle and slashed his face with the jagged edge of the broken bottle. Quiroz was taken to Niles for treatment. Quiroz will probably be permanently disfigured the physician told deputies.

December 1948:

Decoto Woman Dies in Fire:

Fire Chief Roland Bendel of the Decoto Fire Department today said the fire, which took the life of Mrs. Ricardo Chavaria, 78, in her home at 417 3rd St. early Sunday morning was caused by kerosene used to start a fire in a wood stove. A half-filled gallon can of kerosene was found near the kitchen stove by Chief Bendel during an investigation of the fire. Her husband, Ricardo, 66, received severe burns in an attempted rescue.



Youngster Falls from moving Car:

A four-year-old Decoto child was treated at Hayward Hospital for minor head injuries received when he fell out of the back seat of an Automobile on the Niles Road. The child, Luis Avila, was seated alone in the back seat and playing with the door when he fell out, according to his parents, Jesus and Agelina Avila of 535 4th Street, Decoto. Hospital attendants said the boy was not seriously injured, and would probably be released tomorrow.

January 1949:

Hank Borghi Football Hero:

Hank Borghi, Decoto's football hero, a University of California varsity tackle will be honored January 11th at the annual dinner meeting of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. The last Washington Township football player to make the Rose Bowl, Borghi is a graduate of Washington Union High School where he played basketball also and was awarded a life membership in the Washington Chapter of the California Scholarship Federation after attaining an "A" rating. His brother, Frank Borghi, a Decoto rancher and a director of the organization, will be on the welcoming committee. Also to be a guest will be Judson Taylor of Washington Union High School, who was associated with Borghi during his football days at the school. Borghi attended Cal Berkeley in 1944, 1946, 1947 and 1948. He was a member of the 1948 team that played in the Rose Bowl.



Carvalho Wins Decision:

Henry Carvalho, 126 pounds of Decoto, decisioned Mannie Perez, 129 pounds of Vallejo.



Niles Gets Credit for Pacific States Steel:

People down in Decoto who didn't get close to the Rose Bowl are still screaming, and not about that disputed touchdown, either! Its boosters maintain Niles grabs all the glory. Particularly they resent references to the Pacific States Steel plant "at Niles," when all maps show Washington Townships biggest industrial establishment is in the Decoto School District. The next biggest asset in Decoto is Hank Borghi, tackle for the Golden Bears, and the Decoto Chamber of Commerce was all set to display its pride in its favorite athletic son with a homecoming dinner on January 11th. So the radio broadcast from the Rose Bowl, and the programs distributed there, listed him as Hank Borghi, "of Niles."



Ramos Family Reunion:

Mrs. Mary Ramos held a family reunion at her home here in the real Christmas spirit. All of her children were there to help her celebrate the happy occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Boliba and sons of Niles, Mr. and Mrs. John Delcrew and daughters from Modesto, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Robiejo and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Garcia and daughters and her son Tony.

February 1949:

Start of Tract Homes in Decoto:

Located on Whipple Road near 4th and 5th Streets is what promises to be the start of a tract of home in Decoto. Built by L.J. Emery, contractor from Oakland, they are four new two-bedroom homes that are priced to sell for what this writer considers an amount lives with anybody's pocketbook. We hope to see more homes come up here because as a visiting San Francisco Real Estate woman remarked, and I quote, "Decoto is the most ideal spot for a home I've ever seen."



Joe Gonzalez:

And business is supposed to be slow, you wouldn't think that though when you see one of Decoto's business families, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gonzalez and sons Joe Jr. and Wayne riding around in their brand new 1949 Chevrolet. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gonzalez smilingly serve customers at Joe's Market on 6th Street. Located across from the school this store is the kids "candy haven," on the noon hour and "Jolly Joe is always there to serve them when he isn't busy battling it out with a salesman. Good luck with your new car, Joe and Elsie.



Babe's Modern Apparel:

Babe's Modern Apparel, that's the name of Decoto's newest business. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frances Rebiejo, this store with clothing for every member of the family was opened on Thursday January 27th.

Mrs. Rebiejo, who is called Babe by her many friends, needs no introduction to the citizens of Decoto. She is the youngest daughter of Mrs. Mary Ramos, one of Decoto's first merchants. That store is now the 4th Street Market, and was first opened many years ago by the late Tony Ramos and Mrs. Ramos. Since then the Ramos girls have all entered the business world. Mrs. Ramos' oldest daughter Annie is the wife of Joe Boliba at the Niles Garden Basket. Then comes Jessie, who with her husband, John Delcrew, operated the 4th Street Market until a year and a half ago. They are now in the dairy business near Modesto. Mary runs the Decoto Bakery and Grocery with her husband, Kenny Garcia, Decoto Chamber of Commerce President. And last is Babe. She and her husband have a wonderful store that promises to give shopper values for their money in all types of clothing and dry goods.

