

THE HISTORY OF DECOTO
CHAPTER 10
NOVEMBER 1950 THRU 1959

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**UNION
CITY**

**In January 1959 Decoto and
Alvarado became the City of
Union City!**

*** DECOTO DEMOGRAPHICS ***

This is the demographic breakout of the residents of Decoto from 1900 to 1940 according to the census data of the time. These calculations are my own derived from my own methodology and from the database that I created from microfilm copies of the original census sheets. My figures may not agree with official U.S. tallies of the same period. As of today (June 2021) the 1950 Decoto census is still nine months from its release. Because of this there is no 1950 demographic information. This will also impact my biographies of the business people. For the 1950 decade I will list the businesses that I could locate and as much info as I could

find as to owner and location. I will also expand "Civic Leaders" category for this decade. These are persons who had a direct bearing on the growth of the town of Decoto and the incorporation of Union City during the 1950's.

Percentage of Population by Census Year					
Country	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
Argentina	0%	0%	0%	0%	.20%
Austria	0%	0%	.10%	0%	0%
Belgium	0%	0%	.20%	0%	0%
Brazil	0%	0%	0%	0%	.10%
Canada	1.40%	.50%	.40%	.10%	.30%
Chile	0%	0%	.10%	0%	0%
China	.40%	1.50%	.90%	0%	.20%
Colombia	0%	0%	0%	0%	.10%
Denmark	2.60%	.60%	.50%	.20%	.10%
England	.60%	.60%	.30%	.20%	0%
Finland	.20%	0%	.00%	0%	0%
France	0%	0%	.10%	0%	0%
Germany	6.70%	1.50%	1.30%	.60%	.10%
Ireland	2.40%	.60%	.50%	.20%	0%
Italy	0%	.80%	3.00%	3.00%	1.90%
Japan	0%	2.40%	2.70%	3.80%	.20%
Mauritius	0%	0%	0%	.20%	0%
Mexico	0%	0%	.20%	19.50%	30.60%
Norway	0%	0%	.10%	0%	0%
Peru	0%	0%	0%	.40%	0%
Philippines	0%	0%	0%	.40%	.10%
Porto Rico	0%	0%	2.40%	21.40%	8.40%
Portugal	64.80%	76.90%	53.10%	20.40%	7.60%
Russia	0%	0%	.10%	0%	.00%
San Salvador	0%	0%	0%	0%	.20%
Scotland	.20%	.30%	0%	0%	.10%
Serbia	0%	0%	0%	.20%	.00%
South Africa	0%	0%	0%	.10%	.10%
South America	0%	0%	0%	.10%	.00%
Spain	0%	0%	17.20%	15.00%	16.50%
Sweden	.80%	1.50%	1.20%	.20%	.20%
Switzerland	0%	0%	1.80%	.70%	.90%
Wales	0%	0%	0%	.10%	.00%
U.S. Born	19.90%	12.80%	13.80%	13.20%	32.10%
TOTALS:	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

 * **POST WAR DECOTO** *

As the decade of the 1950's started it had only been five years since the end of WWII. But there was still a "hoarding" mentality among the American people. Most

Decotan's still considered themselves as "children" of the depression and could still recall the hardships of the "Great Depression." The great depression taught Americans how to deal with shortages by using what they had wisely. Food, the most important commodity was not wasted and people made ample use of "left-overs" now that refrigeration had become wide spread.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As I was researching the early 1950's I ran across this statement, which has nothing to do with Decoto but has everything to do with where we are today. The statement read, "In these days of atomic energy, jet planes, television, hula hoops, be-bop and many other new discoveries and inventions it takes a fast pace to just keep up."

This was what we were facing going into the 1950's, the world was changing was at the speed of light it seemed. My father was born in Italy in 1899, and there was just beginning to be talk of the horseless carriage then. By the time my father passed

away in 1980 they had put a man on the moon and the newly discovered (in the late 1940's) transistor had replaced the vacuum tube, which made miniaturization of radio and TV possible and the coming of the computer.

The end of the 40's saw this thing called ENIAC, a computer that could process 5,000 addition problems, or 357 multiplication problems, or 38 division problems in a single second! It covered 1,800 square feet and weighed thirty tons. It consumed 160 kilowatts, enough electricity to power 177 homes for a month! Today the capability of ENIAC is dwarfed by your desktop PC, or even your cell phone!

But yet, when we look back at it 65 years later, this humongous early computer seems almost infantile in terms of today's society. Yes the speed at which things changed did look like a blur as we look back on it today, but if we look back at this decade under microscope, I mean if we were to focus down at the lowest level of this rapid movement we would find life moved slowly along the path into the future. And it wasn't just the 1950's, and this continues today and it keeps moving at the speed of light.

*** DECOTO BUSINESS LISTING ***

<u>Business Name:</u>	<u>Business Owner:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Antone L. Costa, Builder	A.L. Costa	6 th & "H"
Alaco Preserving Co.	Jos. Hollingshead	Railroad & "H" Sts.
Alameda County Mosquito Dist.	Roland Bendel	607 10 th St.
Alameda Vegetable & Produce	John Schenone	Decoto Road
Al's Cabinet Shop	A.L. Costa	508 H Street
American Forge	Bud Thomas, Mgr	Alvarado Niles Road
Ann & Ed's Café	Ann & Ed Vessel	Niles Road
Appliance Install Repair	J. M. Vigil	411 Whipple
Arizona Club	Blas Lopez	205 "E" Street
Bernard School		619 Whipple Road
Bert's Market	Bert Joseph	901 10 th St.
Bill's Taxi Service	Call Decoto 2-3115	Shell Service Station
Biltmore Homes Inc.	Treeview Homes, L.A.	Hillview Crest
Bob & Jack's Fixit Shop.	In Hillview Crest	1523 Lafayette
Boliba's Pool Hall		
C.F. Salz & Co.	Goularte, Muniz & Silva	"H" & 9 th Sts.
Cactus Mac's Nursery	C. E. McHenry	Niles Road
Cardenas Market	Jesus Cardenas	609 "E" Street
Carmen's Kitchen Nook	Manuel Mariuz	E Street
Castro Grocery	Mary Castro	6 th Street
Chapel of the Chimes	Lawrence F. Moore	Mission Boulevard
Claude T. Lindsay Inc.	George Osmond	Railroad & "F" Sts.
Dang, Walter, D.D.S.	Dentist	6 th & "E"
Decoto Bakery & Grocery	Ken Garcia	915 10 th Street
Decoto Barber Shop	Rinaldo Caminada	813 10 th Street
Decoto Drug Store (a)		425 1 st Street
Decoto Drug Store (b)		915 10 th Street
Decoto Garage	Manuel Andrade	527 Decoto Road

Decoto Grammar School		6 th & H Streets
Decoto Hotel	Clarence Silva	
Decoto Medical Building	Dr. Morgan Lee	"E" Street
Decoto Medical Clinic	Levine, Taylor & Meier	309 "H" Street
Decoto Mill & Lumber Co.		D & Railroad
Decoto Pharmacy		306 E Street
Decoto Pool Hall	Carlos Torres	411 5 th Street
Decoto Service Station	Norman Murdock	
Decoto Shoe Shop	Joe Turtucci	6 th Street
Decoto Theater	Frank Hernandez	201 E. D
Decoto Variety Store	Manuel Hidalgo	6 th & "H"
Del's Place	Mary Leyva	505 6 th Street Don
Don Alvarado Co.	Al Solari	12 th & "H" Streets
Eaton Pipe & Machinery	Fred Eaton Sr.	Railroad Avenue
Economy Market	Lee Fong	6 th & "E" Streets
Elizarrey Electric Appl. Repair	John Elizarrey	"E" & Decoto Rd
El Porvenir Cafe		425 5 th
Estelle's Café	Estelle Hernandez	955 "H" Street
Family Market		331 7 th
Fire Department		926 10 th Street
Fisher, Dr. R. B.		Niles Road
Fourth Street Market	Mrs. Chow	504 4 th
Frades Nursery		Decoto Road
Freeman Market	Les Freeman	2 nd & "E"
Goularte, Ed Painting		101 A Street
Hansen, P. C., Lumber Co.		11 th Street
Jimmy's Produce		700 6 th Street
Joe's Market	Joe Gonzalez	710 6 th Street
Johnny's Cleaners	Lopez & Naranjo	310 7 th St.
Johnny's Shell		625 1 st Street
KP Aggregates		Niles Hwy
Kraftile Co.	C. W. Kraft	Niles/Decoto Border
Krull & Pacheco, Contractors		
La Esperanza Grocery		806 E Street
La Fortuna Tortilla Factory		804 E Street
Las Palma Hotel	Manuel Mariuz	
Lee, Dr. Morgan F.	Physician	919 10 th Street
Lincoln Industries Lumber Mill		
Lindsay, Claude T. Inc.		D & Railroad
Loma Linda Café	Joe Valenzuela	Niles & Whipple Rds
M & S Tile	George L. Smith	2 nd & E Streets
Mal's Launderette	Manuel Boliba	609 "E"
Mal's Liquor	Manuel Boliba	601 "E"
Mal's Shoe Store	Manuel Boliba	505 3 rd Street
Marlo Packing Co.		H & Railroad
Martin & Diaz, Sewer Const.		103 9 th Street
Mary & Elsie's	Elsie A. Martinez	608 "E" Street
Masonic Home		Niles Road
Mercury Radio & Electric	Fred Costa	6 th & H Streets
Mexico Lindo Hall		6 th & "C"
Meyers, Dr. Edith		May Road
New Colma Mill	William Rice	Railroad & D Streets
New Decoto Club		529 3 rd

Olson Grocery	Bernie Joseph	901 10th
Oro Linda Café	Rogelio Gomez	
Pacific States Steel	Bud Thomas, Mgr.	Alvarado Niles Road
PG&E Pipe Proc. Plant	Pipe Wrapping Plant	Decoto Road
PG&E Substation		Zwissig Ranch
Pud'n Hed Jones No. 2		Niles & Whipple Rds
PX Supermarket	Mission Blvd. &	Hillview Crest
Ray's Market	Ramon Orozco	514 "F"
Ray's Service Garage	Ray McNulty	1007 10th
Rental & Rug Cleaning Service		3318 Hemlock Dr.
Robert's School of Dance	Union Funeraria Hall	1680 Castro, Decoto
Ron Harper's Shell Station	Ron Harper	"E" & Niles Hiway
Salazar Market		417 7 th Street
Sanchez Bros. Produce		407 Whipple Road
Sanchez Service Station	John R. Sanchez	625 First Street
Schubert's Grocery Store	Benito Schubert	317 6th St.
Shenk's Union Service Station		Niles Road
Shorty's Mobil Service	Shorty Garcia	935 H
Siegel & Peterson Quality Meats		206 "E" St.
Silva's Hall	Albert Silva	10 th & "I"
Southern Pacific Railroad		
Star Bakery		14th Street
Tony's Pool Hall		506 4th Street
U. S. Pipe & Foundry		Whipple Road
Walker Ready-Mix Concrete		Whipple Road
Western Pacific Homes	Fred Rhodes	
Western Pacific Railroad		
William Box, Eqpt. Repair	William Box	Decoto Road
Zwissig Bros Dairy		Niles Road

*** DECOTO CIVIC LEADERS ***

Henry C. Rivera / Manuel Boliva (Boliba) / Ray Orozco / Father Ralph Duggan / Keith Whipple / Dr. Harold Schoenfeld / Alfred Fereira / Miss Mary B. Janeiro (George) / Joseph Lewis Sr. / Oscar Dowe

Bios From Previous Chapters: *Roland Bendel / Kenneth Garcia / Frank Borghi Jr. / Manuel White / Joseph Seaone Jr. / William Davis / Bernie Joseph / Lewis Musick / Antone Amaral / Alwyn Searles / Manuel Hidalgo / Jack Faletti*

Henry C. (Enrique) Rivera:

Henry Rivera was born in Spain circa 1902. His wife Carmen Hurtado Alcalde was born in Spain circa 1904. Their date of entry into the U.S. is not known. The couple took out a license to marry in September 1934. They had three sons, Antonio born circa 1937 and John born circa 1939; another son Henry was born after 1940.

Henry Rivera resided on Whipple Road in 1940, where he gave his employment as the proprietor of a wrecking yard. However, when he came into the public view in the early 1950's he was the owner of a trailer court on Whipple Road.

In April 1955 the Decoto Chamber of Commerce gave its approval to Henry's petition to the Alameda County Planning Commission allowing him to enlarge the facilities at his trailer park. Rivera explained that his permit allows the park on only 150 feet of land from the highway, although his property runs to an approximate depth of 400 feet. He would like to develop his entire two-acre plot as a trailer park. In May 1955 he received permission from the Board of Supervisors to enlarge his trailer park.

Henry was a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce and in February 1953 took a stand on water delivery service to the town residents. Henry, who at this time was the owner of the trailer court said, "He would not object to higher rates if the service were improved."

Henry became aroused with Hayward's penetration into Washington Township, especially the take over of the Hillview Crest housing tract on Whipple Road. Henry joined a Chamber committee along with Frank Borghi Jr. and Manuel Hidalgo to meet with county planners to discuss Hayward's intrusion into Washington Township (and Decoto) in April 1954.

Henry was voted to the Board of Directors of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce in December 1955, joining Irving Williams, William Davis and Manuel Seoane.

Henry sounded a note of caution in a May 1956 Chamber meeting when the civic body unanimously voted for a uniform rezoning of the 233-acre Zwissig property to heavy industrial. The Zwissig property was across the highway from the Masonic Home and abutted on the north to Decoto Road. But Henry Rivera cautioned the headlong rush into heavy industrial with this proviso: "Decoto generally gets the type of industries other communities reject," he declared. Rivera said he thought a portion of the property should be reserved for homes, leaving an industrial belt, adding he had no objection to "clean industries like General Motors." But he added, "Other types would ruin Decoto with dust, smoke, and smog."

Henry also sat on the Union City Chamber of Commerce, which was a combination of the Alvarado and Decoto Chambers of Commerce. This body was instituted as a show of force against Hayward's take over of Washington Township property.

In November 1956 Henry was tasked, along with Bernie Joseph, to contact homeowners in Decoto to request cooperation in obtaining sidewalks for the town. In December 1957 Henry was elected to the Board of Directors of the Union City Chamber of Commerce.

Besides the Decoto Chamber Henry was also a member of the Decoto Merchant's Association Board of Directors, joining with David Escobido, Ann Vessel and Manuel Boliva.

Henry was also a member of the Union Funeraria de Decoto serving as Vice President and then President of the organization.

Henry Rivera passed away in June 1967 at the age of 62 in Decoto. Besides being a member of the Decoto and Union City Chamber of Commerce, he was

also a member of the Decoto Merchants Association, the Union Funeraria de Decoto and the Sociedad Hispana do Decoto.

Manuel Boliva (Boliba):

Manuel "Mal" Boliva was born in Puuene, Maui, Hawaii on May 30, 1917 to John and Antoinette Boliva, who had emigrated from Spain in 1913. John & Antoinette had six children in Spain and three more were born in Hawaii, including Manuel. After 1920 the family emigrated to the U.S. The family relocated to the U.S. after 1920 and was found in Contra Costa County near Antioch Calif. in 1930. There were two more children born to the couple in California, Flora and Mary, Mary being the last born circa 1922. Sometime between then and 1930 John Boliva died. The family then relocated to Decoto Calif.

Manuel met Jennie Navas, who lived on the same street as Manuel and in December 1934 they announced their intention to wed. In 1940 Manuel and Jennie were living at 416 Fourth Street in Decoto and Manuel was employed as a gardener in a nursery. At this time they showed not having any children. Manuel served with our armed forces during WWII after which he returned to Decoto raise his family.

Manuel was the owner of Mal's Liquors that was located at 601 "E" Street in Decoto. Mal's Liquors first appears in newspaper articles on October 26, 1951 and undoubtedly existed sometime before this date.

Manuel was an early supporter of the incorporation of Decoto and Alvarado into the City of Union City. As a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce he stood up for the town at meetings and offered his opinion of the value of being an unincorporated town in November 1955 when he declared at a Chamber meeting, "We're giving the county a lot of money but not getting anything for it." Manuel supported Decoto and Alvarado's effort to incorporate into our own city.

At this same time Manuel was canvassing banks in the East Bay to try to obtain a branch of a large bank in the Decoto area. Decoto did not have any bank services available for its citizens, the closest banks being in Niles and Alvarado. Manuel's efforts resulted in the banks promising surveys at some future time, but none would commit to even a definite time of survey.

Manuel was also a long time member of the Decoto Merchants Association, serving in many official capacities including President and also serving on the Board of Directors of the organization.

In 1954 Mal's Liquor sponsored a semi-pro team from Decoto to compete with other East Bay semi-pro teams. In 1954 the players were: Ortiz, Priego, Kelly, Elizarrey, Garcia, Abbott, Pacheco, Serbantes, Perez, Nieves, and Fields.

The incorporation of Decoto and Alvarado started in earnest in the spring of 1958 and Manuel led the Decoto effort in gaining signatures on the petition to get the incorporation on the ballot. The deadline for handing in signatures was August 27, 1958. Manuel asserted on August 22nd that he felt that they had enough signatures at that time to force a vote.

Manuel stayed interested in the Decoto district after incorporation through his efforts on the civic organizations. In 1963 Manuel served with Mrs. Margot Arenchild (the former Mrs. Theodore Harvey) of Alvarado, as the Union City participants in pushing for the completion of the Flood Control in Zone 5 and \$10.3 million levy needed to bring this project to fruition.

Manuel Boliva (often times referred to as Manuel Boliba) passed away on February 28, 2007 and was laid to rest in the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Mission Boulevard in Hayward.

Ramon "Ray" Orozco:

Ramon Orozco was born in Mexico circa 1910. His wife Maria was born in Mexico circa 1903. Their date of entry into the U.S. is not known, nor is the date of their marriage. In 1940 they had two children, Raul and Ramon. At this time Ramon was working as a farm laborer.

Circa 1951 Ramon purchased a food market at 514 "F" Street in Decoto. He called his enterprise Ray's Market.

Ray was also a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce at this time and was on the committee to welcome new residents in the Hillview Crest subdivision to the town of Decoto. Cards were to be distributed to welcome new residents of the Hillview Crest home tract by the committee composed of Bernie Joseph, Manuel Hidalgo, Joe Valenzuela, Ray Orozco, and Manuel Seane. The cards would contain information about local services, telephone numbers of fire department and sheriff's offices, schools, and churches, plus an invitation to join the Chamber of Commerce.

The following spring, March 1952, Ray was chosen by the Chamber to work on a committee tasked by Chamber President Manuel Hidalgo to investigate possible street repairs for 5th, 6th, and 7th Streets. The following month Ray was given the lead on the committee to list Decoto streets in need of paving, curbing, and repairs to be addressed to County Surveyor Wallace Boggs, and for paving to the county board of supervisors.

Ray next took to help better his Mexican brethren in Washington Township by arranging for citizenship classes at the Decoto School on Monday nights for a series of continuous classes. Assisting him in this endeavor were Carol Saucedo and Father Ralph Duggan.

Ray joined the incorporation effort by becoming a member of the New Haven steering Committee in May 1957. Instead of backing the incorporation of Decoto and Alvarado into the City of Union City, the New Haven group sought to incorporate Decoto & Alvarado into the City of New Haven. New Haven's boundaries were different than those proposed for Union City's in as much as Union City's boundaries conflicted with Hayward City claims for the same piece of property. Like the Union City Steering Committee, the New Haven organization was attempting to spur incorporation of land between the boundaries of Hayward and Fremont. Land under consideration of New Haven differed from that in the Union City incorporation as New Haven's did not

include the contested 1,132-acre Treeview area currently being considered by Hayward incorporation.

By the end of the year Hayward had won the lawsuit for the disputed territory between Union City and the City of Hayward and then the aims of the incorporation of Alvarado and Decoto were identical and the two steering committees joined together under the banner of Union City.

Father Ralph Duggan

Ralph J. Duggan was born in the Potrero District of San Francisco in 1916. After graduating from Saint Mary's College (Moraga) he was employed as a teacher in church high schools for four years, including Cathedral High School for Boys in Los Angeles in 1940.

Ralph Duggan left the teaching ranks and entered St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. After graduation from St. Patrick's in June 1945 he followed his interests and went to work among underprivileged families of old St. Mary's Parish in Oakland; he was also chaplain in the city jail.

He joined the Spanish Mission Band and was given an opportunity by his archdiocese to attend the University of Mexico for background studies. He wound up, however, with an assignment more to his liking, six months as the priest in a small Mexican village.

Father Duggan arrived in Decoto early in 1950. The bulkiest items in the priest's baggage were a canvas cot and a little heater, which he promptly set up in the small, unfurnished sacristy of the old church on 11th Street. For much of his time in Decoto, that room was Father Duggan's home although he was not often there.

He immediately began the parish work expected of a priest, helping to meet the religious needs of his people. They included all the Spanish-speaking people of southern Alameda County as well as the Decotans. He saw also to the more material needs of those not fortunate enough to possess the things essential to merely exist. It is impossible to compute his work as an undercover agent of charity during his six years in Decoto.

He will best be remembered, however, for his work with the boys of Decoto. Youngsters were soon flocking to take part in his sports programs. The boys of Decoto were awed one day when Archie Moore suddenly arrived to put on a boxing exhibition.

Father Duggan, with the efforts of volunteers, helped build the new church that also served as a gymnasium. It was also to be a center for his youth activities, but when the old church burned in 1952, the new building was converted to a church. A small house on the six-acre site became the priest's residence. The old Decoto School was moved from down the street to house catechism classes, and volunteer labor help refurbish it. A baseball diamond occupied part of the site, and a boxing ring was installed in the school.

Among other duties he had the task of administering last rites in four fatal plane crashes near Decoto. Two of those are still remembered today. One a

UAL flight from Boston occurred in the hills above Decoto and the other a Transocean Air flight from Roswell New Mexico took the life of 40 persons in a barley field off Whipple Road at the Alvarado-Decoto school boundary line.

Many of Father Duggan's works are known only to the recipients and himself. One that is known is the case of a boy who could not have attended Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland without clothes and bus fare furnished by the priest.

Father Duggan's transfer to Richmond was part of the regular routine of moving a priest every five or six years. The mud-spattered carpenter of weekdays, and priest of Sunday's, will not soon be forgotten, however, by the people of Decoto.

Keith Whipple:

Keith Whipple was born in Decoto in 1922 to John C. Whipple Jr. and Edith Whipple. John C. Whipple Jr.'s father was John C. Whipple, son of Rufus Whipple, and nephew of John Cleveland Whipple the early pioneer of Decoto.

Keith's father, John C. Whipple, was killed in October 1931 in a horrific auto accident while riding as a passenger in the car of James Logan. Both men were high school trustees.

Keith attended the Decoto Grammar School and graduated from Washington Union High School in Centerville in 1940. He then attended college at UC Davis.

Upon his return from college Keith began farming on his father's ranch along with his mother.

Keith took an early civic interest Decoto. At the age of 25 he had already served as a Fire Commissioner for the town and was up for reelection in 1947. At this time he was serving on the Commission with Louis Zwissig and Antone Amaral. When Louis passed away in 1948 Carl Zwissig was appointed as his successor.

Keith revealed his engagement Miss Marie Jean Lindeman, UC Cal senior, in March 1948. He passed candy to reveal the secret. They were married on June 27, 1948, in the garden of the Whipple home.

In April 1948 Keith was selected as a member of the Niles Rotary Club and in April 1950 he was reappointed a fire commissioner for the Town of Decoto. Later Keith would become a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce where he would serve as member of the board.

Hayward upset the serenity of Decoto and Alvarado in 1954 with their plan to annex Hillview Crest, and then 2,400 acres of Decoto & Alvarado land. Keith, as a fire commissioner pointed out that a new firehouse was planned with an eye on the fact that Hillview Crest was in the fire district, and that the proposed annexation with Hayward would remove Hillview from the fire district.

In February 1955 Keith was a founding member of the Union City Steering Committee under President Frank Borghi Jr. The steering committee was formed to incorporate Decoto & Alvarado into the City of Union City and to fight off the City of Hayward's attempt to annex Decoto and Alvarado land.

By March 1955 the cause to unite Decoto and Alvarado began gaining momentum and people saw the possibility of thwarting Hayward's attempt to take Washington Township industrial land. Said Keith Whipple, "People here do not know what is going on, they don't know that Union City has a chance to succeed."

Keith then added the responsibility of becoming a member of the Alameda County Water District Board of Directors in December 1956. Keith was voted in to complete the term of Dr. E.M. Grimmer's, whose term would expire in April 1960.

In April 1958 Keith Whipple resigned his seat on the Alameda County Water District Board to pursue his farming interests.

Dr. Harold Schoenfeld:

Dr. Harold Schoenfeld was appointed superintendent of the Decoto School District in May 1952 by a unanimous vote of the board of trustees. A native of San Francisco, Dr. Schoenfeld was selected from a list of candidates because of his leadership in the administrative field. Dr. Schoenfeld was the coordinator of health, physical education, and recreation on the staff of Dr. Vaughn Seidel, Alameda County Schools Superintendent. As such he had been in close contact with the Washington Township area during the past eight years. Dr. Schoenfeld received his doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley.

Harold Schoenfeld was born in California in 1915. His wife, Evangeline, was born in California in 1916. In 1940 the Schoenfeld's were living in Berkeley where Harold was a physical education teacher at Willard Jr. High (Willard Middle School today). His wife was a private violin teacher. In 1945 Harold became part of Vaughan Seidel's management team in the Alameda County Schools Superintendent's Office. Here he continued to work with physical education duties for the county schools and also on other administrative duties.

As Superintendent on the Decoto School District he would oversee the two existing schools in Decoto and the building of four more schools, Hillview Crest, H. C. Searles, El Rancho Verde and Manuel White Schools. His challenges included working with students, teachers, parents and the Alameda County Schools administration. As if this were not enough he was further challenged by the constant flux in schools created by runaway growth and having to deal with building contractors, land use issues, property owners whose land was chosen for school sites.

Among the unique challenges Dr. Schoenfeld faced was one, which we would consider unheard of in today's society. That was the shortage of building material. In November 1951, a full six years after the ending of World War building materials were still in short supply. To obtain steel allocations for the building of the Hillview Crest School Dr. Schoenfeld appealed in person before

the National Production Authority in Washington (D.C.) for allocations of critical materials for his school district.

Dr. Schoenfeld was a strong leader who had certain ideas on the mental and physical well being of his students:

For example he favored the elimination of school buses saying, "I don't believe children should be mollycoddled. I think they could very well strengthen their legs and their character by walking to school, if they reside within the one-mile limit. However, we always make an exception for hazardous conditions, such as the crossing of railroad tracks, and for handicapped children."

However, when physical activity came into conflict with the psyche he felt that competitive athletics accentuated by adult pressures interfere with satisfactory group identification. At the 9 to 14 ages when boys are eligible for Little League, Schoenfeld believed it was harmful to expose them to the experience of defeat.

Said Schoenfeld, "I used to be a playground director and I thought competition was great. But when I studied psychology and biology, I learned that children have not developed enough for that. It is pushing them too fast."

Further he believed, "That many children's activities were sponsored to satisfy the desires and ambition of adults. Few children will say that they honestly enjoy competition. The pressures, the frustrations, the defeats, and the adulations overtax their ability to absorb this kind of punishment. How many boys suffer because they think they have let their team down? That is not good."

Besides dealing with the frustration of children, parents and teachers, Dr. Schoenfeld also had to deal with the Decoto School Board of Trustees. His dealing with most of the trustees was amicable and friendly. However one trustee could be relied upon to offer drama in the board meetings. This was Joseph Seoane Jr., general business agent for the AFL Machinist Union, and Decoto School Board Trustee.

Mr. Seoane was a fiscal conservative in spending money and carefully watched out for the taxpayer's dollar. Seoane was also a proponent of free and open board meetings. This caused some drama between him and Schoenfeld, whom Seoane sometimes lined up against.

The question arose at a board meeting whether school employees were threatened with termination for making a complaint directly to the board. Seoane asked a pointed question of Dr. Harold Schoenfeld, "Have you ever told an employee he would lose his job if he went above your head to the board of trustees?"

"Recently?" replied Schoenfeld after a considerable pause.

When pressed for a definite reply to the original question, Schoenfeld said he had done so "three years ago," but did not elaborate. He commented that he

saw nothing wrong with the open meetings proposed by Seane provided it was clearly understood they were not being called to work around the administration, and were not in criticism of the administration. There the matter rested.

At one board meeting Seane 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 the man proved incapable of preventing violations of district rules.

Seane 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 Seane.

"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, Seane's fellow board members backed up Schoenfeld and gave the superintendent authority to determine which custodians were qualified for the job.

Sometimes what came out of these meetings was humorous. In the 1957-1958 School budget meeting tight-fisted Joe was making the district superintendent account for 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.

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

What Schoenfeld failed to mention to Trustee Joe was that the Alameda County Schools Office was moving from San Leandro to its new offices on Winton Avenue in Hayward and that would cut the toll rate by about 50 percent.

Alfred Ferreira:

Alfred Ferreira was born in California circa 1914. His wife, the former Anita Cortez of Decoto, was born in California circa 1915. They had one daughter, Loretta, at the time of the 1940 census. Alfred and Anita took out a license to marry in June 1935 and after their marriage they settled in Decoto. In the 1940 census Alfred showed his employment as a laborer in the cannery.

Alfred was a member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce and the Decoto Volunteer Fire Department. Alfred was listed as one of nine volunteer fire

fighters in Decoto that served during WWII. Alfred was with the Navy in Panama.

After his discharge from the Navy Alfred continued his service to Decoto as a member of Decoto Volunteer Fire Department. In January 1953 the Decoto Fire Department listed the members:

Fire Chief:	Roland Bendel		
Ass't Chief:	Chris Guerra		
Captain:	Don Martin		
Lieut:	Joe Martin	Kenneth Garcia	
Engineer:	Joe Ferraris		
Hosemen:	Lloyd Cambra	Joe Garcia	Manuel Garcia
	Peo Paniagua	Gonsalo Paniagua	Paul Garcia
	Al Roderigues	A.L. Costa	Frank Sanchez
	Alfred Ferreira	Manuel Seoane	Joe Seoane
	Paul Shields		
Auxiliary:	Edward Delgado	Louis Leimbach	

In September 1950 Alfred ran as a write in candidate for the seat of Clarence Frates on the Decoto Sanitary District. Clarence, the incumbent, had been on the board since 1936. Alfred won the seat handily and took a seat on the board.

Expansion of present facilities or construction of new connections to handle near future development in the Decoto Sanitary District area became a matter of grave concern to the people of Decoto. With the addition of the Hillview Crest housing tract coming on line and the Fairway Park and El Rancho Verde tracts in the near future, Decoto fell short of a modern sewage treatment plant. Al Ferreira stated, in August 1952, that the board was studying every possible means to properly take care of the impending Decoto district problem, and the present facilities are ample and adequate for Decoto's immediate needs.

The City of Hayward entered Washington Township in 1954 with their plan to annex Hillview Crest, all of Fairway Park, and El Rancho Verde tracts into the City of Hayward, Decoto and Alvarado realized that they would not have time to update their sewage plant in stages.

In April 1954 Alfred Ferreira informed the board of the Union Sanitary District that his district has passed a resolution calling for consolidation with the Union Sanitary District. Petitions were then prepared that were to be circulated in the near future.

The consolidation of the Decoto Sanitary District and the Union Sanitary District was discussed in June 1954 at a meeting of the Decoto district. Al Ferreira, who was circulating the petition for the consolidation, reported at the meeting that he was certain of "absolutely 100 percent cooperation" from Decoto homeowners. He said the annexation would save Decoto taxpayers the cost of enlarging their present plant, or of construction of a new one.

The Decoto Sanitary District was relegated to the limbo of dead organizations on September 1, 1954. At a meeting of Union Sanitary District held at the district offices in Centerville, the final steps were taken to approve the merger

of Union and Decoto districts. The merged district will be known as the Union Sanitary District. George Coit, president of the board of the Union Sanitary District since the district's formation in 1918 would be retained in that office.

Al's work with the Decoto Sanitary District was done. The Ferriera's lived at 307 Whipple Road. Loretta Ferreira married Rodney Hendricks of Alvarado in 1958.

Mary B. Janeiro (George):

Mary B. Janeiro (who married Albert A. George in November 1957) was born to Frank and Mary Janeiro both of who emigrated from Portugal. Mary was born circa 1912 in Decoto California. Mary was one of six children, four brothers and two sisters: Doris (b. 1902), Charley (b. 1904), Edwin (b. 1906), Evangeline 'Daisy' (b. 1908), Cecilia (b. 1909) and Mary (b. 1912).

Mary graduated from the Decoto Grammar School in June 1926 along with fellow classmates: Ruby Bowers, Lizzie Bowers, Vernon Carey, Lurline Duarte, Lena Dutra, Louis Garcia, Virginia Ponte, John Masters, Joseph Perry and Rosa Silva. Mary graduated from Washington Union High School in 1930.

Mary went to work for the U.S. Postal Service in Decoto and on January 20, 1936, Mary was named Postmistress for the town of Decoto. Assisting Mary in the Decoto Post Office was her sister Cecilia, who would fill in for her during vacations and absences.

In 1939 Mary was elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Alameda County Postmaster's Association, and the following year she attended the director's meeting of the California Postmaster's Association at the Hotel Whitcomb in San Francisco.

In June 1951 Mary was authorized to ask for bids for the construction of a new Post Office in Decoto. The specifications for the new building would be 27 feet by 65 feet, with 1,800 square feet of floor space. At this same time the postal department was making a survey of the Hillview Crest 600-house subdivision under construction north of Whipple Road in Decoto. The survey would determine whether or not mail would be delivered house to house in Decoto.

In October 1952 the new Post Office building was ready for use. The new building was located at 2nd and "E" Streets; the frame and stucco edifice was constructed by Frank Hernandez, operator of the local theater.

Expansion of the Post Office facilities included an additional 173 private mailboxes bringing the total mailboxes to 674 in the new building. Mail delivery for Hillview Crest area would continue to come from the Hayward Post Office.

In 1953 another call was made to house-to-house mail delivery within the town of Decoto. The requirement for house-to-house service, as outlined by the Postmaster, includes \$10,000 in postal receipts during the past fiscal year, 2,500 population in the territory, good and continuing sidewalks, house numbers, street lights and signs, mail boxes and 50 per cent of the area improved with houses.

Manuel Hidalgo, Chamber president, declared, "There is no question in my mind that the sidewalks will come through. A petition bearing 75 per cent of the property owner's signatures was now on file with the district attorney and protest hearings are anticipated for the near future," he stated. House numbers and adequate street signs would be secured as soon as possible.

However, despite the push for home delivery within the town of Decoto, Mary Janeiro announced in May 1953 that the town of Decoto again did not meet the postal delivery standards

In June 1955 another push was made for door-to-door delivery of mail within the town of Decoto. At a meeting of the Decoto Merchants Association Miss Janeiro again emphasized that there will be no in town mail delivery as long as Decoto did not have sidewalks. Further surveys on the mail delivery question would be fruitless without sidewalks in place in Decoto.

Decoto then began to install sidewalks throughout the town as people could afford to pay for them. This was a slow, and somewhat painful process, but with the backing of Mrs. Mary B. George (Janeiro), Postmistress; Ken Garcia, Union City Chamber of Commerce President, and Manuel Boliva, Decoto Merchants Association President the citizens of Decoto installed their sidewalks.

In March 1958 the town of Decoto was nearing their goal of installed sidewalks within the town. When home mail delivery began on March 8, 1958, the Decoto Post Office would no longer be one of the community's main hubs of activity. A few businessmen would continue to pick up their mail at the post office, but most residents would have to go no further than their front porches.

Miss Mary B. Janeiro (46) married Albert A. George (48) in November 1957. After their marriage they would reside in Decoto.

Miss Mary Janeiro was also quite involved in civic and social activities besides those which being Postmistress obligated her.

In 1941 Mary Janeiro was an integral part of the new library building for the town of Decoto. Along with Mrs. Elsa Walker (future librarian), Mrs. Herbert Harrold and Walter Walker, Mary delivered the deed to the \$300 lot, which had been purchased with donations from the Boosters' Club, individuals and J.L. Olson, property owner.

The building would be erected with the help of the NYA (National Youth Association), a subdivision of the WPA (Works Projects Administration) under Pres. Roosevelt's New Deal.

Mary also participated in the Washington Township War Finance program under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gladys Williamson. Mary spearheaded several War Loan drives to help finance our part in the Second World War.

Mary also participated in the March of Dimes during WWII. Under the co-sponsorship of Ed Enos (from Niles) and J.V. Goold of Centerville, Mary teamed up with Eph Musick to represent the town of Decoto.

In 1955 and 1957 Mary participated in the annual Christmas Seal Drive in Washington Township. Mary joined with Mrs. Alwyn Searles, Mrs. James Hicks, Mrs. J.L. Olson and Dr. Harold Schoenfeld in procuring funds for the annual Tuberculosis Drive.

Mary George would become Postmistress of Union City when the towns of Alvarado and Decoto incorporated in January 1959. Mary retired from the U.S. Postal Service in July 1972 after serving 36 years in service.

Joseph Lewis, Sr.:

Joseph Lewis was born in California circa 1893. In the year 1910 he was living in the Irvington area of Washington Township working as a clerk in a dry goods store helping to support his widowed mother, brothers and sisters.

In 1916 Joe went to work for the Standard Oil Company as a salesman. It would be his career that he would follow for the rest of his working years. In the mid-1920's he would marry Aurora Maciel who would become his lifelong companion. They had two sons, Joe E. Jr. born in 1925 and Stanley J. born in 1928. Joe and Aurora made their home on the south side of Smith Street, between the grammar school and Granger Avenue.

Joe was active in civic and religious matters throughout his life. In 1935 Joe was a member of the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles. Over the years Joe would take an active part in in the lodge. Joe was an active member of St. Anne's Catholic Church in Alvarado and the SDES Society of Alvarado. As a member of the SDES Joe was on the committee to stage the 1936 Holy Ghost.

In 1955 the City of Hayward intruded into Washington Township by trying to annex valuable industrial land from Decoto and Alvarado. There rose from citizens of Decoto and Alvarado an initiative to incorporate into the City of Union City. There were many civic spirited men and women who gave freely of their time to make this a reality and protect the property that was rightfully theirs.

One of the problems that faced Union City was the antiquated Alvarado Sanitary District, which offered only primary sanitary services, that being collection of sewage of at the west end of Alvarado in large wooden tanks. Liquid waste was allowed to drain into the Alameda Creek and then flow into SF Bay. Solid wastes were occasionally collected from the bottom of the tanks and disposed of. In 1956 Joe Lewis urged the merger of the Alvarado Sanitary System and the Union Sanitary District (Fremont) and asked at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce that a letter to that effect be sent to President Elvin Rose and Secretary-Treasurer Fred W. Joyce of the Alvarado District.

In December 1957 two years' worth of hard work on bringing the City of Union City to life went down in flames when it was disclosed at a meeting that several prominent committee members of the Union City Steering Committee

had signed a petition asking that the City of Fremont annex the town of Decoto.

The *Hayward Daily Review* wrote this scathing review of the proceedings at the Union City Incorporation meeting of the previous night:

“The verbal free-for-all, which rang down the curtain on the Union City Steering Committee, was a perfect ending for an attempt to con the people of Alvarado and Decoto. The show was a flop because of the deceit, which marked most of the group’s activities.

Organized to halt Hayward’s tactless 1955 attempt to annex most of the area’s industrial land, the committee spoke commendably of providing leadership in assaying the future. Instead of that, however, it retired to secret meetings in smoke-filled backrooms and proclaimed itself spokesman for the Alvarado-Decoto area.”

Certain people in the town of Decoto had signed a petition in mid-December 1957 to jettison the effort to incorporate Alvarado and Decoto and instead allow Decoto to become part of Fremont. The effort to incorporate Alvarado and Decoto appeared to be dead.

Early in 1958 the proponents for Union City took a step on the comeback trail on with the formation of a new Union City Steering Committee. Headed by Wilbert Hendricks of Alvarado, this group announced it would oppose Fremont annexation of Decoto and strive instead for incorporation of the two communities into Union City.

A new committee to lead the two cities to incorporation was formed and Wilbert Hendricks was chosen as chairman. Before accepting the helm, Hendricks declared, “This committee won’t be run like the (previous) Union City Steering Committee. Everything is going to be open and the public will kept informed on what’s going on through the newspapers and mass meetings.”

Joe Lewis further stated, “I will personally circulate a petition to sign up owners of 51 per cent of the assessed valuation of the property to defeat the Decoto Annex, and I have an attorney preparing the petition now.” If Joe Lewis could collect 51% of the assessed valuation of the property in Decoto they could stop the Fremont annexation.

Two days later Union City Chamber of Commerce President Kenneth Garcia said that two chamber directors will try to form a Decoto steering committee to work for Union City incorporation. They were Oscar Dowe and Joe Lewis.

After fierce struggle Oscar Dowe and Joe Lewis successfully submitted a signed petition with more than 51% of the property owners in the town of Decoto, Fremont’s annex of the town of Decoto was declared dead.

The way was now open for a vote by the citizens of Alvarado and Decoto to vote for the incorporation of the two towns. A slate of candidates for the City Council was compiled and the candidates ran their campaigns.

On January 14, 1959 the count on the election was in:

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 J. Seoane, 41, Decoto Chemical Worker and Union Official, 574 votes

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

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

Oscar C. Dowe:

Oscar C. Dowe was born in Wisconsin circa 1907 to Arthur and Agnes Dowe. Prior to 1920 the family moved to California, first to San Francisco and then, by 1930 to Oakland, where Frances was widowed from Arthur. Arthur was a church missionary.

Oscar attended college for three years and was a junior clerk in a bank in 1930. He was married to Frances A. Dowe. In 1940 Oscar and Frances were living with Oscar's widowed mother in Oakland. Oscar was still working as a bank clerk at this time.

Oscar eventually became an executive with the Pacific States Steel Company in Decoto. Oscar became very interested in Hayward coming into Washington Township in 1954 and he became a member of the Union City Steering Committee to try to thwart Hayward's entry into our township.

The Union City Steering Committee was formed and 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 Sr., John Ratekin, Wilbert Hendricks, Mrs. Mae Santos, Mike Salido and Mrs. Mabel Rogers.

In December 1957 a Union City Incorporation meeting fell to pieces when it was learned that a certain faction of Decoto people had petitioned the City of Fremont to annex Decoto into the new City of Fremont.

Oscar Dowe became the leader of the anti-annexation forces. He charged, "The reason Fremont is anxious to bring us in is to create a holding block while they develop their industry ahead of us." Joining Oscar Dowe in the anti-annexation battle were John Ratekin of the sugar mill and Joe Lewis, a retired oil executive. The battle lines were drawn.

Frank Borghi Jr. backed the Fremont annexation and he set about to sign up the required number of voters to force an election on the Fremont annexation. Meanwhile, Oscar Dowe and Joe Lewis set out to sign up 50%+ of assessed value of property in the disputed area. If they could do so, then Frank Borghi's petition would be moot.

After a tough battle Dowe and Lewis finally delivered more than 50% of assessed valuation in the district, thereby dooming Borghi's effort to join Fremont. The way was now open for an election on the incorporation of Union

City. Oscar Dowe, 51, Decoto steel plant executive, amassed enough votes on the incorporation Day voting to become one of the first five city councilmen for the new City of Union City.

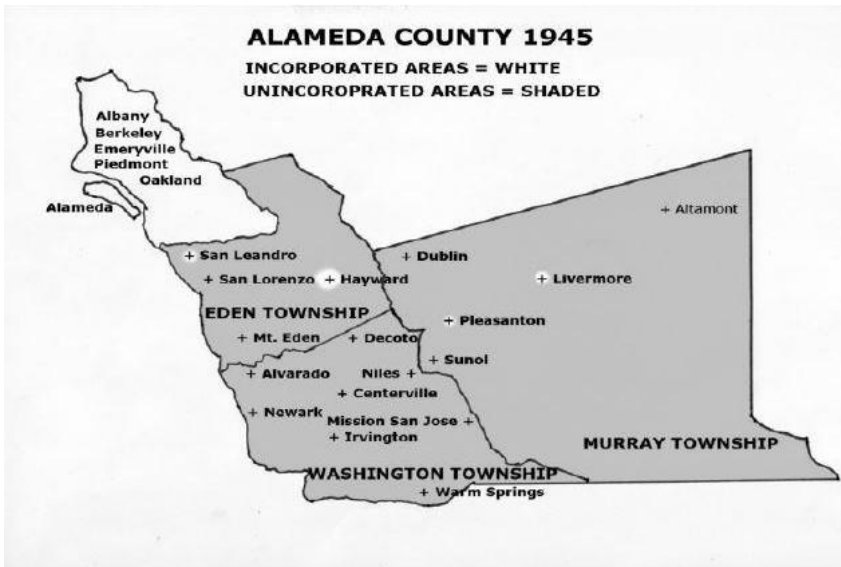
Bios from Previous Chapters:

<u>Roland Bendel:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 07 page 12</u>
<u>Kenneth Garcia:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 09 page 4</u>
<u>Frank Borghi Jr.:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 09 page 13</u>
<u>Manuel White:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 07 page 11</u>
<u>Joseph Sealone Jr.:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 09 page 36</u>
<u>William Davis:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 09 page 40</u>
<u>Bernie Joseph:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 09 page 29</u>
<u>Lewis Musick:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 08 page 32</u>
<u>Antone Amaral:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 07 page 5</u>
<u>Alwyn Searles:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 09 page 24</u>
<u>Manuel Hidalgo:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 09 page 27</u>
<u>Jack Faletti:</u>	<u>See bio in Chapter 08 page 5</u>

*** THE INCORPORATION OF UNION CITY ***

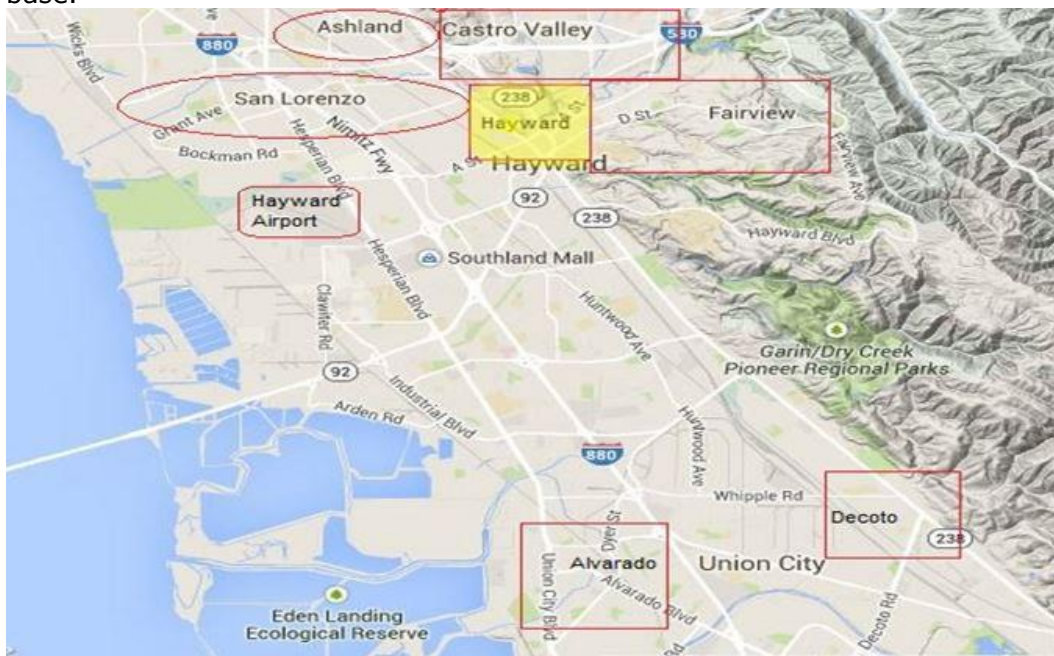
The incorporation of Decoto and Alvarado is a book unto itself. It involved almost five years of interplay between the cities of Hayward and Fremont against the towns of Alvarado and Decoto. It was a long battle that involved alleged back room deals; double-dealings and propaganda aimed at the two lovely innocents named Decoto and Alvarado.