Mr. Rebiejo, who hails from Ashland, is a carpenter by trade. Mr. and Mrs. Rebiejo have two fine little girls, Donna and Maisie. So good luck and good business to this fine young, deserving couple in their new business, "Babes" Modern Apparel.



Joe Seoane Sr. to enter Hospital:

Entering Stanford Hospital in San Francisco Sunday was Mr. Joe Seoane, Sr., of 9th Street. Mr. Seoane will be operated on for a leg ailment that has bothered him for some time. He is employed by Don Nehrer Motors of 57th Avenue Oakland.



Decoto Welcomes Mr. and Mrs. Clarence George:

New residents in our town are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence George, who have moved here from Milpitas. They are living in one of Mrs. Mary Ramos' homes on 4th Street. Mrs. George is the former Sophie Torquemada, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Torquemada of 14th Street. Mr. George is employed by Martin and Dias, a local plumbing concern. Welcome to our town. PS. We hear the stork is on its way.



Mrs. Fausto Vizcarra out of Hospital:

Recovering from not one, but two major operations performed at San Jose Hospital is Mrs. Fausto Vizcarra of 3rd Street. She is home and doing very well being capably nursed by her two daughters. Believe it or not, after just one week at home she's already up and around. What spunk.



Paul Pagan out of Hospital:

Recuperating in an Oakland hospital after an operation is Mr. Paul Pagan formerly of Oakland, now living with his brother and sister-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Leo Pagan of Decoto. Paul operates Pagan's Inn, on 7th and E Streets. Paul's two sons from Oakland will operate the inn in his absence.



Decoto Handyman:

Anyone want to know how to spend his spare time? Just visit the Cardoza residence on 3rd and "C" Streets in Decoto. Mr. Cardoza, called "Rickey" by all who know him has a wonderful knack for making things out of anything. His latest project is a miniature wishing well. Rickey has made many of these for his friends. Much of his home furniture he made himself and to me they look as good as "store bought articles." He has swell ideas and on days off from work at Leslie Salt in Newark and on afternoons after work you'll always find him in his workshop, sawing away or hammering. He plays a mean "Chamarita" on the mandolin too!

March 1949:

Carvalho Decisioned by Sequeira:

Henry Carvalho of 5th Street in Decoto fought a tough fight against Frankie Sequeira of Oakland last Friday, a fight that went the six full rounds. But the decision was given to Sequeira in this featherweight bout. In a previous meeting Carvalho handed Sequeira his only loss by route of a knockout.



Fred Sanchez Home robbed of over \$5,000:

With the theft of \$5,576.18 in currency, negotiable checks, jewelry and firearms from a Decoto home yesterday, "dinner-time" burglars netted their largest amount to date in the Hayward area. The home of Fred G. Sanchez, 343, at 407 Whipple Road, was entered through an unlocked rear window sometime between 11 a.m. and 8:50 p.m. Sanchez told deputies he left the front door locked and the lights out. When he returned late yesterday, the door was standing open, but the lights were still out. Three thousand dollars of the amount stolen was in small bills, Sanchez told deputies. Two shotguns, and a wristwatch band were taken. The remainder of the amount in checks, most of which were endorsed to Sanchez. Sanchez operates a produce market in Decoto.

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**Decoto Boxing Club:**

The Pacific Association Amateur Athletic Union boxing championships will be held at the Civic Auditorium in San Francisco beginning tomorrow night. Locally, from the Granados Athletic Club of Decoto come Arthur Solis and Frank Gallegos.

**April 1949:**

**Marlo Packers of Decoto take game from Pillar Mfg:**

The Marlo Packers of Decoto continued their winning ways with a 13 to 4 pounding of the Pillar Mfg Co. The game was played under the lights at the San Lorenzo school. The winning pitcher was Pete Alcon. Pete Cervantes went in to pitch the last two innings. The big gun for Marlo was Manager Frank Rebiejo who powered on of the longest home runs we've ever seen in softball.

**May 1949:**

**Pete Pagan Very Ill:**

Recovering from a serious illness is Pete Pagan of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The doctor had to rush to the Pagan home last week and then ordered Mr. Pagan to the hospital immediately where he is recovering. Peter is the bartender for Tony's Tavern.

**June 1949:**

**Little Scuffle at Tony's Tavern:**

A little scuffle was held at Tony's Tavern last week with Rudy Hernandez and another man battling it out. Hernandez was stabbed across the stomach and then in turn broke about 20 beer bottles over the other man's head. Both required medical attention.