After the incorporation of Newark and Fremont, Alvarado and Decoto had the best available unincorporated industrial land in Southern Alameda County. They also had some prized industries, the sugar mill, the steel plant, two pipe factories and numerous small enterprises.



The map above shows the incorporated and unincorporated land in Alameda County at the end of the war. As you can see Eden, Washington and Murray Townships are nearly all unincorporated. So for a city on the move like Hayward this is fertile ground. As a matter of fact Washington Township was only township in Alameda County that did have an incorporated within its boundaries prior to 1955. Washington Township was totally rural at the end of the war and the entire area was served by a single high school, Washington Union High School. That high would stand as the township's only four-year secondary school until the fall of 1959 when James Logan was opened in Union City.

The map shown below shows Hayward and its relative opportunities for further annexation. Blocked to the north by unincorporated towns and to the east by foothills, Hayward's only avenues of growth lay to the west and the south. Hayward was a largely residential city at this time, lacking any large industry to support its tax base.



The City of Hayward, which was only 3.5 square miles after WWII, wanted to expand. As shown by the map above, Hayward was surrounded by the unincorporated towns to the north and east by San Lorenzo, Ashland/Cherryland, Castro Valley and Fairview. None these towns wished to become part of Hayward. As a matter of fact all of these towns are still unincorporated today! Note Hayward's diminutive size at this time (Hayward is in yellow). It would expand west all the way to the Bay and south to Whipple Road in Decoto and encircle Alvarado west to the Bay to meet up with the City of Fremont near Lowry Road. Hayward had plenty to gobble up to the west and to the south. South of Jackson Street in Hayward they could take over the Harder Road area, the Sorenson area near the Catholic Cemetery on Mission Blvd. & Harder Road, and they could also move into Tennyson and Alta Vista before they ran into the southern boundary of their township.

The reason for the haste of Washington Township to incorporate was the raider to the north, the City of Hayward. After WWII Hayward had become a many-armed octopus seizing unincorporated land to the west and to the south. It seemed to have begun just after the war ended.

The War Administration had declared the airport near Hayward they had built in 1942 as surplus shortly after the war ended. Hayward lobbied ceaselessly to obtain the airport, which was then called Hayward Army Airfield by the Fourth Air Force. In April 1947 Hayward the City of Hayward received a quitclaim deed from the government giving all 667 acres of the airport along with all related buildings and

equipment. Hayward then named the field Hayward Municipal Airport. It has since been renamed Hayward Executive Airport. Hayward now had the airport but it was about 1.5 miles west of its city boundary. So the City of Hayward began annexing along "A" Street west to Hesperian Blvd and eventually the Hayward Airport.

Once Hayward had annexed west to the airport that left them room only to the south. At this time the City limits of southern Hayward ended at Jackson Street.

Hayward made two bold moves early. They made an agreement to receive Hetch-Hetchy water and they built their own sewage treatment plant. With these two assets in their pocket they had bargaining chips to sway the unincorporated areas to the south.

In July 1947 Hayward was already laying plans for her southern borders when they agreed to investigate the possibility of establishing one large drainage-sewage-water program for the area from San Leandro to Niles, Centerville and Newark. The Hayward Chamber of Commerce felt that the area south of Hayward and particularly Decoto was open for subdivision, which would enhance property values.

Hayward kept an important resource in its pocket when it announced in January 1948 that Niles, Decoto and communities to the south of Hayward would not be able to share in Hayward's Hetch-Hetchy water supply. Hayward would no longer sell its water source to anyone not in the city of Hayward. The only exception was Russell City and that was only done for sanitation reasons.

In June 1950 the City of Hayward put their annexation machine into high gear. Their plan was increase the area of the city of Hayward by 10 times the 3.5 square miles presently enclosed within its boundaries. The City plan suggested that the city annex an area bounded roughly by the peaks of the foothills, south to the north line of Decoto and Alvarado, and then west on to the Bay, also extending the city limits on the north line of the airport to the Bay. Thus the city would annex the present communities of Russell City, Tennyson, Mt. Eden, Valle Vista, and Alta Vista and all the new and proposed developments between the present city line and the north lines of Decoto and Alvarado, which came to mean everything in Decoto and Alvarado that they could not annex.

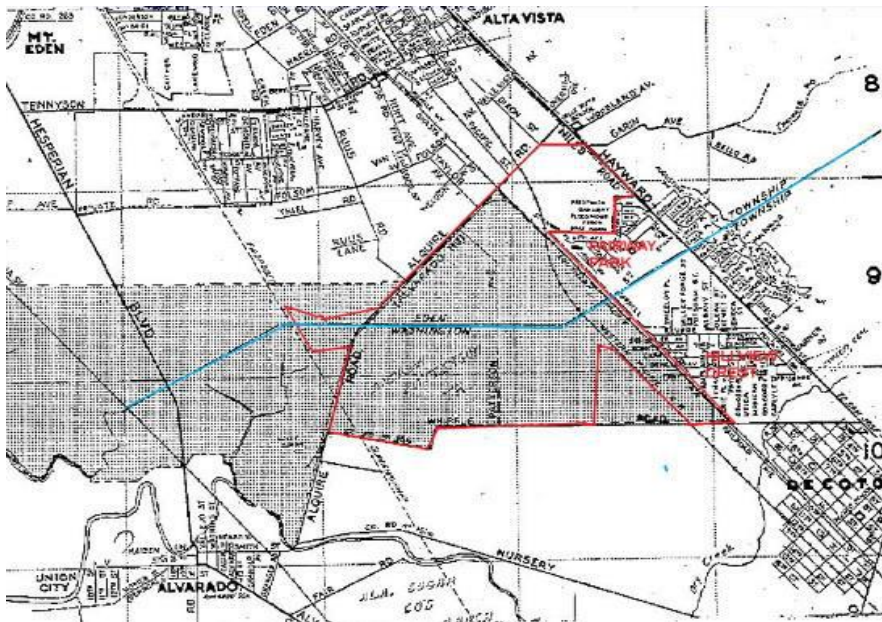
In the event of the success of the plan the areas then surrounding the new big city, such as Decoto and Castro Valley, could then at their option, annex as a part of the city as a whole or under the borough program. The Chamber declared that now was the time to act before the entire area was built up, so that they could make adequate provisions for schools, recreation, industry, and planned residential development. With the unanimous approval of Chamber members, the matter was referred to the Chamber's residential planning committee.

Major annexes (and several hundred small ones as little as one city block) came fast and furious from the Hayward City planners. The Harder Annex (in two steps) gave Hayward the land south of Jackson Street to the Catholic Cemetery on Mission Boulevard. The Sorenson annex would give the City of Hayward the land south of Harder Road to Tennyson Road. Tennyson, Alta Vista and Valle Vista would bring the Hayward City limits south to Alquire Road (today's Industrial Boulevard). Hayward was now within sight of Washington Township and the town of Decoto.

In 1950 a new housing tract was started in Decoto just north of Whipple Road and west of Mission Boulevard. The housing tract was called Tareyton Village. The tract got off to a poor start. Drainage, sewer and water problems plagued the new venture.

The builders of Tareyton Village bowed out and sold to Biltmore Homes, an affiliate of the Treeview Co. of Los Angeles. Treeview renamed the tract Hillview Crest.

Meanwhile Hayward dropped its position of not supplying water to districts, which were not part of the city. Hayward agreed to supply water to Hillview Crest *and* the new U.S. Pipe & Foundry factory on Whipple Road. Hayward also agreed to handle the sewage problem for Hillview Crest.



On August 17, 1954, the City of Hayward filed an annexation announcement that it called its Washington Annex. It was 2,400 acres and stretched west of today's Hillview Crest and Fairway Park to nearly Baumberg. It took all north of Whipple Road including the U.S. Pipe & Foundry and all of Alquire Road (today's Industrial Boulevard and Dyer Street to the Smith Street Bridge in Alvarado including our beloved sugar mill. It also took the American Pipe and Construction Company of Alquire Road. The fight was on.

The map above shows the complete Washington Annex (the gray area) and the Edén Washington Township line in blue. The red outline shows the scaled back version of the Washington Annex after Alvarado, Decoto, the sugar mill and U.S. Pipe and Foundry fought the annex.

The new area excluded the sugar mill and the U.S. Pipe & Foundry (that curious wedge shape on Whipple Road at the Western Pacific tracks). You can also see the curious arm that swings out to the west from Alquire Road, this arm reached out and plucked up the American Pipe & Construction Company into the folds of Hayward. It has since moved to Tracy so Hayward's victory here was empty.

The rest of the fight to incorporate Decoto and Alvarado can be read in my book, "The Road to Union City," which details all of the events and all the major players in this four-year drama.

DECOTO SCHOOLS

Student Counts / District Superintendents / Decoto School Trustees / the City of Hayward in Washington Township / Decoto Elementary School / Barnard Elementary School / Hillview Crest Elementary School / El Rancho Verde Elementary School / H.S. Searles Elementary School / Manuel White Elementary School / James Logan High School / Decoto Elementary Schools Activities / Decoto Elementary Schools Miscellaneous Activities

Student Counts:

Decoto started the year 1950 with just over 600 pupils. Over this decade this would increase dramatically causing an almost perpetual building of new schools during the decade. Below is a table showing the growth of the Decoto School District during the period January 1950 to August 1958:

DECOTO SCHOOL GROWTH 1950'S				
YEAR	MONTH	COUNT	Inc.*	COMMENTS:
1950	Oct.	635		
1952	Nov.	1,208	90.2%	
1953	Nov.	1,362	114.5%	
1954	Sep.	1,468	131.2%	
1955	Sep.	1,729	172.3%	
1956	Feb.	1,830	188.2%	
1956	Sep.	2,010	216.5%	
1957	Jan.	2,121	234.0%	
1957	Sep.	2,431	282.8%	
1958	Aug.	2,700	325.2%	Estimated

*Percent Increase from year 1950

District Superintendents:

Lewis W. Musick / Dr. Harold Schoenfeld / Boyd D. Morningstar

Lewis W. Musick:

See bio in Chapter 08 page 32

The year 1950 started with Lewis W. Musick as district superintendent. In April 1952 Mr. Musick sought, and received, a two-year leave of absence. He had been associated with the Decoto school system for 17 years. He joined the district when there was but one school with 12 classrooms. Musick lived with his wife and two daughters, Carolyn 13, and Barbara 7, in Niles. He never returned to his duties as Supt. of the Decoto School system.

Dr. Harold Schoenfeld:

See bio in this Chapter Page 12

Boyd D. Morningstar:

Ass't District Superintendent

Mr. Morningstar was named Principal of the Hillview Crest School in 1952 and in 1954 was appointed Principal of the Barnard School. In 1955 he was

named the Decoto School District's Assistant Superintendent of Schools under Dr. Schoenfeld.

At a board meeting in February 1958 Boyd Morningstar asked the Decoto School Trustees to allow him to step down to principal. In a letter read to trustees at a special budget session, Morningstar said he was requesting the change so he will have more time to spend with his family. "This request is entirely of my own volition, free of pressures from any source, and is not one of hasty decision," Morningstar said.

At this meeting Supt. Harold Schoenfeld asked the board to consider hiring a district business manager instead an assistant superintendent if the board grants Morningstar's request. Trustees had given the ass't supt. a \$600 raise last October to bring his annual salary from \$9,000 to \$9,600. A raise to \$9,900 for the 1958-1959 School year was granted at the same time.

As principal, Morningstar would make \$9,210 annually, but would have Christmas vacations and a six-week summer vacation. As ass't supt. he has been receiving a three-week vacation each year.

Decoto Schools Board of Trustees:

Joseph Seoane Jr. / William S. Davis / Alwyn Searles / Manuel White / Oscar Dowe / Charles O. Plummer / Harry K. Spooner / Carl F. Hagan Jr. / Mrs. Jean E. Trevors / Mrs. Gail D. Pagan

Joseph Seoane Jr.:

See bio in Chapter 09 page 36

William S. Davis:

See bio in Chapter 09 page 40

Alwyn Searles:

See bio in Chapter 09 page 25

Manuel White:

See bio in Chapter 07 page 11

Oscar Dowe:

See bio in this Chapter Page 20

Other trustees during this decade for which no bios are available were:

Charles O. Plummer

Harry K. Spooner

Carl F. Hagan Jr.

Mrs. Jean E. Trevors

Mrs. Gail D. Pagan

The City of Hayward in Washington Township:

The City of Hayward's annexation of Washington Township property led to decades of infighting between the La Vista School District in Eden Township and the Decoto School District in Washington Township.

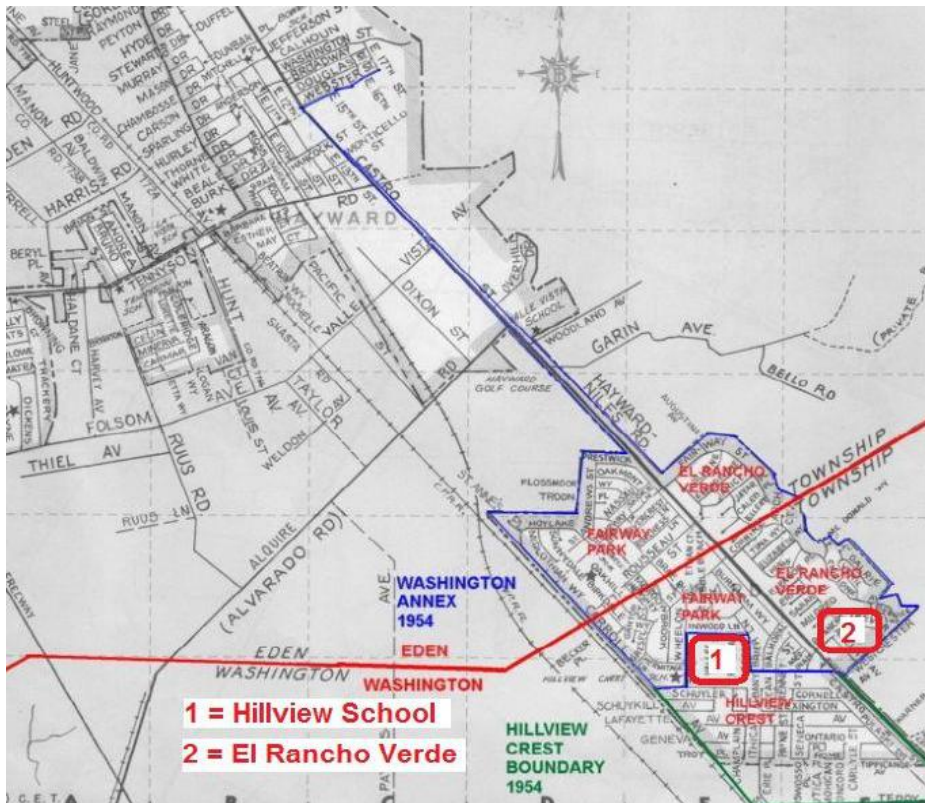
Homeowners in the Hillview Crest housing tract, along with the homeowners of Fairway Park and El Rancho Verde that lived south of the Eden Township line, were residents of the City of Hayward and paid taxes for the City of Hayward services.

However, the taxing authority for schools is not the city of residency but in the township of residency. Hence students south of the Eden-Washington Township line

were within the Washington Townships school district and hence these students were forced to attend Decoto Elementary Schools and Washington Union High School.

When I went to Washington Union High School from 1955-1959 I attended the Centerville school with students from Hillview Crest, Fairway Park (south of the township line) and El Rancho Verde (south of the township line).

There were also other problems with the City of Hayward being located in Washington Township. Telephones were another instance where the township line played a role in the life of Hayward residents.



The map above shows the effects of the Washington Annex by Hayward in 1954. What makes this annex very interesting is that everything below the red line is in Washington Township and in the Washington Union High and Decoto School Districts. The area above the red line is in the Hayward Union High and La Vista School Districts. The importance here is that although Hillview Crest, Fairway Park and El Rancho Verde were totally within the City limits of Hayward, parts of El Rancho Verde and Fairway Park (and all of Hillview Crest) are totally within Washington Township's school districts. This would lead to friction for decades as most of the people south of the red line in these tracts preferred to be in the City of Hayward School District's rather than Decoto. But Hayward could not take these students as the taxes for schools paid by those south of line would go Decoto and Washington High with no monetary benefit for the students if they attended a Hayward School.

In December 1956 Roger S. Pillsbury, president of the Treeview Improvement Club Association, renewed the long-brewing complaint of residents in El Rancho Verde, Hillview Crest, and Fairway Park Tracts in Hayward. Emphasizing, "That we want the same telephone service that Hayward has. We run up terrific unit toll charges calling into these regions from a Decoto, rather than a Hayward Exchange," Pillsbury asserted.

Decoto Elementary School:

Decoto remained as the last community in Washington Township that still retained its pioneer school, but that was to change in 1924 as Decoto's grammar school had grown from a school of 115 pupils to one of 286, an unexcelled growth in a short period of time. In February 1925 the citizens of Decoto voted 103 in favor of, and no one opposed, to a bond issue of \$57,000 for construction of a modern school to replace the present frame structure.

The dedication of the grammar school building was combined with a commencement day program for the 1926 school graduates in the school auditorium on June 8th. Ezra Decoto Jr., former District Attorney for Alameda County and State Railroad Commissioner (and a native of Decoto), delivered the principal address, while J. L. Bunker of Niles, District Supervisor of Schools presented the diplomas to eleven graduates.

The venerable grammar school proudly stood on the corner of 6th & "H" Streets in downtown Decoto. Over the decades it had been the learning center for the children of Decoto. But during the 1950's it would see the birth of five sisters.



Decoto Elementary Teachers:

July 1950:

Decoto had 27 people on the faculty when school commenced on September 5, 1950. Acting as ass't principal to Mr. Musick was J.P. Paffinbarger of Castro Valley. The Stenographer was Maxine Weisenbacker of Niles. The 1950-51 Decoto School faculty roster was as follows:

1950 - 1951 Decoto Grammar School Staff:

Amaral, Constance	Calhoun, Beryl	Dunn, Vivienne
Edwards, Niva	Fairbanks, Gladys	Franco, Benjamin
Goold, Tillie	Grillo, James	Hoffmeister, Anna P.
Johnson, Dorothy	Jorgensen, Clarence	Kane, John M.
Kennerly, Emma	Kuykendall, Blanche	Lee, Jack P.
McIntyre, Priscilla	Morningstar, Boyd	Norris, Rosanne K.
Olson, Armand	Ross, Jean	Schaaf, Jeannette
Schilling, Theodore	Smith, Lorraine	Smith, Mary
Sponseller, Fay J.	Sugden, Mrs. Constance	Tyrell, Esther
Vallandigham, John	Zeiser, Roland	

1952 Staff Additions:

Bradley, Willie	Christianson, Folmer	Dillon, Miss Gail
Fahey, Michael	Hale, Miss Phyllis	Karmel, Lucille

Kauffman, Bertha
Robinson, Harriet

Miller, Merrelyn
Voorhees, Kathleen

Peterson, Lloyd

1954 Staff Additions:

Bradley, Mrs. Willie Lee
Crump, Mr. Kenneth
Pagan, Mrs. Gail

Burt Mrs. Alice
Edwards, Mrs. Ardis
Perry, John Perry

Cline, Charles
Monte de Rey, Jos.
Robinson, Margaret

1955 Staff Additions:

Blood, James
Kohler, Ruth
Pennington, Neva

Gause, Gladys
Hopkins, Lila Belle
Van Noy, Bert

Kaufman, Neal
Milam, Elizabeth

1956 Staff Additions:

Cabello, Refugio
Weakley, Mrs. Wilma

Johnson, Mrs. Frances
Wong, Mrs. Ki Kene

Lindheimer, Louise

1957 Staff Additions:

Andrade, Erma
Call, Imogene
Miller, Hortense
Seaone, Annette

Baca, Anne
Janeiro, Frank
Richardson, Laurel

Beisser, Carl
Luna, Mary
Schmeltz, Elva

1958 Staff Additions:

Fraulino, William

Hultgren, Wayne

Barnard Elementary School:

The end of the 1940's saw the Decoto Elementary School overcrowded and that a second school was sorely needed. L. W. Musick, Decoto District Superintendent of Schools began preparing for the new school in the late 40's and on January 6, 1950 it was disclosed that the builder for the new 14-room school would be T. Lewis, a Hayward contractor. Ground was broken on January 23rd for the new Decoto School on Whipple Road.

Everyone seemed to have a different opinion for the name of the new elementary school. Lewis Musick, principal at Decoto, realized that some hectic discussions were needed in the offing between various groups who wanted to honor various personages. So Musick suggested that the new plant be called the Henry Barnard School. Nobody could have much objection to naming the school after the first U.S. Commissioner of Education. Particularly since Barnard served at Washington D.C., back in 1870. Any controversial matters connected with him should be dead by now. And so it was, the new school would be Barnard Elementary School.

The new school opened in September 1950 with a combined faculty and administrative staff of 27. The classes comprised students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades and would also include fourth and fifth grade children who lived north of Railroad Avenue.

Barnard School Teachers:

Mr. P. J. Puffenbarger was hired by Principal Louis Musick in March 1950 in the capacity of Executive Assistant. Puffenbarger, formerly professor of education at the University of Nevada was promoted to Vice-Principal of both the Decoto and Barnard Elementary schools.

In February 1952 John Wallace Perry of Hayward was added to the Decoto Schools staff as Principal of the Barnard School. Mr. Perry succeeded P. Puffenbarger, who was reassigned as an eighth grade instructor at Barnard School.

In December 1952 John Perry was named as the new principal of the Decoto Elementary School. His replacement at the Barnard School was Kenneth C. Crump as principal, with Alfred Pinard as vice principal.

The staffing for Barnard starts at 1954 as many of the teachers were included with the Decoto School prior to 1953.

Barnard School Principals:

Mr. Boyd Morningstar, Principal, 1954 & 1955
Charles Mahakian, Principal, May 1955
S. Robert Infelise, Principal, 1956
Reggie Minnette, Principal, 1957 & 1958

School Staff 1954:

Mr. Zacariah Boughn	Mr. Refugio Cabello	Mrs. Deane Coughlin
Mr. John Dewey	Mrs. Gladys Gause	Mrs. Winifred Klymshyn
Mr. Reggie Minnette	Mr. Alfred Pinard	Mr. Ben Riffel
Miss Harriet Robertson	Mr. Thomas Scarf	Mrs. Bert C. Van Noy
Mr. Donald Vassallo	Mrs. Margaret Walker	

April 1955:

Zacariah Boughn	Refugio Cabello	Deane Coughlin
Alvin DuCharme	Edward Heffner	Margaret Hendee
Winifred Klymshyn	Harold Milam	Reggie Minnette
Harriet Robertson	Thomas Scharff	Leo Shortino
Lorraine Smith	Robert Tong	Bert Van Noy
Robert Tong		

Barnard School Faculty, April 1956:

Louis Ambrosi	Edward Bates	Charles Beazley
Alvin Ducharme	Mrs. Pauline Heffner	Mrs. Margaret Hendee
Mrs. Winifred Klymshyn	Miss Catherine MacLean	Mrs. Isadora Martinez
Reggie Minnette	George Perazzo	Miss Shirley Powell
Miss Harriet Robinson	Leo Shortino	Robert Tong

April 1957:

Louis Ambrosi	Emil Arendt	Chris Carabello
Mary Cardoza	Louise Chambers	Ivan Cohen
Leslie Dannis	Erlinda Domingues	Alvin DuCharme
Guy Emanuele	Raymond Frisbie	Harry Gleason
Jay Gore	Diana Hantman	Margaret Hendee
Verna Kellington	Bernard Leech	Winnifred LeMon
Catherine MacLean	Ray Monta	Marie O'Brien

Barnard School, September 1958:

New teachers:

Robert Denson	Roy Burreight	Mrs. Jean Gomes
Virginia Hansen	Charles Kessler	Robert Kroeckel

Hillview Crest School:

The Barnard school had only been opened for one month when Mr. L. W. Musick made an application for state aid to construct a third school in Decoto. This time Mr. Musick was looking for a nine-room school to be based in the Hillview Crest housing tract.

Six months later in April 1951 Decoto residents voted to build the third school in Decoto and approved a 55-cent increase in the tax rate to pay for school expenditures. Total expenditures for the new school program were to be \$800,000.

According to Manual White, trustee, only \$63,000 of the bonds would be sold at present the present time. The increased tax rate was asked to meet the rising costs of maintenance and operation of schools.

The purchase of ten acres of land adjacent to the Hillview Crest homes tract was approved by State official at the end of September 1951. The building was to be constructed during the coming year, with the expected cost of approximately \$230,000.

In November 1951 construction of the Hillview got off to a rocky start due to a shortage of critical materials in the district. Mr. Musick had to personally go before the National Production Authority in Washington D.C. for allocations of critical materials. With the needed materials in hand Decoto could now proceed with bids, which were expected to be advertised by January 1, 1952.

In July 1952 the Decoto School District anticipated completion of the new Hillview Crest School in late December 1952 or early January 1953. Shortage of materials and labor and delays forced by a carpenter strike were presented as necessary reasons for the extension of time. Plans originally called for completion of the Hillview School later in the month.

Opening of the new Hillview Crest School was again set back, this time due to rainy weather. The new opening date was set back to late January or early February 1953.

The new Hillview School at Decoto opened for classes on Monday, March 2, 1953 with Boyd Morningstar as principal. An enrollment of 376 pupils was on hand to start.

Hillview Crest Teachers:

Boyd Morningstar, Principal, 1953
S. Robert Infelise, Principal, 1954 & 1955
Mrs. Gladys Gause, Principal, 1956 - 1958

Hillview Crest Staff, April 1954:

Mrs. Veronica Boughn	Mrs. Jean Conley	Mrs. Norma DeSalles
Mrs. Lucille Karmel	Mrs. Bertha Kauffman	Mrs. B. Kuykendall
Mrs. Ruth Laverty	Mr. Jack McIntyre	Mrs. Carol Mertens
Miss Katherine Miller	Miss Merrelyn Miller	Mrs. Mary Smith
Mrs. Ruth Strauel	Mrs. Virginia Swihart	Miss Lois Thomas

Hillview Crest Staff, April 1955:

Carl Beisser
Gladys Gause
Edward Heffner
Carol Mertons
Ruth Strauel
Kathleen Voorhees

Jean Conley
Betty Gee
Pauline Heffner
Pat Reynolds
Lois Thomas
Phyllis Whitcomb

Norma De Salles
Ann Harrison
Louise Kelly
Mary Smith
Florence Tsia

April 1956:

Mrs. Phyllis Witcomb
Miss Shirley Weyer
Edward Heffner
Mrs. Louise Kelly
Mrs. Florence Tsai

Mrs. Imogene Mortensen
Mrs. Jean Conley
Mrs. Elizabeth Bates
Thomas Scarff

Arthur Gatto
Mrs. Beverly Irwin
Mrs. Carol Mertens
Miss Patricia Ellis

April 1957:

Phyllis Ballard
Eleanor Dean
Art Gatto
Beverly Irwin
Lucille Karmel
Ethel Lipman
Carol Mertens
Betty Rasmussen
Elinor Stock
Doris Wilderman

Alfred Brown
Floria Ellis
Barbara Hall
Eva Jackson
Louise Kelly
Mary Lugar
Yvonne Miller
Harriet Robertson
Peggy Voorhees
Phyllis Witcomb

Virginia Curry
Raymond H. Frisbie
Edward Heffner
Evelyn Joseph
Paula Lane
Mildred Mederos
Imogene Mortensen
Tom Scarff
Shirley Weyer
Opal Yingling

New Teachers, August 1957:

Joyce Dickinson
Edna Mitchell
Joan Sayles

Pauline Hedden
Jennie Nygrne
Rose Wright

Carol Johnson
Gretchen Sanders
Mabel Young

New Teachers, Sept. 1958:

June Cooper
Maribell Rummel

Eleanor Donnelley
Ruth Todd

Alice Peckworth
James Wood

El Rancho Verde School:

The need for a fourth school in the Decoto School District was being considered by L. W. Musick, District Superintendent of Decoto Schools and Harold L. Rowe, field representative of the State school house planning board. Rowe visited Decoto on February 14, 1952 to check school census figures prepared by school personnel and to look over a possible school site for the proposed new residential tract on the east side of Niles Highway (Mission Blvd.), directly across from Hillview Crest. The state official appeared to be favorably impressed by his field visit.

Eighteen months later, in October 1953, the Decoto school board sought a \$230,000 bond issue and a \$1,500,000 loan from the state to fill the tremendous need of new school facilities. A new housing project to be built east of Mission Boulevard in front of the foothills would bring 565 new homes into this area.

Six months later a seven-acre school site with frontage on Amelia and Katherine Drives was approved on February 17, 1954 by the county planning commission in

Oakland. The school site is expected to serve a potential of approximately 500 homes, part of which are within the existing Treeview Homes community.

In March 1954 a "supposed" agreement between the Decoto and La Vista School systems would allow children from the 500-home subdivision at Treeview (El Rancho Verde) to be divided between Decoto and La Vista Schools. The subdivision, which was located across from Hillview Crest, was located within the boundaries of both districts. A site for the Treeview School was approved by Decoto School Board of Trustees.

But the school district's plan was plagued by foot-dragging on the part of builders who would not conclude the price of the seven-acre site. In January of 1955 the school board threatened the builder with eminent domain over the seven-acre plot of land. School trustees said they felt action could no longer be delayed "in the interests of the children who will be moving into the tract soon." The builder's advertisements state that 100 homes already have been sold.

In May 1955 the Decoto School District was still trying to buy the school site in the new El Rancho Verde tract. But the tract developer was fighting for price and they were in court over eminent domain action. It was a generally unhappy situation. The board came up with a bright idea on May 11, 1955. Build an underpass under Highway 9, and bring the kids to school on the Decoto side, forget the new school, and drop the fight.

The El Rancho School continued to drag along. The district found that if they added three acres to the present seven-acre site it would qualify for special financing consideration under the State of California for a 10-acre school. The trustees decided to annex three-acres on the south side of the school belonging to the Meyer sisters. The school board originally offered a little over \$4,000 an acre for the property.

"Plain land grabbing" was the charge hurled at the Decoto Elementary School District Trustees meeting of February 8, 1956. Mildred Meyer 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. Trustees would later offer \$5,000 per acre as the purchasing price, an amount the Meyers consider 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.

Two weeks later the trustees of the Decoto School District voted to acquire three acres of land for a school site by condemnation despite charges of "land grabbing" by the owners. Dr. Harold Schoenfeld said the "friendly" proceedings are necessary to get a fair price for the district on the three acres, fronting on the Niles Highway between El Rancho Verde and Cypress Cemetery. The Misses Mildred, Jeanette, and Dr. Edith Meyers, the owners, had asked \$10,000 an acre, but Schoenfeld said the district has never paid more than \$5,000. The sister said they have had an offer, since rescinded, of \$15,000 per acre. The school district wants the land to round out a 10-acre site for El Rancho Verde School.

Finally, on January 7, 1957 it was reported that effective February 1, 1957 some 235 to 250 Hillview Crest school pupils in the Decoto School District were expected to be taken off double sessions due to completion of the new El Rancho Verde School. Supt. Harold Schoenfeld reported to the board of trustees that the new facility, containing a kindergarten and six classrooms, was 75 per cent complete, and scheduled to be ready for occupancy Feb 1st. This would mean some 235 to 250 pupils then attending Hillview Crest School on double session would get a full day of study at the new school. The faculty, which had remained a separate unity, would be transferred intact.

Decoto's newest school, its fifth, was El Rancho Verde, and it was dedicated on Sunday, April 18, 1957.

But problems persisted. The residents of El Rancho quarreled amongst themselves over the plight of their children, roughly half of them attending the La Vista School District and the other half attending the Decoto School District.

In January 1958 the county board of supervisors, wishing to quell the controversy, allowed residents to choose a temporary solution to the long standing school district boundary dispute in Hayward's El Rancho Verde tract. Parents of about 170 pre-school and grammar school children would have a chance to vote on whether to remain in the La Vista School District or become part of the Decoto School District.

If the proposal is carried, the children in the area would become part of the Decoto School District and children could then attend El Rancho Verde School, which is within walking distance from most of their homes. The children would also become part of the Washington Union High School District. The issue had split the neighborhood on a friendly basis. Parents debated the question on a first name relationship.

The issue at hand arose when 200 residents of the area between Caleb Place and Fairway Street signed a petition asking for permission to send their children to El Rancho Verde School. The petitioners asserted that although the schools are about equal distance for their children, the El Rancho Verde School is within walking distance while the school in the Valle Vista School in the La Vista District was across from busy Highway 9.

While supervisors were studying this petition, a poll reported by La Vista School officials in October showed 100 of 125 families favored remaining in the Hayward District when they learned La Vista Trustees planned to build a new school in their

area. Since the poll indicated many of the original petition signers had apparently changed their minds, the supervisors called for an advisory election to resolve the issue. Since then, the neighborhood had spilt into camps, each trying to convince voters of the advantages of being part of one district or the other.

Proponents of remaining in La Vista District agreed that their ties are in Hayward and with its schools system, while those wishing to join Decoto say that district has good facilities immediately available. Officials of both districts said they would be satisfied with the results of Tuesday's election, whichever way it goes. But they point out that any solution reached now can only be temporary, because eventually some re-alignment of school boundaries along city limits should be made. Supt. Harold Schoenfeld of Decoto maintains his district will have no trouble handling the additional if the parents decide to come in.

On the other hand, the only immediate effect of La Vista District would be the abandonment of plans for the new school near Fairway Street if Decoto were favored, according to Ass't Supt. Douglas Pimentel. Construction of this school had been approved by trustees subject to results of a survey made by a study team from Stanford University, Pimentel said.

El Rancho Verde Teachers:

Neal Kauffman, Principal, 1956 - 1957

April 1956:

William Forester
Carl Beisser
Marjorie Simard

Mrs. Barbara Hall
Mrs. Harriet Gore

Miss Claire Hong
Mrs. Phyllis Ballard

April 1957:

Jeannette Allison
Adolph Lara
Ruth Stanton

Harriet Gore
Agnes Mondt
Constance Sugden

William Forester
Olive Riley
Burt Van Noy

H. C. Searles School:

Harry Searles was a long-time Decoto School Trustee and grain dealer in the town of Decoto. Harry was very civic minded and expended much time effort in improving the town of Decoto.

In October 1954 Dr. Schoenfeld was instructed to initiate application for a five-classroom school to be constructed on a 10-acre site at 15th and "G" Streets in Decoto. This school would be built on property now owned by Louis Decoto. The site was nine blocks west from the present Decoto School. The school was to cost an estimated \$90,000 and would serve kindergarten through 6th grade students.

The architectural design of Searles School was discussed with trustees of Decoto Elementary School District on January 10, 1955 by Oscar Price of the firm of Ponsford and Price. By request, Price explained a cluster type of construction, in a hexagonal farm, an experimental school design not used in California.

In September of 1955 it was stated that the Searles School would have their own administrative and teaching staffs but would occupy the old Decoto School until their own school building is completed.

Trustees of the Decoto Elementary School District decided that bids would be opened on September 12, 1956 for the proposed Searles School. Anticipated enrollment of the Kindergarten through 6th grade school at 15th & "G" Streets would be 220 youngsters living west of the railroad tracks and in outlying rural areas.

Searles Teachers:

H. C. Searles Faculty, April 1957:

James Blood, Principal

Vivienne Dunn

Refugio Cabello

Louise Harrison

Billie Bradley

Ardis Edwards

Searles School Faculty, September 1958:

Refugio Carabello, Principal

New teachers:

Marvi Duarte

Dean Marshall

Leatrice Tsuha

Fifth Grade

Sixth Grade

First Grade

San Jose State

University of Utah

University of Hawaii

Manuel White School:

Manuel White was a long-time member of the Decoto Board of Trustees. In October 1954 application was made for a new school, the district's sixth and the fifth new one to be built this decade, to be erected between the Barnard and Hillview Crest Schools.

The new Manuel White School immediately ran into its own problems. The initial site chosen was turned down by the planning commission because of lack of access to the Hillview Crest students and disruption of traffic patterns in the limited access area chosen. So in August 1955 the board selected a new site.

The site was shifted to a different location when Theodore Wong, landowner and subdivider, appeared with his attorney, trustees learned that the latest shift to a location near the highway would place the school adjacent to Wong's proposed shopping center. Wong protested vigorously. He said he had not been informed of the district's plan to change the site for the third time. The area first selected was abandoned when the trustees found the price to be too high. A second site was disapproved by the County Planning Commission because it would block extension of streets from Hillview Crest.

Wong pointed out that children are a deterrent to a shopping center, and the location of the school would curtail business there. It also would prevent location of a liquor store in the center, or sale of liquors in any grocery stores located there.

Wong's attorney added that the value of all lots facing or backing into school property is decreased approximately \$500 by the FHA. There are 55 lots in Wong's proposed subdivision, which would abut on school property if the Whipple school were located on the present site. The attorney hinted that decrease in lot value alone could result in damages of \$27,000 for his client. "We are going to fight it, if we have to," he asserted. "The \$27,000 is just one item of damages which will result in the location of the school in that area."

Mr. Wong and the Decoto School Board of Trustees parried back and forth for several months with the school board finally moving toward condemnation proceedings under eminent domain. Talks progressed and finally on November 16, 1955 the Decoto School Board and Mr. Wong decided on a parcel of land agreeable to both. The site for the school was "adjacent to and lying easterly from" the present Barnard School. This was fourth site selected for the Whipple School

On October 17, 1957 the Decoto School Board announced that the 11-room Manuel White School would be finished in June 1958. In January 1958 it was announced that the new school would be built at a cost of \$269,300 on Tamarack Drive in the Cascade Gardens tract.

Ground was broken on February 13, 1958 the Whipple School to be built for opening next fall on Tamarack Drive in Cascade Gardens. Attending the groundbreaking were Supt. Harold Schoenfeld, John Hudspeth, Harry K. Spooner and retired trustee Manuel White in whose honor the school will be named.

Delayed construction again hit Decoto's new Whipple school as the teamsters-truckers strike and lockout held up delivery of steel. Opening of the new White School in Cascade Gardens won't be ready until October 15, 1958.

Because of the delay in the construction of the new Manuel White School another four-rooms would be added to the construction of the school. The 11-classroom White School on Tamarack Drive was now scheduled to open to 370 children in grades 1 to 5 on December 1, 1958. It was the district's sixth school built at a total cost of \$269,300 with the proposed addition to cost about \$70,000.

The Manuel White School opened December 3, 1958 to 353 students. It was the Decoto School District's sixth school and it was already overcrowded. Four portables were moved onto the site of the school to accommodate 65 students now attending the Hillview Crest School who would be transferred this month. Trustees also authorized construction of four more classrooms to meet the building and population boom in the area.

Manuel White Teachers:

Manuel White (to attend Barnard School), August 1957:

Ruth Strauel	Norma De Salles	Goldie Landy
Dorothy Hart		

Manuel White School Faculty, September 1958:

James Blood, Principal

New teachers:

Hector Carabello	Fifth Grade	University of California
Dolores Foley	Third Grade	Portland State College
Lonnie Moore	Fourth Grade	Portland State College
Mrs. Joy Shrock	Special Education	Mt. Union College, Ohio
James Shingledecker	Kindergarten	University of Minnesota
Mildred Thompson	Fifth Grade	Southern Oregon College
Marlyns Winter	Second Grade	University of Minnesota

James Logan High School:

In November of 1952, after noting Decoto's overloaded grammar schools, the Decoto School board trustees endorsed a petition to Washington Union High School board requesting consideration of a future high school site in the Decoto area. But as with other schools built in Decoto in the 50's it took some time between noticing the need and actual occupation.

James Logan was no different. It took over four years between when the need was officially recognized until the time of occupation in September 1959.

James Logan was a prominent Alvarado farmer and a member of the Washington Union High School Board of Trustees. He was killed in an automobile crash on October 16, 1931 when the coupe he was driving hit a gavel truck head on. Also killed in the crash with him was John Cleveland Whipple of Decoto, a member of the Decoto Elementary School Board of Trustees.

Mr. Logan's daughter, Tillie Logan, was a teacher at in the Decoto School District. She was married to J. V. Goold, then a teacher at Washington High. Mr. Goold would later become Principal of Washington High and then in the 1950's Mr. Goold would become District Superintendent of the Washington Union High School District as the beloved J. V. "Pop" Goold.

In October of 1955 a second high school could no longer be put off. Washington Township would need a second high school in the immediate future. J. V. Goold, high school district superintendent, said that in "six or eight" months he would have to bring the proposition before the board of trustees because of the tremendous growth in the area. He told the Decoto Coordinating Council in Decoto a survey would be made to determine where most of the students are located so that a site for a school may be purchased there.

Trustees of the Washington Union High School District met April 3, 1956 to authorize Falk and Booth, architects, to apply for federal funds to finance advance planning on the proposed second high school in the district. Trustees hoped to have the new school by the fall of 1958. It would be located in the Decoto-Niles area, but there has been no decision.

The Washington Union High School District Trustees chose a 48 acre site on the east side of the Alvarado-Niles Road, about 700 feet north of Decoto Road. The property was part of the May estate and was chosen as the site for the new \$3,000,000 high school.

An offer of \$4,750 an acre for a 48-acre site for a second high school in Decoto was rejected by the landowner on April of 1957. Supt. J. Vernon Goold told Washington Union High School District Trustees that attorneys for the heirs to the May estate had proposed \$5,124 an acre. Originally they had asked \$5,250 an acre Goold said.

Trustee A. E. Alameda said, "We should have our heads examined if we even pay the price we offered. The land appraisers should have their heads examined, too! This outrageous price is going to make the site alone cost almost a quarter of a million dollars."

The board voted to ask representatives of the Southern Alameda County Board of Realtors to give them a "realistic" idea of what should be paid for land in the area.

The 48-acre site is located just north of Decoto Road on the side of Alvarado-Niles Road.

Finally, after much negotiation, the Washington Union High School Trustees voted on May 14, 1957 to purchase 49.9 acres of land at \$5,124 an acre for construction of the high school in Decoto. The property, purchased from the estate of Jeanette May, is located on Alvarado- Niles Road at its intersection with Decoto Road.

Through intense negotiations for site location, cost of the property and the passing of bonds to cover the cost (including requisitioning State aid funding) you would have thought the hard part was put behind the school board. But no there were still more hurdles to clear.

An example was the December 1957 Washington Union High trustee meeting when someone asked Mark Falk, of Falk & Booth, designers of the school about a "kick-back."

Falk had asked trustees to approve a maximum of \$2,000 to do test drillings for foundations at the new plant site. He had already asked for and received an estimate of \$1,600 to \$1,900 from one Oakland firm. When trustees wanted to know if he had contacted any other firm for additional prices they were told that "men of the profession" don't bid on such jobs and this was a reliable firm.

Trustee J. L. Bercham asked if there was every any "kick-back" from companies "recommended" for such a job and Falk refused to answer. With voice and hands trembling, Falk said this was a reflection on himself and his profession and "beneath my dignity to answer." If the question was repeated, he told the board he would walk out of the room.

Construction was slated to begin on August 1, 1958, with completion scheduled for August 1959. Ground was officially broken on July 28, 1958.

Now came the time to determine the split of students, or who would attend Washington High and who would attend Logan High. What appeared to be a simple mathematical task was compounded by entering the interfacing of human foibles into the equation.

The splitting of students between the James Logan and Washington Union High Schools soon gave the high school trustees a splitting headache. In October 1958 Supt. J. V. Goold came up with the recommendation that students within the Alviso, Alvarado, Decoto and Niles elementary districts be sent to the Logan School in Decoto.

The administrator estimated enrollment of the Decoto School, scheduled to open in September 1959, would only be about 1,100 students. Only freshmen, sophomores and juniors would attend the Decoto School under the plan that would let senior students finish their terms and graduate from the Centerville School.

Dr. Gordon Erickson asked and was told that the student split would put only 1,100 students in a school with a capacity of 1,600 pupils and would leave 2,300 students at Centerville. He commented that, "In other words you would be running one school at two thirds capacity and the other at over capacity."

Trustees were not exactly satisfied with the proposed split and instructed the administration to make a detailed study of the districts and the number of students in various classes within each district.

Following the meeting Frank Borghi mentioned another problem that would be created by having Decoto seniors continue at the Centerville School. He noted that buses would have to bring seniors from Decoto to Centerville when there would be ample room for them in a school virtually in their back yard. Administrators were told to have the detailed study ready for the board at the next meeting.

But progress was being made. In December 1958 a steering committee to work out "traditions" for the James Logan High School in Decoto was named by students at a meeting with Judson Taylor (future principal at Logan High). The approximately 850 students scheduled to move from WUHS to the new school next fall appointed the group charged with recommending school colors, mascots, officers and other similar decisions so they will have a ready-made set of traditions to cling to when the doors are thrown open.

In its opening year the Logan Colts would join the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League, an august prep circuit, which had included the Washington Union High School from Centerville as a member since the mid-thirties. In the days before the population explosion after WWII the league had featured teams as far south as Gilroy and Live Oak (Morgan Hill), but as the Santa Clara Valley grew those schools were spun off and the core of the teams were schools such as Washington High in Centerville, Los Gatos, Santa Clara, James Lick, Fremont in Mt. View, Sunnyvale, Camden, Willow Glen, and Campbell (the latter three all in the San Jose metro area). The league was in state of flux in the mid-fifties as some schools rotated out and new ones rotated in as the Santa Clara Valley grew. By the time Logan came into the league in 1959 the league had split into the ESCVAL, with featured Washington High and Logan in Washington Township, and the WSCVAL, which featured most of the older established Santa Clara Schools.

Also at this time the high school board named the administrators for the various disciplines at the new school. The person's chosen were:

Don Wolfe, Vice Principal
Lois Nelson, Dean of Girls
James Armstrong, Counselor
Frank Nakasako, Counselor
Barney Bragg, Commercial Dept.
John Scroggins, Social Studies Chair
Wayne School, Boys Phys Ed
Ron Lambert, Counseling Coordinator

Dan Goularte, Dean of Boys
Chris Brown, Student Activities
Lloyd Hughes, Counselor
Joan Culti, Fine Arts Chairman
Tom Collins, Language & Arts
Warren Sorenson, Industrial Arts
Robert Tierney, Math Science Dept.
Ruth Shiffrar, Girls Phys Ed

Almost immediately after the naming of Logan's administrators rumors arose that some weren't too happy with the methods used in appointing the administrators for the new high school in Decoto. It seems as though some of the teachers thought they weren't given a proper opportunity to apply for the jobs.

But for all of the challenges that faced the school board James Logan High School did open in September 1959 to its first class. The school, at its initial opening, had a maximum capacity of 1,600 students.

Decoto Elementary Student Activities:

At the turn of the new decade the town of Decoto held the title of having the largest enrollment of an elementary school in the Township. The 1950 enrollment was expected to reach over the 700 mark by the end of the year, which was the largest enrollment in the school's history. It was expected to equal or top WUHS's enrollment, which was expected to be 706 in 1950.

Student activities were vital to the growth of students, as was student studies. Here, by year are some of the activities of the various elementary schools in the Decoto School System in the 1950's.