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Wedgewood Coaster Derby:

Thirty-nine boys from throughout the township entered the Wedgewood Coaster Derby at Hidden Valley Dude Ranch in Warm Springs. Taking part from Decoto was: Kenneth DePont, sponsored by Mercury Radio and Electric; Ralph Martinez, sponsored by Joe Martinez; Harry A. Searles, sponsored by Mr. Searles.

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**Carvalho Fights to a Draw:**

On Tuesday night, June 21<sup>st</sup>, Decoto's young scrapper, Henry Carvalho fought the six-round semi-windup at Stockton Civic Auditorium against Dave Reynoso. They both weighed in at 126 pounds. The fight was called a draw.



### **El Paso Restaurant Fire:**

The other night some wise citizen of our fair town, decided to get warm. So the "El Paso," a small restaurant run by an old lady trying to make her living, namely Mrs. Resendez, was set on fire. The local fire-eaters, one of the best fire departments in Alameda County, quickly put out the fire without much damage. And still nothing is done about getting a watchman, or some kind of police protection to halt this fire bugging, and fighting, and stabbing, and reckless driving!



### **Decoto and Oakland Youths Jailed after Gang Fight:**

Seven Oakland and Decoto youths were held in jail today as the aftermath of a gang fight, which moved from an Oakland Auditorium dance to a parking lot at Second Avenue and East 10th Street. Police, who described the youths as "pachucos," said the fight evidently involved a Decoto gang and an Oakland gang. Auto cranks and a length of heavy chain were reportedly employed as weapons. One Decoto lad was injured and received medical treatment and was then jailed. The youths were mainly all teenagers.

### **August 1949:**

#### **Loma Linda Café:**

One of the newest business's in town, the Loma Linda Café is catering to all trade and doing fine. Of course the place itself isn't new. The café was formerly operated by Mrs. Lloyd Guzman. Then the owner of the property, Joe Valenzuela had the place remodeled with a new barbecue pit and new kitchen, and now he and Roger Gomez run it. You can go in anytime and see the chickens, spareribs, and other delicious barbecuing before your very eyes with their own special sauce. So next time drop in to see Roger for a real treat you won't forget. You'll be back, too.



### **Marlo Packing Co.:**

The Marlo Packing Co. at Decoto is employing over 200 people and is canning about 3,400 cases of peaches daily. The tomato harvest will start early in September.

### **September 1949:**

Pay Halliwell Attends Oakland Oak Ballgame:

Pat Halliwell of Decoto celebrated her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday at Oaks Park as guests of the *Washington News* with Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Costa. She got to meet Bud Foster and Chuck Dressen manager of the Oaks.



### **Susan Lopes Birthday Party:**

Given a birthday party on Monday afternoon, August 29<sup>th</sup> was Susan Lenette Lopez, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Lopez of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Market. Little Susan was one year old and received many gifts. Attending the party was: Kath Sanchez, Susan Alvarez, Daisy Rebiejo, Raymond Aguirre, Lily Koshneider, and Buster Medrano.

### **October 1949:**

### **Watch Makes Ten-Year Journey:**

Jesus Castillo of Decoto was involved in a watch that made a 10-year journey before being returned to its rightful owner. The story:

Carl Boorman of Oakland presented was with an engraved Waltham watch in 1926 from the Elmhurst Lodge F&AM as the past master's jewel. In 1939 the watch was stolen from his home. The watch was left at a jeweler's to be repaired and never reclaimed, so the jeweler sold it to Jesus Castillo.

In 1948, Castillo was held up by strong-arm bandits and robbed of the watch along with other possessions. Stanley Peterson, of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, was assigned to the job of tracking down the thieves. And track them down he did, he also recovered the loot.

Peterson recognized the watch as the one given to Boorman way back in 1926, when Peterson was also a member of the lodge.

Last Friday night at ceremonies at the Elmhurst Lodge meeting, Boorman was again presented with the past master's jewel, the same watch given him 23 years ago. Peterson made the presentation.

### **November 1949:**

#### **Ernie Soto Fractures his Arm:**

Wearing a sling these days is young Ernie Soto, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Soto of 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Ernie fractured his arm this past week while playing tackle football and the boys forgot about roughness rules.

### **December 1949:**

#### **Safety Sally Run Over:**

In Decoto, Safety Sally was killed in the line of duty a few weeks ago, as she stood at her post in a school intersection. A speeding auto crashed headlong into Sally, one of the life sized wooden replicas of schoolgirls placed in the school zones of this area. The dummy took the brunt of blow, protecting a Decoto boy who received minor injuries.

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More Homes Built in Decoto:

Workmen employed by George Mennet of Hayward are now busy erecting attractive quality homes on two city blocks, bordered by A and 9th Streets in Decoto. Several of the beautiful 31 houses to be constructed on the property have already been built and are for sale at prices ranging from \$6,300 to \$8,950.