December 1951:

Dressed in smart red capes and caps, first graders of the Decoto Elementary School opened a Christmas program presented last Wednesday at the school. They played "With Castanets," "Shadows," and "Tap-tapland," directed by their teacher, Mrs. Gladys Fairbanks. The kindergartners followed with a song, "Up on the Housetops," led by Mrs. Tillie Logan Goold.

Mrs. Constance Amaral's second graders recited "For Santa Claus Might Know," and the program continued with playlets, songs, and monologues by individual and classes up and including the fifth grade.

May 1952:

School Kite & Marble Contest:

Kites ranging from an eight-foot monster to a three-inch high pipsqueak dotted the skies over Decoto last week as the Fifth Annual Kite Day saw 182 school kids send their homemade wind-catchers aloft. Both Barnard and Decoto schools participated in a combined meet held on the Barnard playgrounds, and even the distaff side of enthusiasts had an entry with Josephine Alvarez, whose tiny three-inch kite flying on the end of a thread line earned her first place among 5th & 6th graders for the smallest creation.

Three division champions were announced Wednesday by Decoto Principal J. Wallace Perry, with trophies and certificates presented to the winners.

Also completed a week ago was the Decoto area marbles contest, after a month of elimination battles among 287 boys. Seven will receive engraved trophies at graduation ceremonies in June. The competition was sponsored by businessmen in the Decoto area.

Marble champs were Rudy Horton, Sammy Salazar, Dennis Valdez, and Lawrence Diaz, all of Barnard School, and Vernon Baca and John Riley of Decoto School.

Judges in the Kite Day program were William Fletcher, a Hillview Crest resident; Thomas Tuttle, 8th grade instructor; and Boyd Morningstar, Principal of Barnard School. Cited for honorable mention during Kite Day were the following students, who earned firsts for the reasons indicated:

Decoration:

John Vasquez

Gary Kuntz

Raymond Dominguez

Largest Kites:

Manuel Martinez	David Eaton	Larry Swarts
Pedro Garcia		

Most Unusual Kites:

Sam Salazar	Pedro Garcia
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Smallest Kites:

Reuben Peraza	Josephine Alvarez	Manuel Hidalgo
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Highest Flying:

John Vasquez	Manuel Martinez
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September 1952:

The Decoto School District Recreation Department held a doll show at the Barnard School Thursday, Sept. 18th. The show was attended by 95 boys and girls and approximately 150 dolls. All participants were awarded prizes and of ribbons and candy. Mr. Alfred Pinard and Mr. Robert Infelise, vice principals and recreations directors, acted as judges for the show. The following boys and girls were awarded prizes:

First Prizes Were Awarded to:

Patty Hill	Larry Nunes	Priscilla Vargas
Jeanella McKenzie	Eva Salas	Josephine Alvarez
Joyce LeBlock	Carolyn Medley	Katherin Heineman
Darrell Williams		

Second Prizes Were Awarded to:

Judith Burke	Marian Canon	Janice Redding
Lila Pulliam	Patty Hill	Martha Narveson
Jackie Morris	Catherine Heineman	Linda Thibodeau
Juanita Gonzalez	Robin Campbell	Mary Brewer
Katherine Bager	Sandy Nunes	Karen Parnala
Ascension Ramirez	Julia Bartunek	

Three Prizes Were Awarded to:

Mary Moreno	Judy Burke	Judith Garcia
Eva Salas	Sandra Orme	Kathleen Dunn
Joy Freeman		

Special Prizes Were Awarded to:

Bonnie Van Pelt	Gerald Smith	Philip Shorman
Paul Gonzalez	Gary Kimball	Phyllis Avila
Donna Dennis	Adalia Paz	Joan Decker
Ester Francis	Dorothy Bachman	Judy Pyle
Janette Cannon	Maureen Mann	Dolores Morales
Helen Alvarez	Robert Carlos	Cecelia Chavez
Rachel Morales	Kathleen Dunn	

October 1952:

Junior Teen Agers Club: Mr. Alfred Pinard, recreation director for Decoto schools announced the recent formation of an addition to the already popular Teen-Age Club of Decoto. The new group was called Junior Teen Agers, and

included pupils from the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. Approximately 120 were enrolled in the new group, sponsored by Tom Tuttle, and directed by Mr. Pinard, swelling the combined ranks of teen-agers and Jr. Teenagers to over 250. 120 of the club members attended a skating party at the Garden of Allah rink, and 160 members of the group attended the Stanford-Michigan football game. Sponsor of the teen age group is Robert Infelise.

The newly elected officers of the Junior Teen Age Group of the Decoto Schools are:

Beatrice Belmares	President
Peter Ramirez	Vice-president
Evangeline Cordona	Secretary
Benny Fuentes	Treasurer

November 1952

Decoto Marble Tournament:

Following are the results of the Decoto Schools marble tournament:

Barnard School:

Grand Champion: George Baca

5th Grade Champion: Jess Valencia
Runner-up: Marie Keilman

6th Grade Champion: George Baca
Runner-up: David Zamora

Other Prize Winners: Albert Torres Robert West

Decoto School:

Grand Champion: John Riley
5th Grade Champion: Ramon Cervantes
4th Grade Champion: John Riley
Runners-up: Mickey Heineman David Duran

There were over 75 participants in the tourney with each receiving a ribbon for taking part in the activity. Marie Keilman, a 5th Grade lass, surprised the opposite sex by winning the championship of her class and came within a whisker of nabbing 5th Grade honors.

George Baca however proved to be the classiest shooter as he breezed through six straight matches without a loss to win the Barnard School championship. Baca was presented with a miniature "walkie-talkie" set for his effort.

January 1953

Yo-Yo Contest:

The first Yo-Yo contest of the New Year was held Thursday, January 15th at Barnard and Decoto schools in Decoto. Results found Allen Williams, Bill Bachman and Wayne James tying for first with four different maneuvers completed on their Yo-Yo's. Bobby Hidalgo took second in this division. Marilyn Manwaring and Jackie Blurton tied for first in the girls division with four completed maneuvers, with Dorothy Bachman and Josie Alvarado tying for second.

Dance Club:

The High-Steppers, the newly formed 6th Grade folk dance club met this week and announced the new list of members. Among those listed were:

Ascension Ramirez	Rachel Morales	Lavern Alvarez
Joyce Curry	Carol Gordon	Lois Sausedo
Virginia Montellano	Teresa Hernandez	Estella Lopez
Reba Smith	Helen Alvarez	Judith Campbell
Judith King	Billie Sue Bigby	Beatrice Moreno
Ramona Moreno	Joyce Le Block	Mary Brewer
Karen Parnala	Sally Jiminez	Esther Chavez
William Weatherall	Louis Govas	Robert Sigler
Floria J. Santiago	Juanita Gonzalez	Donna Dennis
Phyllis Avila	Darlene Santos	Lynn Gunderson
Rochelle Leiby	Katherine Brager	Jovita Leiby
Flo Ann McWhorter	Cecilia Stock	Dorothy Bachman

February 1953:

Valentine's Party:

A Valentine's party is planned for Wednesday, February 11th. The group went to the Garden of Allah to enjoy some skating and another social get together.

Those present at the January 15th party included:

Helen Lozano	Hope Martinez	Evelyn Sanchez
Mary Lermsa	Phyllis Dodgion	Aldamira Yanez
Carol Moreno	Rose Castro	Renee Stiarwalt
Irene Cease	Pat Decker	Rolyne Bartunek
Willa Hicks	Phyllis Fine	Sheryl Stiarwalt
Mary Avila	Rachel Rodrigues	Frances Vasquez
Olivia Leyva	Diana Viesca	Darlene Dodgion
Juanita Ramirez	Francis Lozano	Marjorie Pagan
Vera Miller	Jimmie Moreno	Manuel Hidalgo
Ray Dominguez	Jesse Amaya	Allen Amaro
Jock Tucker	Rudy Moreno	Fred Sanchez
Leo Pagan		

September 1953

Summer Recreation:

Nearly 6,000 school children attended the first summer recreation program at two Decoto School District playgrounds, the district's recreation department reported yesterday. Attendance records maintained by Alfred Pinard, recreation director, indicate an average daily attendance of 83 children.

The district also sponsored a swimming program at Hidden Valley Resort in which 212 children completed a series of ten swimming lessons. Pinard said the swim program was regarded as very successful and that plans are being considered to make it an annual event. Pinard was assisted in the swim training by Alexis and Barbara Guisen and by Louis Pagan.

Playgrounds were staffed by Rosemary West, San Jose State Physical Education major, Diane Coughlin, Physical Education specialist and district employee, and Mary Smith, general education major, and district employee.

October 1953

Teenage Club:

A "come as you are" dance has been slated as the first social event of the year by the Decoto School district's Teenage Club. The dance was held at the Decoto School auditorium.

In its first meeting of the year officers were elected. Those taking officer were:

Candace Collins:	President
Mike Montellano:	Treasurer
Sherrill Stiarwalt:	Vice-president
Phyllis Fine:	Secretary
Willa Hicks:	Refreshment Chairman.

John Dewey, 7th grade teacher and recreation director at Barnard School, once again acted as moderator of the club.

November 1953:

Winners of the contest and game day held at the Barnard School were:

Gil Ferdin	Rosemary Blake	Rosalie Garcia
Manuel Martinez	Judy Burke	Mary Moreno
Barbara McClويد	Evangeline Anchundo	Marian Gilbert
Dolores Garcia	Andrew Barrera	Kenneth Soares
Theresa Campos	Pearl Froese	Raymond Shepard
Bob Dulas	Ray Cervantez	Daniel Romero
Alfonzo Rodrigues	Manuel Seaone	Richard Seoane
Isaac Rodriguez	Fred Leimbach	Frank Arzie
Albert Torres	Esperanza Melendez	Bonnie Simpson
Carol Cooper		

April 1954:

The ultra modern Decoto School was the setting for the annual Awards Dinner and Assembly at which some 75 teammates from Barnard School were awarded with emblems for their fine sports record.

Alfred Anchundo	Al Rodrigues	Art Renteria
Robert Marshall	Robert Hidalgo	Jesse Medina
Gabriel Cordova	Charlie Bullard	Daniel Romero
Dave Escobido	David Eaton	Ed Limon
Dave Rosa	Frank Martinez	George Baca
Jerry Pacheco	Gil Lozano	Gilbert Ferdin
Harold Reposo	Jerry Escobido	Armando Villareal
Zaferino Hernandez	Rich Seoane	Al Torres
Jerry White	Jesse Gonzales	Jess Monte de Rey
Jose Rojas	John Elizarrey	Ron Domingues
Ruben Aguilar	Sam Salazar	Stan Berrios
Tony Martinez	Lupe Lozano	Rich Gudino
Dennis Saunders	Daniel Winana	James Soares
Manuel Gonzales	Miss Sharon Severns	Miss Candy Collins
Miss Willa Hicks	Miss Sandra Frates	Miss Jean Nichols
Miss Joyce Curry	Miss Flo Ann McWhorter	Miss Linda Knobles
Miss Diana Holben	Miss Virginia Montellano	Miss Karyllyne Lee

Miss Adelina Zavala
Miss Rachel Rodrigues
Miss Margaret Berrios

Miss Flora Cervantez
Miss Sheryl Stiarwalt
Miss Rosemary Blake

Miss Maxine Costa
Miss Beverly Brown

April 1954:

Polio Vaccine for Hillview Children:

Dr. Tom Perdue, assistant country health officer, was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Hillview Crest P-Ta held recently at the Hillview Crest School. Mass polio vaccinations were offered to 14,000 children in Southern Alameda County elementary school children was the topic, which was followed by a discussion by interested parents.

Shots will be administered to first, second, and third grade students, as the polio risk is highest at this age level. Fifty percent of the children will receive the new polio vaccine and the other half will be administered a vaccine without the virus. Dr. Perdue stated that conclusive results could not be obtained in any other way.

Disapproval of the field trials was voiced by a few parents but Dr. Perdue made clear that the safety of the vaccine is beyond question. Few children observed in the past tests have showed any symptoms of becoming ill.

April 1954, Easter Egg Hunt:

Over 1,700 children and 200 parents participated in the annual Easter egg contests held Saturday at Hillview Crest and Decoto schools.

Winners of large Easter Egg baskets included:

Chris Maderos
Sandra Rosenbaum
Larry Ashworth
Judy Burke
Vincent Gutierrez
Elinor Trejo
Lupe Ramirez
Ronnie Elizarrey

Billy Helman
Jack Allyson
Raylene Evans
Ted Hemphill
Ronald James
Dennis Gonzales
Raymond Virgil

Danny Medley
Jerry Tomzak
Donna Hofferber
Bobby Whatley
Kathy Ferreira
Carmen Vasquez
Lino Pina

August 1954

Playground Camp Out:

Only 75 were expected, but 162 youngsters turned out for a campout held at Hillview Crest School, sponsored by the Decoto Elementary School District.

Taking part in the watermelon eating contest was:

Geraldine Curry
Norman Terry

Donna Applegate
Rocky Hill

Steven McChord

Roasting marshmallows were:

Bobby Turner

Steven Reynolds

David Dobrowski

Setting up for a night's rest was:

Tommy Wilhoit

Dennis Shoup

Gerald Pontrello

October 1954

Doll Contest:

Last week's doll show, sponsored by the Decoto School District's recreation department, brought 350 dolls to the playgrounds of Decoto and Hillview Crest, it was announced today by S. Robert Infelise.

Winners in their respective categories from Hillview Crest were:

Largest Doll:

Marsha Steelman, 1st Sherri Bartunik, 2nd Billie Johnson, 3rd

Smallest Doll:

Kathy Thompson, 1st Raylene Evans, 2nd Betsy McClendon 3rd

Best Dressed Doll:

Linda Lynch, 1st Kathy Thompson, 2nd Judy Burke, 3rd

Best Hair Set:

Diane Strauel, 1st Joan DeMamiel, 2nd Chucky Hill, 3rd

Best Doll Collection:

Jean Washburn, 1st Cynthia Kubiak, 2nd Carla Stever, 3rd

Oldest Doll:

William Hill, 1st Betsy McClendon, 2nd Stephanie Proffitt,
3rd

Most Unusual Dolls:

Pattie Kelly, 1st Judy Cook, 2nd Gary Kimball, 3rd

Best Groomed Doll:

Margaret Lockwood, 1st Lynda DeMamiel, 2nd Sherry Cassidy, 3rd

Storybook Doll:

Pat McElroy, 1st Carla Stever, 2nd Linda DeMamiel, 3rd

Winners in their respective categories from Decoto were:

Largest Doll:

Barbara Naves, 1st Cecilia Ortega, 2nd Sandra Searles, 3rd

Smallest Doll:

Judy Garcia, 1st Barbara McCloud, 2nd Eleanor Perez, 3rd

Best Dressed Doll:

Cecilia Ortega, 1st Carolyn Cooper, 2nd Judy Garcia, 3rd

Storybook Doll:

Janet Seoane, 1st Jackie Mares, 2nd Mary Chappell, 3rd

Oldest Doll:

Dorothy Schwartz, 1st Sandra Searles, 2nd Sandra Searles, 3rd

Dorothy Schwartz's prize-winning doll was 70 years old while Sandra Searles dolls were 69 and 39 years old.

April 1955

Spelling Bee:

Nearly every seventh and eighth grade classroom in southern Alameda County schools has a new champion speller. In Decoto's Barnard School the winners are:

Eva Salas	Rosalie Ruiz	Frances Stover
James Turner	Clara Triana	Floria Ruiz
Dale Green	Alfonso Green	

June 1955

Decoto Bike Contest:

Four boys and two girls were declared champion cyclists of Decoto Elementary School District at Saturday's bike rodeo. S. Robert Infelise named the winners as:

Sharon Williams	Girl's division, eight and under
Gary Eckles	Boy's division, eight and under
Carolyn Allison	Girl's division, 9 to 10 years old
Robert Everhart	Boy's division, 9 to 10 years old
Stanley Raskaukas	Boy's division, 11 to 12 years old
Don Ferreira	Boy's division, 13 and over

Prizes were also given for winners in a bicycle decoration class. Winners are:

George Wilson	Boy's division, 9 to 10 years old
Vickie Linquist	Girl's division, 9 to 10 years old
Tom Thorpe	11 to 12 year old division

June 1955:

Student Citizen of the Year, James Soares, will receive a special award tonight at the third annual Henry Barnard School awards nights, according to Boyd Morningstar, principal. Soares earned his title for outstanding scholastic and extra-curricular activities during eliminations held throughout the school year. Students to earn awards as Citizens of the month were:

Lorenzo Quezada	Edward Limon	Keryllyne Lee
Dale Geren	Marquita Hart	Carol Gordon
Rodney Gonzalez		

Special awards will also be given to:

Joe Andrade	Current Events Champion
Rodney A. Gonzalez	Student Council President

In addition Coach Chris Carabello will bestow awards on 215 of his athletes.

December 1955:

Christmas came to Decoto this week and was celebrated until school adjourned for a winter holiday yesterday afternoon. The Christmas program at the Decoto School, held in conjunction with a P-TA sponsored dinner for the Decoto Cub Scouts, was presented Wednesday evening. The program featured a play, "The Christmas Secret," which tells the story of a boy who found happiness at Christmas by preparing gifts for hospitalized children while he was confined to his home with a broken ankle.

Appearing in the Decoto play was:

Sandra Searles
Jackie Joseph
Jesse Ferdin
David Rodriguez
Jeanette Alcantor
Carol Ann Silva

Rose Mary Vargas
John Salas
Raymond Gonzalez
Peter Rojo
Diane Caminada
Victor Caraballo

Julie Reed
David Valencia
Alex Anchundo
Jackie Mares
Mary Lou Solis

March 1956:

Political observers could do worse than use eighth graders at Barnard Intermediate School as a sounding board. Most of them knew all along Ike would run again, including one youngster whose reason was, "He's an understanding man with a wife."

Eighth grade teacher Miss Catherine McClean told her students to write short essay on Ike, giving reasons why they thought he would or would not run. The essay showed 17 thought he would, four thought he wouldn't, and seven embryo politicians straddled the fence, refusing to commit themselves.

Of the 17 "yes" voters, three thought he really shouldn't run because of his age and recent illness (same reason the "no" voters thought he would decline) and a half-dozen gave Ike the advice, "You'll do better without Richard Nixon as your running mate."

The right guessers had various reasons, ranging from intuition to glowing tributes, which would warm the President's heart. For example:

Julia Bartunek: "When (he) vetoed the gas bill I figured he would stick around for another four years to see what happens...I like Ike and I wish everyone else did too."

Stanley Berrios: "Lots of people think he will not run, but as the old saying goes, you can fool some of the half the time but you can't fool all the people all the time...If you are over 21, vote for Ike."

Bonnie Baptista: "He said he was going to keep the men out of war and so far that is what he has been doing. If he keeps it up and doesn't fool the people, he will have a good chance of being elected."

Terry Evans: "He took action against Communists." He clinched his argument with, "He's an upstanding man with a wife."

Rudy Armendariz: "The Republicans would hate for him not to run..."

Lenora Velarde: "The Democrats do not want him to run again."

Vice President Nixon did not fare as well, and Adlai Stevenson was mentioned only once. Sample comments on Nixon:

Bob Dulas: "Nixon is going to pull the rug out from under Ike if he is not careful."

Robert Carlos: "If Eisenhower has a new vice president to run with him, he will run for president again, but if not he won't." Robert also informed the

world, "I don't want him to run because my dad is a Democrat. If he does run he won't get any votes from my family."

Floria Ruiz: The vice presidency (Nixon) occupied Gloria's mind: "I don't exactly know what his plans are...but it would be nice if he was elected vice president.'

Robert Gonzales: "He and some of his friends have been going out to play some games like gold and ping pong...he is trying to get Russia to sign a peace treaty...and if we do have war it will be with atoms. Robert, who didn't think Ike would run, also hinted darkly at things he did while in office.

Jo Ann Martin: One of the wrong guessers, had sympathy for Mamie: "He might get another heart attack...He has to think of his wife. What will she do it she finds herself without a husband?"

Beatrice Belmares: She was among those who thought would be wished he wouldn't: "I think he is getting a little too old...A president does not waste his time sitting on beautiful chairs listening to music. He has to work at many things and very hard."

David Duran: David guessed Ike would run because "he could become more popular and every little while get his name in the papers."

Alice Corchero: Alice agreed with David, "If he should happen to run again, we'll be sure to see it in the newspapers."

Al Alcorcha: Al sympathized with the hard lot of a president: "I think he should stop politics and move to the farm in Virginia and there he will have a better chance of living than if he has to veto stacks of bills."

Eleanor Diosdado: The youngsters were unanimous in praise of Ike, candidate or not, Eleanor summed that feeling this way, "even the ones that don't like him...deep inside know they like him."

Cecilia Chavez: "All I can say, it's been nice having him as president the past four years."

April 1956:

A personal letter from President Dwight D. Eisenhower has been received by Miss Catherine MacLean, eighth grade teacher at Barnard Intermediate School in response to an exclusive *Daily Review* story telling how a majority of the Barnard eighth graders foresaw Ike's decision to run again.

The youngsters wrote essays giving reason why the President would or would not run, and some threw in random comments, which *The Daily Review* story said, "would warm the President's heart."

One noted, "He's an upstanding man with a wife," and another wrote, "I like Ike, and I wish everyone did too."

President Eisenhower's letter read:

"A clipping has reached me telling me of the foresight shown by the members of your class at the Barnard Intermediate School. Won't you please tell all the boys and girls that I much appreciate their confidence and that their comments did indeed warm my heart."

Sincerely,
Dwight D. Eisenhower

Miss MacLean told Principal S. Robert Infelise she will keep the letter as a treasured memento.

June 1956

Kids at Camp:

Five Decoto & three Hillview Crest youths are at Camp Loma Mar, the 100-acre redwood vacation retreat of the Oakland YMCA in San Mateo County.

From Hillview Crest are:

Jim Anderegg	Ken Anderegg	Jerry Spillers
Joe Mateo Jr.	Margarito Cuevas	Caesario Martinez
Ray Sheppard	Peter Ramirez	

December 1956

Joint Show by Schools:

Hillview Crest and El Rancho Verde Schools will collaborate in presenting their annual Christmas program. Thomas Scarff and Arthur Gatto, Hillview Crest members have written an original play, "Dream Tree" for the program. It concerns a small boy who thinks toys are only sawdust and plaster.

Pupils appearing are:

Ken Globus	Janice L. Walker	Larry Hebebrand
Linda Hayes	Barbara Hughes	Chris Lewzader
Marsha Steelman	Michele Palu	Victoria Carlos
Dianne Cadwalder	Barbara Dexter	James Smith
Pat Casentini	Bedelia Cadwalder	Norma Prado
Susan Elsom	Janette Jackson	Scott Moffett
Byron Simpson	Jack Allison	Steve Harrison
Jerry Sanchez	Linda DeMamiel	Robert Clark
Carolyn Gilmore	Nancy Turner	

Choral groups led by music directors, Mrs. Margaret Thomas and Mrs. Melba Thrasher will provide the background music.

December 1956:

"Christmas Everywhere" was presented as the Decoto School's holiday entertainment on December 10th in the school auditorium. Given in conjunction with the regular P-TA meeting, the musical tableau program depicted the manner Christmas is celebrated in various foreign countries. Directing is Joe Monte de Rey. The choir will be conducted by Mrs. Margaret Thomas, assisted by Mrs. Alice Burt.

Pupils participating are:

Billy Porras	Tommy Vigil	Frank Cisneros
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Lela Velarde
Michael Simerly
Angela Ortegon
Richard Pernal
Rose Mary Rede
Connie Cobern

Linda Rebiejo
Carmen Coria
Eleanor Trejo
Ronald Stordahl
Sharon Schamelzer

Manuel Rodriguez
Rodolfo Campos
Valentin Salinas
Mary Alcorcha
Carol Finley

December 1956

Decoto Basketball Tournament:

The Mustangs won the seventh & eighth grade Decoto School District Recreation Department Basketball Tournament and then eked out a 27-23 triumph over the division All-Stars.

In the fifth and 6th grade division, Hillview defeated the Hotshots, 38-32, yesterday in a wild and wooly playoff game for the tournament championship. A portion of the Hillview line is as follows:

Darrell Eskridge, Capt.	Larry Williamson	Larry Hebebrand
Jackie Frisch	Larry Ashworth	Wayne Hulbert

The championship upper division Mustangs was paced by:

Leslie Hayes, Capt.	John Riley	Ruben Morales
Leo Avila	Robert Dias	Gilbert Gutierrez
Lester Mederios		

May 1957:

Religion in School: The Decoto Board of Trustees heard a district attorney's ruling that it is illegal to hand out Bibles to children on school property. Trustees had asked for the legal opinion to answer a request to distribute Bibles in Decoto schools made by the Gideon Society.

July 1957, Church Classes OK'd:

Decoto School District Trustees have agreed to allow children to attend religious instruction classes at churches during school hours. The decision, made Tuesday, rescinds a previous board policy allowing pupils to attend religious classes only before or after the school day. The agreement was worked out by the district's inter-faith council, which is comprised of school and church representatives.

August 1957

Pet Parade Winners:

Raymond Harrington, entered in the owner-of-the-largest-dog division, was one of seven winners in the Decoto School District Recreation Department's third annual pet parade.

Other winners were:

Best Trained Pet:	Suzie Frandsen
Smallest Pet (Guppies):	Gail Graham
Oldest Pet:	Carol Knupfer
Best Groomed Pet:	Jeff Fouts
Most Unusual Pet (Duck):	Gary Thackery
Cutest Dog:	Barbara Jensen

February 1958:

Spanking Reaffirmed: When Decoto School Trustees reaffirmed their policy of standing behind disciplinary action taken by teachers, it came as no surprise to one who literally saw the writing on the wall. Displayed in the boardroom he said, is a wooden paddle bearing the inscription, "Applied Psychology to get at the Seat of the Problem."

March 1958:

First place in the Decoto Hi-Time Club's recent talent show at Barnard School auditorium was taken by Jim Costa's Quintet. Second place in the 13 to 18 years-old division went to Jack Jones, guitarist.

In the under 12-division, Jan Guillen, Camille Gonzalez, and Marie Rodriguez, took first with a Hula number. Second place award went to Steven Harrison, who played the bad pipes.

Linda Young, publicity chairman, said the club will soon set a date for a box social.

March 1958:

Barnard's 7th graders in the Class B Division of the National League downed Irvington 14-7, to give the Decoto School a good lead in the 6-week race for the title. Members of the team are:

Rudy Martinez	George Martinez	Junior Cervantes
Tony Garcia	Ernie Bouvelos	Benny Rodriguez
Fred Linebach	Tony Alcorcha	Julian Ramirez
David Jackson	Beaver Swarts	Tony Lima
Chet Breakfield	Jesse Sanchez	

April 1958, WUHS Student Body President:

Washington Union High School Huskies have named Joe Andrade Jr. student body president for the 1958-1959 school year. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Andrade Sr. of 33757 12th Street, Decoto. He has maintained a high scholastic average in school and is a member of the Junior Statesmen. He will be Washington's representative in June to the Boy's State in Sacramento. In his sophomore year he served as class president.

May 1958:

The fifth and sixth grade chorus at Hillview Crest School will present the operetta "Windmills of Holland" at 8:15 p.m. tomorrow. Sixty pupils will participate in the operetta, directed by Mrs. Margaret Thomas, musical director.

Leading parts will be taken by:

Earl Jeremy	Celeste Danjou	Barbara Hughes
Glenna Welch	James Stringer	Stanley Kopacz
David Stevens	Joan Coty	Pamela Armstrong
Bryan Alexander	Diana Buskirk	James Crawford
Gaylia Butcher	James Fewell	Vicki Carlos
Norman Hughes	Joyce Dareing	James Lynn
Patricia DuCharme	Anthony Lopez	Jo Ann George
James Martin	Marion Griffith	Albert Pacheco
Patijac Kelly	Gordon Rose	Melody Nordine
Adele Stafford		

Faculty members assisting are:
Speaking Parts:
Stage Manager & Choreography:
Scenery & Costume Design:
Properties:

Mrs. Barbara Hall
Mr. Arthur Gatto
Mr. Thomas Scarff
Mrs. Phyllis Ballard

Decoto Schools Area Miscellaneous Activities:

During the runaway growth of the fifties, the Decoto School Board made several trips to the voters asking for tax increases and new school bonds. This is not an easy task, for year after year it seemed a new school was going to be built. Taxpayers get tired of their social obligations when reminded year after year. You wear out your welcome. So the powers that be resorted to clever advertising (propaganda?).

So those that proposed the bond measure prepared a seven-page booklet in 1954 with sayings such as, "Schools cost less than baby-sitters."

"You can't argue with the stork," was another little ditty, which used a picture of storks over Decoto.

Remember the guy who, during the draft days of World War II happily labeled each newborn arrival as "another deferment" and the tax conscience parent who chortled "another exemption" each time the stork drew a bead on his castle? Well this was the new reality in Decoto in the mid fifties.

One question of major importance when the Hayward Washington Annex was proposed was what would happen to Decoto schools? The new Hillview Crest and El Rancho Verde Schools were in Washington Township and the Decoto School District, but they were in the City limits of Hayward.

Schoenfeld explained that annexation of the area to the City of Hayward would not affect the school district. The boundaries of the City of Hayward and the Hayward School District are not identical.

In answer to a question, the superintendent said there is no present plan to change the Decoto district's boundaries, although a change might be effected by petitioning the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, or by an agreement between trustees of districts involved, should a change be desired.

Asked if it might not be more practical to transport pupils of the tract to Barnard, rather than build a new school, Schoenfeld replied that Decoto's transportation cost per pupil is 54¢ a mile. In discussion of the transportation problem, the superintendent warned that state educational authorities have considered raising the legal transportation limits from one mile to one and a half miles for elementary children.

The school board meeting of August 15, 1956 raised a question as to using children in the school Cafeteria. Supt. Dr. Harold Schoenfeld had recommended the school follow policies used by other districts to cut labor costs and give upper grade students an opportunity for work experience. He said students would clean tables and clear trays in the district's three cafeterias and receive a free lunch in payment.

Trustee Harry K. Spooner was skeptical of the program and said use of students for "slave labor." The idea was tabled for further review at another meeting.

Teachers & Spanish Speaking Children:

Among unusual problems solved in the Decoto School District was the one posed by the large percentage of children coming from Spanish speaking families, some without the knowledge of a single word of English. To cope with these conditions the school district has on it staff, several well-qualified Spanish-speaking teachers. These teachers have to be a great help in the indoctrination of new children and in working with the parents of these children.

Because of their language difficulty, many children require several years of schooling before they reach their grade level in reading. The problem is made more difficult when the child hears nothing but Spanish spoken in his home. Children in these families must often serve as interpreters for their parents in discussing school problems.

In order that the parents of their children may better understand the work of the school, demonstration classes have been held for parents to observe. A Spanish-speaking teacher is on hand at these demonstration classes to interpret in Spanish for those parents who do not understand English.

A striking example of what has happened in the Decoto School is the case of two sisters that were enrolled in the school within a week after arriving in this country from Spain. Through the efforts of the school and their teachers along with encouragement from their parents, these girls are now among the top students in their respective classes.

In order to keep abreast with this ever present reading problem, a number of the Decoto teachers are presently taking a special course in remedial reading, which is being conducted by Dr. Hughes of San Jose State College.

Decoto Schools Health Program:

Schools are the weekday guardians of your children's health. The rapidly growing Decoto School District has instituted a well-rounded health program for its children. It is a program that includes more than just facts about disease. It recognized the healthy personality's need for mental, emotional, physical, and social well-being. The health program at the Decoto School District brings together three main school activities, health services, healthful living, and health instruction.

Health service to the children begins during the first month of school in September when the testing of vision and hearing is undertaken for each child under the direction and supervision of the school nurse. During this time, students are weighed and measured so that these important facts may be recorded. Services of the school nurse are available at all times for children who might be injured or become ill while in school.

* **BOXING** *

Decoto boys had extensive programs in boxing. Tutored by the Decoto Boy's Club, the Decoto Men's Club and the Decoto Athletic Club the youth turned out a force of good young boxers in the 1940's & 1950's

The young boxer's of the Decoto Boy's Club met the St. Mary's Boy's Club in January 1953 for a series of eight bouts plus a professional exhibition match. The matches were held at the Church Hall on 6th & C Streets.

That was followed up in May 1953 when the Decoto Athletic Club featured a boxing program against the Salesian Boy's Club of Oakland at the Decoto Hall at 6th & H Streets. Featured boxers for Decoto included Homer Esquibel, Richard Gonzales, and Fred Viscarra.

In September 1954 the San Francisco Golden Glove tourney began. Decoto's Billy Agundez listed four entrants from his stable, novices Alfonso Villegas (147), Clarence Williams (heavyweight), Fred Viscarra (112), and junior Ruben Mantano (156). Also fighting out of Decoto was Tommy Algiers, a 165-pound novice under Art Solis. Two Decoto youngsters pounded out wins in the amateur bouts that night in San Francisco's Winterland Golden Gloves competition. Fred Viscarra, Decoto, (112) decisioned Hector Valdez, and Alfonso Villegas, Decoto, (156) decisioned Hayward's Oscar Falcon.

The Rev. Ralph Duggan of Decoto was also instrumental in establishing a successful club for boys with 72 members from 14 to 18 years of age who specialized in boxing under the leadership Charles P. Piane and Eugene Ranstadt. The old Decoto School was moved from down the street to house catechism classes, and volunteer labor refurnished it. A baseball diamond occupied part of the site, as did a boxing ring, which was installed in the old school.

The youngsters were surprised one day when Father Duggan introduced Archie Moore who put on a boxing show for the young boxers. Moore had a pro boxing career 218 bouts winning 185, losing 23, and drawing 10. Moore was the World Light Heavyweight Champ for almost ten years ending in May 1962. In 2002 he was ranked as the second greatest light heavyweight boxer of all time and in the same year earned the title as the fourteenth greatest boxers of the last 80 years. The following year, 2003, he ranked as the fourth greatest puncher of all time by *The Ring Magazine*.

A boxing exhibition was presented in May 1954 with the featured referees slated to be: Johnnie Gonzalves (pro record 27 - 21 - 3); Bobby Jones (pro record 39 - 29 - 8); and "Bobo" Olson (97 - 16 - 2) in 115 bouts and Middleweight Champ

The program was under the sponsorship of the Catholic Youth Organization and the Decoto Boy's Club. Bouts were held at the Decoto baseball field. Five bouts and an exhibition made up the evening's fight card.

The matches were:

132 Pounds:	Art Ordez, San Jose	vs.	Tony Bueno, Alvarado
105 Pounds:	"Baby Ike," San Jose	vs.	Joe Martinez, Decoto
112 Pounds:	Dick Martinez, San Jose	vs.	Jake Uvilla, Decoto
126 Pounds:	S. Hernandez, San Jose	vs.	Ernie Becerra, Decoto
112 Pounds:	Sy Ruiz, San Jose*	vs.	Fred Viscarra, Decoto

*Golden Gloves Champion of 1953

The Villa's:

During this decade several boxers took the name Villa, most of which were from the Villarreal family, although Tommy Algers took the name Tommy Villa. The Villarreal's consisted of Abel, Raul and Augie Villarreal.

Abel Villarreal:

Abel Villarreal was a 124-pound boxer who came to fame in 1950 fighting in the novice class in the Golden Gloves tournament held in San Francisco. Abel scored three wins and advanced to the championship round of the tourney. In the same tournament, Ruben Montano, also of Decoto moved into the finals of the 156-pound class.

Augie Villa:

(Augie Villarreal), 18 pro bouts, 8 wins, 9 losses, and 1 draw. Augie turned pro and almost immediately was set up against tough competition. He initially lost several bouts to the likes of: Jesus Luis Coter (18-6-4); Reuben Smith (20-14-6) and Humberto Carillo (56-12-5) before winning six of his last seven bouts (one draw) beating the likes of highly touted Art Ramponi, Morris Leviege (twice), and Vic (Kid) Ponce.

Raul Villarreal:

Raul was a Decoto lightweight that won the Golden Gloves Diamond Belt in 1952. He scored a decision over Manuel Ramirez of San Jose in the senior division of the 135-pound class. Raul was the brother of Chico Villarreal.

Other Fighters (Pro & Amateurs) that Fought out of Decoto:

Tommy Algers (Tommy Villa) 22 pro bouts, record 10 wins, 10 losses, 2 draws.
Tommy who fought under the name Tommy Villa was managed by Art Salas.
Jake Avilla 112 (Oakland PAL) (Pro)
Homer Esquibel (DAC)
Richard Gonzales (DAC)
Joe Gutierrez
Ruben Mantano 156 (Golden Gloves)
Harold Martinez (Amateur)
Al Perez (Featherweight) (Pro)
Luis Ramirez
Benito Rodriguez (Pro) 10 pro bouts, record 6 wins, 3 losses, 1 draw
Ray Salas 131 (Golden Gloves, Oakland PAL)
Fred Viscarra 112 (DAC) (Golden Gloves) (Pro)
Joe Villalobos (Golden Gloves)
Manuel Villarreal (DAC)
Alfonso Villegas 147 (Golden Gloves)
Clarence Williams Heavyweight (Golden Gloves)
Turner Wilson, 148
Angel Ledesma, Heavyweight, Golden Gloves Champion 1958, from Alvarado but sometimes fought out of Decoto.

* **SMOG** *

In the early 50's we became accustomed to a seldom-used word, it was called smog. Although this word had been known since at least 1884, and meant a combination of smoke and fog, its use was not generally heard in the Bay Area. References to this word were used as it pertained to Los Angeles, but that was far away and of little concern to the Bay Area. But, like a bad dream once it made its appearance in everyday vocabulary it would never go away. It eventually morphed into the words "air pollution."

March 1954:

The Mission San Jose Chamber of Commerce suggested to the Washington Township Chamber of Commerce that a smog committee be formed in Washington Township. This followed by some weeks a public hearing before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors during which strong testimony was presented in favor of activating a countywide smog control district. The Missions chamber's action presages additional support for such a move by the Board of Supervisors.

Alameda County was in need of smog control. Residents received additional emphasis of that periodically when a smog haze would veil everything from the ridge of the hills to the Bay. Washington Township got the bulk of her smog from northern neighbors in the early 50's, but eventually Washington Township began to produce some of her own. The Pacific States Steel Company in Decoto poured smoke into the air nearly every morning. But with coming of more homes and their automobiles, the smog index began to rise in the township.

Smog nuisance was a comparative matter. Governor Knight said that the Bay Area isn't troubled to the extent of Los Angeles, and that was true. On the same basis, Washington Township is not bothered as much as the area adjacent to industrial regions to the north.

Nevertheless, each area had its occasional smog problems. It was folly to dismiss them as unimportant. The Los Angeles nuisance grew from conditions no more troublesome than those that prevailed here today; those in the north Alameda County industrial regions had their beginning in plants similar to the one in Decoto. Each region would overtake the other eventually, in the same manner that each wave eventually reaches shore.

That steady outward progression of smog can be halted only if control measures were undertaken. They were needed in Washington Township, in Alameda County, and in the entire Bay district. Smog is no more a local problem than wind currents are a local problem. No aerial sewer can be built to channel air pollutants to an outfall point. The Mission Chamber's action, if followed through, could contribute to the only workable solution, activation by the county of a smog control district.

April 1954:

An air pollution ordinance would have to be put in effect before heavy industry can be located adjacent to residential areas, said John J. Thomas, Alameda County planning director. Addressing a meeting called to discuss zoning for the Decoto area, Thomas pointed out that 1,000 acres immediately adjacent to Hillview Crest had been zoned for industry. The area was bounded by the proposed freeway (I-880), Whipple Road, and Alquire Road (Industrial Parkway today), and was surrounded by property zoned for residential development.

Thomas assured interested residents, however, that until an ordinance against smog was forthcoming the planning commission would probably exercise control. He also reminded those present that opponents of industrial development would have an opportunity to have their arguments heard at public hearings, which would be held before permits would be granted. A triangular area formed by the intersection of Decoto and the Alvarado Niles Road had also been zoned for industry.

April 1955:

The "smog" created by the U.S. Pipe and Foundry Company was the target of a barrage of letters to county officials. The Decoto Community Coordinating Council asked sponsoring organizations to direct letters to the Alameda County Health Department, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, and the regional office of Air Pollution Control, protesting the nuisance created by the foundry.

U.S. Pipe replied, "We recognize the fact that we have a smoke problem," said C.R. Tinsley, general manager of the U.S. Pipe & Foundry plant in Decoto, and we are going to do something about it."

Tinsley said his company has been actively working on the problem for some time and has been spending sizable amounts of money experimenting with devices known to have solved similar problems in other areas. Included in the tests were smokestack afterburners. He promised that efforts will never become passive and will continue until a solution is reached.

June 1955:

The other side of the smog problem in Decoto was presented by Carl Tinsley of the U.S. Pipe & Foundry Company in a meeting with representatives of the Decoto Community Coordinating Council held in June 1955.

Harold Strauel, council president, asked the pointed question of what U.S. Pipe & Foundry intended to do about the smoke that settled over the west end of Decoto.

Tinsley, general manager of the local plant explained in detail the use of smokestack after-burners to eliminate the nuisance. Tinsley admitted, however, that so far attempts in this direction have failed. He pointed out that after-burners had been successful in other localities and that U.S. Pipe & Foundry would continue with their efforts.

The smog meeting was followed by a "good-will" tour of the pipe plant. Strauel admitted that several of the most vocal complainers about smog had not attended the meeting.

April 1957:

Alameda County officials were informed today that two prospective industries considering locating in the Bay Area have shied away from Decoto because of the air pollution problem here. The San Francisco Bay Area Council told the Alameda County Board of Supervisor's that members should be aware of the loss. Frank E. Marsh, council general manager, said he made known the fact to Benjamin Linsky, chief of the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District.

Marsh stated:

"One of our primary responsibilities is the promotion and the development of additional growth in the San Francisco Bay Area. In this connection, we have recently

learned that at least two prospective industries, which have been considering the Bay Area as a possible location, particularly in the neighborhood of Decoto/Fremont have become negative in their opinion as to that location because of the air pollution existing there."

Marsh said he was bringing the matter to the attention of Linsky "because one of the purposes of air pollution control is to make it possible to have greater industrial growth and better living conditions.

April 24, 1957:

The first experimental evidence that man-made pollution, including nuclear bomb tests, can bring on drought and heavy rainfall was reported today by a U.S. Weather Bureau expert. Dr. Ross Gunn told the National Academy of Science the amount of pollution in the air apparently upsets nature's own rain cycle and brings on extremes of weather. He said the prime effect of pollution is to delay the normal cycle of rain, causing long dry periods followed by flooding rainfalls of abnormal duration.

* **UAL FLIGHT 615** *

A United Airlines DC-6B Mainliner smashed into a hilltop two miles east of Decoto on August 24, 1951, careening into a steep canyon and then burst into flames, killing all 50 persons aboard. It was the first time one of the huge four-motored luxury type planes had crashed. The DC-6B was placed in service only this month after the settlement of a pilot's strike.

The plane left Boston at 6:30 p.m. August 23rd, stopping at Hartford, Cleveland, and Chicago. It was due to make one more stop at Oakland before ending its flight at San Francisco airport at 6:30 a.m.

The plane missed clearing the top of Tolman Peak by only 30 feet. The ceiling was low and visibility was poor. The force of the impact was so terrific that the plane was torn to bits, and fragments of bodies were strewn over the landscape. There were 44 passengers and six crewmembers.

Seventeen sheriff's deputies led by Captain Dick Condon and government officials at the scene believed the plane hit the hill, two propeller blades gouging out a deep pit, then careened over the top and fell down the western slope, disintegrating as it went.

When it was 400 yards down the slope, it flew off the edge of a brush-choked canyon about 500 feet deep. The crash caused a small grass fire that silhouetted the plane for eyewitnesses several miles away.

All the bodies were lying in the canyon with the exception of the body of one small blond child about 4 years old wearing a bright red sweater. The boy's head was smashed.

The only portion of the plane that was recognizable was the fuselage section bearing the charred letters, "Mainliner," and the left wing, which came to rest 30 feet from

the edge of the sharply sloping canyon. Trucks from the Alameda County Coroner's Office wound their way up a rutted one-way dirt road to reach the scene. Other trucks with heavy cables were used to lower men into the canyon to remove the bodies.

Sheriff's deputies said it would take "at least several hours" to collect the bodies from the dense tangled undergrowth in the canyon. Sheriff department officials at noon were trying to obtain permission from the Decoto Elementary School District to use Decoto School as a temporary morgue for bodies of the victims. Berge Mortuary in Centerville was earlier named as the temporary morgue, but it was not large enough.

United Air Lines in San Francisco said the plane was making a routine instrument approach to Oakland Airport through a 600-foot cloud layer extending from 2,000 to 1,400 feet. The elevation of the accident scene is approximately 1,500 feet.

At 5:16 a.m. the aircraft pilot reported via radio to the Oakland approach control tower for final approach instructions. His last radio report was made at 5:27 a.m. over the Newark marker, with the plane apparently in normal descent. The Newark marker is adjacent to the accident scene.

When news of the crash spread United Press Staff Correspondent Glenn Stackhouse, who just recently returned from nine months of covering the war in Korea, was rushed to the scene of the plane crash this morning at Decoto. Here is his eyewitness description of the area of the plane crash near Decoto that killed all 50 aboard.

Quoting Stackhouse:

"I should be used to scenes of death and violence, but in my whole time in Korea I never saw anything which struck me harder than this. I guess I just can't get used to seeing little kids dead and mangled. The only bright spot in such a grim situation is the knowledge that the people who died never knew what hit them. One minute they were alive and preparing to land at their destination, and the next they were in eternity.

It must have happened just like the snap of a finger. The huge plane smashed into the hilltop just 20 feet below the brow of the hills. Just 20 feet between life and death. It must have been going wide open.

You can see where the propellers gouged into the earth. Two propeller blades are driven into the ground and snapped off. Their stubs stick up like grave markers. The outline of the plane's wing is plainly visible on one side of the crater. It swept the ground clean of grass, leaving a sharp swath outlining the shape of the wing in the ground.

An army field jacket lies crumpled in the middle of the path. A petite woman's dress shoe with a French heels lies on the ground. It wasn't even dirty. The pilot's cap was on the ground. Airmail letters are strewn around the trees. A baby's shoe and a handful of unburned comic books are there.

Near the edge of the precipice, lies the body of a tiny little boy. He is wearing a bright red sweater. His blond curly hair is stained the same color from an ugly wound that dashed out his life. There are no other bodies in sight. The rest are mercifully hidden in the heavy brush of the canyon."

That evening six FBI agents guarded the splintered remains of the United Airlines DC-6B pending the arrival of technicians who will determine whether sabotage played a part in the crash that killed all 50 person aboard. The agents stood guard on the fatal hilltop to keep everyone away from the plane's propellers and engines.

As the sun set that evening there were still nine bodies that lay amidst the scattered wreckage. The search for them was called off because of insufficient lighting. Deputies were to return to the scene at sunup today.

Thirty-nine bodies were removed from the crash scene by rescuers who carried them out of the brush-choked canyon on foot and by horse pack train. The missing dead were thought to be concealed in the deep brush of the canyon where they were thrown when the plane burst apart. At least eight children, ranging in age from eight months to 14 years old, and five military personnel were among those killed.



A priest gives final rites at the site.

Later that day it was revealed that the new airplane had only been in service since August 1st. The new DC-6B had been a point of contention between United Airlines and the Pilot's Union over the larger plane's handling and speed. UAL pilots struck for 10 days, demanding that their mileage pay be geared to the handling of the faster and larger plane.

The following day the grisly task of recovering bodies still remaining amidst the scattered wreckage was resumed at dawn. The search was halted the previous night

when it became too dark to negotiate the steep sagebrush covered slopes. By then 39 bodies had been removed from the crash scene to the Decoto Elementary School, which has been turned into a temporary morgue. Nine other bodies, left on the hill under guard during the night were taken to the school by Jeep this on the morning of August 25th. Of the 39 bodies in morgue, 27 have been tentatively identified according to the deputy coroner.

Meanwhile in the town of Decoto, a crowd of approximately 500 onlookers jammed the area from the crash scene to the temporary mortuary late into the night. The highway was crowded with the cars of the curiosity seekers and police were called to regulate the congested traffic.

The last of the 50 victims of the crash were identified on August 27th as FBI technicians flown here from Washington studied the wreckage for a clue to the cause of the accident just 20 miles from Oakland Airport. United Airlines officials said the 44 passengers and six crew members, including 14 military personnel, had been carried out of Dry Gulch Canyon and identified at a temporary morgue at the Decoto Elementary School house. The bodies were then removed for burial.

On August 28th two new questions arose regarding the crash of the UAL million-dollar DC-6B Mainliner plane near Decoto, which carried 50 people to their death on August 24th.

One question was whether radar surveillance equipment at Oakland Airport might have saved the plane. J. S. Marriott, Regional Administrator of the CAA at Los Angeles, suggested today that such equipment would have enabled airport controllers to warn the plane it was not on course. Such radar gear has been ordered by the airport, but production changes and the war have delayed delivery.

The second question was raised after testimony of Victor Clausen, 55-year old Decoto dairy farm worker, was heard. Clausen told investigators that he saw the Mainliner on fire before it crashed. A Civil Aeronautics Board official said that Clausen's story "Doesn't jibe with what we know so far about the crash." If verified, however, Clausen's story would open several new investigations.

The investigation of the Decoto crash continued into mid September. CAB officials were told that the Decoto crash could have been avoided if Pilot Marian W. Hedden had turned right instead of left. Why he turned left is something the two-day inquiry, now in its final day, hopes to determine. One witness, Arlo Severns, who was on duty that morning in the Oakland airport tower, said landing clearance to Hedden had been delayed while the tower tried to contact another plane.

Other witnesses, who were on the ground, said the plane apparently broke its waiting pattern, and turned left when ordered to approach Oakland. The left turn carried it into the hillside. A right turn would have sent it over San Francisco Bay.

One of the last chapters in the tragic crash was being written on September 28th. Letters, sent out by the company (UAL) to the Decoto Fire Department and to the Decoto School Board of Trustee, commended both for their prompt response and untiring assistance during the aftermath of the crash, which occurred August 24th.

In addition, \$2,000 in playground equipment will be presented soon to the school, it was announced. Bodies from the scene of the disaster were removed from the

hillside, where the crash occurred, to the school building, where they remained until identification was made.

L. W. Musick, district superintendent of the Decoto Schools, said that Manuel White, clerk of the board of trustees, received a letter recently from the airline expressing appreciation for the services rendered by the school district. Playground equipment, United Air Line's gift to the school, will be presented within the next week or two, Musick explained.

Also commended by the company for their outstanding and helpful service were Roland Bendel, Fire Chief, and 11 volunteer firemen from the Decoto Fire Department. The department was the first to the scene, Chief Bendel said, and was able to show the police the location of the accident.

Addressed to Chief Bendel, the letter from United read as follows:

"I want to express my sincere thanks for the superb service rendered by your personnel in connection with our recent accident of Flight No. 615, August 24, 1951 near Decoto.

All of us know that your department is frequently called upon to conduct various activities in times of emergencies, but I wish that more of your citizens could hear of the outstanding and helpful type of service rendered by you in the aftermath of our accident. I thought you would like to know that we are very appreciative of your help.

The letter signed by W. A. Patterson.

Volunteer firemen, whose help the airline's official commended, were:

Chris Guerra, Acting Chief	Don Martin, Captain	Joe Martin, Lieut.
Joe Ferrario, Engineer	Floyd Cambra	Joe Garcia
Manuel Garcia	Gonzales Paniagua	Alf Rodrigues
Louis Leimbart	Joe Seaone	

On March 12, 1952 the CAB released its final report:

On the basis of all available information, the board found that:

- 1) The company, the aircraft, and the crew were properly certified.
- 2) The aircraft experienced no structural or power failure and was airworthy at the time of the accident.
- 3) All pertinent ground radio facilities were functioning properly at the time of the accident.
- 4) The aircraft was proceeding to Oakland in accordance with an instrument flight plan.
- 5) The captain failed to follow the approved procedure for a straight-in range approach from Newark to Oakland by descending below the minimum altitudes for the Newark area.
- 6) The flight had been cleared for a straight-in approach, but neither receiver was tuned to the Oakland radio range station, as required.
- 7) The aircraft struck a hill at an altitude of 983 feet MSL on a heading of about 926 degrees magnetic, and approximately three miles to the right of the southeast on-course signal of the Oakland Radio range.
- 8) Substantial power was being developed at the time of impact.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

The Board determines that the probably cause of this accident was the failure of the captain to adhere to instrument procedures in the Newark area during an approach to the Oakland Municipal Airport.

Had the flight been conducted in accordance with the prescribed instrument procedures, this accident would not have occurred. No terrain obstructions would have been met if the flight had been at the proper altitude. Position could have been fixed on the inbound heading had the Oakland radio range been used by the flight.

BY:

The Civil Aeronautics Board
Accident Investigation Report
Adopted: March 6, 1952
Released: March 12, 1952



A UAL DC-6B Mainliner in flight. This one is shown bearing United's colors. This plane is similar to the plane that crashed in Decoto.

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

Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District / Alvarado Eagles / Assembly of God Church / the Birthday Club / Boy Scouts / Brownies / Catholic Church Holy Rosary / Chamber of Commerce / Child Welfare Club of Washington Township / Christmas Seals / Cinco de Mayo / Cub Scouts / Decoto Boy's Club / Decoto Community Coordinating Council / Decoto Community Service Organization (CSA) / Decoto Discussion Group / Decoto Men's Club / Decoto Mother Singers / Decoto Homeowner's Association / Decoto Merchants Association / Decoto Parks & Recreation Dept. / Decoto Pirates / Decoto Youth Center / Farm Labor Office / Flood Control / Fire Department / Flying Fools / Girl Scouts / Hillview Crest Baptist Church / Hillview Crest Improvement Club / Independent Club of Decoto / Latin-American Democrats / Library / Lucky Seven-Sewing Club / March of Dimes / Mexican Independence Day / Neighbors of Woodcraft / Our Lady of Guadalupe / Pedro Club / Pinochle Club / Post Office / PTA'S of the Decoto Schools / Ruby Social Club / Sanitary District / Sewing Circle / Sidewalks / Sociedad de Beneficios No. 2 / Sons of Italy Lodge / Sons of Puerto Rico Lodge / Streets in Decoto / Teenage Club of Decoto / Telephone Service / Union Funeraria de Decoto / United Crusade / VFW / Voting / Washington Township Democrats / Washington Township Hospital / Zoning

ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT:

The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District abandoned its Hayward depot on March 1, 1957. The district would combine its entire south county operation at its Decoto Depot, 607 10th Street. Construction of two new buildings to house augmented crews and additional equipment in Decoto had already begun.

Mosquito men get raise; Directors of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District have granted a one-step wage increase to 22 employees of the district in Oakland and Decoto in June 1957. The increase would cost the district \$300 a month next year. It advances 10 operators \$394 to \$414 per month and three foremen from \$484 to \$509. The daily wage for 5 seasonal workers is increased from \$14.50 to \$15.25.

ALVARADO EAGLES:

Mrs. Leontine Costa of Decoto was elected president of the Alvarado Auxiliary of Eagles at a meeting held March 17, 1953.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD:

The Church of the Assembly of God was granted a permit to conduct church services in a tent on the west side of 9th Street, between "B" & "C" Streets in Decoto for three weeks beginning Sept. 14, 1956.

BIRTHDAY CLUB:

Club meetings were reported from 1950 to 1954. Those who were active during these meetings were:

Linda Cunha	Frances Avilla	Florence Walker
Vivian Dunn	Mae Watkins	Eva O'Malia
Anne Azevedo	Katie Luna	Mary Re
Doris King	Mrs. Rosida Cunha	Zelma Oliver
Mary Janeiro	Mae Soto	Mamie Perry
Minnie Shields	Annie Parker	

BOY SCOUTS:

The Boy Scouts were actively reporting events in the first half of the 1950's. Bernie Joseph was recognized in March 1950 for his assistance in finding and training a Scoutmaster for the Alvarado Troop.

April 1953:

Scoutmaster Lester Mederos, along with Manuel Hidalgo, Joe Andrade and several other men took fifteen boys on an outing to Big Break near Antioch.

February 1954:

The Scouts took a trip to Longbarn. Those who were on the trip were:

Jess Amaya	Joe Andrade Jr.	Robert Hidalgo
Jack Guerra	Robert Schwartz	Clement Orozco
John O'Malia	Scoutmaster Don Sheppard	

Committee chairmen for the Troop were:

Jim Schwartz	Joe Andrade	Chris Guerra
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Guests were:

Manuel Andrade	Ramon Pagan	Robert Andrade
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April 1954:

A swimming party was given at the Hayward Plunge by committeemen Jim Swartz, John Oramatto, and Frank Saucedo

August 1954:

Approximately 20 Decoto Boy Scouts from Troops 1 & 2 left for a week at Los Mochos. Scoutmasters were Dow Sheppard and Gilbert Gutierrez. Scouts enjoyed a week of swimming, hiking, and outdoor activity at the camp located near Livermore.

January 1958:

Honored at Boy Scout Troop 171 Court of Honor at Hillview Crest School were:
John Washburn Jerry Thayer Syd Furman
James Erskine

BROWNIES:

February 1950:

A farewell party was given for Jackie Sullivan, a Brownie of Troop 104 of Decoto, by her leader Mrs. Fine of Decoto. Jackie will be moving to Grass Valley. Mrs. A. Lucero donated the hot dogs and cake.

March 1956:

Five new members of Brownie Scout Troop No. 204 of Decoto have been invested at ceremonies held by Mrs. Grace Caminada. The new Brownies are:

Sylvia Camarillo Sue Ann Barrera Ruth Ann Jaimes
Sylvia Montellano Shirley Velarde

March 1957:

Brownie Troop 16, Hillview Crest School celebrated its first birthday recently. Mrs. Rae Harris, leader, and Mrs. Mary Blatchford, co-leader, presented year pins to the following:

Nora Due Doris Erskine Linda Blatchford
Sheila Harris Cheryle Gobin Daisy Leeby
Sydney Marsh Carol Mullin Phyllis Rodrigues

June 1957:

The Hillview Crest Brownie Troop 421 held its fly-up ceremonies recently at the Holy Rosary Hall in Decoto. Girls who became intermediate Girls Scouts are:

Patty Frain Dan McMahon Elaine Schwab
Diana Converse Linda Beck Linda Lynch
Patty Aurit Jackie Kelly Laura Thomas
Phyllis Rodriguez Anna Pena Noreen Gonzalez
Susan Acker Kathleen Connors

Troop leaders were Mrs. Chic McMahon, Mrs. Rose Quinton. Mrs. Eva Rodrigues, a troop leader, resigned after the Saturday ceremonies.

CATHOLIC CHURCH – HOLY ROSARY:

Active Church Societies / Holy Rosary Guild Officers & Committee members / Holy Names Society

The Decoto Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, was established as a mission in 1907, and became a parish in 1951. Father Timothy J. Hennessey was pastor of the Corpus Christi Church at Niles and the Holy Rosary Church in Decoto in

January of 1950. By the end of the month, January 1950, he left for his own parish in San Francisco.

Later in 1950 a new parish priest came to Decoto, a priest that was to take a personal interest in the townspeople of Decoto and the youth of the village. He was Father Ralph Duggan. Father Duggan would make the Holy Rosary Church of Decoto its own parish and he would partner with the youth groups of the town to give young boys a chance to challenge each other in healthful sport activities. Chief among his accomplishments was boxing, and he would help the town turn out some great Golden Gloves boxers and some professional boxers that would bring Decoto some fame in the pugilistic world.

The Holy Rosary Church embarked on an ambitious building program to offer a place of spiritual comfort and a youth hall. The place chosen for this new project was a four-acre site at 6th & C Streets.

Hundreds of East Bay residents joined Decotan's on October 7, 1951 at a Sabbath Fiesta designed to raise funds for completion the youth hall and the future Holy Rosary Church. The celebration was preceded by a special mass in the partly finished building, which was the product of the volunteer workmanship of the community's young people and their fathers and mothers. Father Ralph Duggan said the mass assisted by Father McCullough.

Mexican and Spanish dances and music provided entertainment throughout the day while booths selling fancy work, cakes, coffee, cold drinks, and games did a thriving business. Among the entertainment were the Misses Ida Paniagua and Rose Marie Gonzales, who performed Spanish dances.

The celebration concluded with the rosary and benediction said at Holy Rosary Church Catholic Church. Organizations in charge of the fiesta were our Lady of the Holy Rosary Guild, the Sacred Heart Society, the Guadalupe Club, and the Guadalupe Mother's Club.

On October 7, 1952, Father Ralph Duggan delivered a benediction, which opened the official dedication ceremonies of the new multipurpose building of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Decoto. Dedication rites officially concluded a three-day festival commemorating completion of the building erected by volunteer residents working with Father Duggan. Construction of the 50 X 100 foot building was started for the purpose of accommodating larger congregations and for services on holidays and feast days.

Festival activities over weekend were pronounced an overwhelming success, with a large attendance, and with many booths closing early Sunday because of sell-out crowds.

Contributing largely to the successful conclusion to the annual festival was:

General Chairman:	Mrs. Mary Cardoza	Mrs. Stella Caldeira
Dinner Arrangements:	Mrs. Helen Roderick	
YCW Doll Booth:	Sophie Jaramillo	
Handiwork Booth:	Edith Bettencourt	
Cake Sale:	Hazel Costa	
Pie Sale:	Ann Azevedo	May Soito
Cake & Coffee:	Maude Maura	

Dance Committee: Manuel Bolivia
 Refreshments: Ray Orozco Conception Orozco

Only two weeks later the town of Decoto was stunned when their 45-year old Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, at 13th & H Streets, caught fire was destroyed. Antone L. Costa, a parishioner and one of the volunteer firemen, fought his way through the building to the altar, broke open the tabernacle and carried the Blessed Sacrament to safety.

In March 1953 a large group of young people received Confirmation at the Holy Rosary Church. Those Confirmed were:

Luciano Esquivel	Ruben J. Aguilar	Alfred Candelaria	Robert M. Triana,
James P. Walsh	Benjamin Godeniz	David M. Lozano	Carlos Parnala
John C. Guerra	Gilbert J. Lozano	Gilbert Maldonado	Leopolo J. Pagan
John J. O'Malia	Gilbert Sisneroz	Paul A. Cardoza	Alfred A. Anchundo
John Rivera	Michael Montellano	Ernest R. Solis	Jessie F. Gonzalez
Peter O'Donnell	Robert Maldonado	Cecil A. Vigil	Frank F. Brager
David Zamora	Richard Gudino	Robert J. Amaro	Robert L. Hidalgo
Joseph M. Paz	Joseph P. Andrade	Mariano J. Rojo	Anthony Martinez
John M. Avila	Richard J. Martinez	James P. Arenaz	Paul J. Zamora
Allen J. Amaro	John M. Avila	Louis J. Carlos	Joan R. Horwath
Connie Garcia	Annette Figueroa	Bertha Rodriguez	Jovita M Rivera
Acencion Ramirez	Patricia O'Donnell	Sally M. Jimenez	Felicitas Avila
Linda Knobles	Ramona A Moreno	Loretta Santos	Maxine M. Costa
Isabel B. Quiroga	Gloria E. Santiago	Mercedes Orozco	Jackie F. Bludton
Eddemira Yanez	Sandra Freitas	Mary Campos	Sheryl M. Horwoth
Armida A. Triana	Rachel Morales	Henrietta M. Villa	Terisa Hernandez
Juanita Gonzales	Pauline Santiago	Esther V. Chavez	Helen M. Alvarez
Beatrice Moreno	Mary A. Avila	Lois C. Saucido	Le Vern C. Alvarez
Anna S. Alvarez	Darleen Santos	Teresa Martinez	Margaret V. Amaya
Rachael Rodriguez	Esther Aguilar	Catalina J. Estella	Virginia Montellano
Joan A. Frates	Joan M. Vigil	Alice M. Mendoza	

In February 1946, the beloved Reverend Father Ralph Duggan left the Holy Rosary Church in Decoto. He was assigned to a Richmond parish, but the community found his departure difficult to face. Father Duggan had left many works in Decoto by which his parishioners will remember him, among them are:

The spacious and attractive church building at 6th & "D" Streets had a high peaked roof and close trimmed lawn. The baseball diamond and boxing ring set up by the priest's sports program benefitted a large group of boys who benefited by the priest's sports program.

The final accounting contrasts vividly with the arrival of Father Duggan in this town at the foot of the Decoto hills early in 1950. The bulkiest items in the priest's baggage were a canvas cot and a little heater, which he promptly set up in the small-unfurnished sacristy of the old church on 11th Street. For much of his time in Decoto, that room was Father Duggan's home although he was not often there.

He immediately began the parish work expected of a priest, helping to meet the religious needs of his people. They included all the Spanish-speaking people of southern Alameda County as well as the Decotans. He saw also to the more material needs of those not fortunate enough to possess the things essential to merely exist.

It is impossible to compute his work as an undercover agent of charity during his six years in Decoto.

He will best be remembered, however, for his work with the boys of Decoto. Youngsters were soon flocking to take part in his sports programs. The boys were awed one day when Archie Moore suddenly arrived to put on a boxing exhibition.

Many of Father Duggan's works are known only to the recipients and himself. One that is known is the case of a boy who could not have attended Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland without clothes and bus fare furnished by the priest.

Active in Church Societies:

Many people and organizations helped support the Catholic Church of Decoto. Among the organizations, which helped support the church were:

Holy Rosary Guild	Sewing Circle	Women's Guild
Holy Name Society	Sacred Heart Society	
Guadalupe Mother's Club	Guadalupe Club	
Holy Rosary Youth Center & Teenage Club		

Holy Rosary Guild Officers & Committee members:

October 1953:

The Holy Rosary Guild of Decoto entered its 4th year. The Guild was organized with just a handful of members 3 years ago. Stella Caldeira was the group's first president; Mary Cardoza was the second and Madeline Frisch the third.

Through the decade the following served as officers:

President:

Mrs. Elvie Cardoza	Mrs. Madeline Frisch	Vivian Peixotto
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Vice President:

Mrs. Rinaldo Caminada	Mrs. Hazel Costa	Eva O'Malia
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Secretary:

Ms. Mary Re	Mrs. Leontine Costa	Julia Pagan
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Treasurer:

Mrs. Joseph Terra	Mrs. Florence Wallace	
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Auditor:

Miss Mary Janeiro

Those who served on committees and fundraisers during this decade were:

Mrs. Frank Azevedo	Mrs. Manuel White	Mrs. A. L. Costa
Mrs. Delmer Martinez	Mrs. Al Rodrigues	Mrs. Margaret Cardoza
Hazel Costa	Alice Carey	Linda Cunha
Roselyn Delgado	Mary Cordoba	Mrs. Jack Soito
Helen Roderick	Maude Rocha	Marcella Rodrigues
Mrs. Frank Rebello	Mrs. Vigil	Edith Bettencourt
Stella Caldeira	Irene Andrade	Frances Avilla
Zelma Oliver	Irma Andrade	Gladys Keller
Marie Smith	Al DuCharme	Charles Janeiro
Arthur Schwab	Father Duggan	Father McConley

Mrs. Alice Bowen
Ed DeClercq
Mrs. Margaret Sprague
Sandra Peixotto
Rev. Ronald Burke

Mrs. Minnie Shields
Mrs. Tillie Soares
Milton Schlater
Mrs. Helen Vasquez
Mrs. Pedro Hernandez

Mrs. Evelyn Burton
Mrs. Mae Soito
Chuck Paine
Rev. Thomas C. Reilly
Mrs. Charles Aurit

The Decoto parish, as do all local parishes, springs from the Mission San Jose De Guadalupe. It had its beginnings in 1886 when Holy Ghost parish was formed in Centerville under the guidance of Rev. Dominic Governo.

In 1907, Holy Rosary was established as a mission of the Centerville parish with Rev. Governo as its first pastor. First mass was offered in Decoto in a hall at 10th and "I" Streets owned by Albert Silva. The building was in use by the church until it burned down in 1952.

When Rev. Ralph Duggan became administrator in August 1950, it became a canonical parish.

Following the 1952 fire, mass was offered in the recreation hall located at 6th and "C" Streets, which is used as the present church. The site was purchased in 1949 for \$19,361. In addition to the church, a school was purchased from the Decoto School District in 1953. It is located adjacent to the parish house and church.

In 1907 there were about 50 families in the new mission. Rev. Reilly took charge of the Decoto Church in 1956 succeeding Rev. Duggan. It was under the latter's leadership that building plans were begun following the disastrous fire in 1952.

The fiesta, on Sunday Sept. 15, 1957 was devoted to commemorating Mexican Independence Day, Sept. 17th, is Latin-American talent night at the school hall. Wednesday night, Sept. 18th, will be game night, also held in the school hall. Thursday night, Sept. 19th will be boxing night, to be held at the rear of the church. A parish dance is scheduled for Friday at the school.

Saturday and Sunday will be devoted to a bazaar with game and food booths, novelty booths, and rides claiming attention of the celebrants in winding up the week long golden jubilee celebration.

Holy Names Society:

The Reverend Thomas C. Reilly, pastor of the Holy Rosary Church in Decoto initiated more than 40 men into the Holy Names Society in January 1958. Officials of the society are:

President:	Edward C. Dennis
Vice President:	Manuel R. Martinez
Secretary:	Edward Zarzecki
Marshall:	C.F. Kubiak

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Chamber Activities / Chamber Members

In the mid-1950's Decoto and Alvarado were unincorporated towns surrounded by two voracious and land hungry cities, Hayward to the north and Fremont to the south. Both coveted the open land and the industries of U.S. Pipe & Foundry, the

American Pipe and Construction Company and the Holly Sugar Mill. Fremont also coveted the Pacific States Steel Company at Decoto.

Cities, by and large, control their own destinies. Not so with unincorporated towns like Decoto and Alvarado. They belonged to a pot called "Alameda County" and their fate lay in the hands of the Board of Supervisors, a group of august men voted in by the citizens of the unincorporated lands. It was the Board of Supervisors who determined how the County funds are dispersed and for what use they are dispersed.

The funds required by an unincorporated town may have been for added police protection (the County Sheriff's Department), local road improvements (county roads), streetlights, or any county tax funds needed by the towns to improve their locale. But to obtain funds the Board of Supervisors must be aware of the need.

Anyone could petition the county for funds for the public good or for a permit for a new building, or to conduct a dance open to the general public (yes, a permit for this was required). And this was often done.

But usually the petitions were for major projects for betterment of the local community. You must remember that Decoto was just one of dozens unincorporated towns vying for funds from the county. Generally the supervisors followed the old "the most good for the most people" rule.

This is where organizations like the Chamber of Commerce became important to a small-unincorporated community. The chamber's, usually made up of businessmen in the community, was generally well versed in the ways of politics and negotiations, much more than just the average citizen or small bloc of people. In reality, local Chamber's of Commerce were a conduit to the Board of Supervisors and the purse strings of county government. Leaders of the local Chamber of Commerce became recognized leaders and citizens of the community.

At the beginning of 1950 there was the Decoto & Alvarado Chamber's of Commerce. But by the later part of the 1950's the Decoto & Alvarado Chambers combined to form the Union City Chamber of Commerce. This step was necessary to put up a united front showing Hayward and Fremont that the towns of Alvarado & Decoto were ready to defend their unincorporated turf from land grabbing cities.

Listed below are some major projects the Decoto & Union City Chambers took during the 1950's:

Chamber Activities:

1950:

- The Chamber petitioned the Railroad Commission for a wigwag RR signal at Whipple Road near the new Bernard School.

1951:

- Proposed rezoning of all land between the Southern Pacific and the Western Pacific Railroad tracts.
- A letter was written to the California Division of Highways urging a four-lane highway from Hayward through Decoto to Niles.
- They wrote a letter to Captain Howard Amborn of the California Highway Patrol asking that parking along the highway at "G" St. be eliminated as a traffic safety measure.

- Print cards for the new residents of Hillview containing information about local services, telephone numbers of fire department and sheriff's offices, schools, and churches, plus an invitation to joining the Chamber of Commerce.
- Chamber pressed for opening of Patterson Avenue between Whipple Road and Valle Vista Road. Secretary Bernie Joseph was instructed to write Supervisor Chester Stanley asking for his assistance.

1952:

- The Decoto Chamber of Commerce's sponsorship of the first new Cub Scout pack to be organized in the Twin Valley in addition to the Boy Scout Troop for which it now had responsibility.
- Decoto needed sidewalks.
- Decoto needed paved streets.
- Town promotions like the Chamber's committee to plan a float and a booth for the Alameda County Fair.
- Stoplights were needed for major thoroughfares like at Whipple & Mission Blvd., and also at the entrance to Hillview Crest and at Decoto Road and Mission Blvd.
- The Chamber asked the Board of Supervisors for pedestrian walkways at bus stops at the Hillview Crest entrance and at the intersection of D Street with the Decoto-Niles Highway.
- The Chamber asked that a 35-MPH speed limit be levied on Niles Road from Hillview south to Decoto Road.
- Requested repairs 5th, 7th, and 8th Streets in Decoto.
- The Chamber directed a letter to Supervisor Stanley requesting widening of Whipple Road and the installation of a pedestrian underpass, principally for safety of youngsters at Barnard School.
- The Chamber directed a request to the Alameda County Road Department to establish a 25-mph speed zone on Whipple Road from the Oakland-San Jose Highway to a point beyond Barnard School.
- A letter was directed to the State Division of Highways, asking for the cleaning of the Dry Creek culvert, held to be responsible for flooding of a section of Decoto last winter.
- A committee of Frank Borghi, Bill Gordon, Clyde Martin and Dr. Harold Schoenfeld met with the W.U.H.S. trustees to discuss the possibility of building the new high school in Decoto.
- A letter was written to the sheriff's office asking that those passing the school bus when the blinking lights are on, be penalized.
- A street light committee was created to investigate streets, which need lights.

1953:

- The Chamber opposed a water increase by the Citizens Utility Co. at Niles. The Chamber also noted that the water pressure in Decoto is inadequate.
- The Chamber opposed the salary increase for Dr. Seidel, County Superintendent of Schools.
Frank Borghi declared, "If Seidel is not satisfied with \$14,000 a year, we have some younger men in the Decoto Schools who could do a better job and would be glad to do it for \$14,000 a year. No county employee is worth \$14,000 a year," declared Borghi.
- A letter was written to County Surveyor Wallace Boggs asking for an establishment of a setback line along the south side of Decoto Road to be a future Freeway feeder.
- The Chamber passed a resolution backing and endorsing Zone 5 of the Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

- The Chamber investigated the procedures for obtaining refuse collection, removal, and disposal service throughout the Decoto area.
- A report on air pollution was read.

1954:

- The Chamber recommended that a school to be built in the proposed Treeview development (El Rancho Verde).
- The Chamber opposed any possibility that the proposed Treeview tract be annexed to Hayward. The chamber expressed the opinion that Treeview should be part of the Decoto district.
- The Chamber became active in zoning and town planning.
- Secretary James Swartz was instructed to write to U.S. Pipe & Steel Foundry, asking that firm to take steps to control the smoke from the factory stacks.
- Chamber members approved a resolution addressed to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, asking that no retired Alameda County official be permitted to return to a county position. They specifically asked that Supervisor Harry Bartell's name be omitted from any list of applicants for positions of management of the Alameda County Fair.
- Members approved the establishment of a committee to study incorporation.
- Members approved a request to trustees of Washington Union High School asking that they investigate sites in Decoto for another high school.
- Jack Faletti, reporting on sidewalk issues said the measure would cost homeowners an estimated \$8 per front foot to install the walks. The first estimate was \$2 a front foot, when first discussed in 1950.
- Decoto needed an adequate water supply.
- Light industrial zoning for the area between the Southern Pacific and the Western Pacific railroad tracks northwest of Decoto were requested for the school district boundaries.
- Industrial zoning from the Bay side of the Southern Pacific tracks to Nursery Road (today's Alvarado Niles Road) southeast of Decoto, about two and a half square miles.
- Light industrial zoning from Decoto Road to Dry Creek near Decoto's residential area.
- Industrial zoning from the Western Pacific tracks westward toward Alvarado, including a request that spur railroad tracks to the area be recommended.

1955:

- Frank Borghi, newly installed president, outlined a projected activities program for the Decoto Chamber of Commerce for 1955. He listed these projects:
 - Decoto needed a clean-up campaign.
 - Improvement of water services for the area.
 - Decoto needed some type of assistance for the 276 people who voted for sidewalks in Decoto.
 - Decoto needed a campaign to attract more industry.
 - Sponsorship of proper flood control measures for the area.
 - Continued participation in a citizen's study of incorporation for Washington Township.
- Decoto Chamber of Commerce, by a divided 6 to 4 vote, gave faint-hearted approval to the proposed rezoning of the Zwissig property along Highway 9 to an industrial classification.
- Members approved a letter to the Decoto Fire Commissioners asking for the removal of buildings, which are both unsightly and a hazard.

- Members unanimously agreed to draft a petitioning letter to the Union Sanitary District, asking that all of the land in the Decoto area, lying south of Hayward's city limits be added to the Union district.

1956:

- Decoto again discussed merging the Decoto Chamber with the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce to form a Union City Chamber of Commerce.
- The Decoto Chamber of Commerce unanimously endorsed the Southern Pacific Railroad's request for a uniform rezoning of the 233-acre Zwissig property to heavy industrial.
- Decoto's Chamber of Commerce endorsed the proposal to spend \$4,000,000 on two new high schools in the Washington Union High School district. If approved, one high school will be built near Decoto and a second to on a site to be chosen later.

1957:

- Again, sidewalks for all of Decoto was discussed.

1958:

- The Union City Chamber of Commerce will lodge a formal protest with the California PUC over a proposed rate hike. The Citizens Utilities Co. has asked the PUC to approve a rate increase that would boost the cost of water from \$1.60 to \$3.00 per 600 cubic feet for 2210 homeowners in Niles & Decoto.

Chamber Members:

January 1950:

New Officers elected:

President:	Eddie Paniagua		
Vice President:	Tony Lopez		
Secretary:	Bernie Joseph		
Treasurer:	Peter Decoto		
Board of Trustees:	Manuel Hidalgo	Frank Borghi	Jimmy Fine

January 1952:

New officers elected:

President:	Manuel Hidalgo
Vice President:	Rinaldo Caminada
Secretary:	Bernie Joseph
Treasurer:	Peter Decoto

January 1953:

New officers elected:

President:	Manuel Hidalgo		
Vice President:	Al Ferreira		
Treasurer:	Peter Decoto		
Board of Directors:	Manuel Seoane	Joe Martin	Deak Pease

January 1954:

New officers elected:

President	Alfred Ferreira
1 st Vice President	Frank Borghi
2 nd Vice President	Aurio Nieves
Secretary	James Schwartz

Treasurer	Peter Decoto		
Sgt at Arms:	Manuel Boliba		
Parliamentarian:	Dr. Harold Schoenfeld		
Board of Directors:	Bill Davis	Keith Whipple	Jack Faletti
	Bernie Joseph		

January 1955:

New officers elected:	
President:	Frank Borghi, Jr.
1st Vice President:	Kenneth Garcia
2nd Vice President:	Jack Faletti
Secretary:	S. Robert Infelise
Treasurer:	Peter Decoto
Sgt-at-Arms:	Phil Hernandez
Parliamentarian:	Dr. Harold Schoenfeld

January 1956:

New officers elected:		
President:	Frank Borghi Jr.	
1 st Vice-President:	Kenneth Garcia	
Secretary:	S. Robert Infelise	
Treasurer:	Jack Faletti:	
Financial Secretary:	Bernie Joseph	
Parliamentarian:	Dr. Harold Schoenfeld	
2nd Vice Chairman:	Jessie Perry	
Directors:	Irvin Williams	William Davis
	E. C. Rivera	Manuel Seoane

1957:

Union City Chamber of Commerce (of Alvarado & Decoto):
 Officers of the Union City Chamber of Commerce that were installed at the International Kitchen in Niles in March 1957 were:

President:	Oscar Dowe		
Vice President:	Mike Salido		
Secretary:	Mrs. Florence Spencer		
Treasurer:	Frank George		
Directors:	Joe Lewis	Frank Borghi	Wilbert Hendricks
	Florence Spencer	Bernie Joseph	John Ratekin
	Frank George	Fred Brown	William Machado
	Kenneth Garcia	Mike Salido	

Union City Chamber of Commerce:

The Union City Chamber of Commerce has elected four new directors for three-year terms in December 1957. The new officials are:

Oscar Dowe	Charles Spencer	Henry Rivera	Mrs. Mae Williams
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Other members of the Chamber Board of Directors are:

Frank Borghi	Kenneth Garcia	Joseph Lewis	John A. Ratekin
Florence Spencer	Bernie Joseph	Wilbert Hendricks	Frank George

Union City Chamber of Commerce:

Election of Officers in December 1957:

President: Kenneth Garcia, Decoto Fireman
 Vice President: J. A. Ratekin, Supt of Holly Sugar Refinery, Alvarado
 Treasurer: Frank George, General Petroleum (Mobil), Alvarado
 Secretary: Mrs. Florence Spencer

Other Active Members:

George Oakes	Clifford Dennis	Norman Murdock	Manuel White
Joe Valenzuela	George Smith	Louie Leimbach	Manuel Bolivia
Manuel Flores	Ray Orozco	Joe J. Caldeira	Bill Gordon
Clyde Martin	Boyd Morningstar	J. W. Perry	Manuel Boliba
Frank Hummel	Aurio Nieves	Jessie Orozco	Dr. H. Schoenfeld
Marion Douglas	Irving Williams	Ralph Reyes	Paul Shields
Peter Rodriguez	Robert Beatti	John Enos	Keith Whipple
Howard Vincent	Rinaldo Caminada	Lester Watkins	Jack Falletti
Maurice Cox			

CHILDRENS WELFARE CLUB OF WASH. TOWN:

Mrs. Alwyn Searles was been chosen as Vice-President of the Child Welfare Club of Washington Township on May 19, 1950.

CHRISTMAS SEALS:

Mrs. James Whipple, who has the longest record of service in Alameda County with the Tuberculosis Association, is honorary chairman of the township drive. She has been active in the annual drive since 1913.

Participants reported in the yearly drives were:

For the Year 1952:	Mrs. J. R. Olson	
For the Year 1955:	Mrs. Alwyn Searles	Mrs. James Hicks
	Miss Mary Janeiro	Mrs. J. L. Olson
	Dr. Harold Schoenfeld	
For the Year 1956:	Mrs. Alwyn Searles	

For the year 1954 the joyful poster child portrayed on the 1954 Christmas Seal was seven-year-old Mike Rodriguez of Decoto who would be the inspiration to volunteers working to raise funds for continuation of TB control activities of the Alameda County Tuberculosis and Health Association. And much like another lad whom Christmas Seal history credits with convincing a newspaper columnist back in 1907 that the idea of selling penny holiday stickers would meet with public approval because it put participation in the TB fight within everyone's reach. Mike has a good idea of what TB is all about. One of his sisters, 11-year-old Elizabeth Rodriguez, had TB. She was hospitalized at Arroyo del Valle in Livermore for 15 months. Recovered now she's been home at 404 7th Street, Decoto, with her mom and dad, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rodriguez.

CINCO DE MAYO:

Residents from the entire Washington Township area gathered last weekend at Newark (April 27 & 28, 1953) to mark the 91st anniversary of the first battle between Mexico and France at the battle of Puebla, Mexico, in 1862.

Highlights of the day was the crowning of Queen Olivia Leyva, and her princess, Miss Frances Huizai, and duchess, Miss Diane Viesca, by Senor Alberto Genis Avila, Mexican Consul General in San Francisco.

Planned by the Mexican Honorary Commission, under the leadership of R. L. De Cordova, other participants in the rites were Sandra Gallegus, crown carrier; and Nas Leyva and Carmelita Adams, cape carriers.

Following the coronation in the Newark Pavilion, the group traveled to San Jose, where other district queens had assembled for a continuation of the celebration. A parade in Decoto opened the all-day event.

On May 8, 1954 the town of Decoto celebrated the anniversary of the Mexican victory over the French forces in Mexico at the battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. This was first reported celebration of this event in the town of Decoto.

Miss Lydia Alvarez, representing the Patronizers, and Miss Juanita Ramirez, representing the De Guadalupe Society, attended to Marie de la Luz who will be crowned queen at the coronation ceremony Saturday evening at the Mexico Lindo Hall, 6th and "B" Streets, Decoto, beginning at 8 p.m.

The program included the dedication of the hall by Father Ralph Duggan who also installed the Board of Patronizers. The hall was gaily decorated with exotic wallpaper and pictures depicting the customs and traditions of the Mexican people.

Oscar Ainslie, who arranged the festival and designed the queen's gown, introduced the prominent guests and members of the Mexican Honorary Commission. They were:

President:	Jesus Renteria	
Vice President:	Robert Ramirez	
Secretary:	Jose Juarez	
Treasurer:	Moises Orozco	
Delegates:	Ms. Olivia Leyva	Senor Barrera

Jesus Renteria presented a historical outline of the Battle of May 5th, one of Mexico's outstanding patriotic commemorations.

This year's queen, Miss Lucy Renteria, was chosen by popular vote on Easter Sunday at a meeting at Mexico Lindo Hall.

Lucy is a Decoto girl, having come here with her family to live in 1943. She is a graduate of Decoto School and Washington Union High School and is now an employee of the Golden Grain Macaroni Company in San Leandro. She has nine brothers and one sister. She will be attended by six princesses: Miss Alice Campa, Miss Olivia Leyva, Miss Margaret Coria, Miss Lydia Alvarez, Miss Juanita Ramirez, and Miss Mary Deanda.

Coronation robes were patterned after the gown of Empress Carlotta. It will be gold, with a sweeping train, and with it the queen wore a gold crown and carried a gold scepter. Across her breast she wore a tri-colored ribbon of red, white and, green, Mexico's national colors. The weekend featured a parade, dances, and of course, Mexican food.

The 1955 the celebration was again held on May 8th. The Mexican Fourth of July, or Cinco de Mayo as it is known, was under the leadership of Rex De Cordova, Mexican Consul Representative. The Commission Honorifica Mexicana is the sponsor.

Miss Santos Villa, 18, of 404 6th Street, Decoto, was selected as this year's queen. She will lead the parade with Grand Marshall Jose Amaya. Miss Villa, who is a senior at Washington Union High School, was also queen at last Sunday's Cinco de Mayo festival in San Jose.

CUB SCOUTS:

March 1952:

The Decoto Chamber of Commerce is the sponsor of the first new Cub Scout pack to be organized in the Twin Valley District, it was announced by Chamber President Manuel Hidalgo. The Cub Pack will meet at the Decoto School and will serve the Hillview Crest and Decoto areas.

Leaders selected for the organization meeting were:

Cub Master:	T. D. Proffitt	
Committee Chairmen:	Will E. Gordon	W. B. Shockley
	Fred De Mar	Manuel Hidalgo.

Den Mothers were:

Mrs. Jean King	Mrs. Carmen Sanchez	Mrs. Rose Randall
Mrs. Irene Paynich	Mrs. Netha Martin	

April 1952:

Judge Allen G. Norris, Boy Scout commissioner, and Peter Decoto, first Scoutmaster from Decoto, were the guests at the Cub Scout held at the Decoto Elementary School auditorium. Scouts received pins and enrollment cards at this meeting. Andy Anderson, Scout executive will present the pack charter.

March 1955:

More than 200 parents and sons attended the ceremonies in the Decoto School auditorium when 34 boys received their first pins as members of newly formed Cub Pack 1 of Decoto. Members of the new pack were:

Alex Anchundo	Bobby Anderson	Robert Stanley
Leonard Candis	Rene Cardenas	John Cease
Philip David	Robert Diaz	Arno Domingues
Nick Dulas	Roberto Duron	Tony Garcia
Harry Harris	Fred Leimbach	Paul Martinez
Michael Mead	Kenneth McWhorter	Robert Maderos
Dale Mowreader	John Navas	Charles Noble
Richard Nunez	Barry Peixotto	Victor Perez
Darrell Pruitt	Armando Ramirez	Marcellino Ramirez
Dan Renteria	Michael Rodriguez	Paul Santos
Steven Thornton	Gary Violette	Danny Warren

Members of the Hillview Crest Cub Pack Troop 1 presented the installation ceremonies. Committeemen of Hillview Crest have been assisting Decoto committee members in the organization of the new pack.

Decoto committeemen include:

Chairman:	George Dulas
Institutional Rep:	James Blood
Cubmaster:	Manuel Garcia
Ass't Cubmaster:	Frank Gonzales
Sec-Treasurer:	Bob McCleanehan
Committeeman:	Kenneth Crump
Sponsor's Rep:	Mrs. Hazel Costa

The Decoto Pack is sponsored by the Decoto P-TA, which is headed by Mrs. Costa. Den mothers for the pack are:

Mrs. Joyce L. Cease	Mrs. Lorraine F. David	Mrs. George Dulas
Mrs. Ruth Kohler	Mrs. Avis Mowreader	Mrs. Betsy Rodrigues
Mrs. Vivian Peixotto	Mrs. Wilda Davis	Mrs. William Leimbach

June 1955:

Decoto Cub Pack 1 held a circus day at its June 24th meeting in the Decoto Auditorium. A parade of all Cubs, in circus costumes opened the show, which will have the traditional popcorn, games, prizes, refreshments, and a cake sale.

All dens had parts in the meeting:

Den 1:	Mrs. Cease:	Community sing
Den 2:	Mrs. David	Closing Ceremonies
Den 3:	Mrs. William Davidson	Refreshments
Den 4:	Mrs. George Dulas	Opening ceremony
Den 5:	Mrs. McClenathan	A skit
Den 6:	Mrs. Joseph Andrade	Craft display

Manuel Garcia is Cub Scoutmaster and George Dulas, committee chairman of the pack.

April 1957:

Neighborhood Commissioner Richard Walker conducted an inspection of the El Rancho Verde Cub Pack 50 at their monthly meeting. Presentation of Bob-Cat pins to the recently formed Den 5 was made by financial secretary William Spears followed by the Wolf, Bear, Lion, Gold, and Silver award to the following Cubs:

New Bob Cats:

Jack Jordan	Gregory Nigro	Jeffery Rose	Stuart Lilly
Richard Fleming	Michael Fisher		

Wolf Badges:

Billy McAleer	Chris Marley
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Bear Badges:

Michael Garrett	Dick Garrett	Michael Aro
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Lion Badges:

Phillip Smith	Dennis Andrade	Mike Quirioni	Dick Kendall
Kenneth Globus	Dick Garrett	Thomas Nichols	Tomy Moniz

Gold &/or Silver Arrows:

Michael Aro	Billy McAleer	Richard Garrett	Mike Garrett
Richard Dikie	Tomy Moniz		

Denner Stripes:

Paul Czopek Ray Harrington Dick Kendall Tomy Moniz
Dennis Andrade

Ass't Denner Stripes:

George Davis Tommy Nichols Mike Aro

Honor Club of the Month:

Gary Rude Phillip Smith Tommy Nichols Jeff Roye

Honor Den of the Month:

Den 5

Service Pins:

Richard Price Donald Kirsch Mrs. Barbara Nichols

DECOTO BOY'S CLUB:

The Decoto Boys Club held a complete card of boxing matches at the church hall on 6th and "C" Sts., on January 30, 1953.

In March 1957 the Decoto Boy's Club merged with Decoto Holy Rosary Teenage Club to form an organization called the Holy Rosary Youth Center & Teenage Club. Youngsters between 8 and 12 years of age, residing in the Decoto area and teens in Washington Township were eligible to join this new non-denominational organization, which was sponsored by the Holy Rosary Church. Club activities included free dances the second and fourth Fridays of each month, swimming, and various kinds of sports and recreational activities.

DECOTO COMM. COORDINATING COUNCIL:

A proposed charter for a community coordinating council was sent to organizations in the Decoto district for their approval and recommendations. It was decided on the night of February 15, 1954 to accept the charter and start formation of the council.

Elliott Betts, and Raul R. Ramirez served as temporary co-chairmen of the council, which was attended by representatives of Barnard, Decoto, and Hillview Crest PTA's; the Holy Rosary Solidarity Community Service Organization, Decoto Home Owners, Decoto Youth Center, Hillview Crest Home Owners, the Decoto Chamber of Commerce, and the Decoto School District. Tentative plans for the newly formed council call for a series of "town hall" meetings, at which coordinated action will be taken on district project and problems.

The newly formed Community Coordinating Council met (March 1954) to name officers of the organization. Selected to positions at the meeting were:

President	Kenneth Crump
Vice President:	Mrs. James Hicks
Recording-Secretary:	Mrs. Marion Gobin
Corresponding-Secretary:	Mrs. Twila Moffat
Historian:	Mrs. Elmer McCord

In approving by-laws, presented by Paul Ramirez, temporary co-chairman of the group, members approved Boyd Morningstar's suggestion that any action taken by the council shall be of an advisory nature only and will not commit other member organizations.

First action of the new board was to direct a letter to Supervisor Chester Stanley asking if funds for a proposed road joining Ithaca Street to Whipple Road have been appropriated, and if construction would get under way in April as previously announced.

A "calendar of events" was drawn up by Mrs. Florence Wallace and Mrs. Gobin, and was presented to the group. It will be displayed in the office of Dr. Harry Schoenfeld, district superintendent of schools.

Named to a nominating committee to select candidates for a 1954 -1955 term were Mrs. Carmen Luevano, Mrs. Arnold Thomas, Mrs. Manuel Hidalgo, Mrs. Paul Ramirez, and Mrs. James Hicks.

"Watch your industries," Fire Chief Roland Bendel of Decoto warned members of the Community Coordinating Council at the August 30, 1954 special meeting. The meeting was called to weigh pros and cons of "What effect will Hayward's annexation plans have on Hillview Crest and Decoto?" Bendel asserted, "Hayward is not interested in us. What they want is our industries. Little by little they will creep up and get those industries, and then their taxes will go down and ours will go up."

Bendel's assertion keyed the theme for the evening. "Watch Hayward," chorused most of the audience, many of whom were Hillview Crest residents. One speaker, William Jordan, who represented Oliver Rosseau, builders who will construct a 1,200-home subdivision on land adjacent to Hillview Crest (Fairway Park), advised residents there to seize the present moment of annexation rushes and join in an annexation movement of their own.

Residents agreed, before the discussion ended, that since the Rosseau tract (Fairway Park) and the Treeview Tract (El Rancho Verde) across Highway 9 from Hillview Crest, already have annexation proceedings in process, there is little to be done to halt the move.

One panel speaker flatly told his audience to "get something to offer in the way of drainage, sewage, and water, and then you'll get the subdividers.

Jordan said the "package deal" in sewer and water facilities offered by Hayward could not be overlooked by his firm. He added that annexation was the only solution since Hayward refuses such services unless the area to be served is annexed.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Harold Strauel, Council president, suggested that the Hillview Crest Improvement Club appoint a committee to study costs of sewer and water facilities, as offered by the Union Sanitary District, and the Alameda County Water District, and make a comparative analysis with the costs of these services from Hayward.

Roland Bendel, Fire Chief from Decoto, defining the position of the Decoto fire district, said that the department would not answer calls from outside the district if annexation to Hayward were effected.

The most commonly expressed fear, in the discussion of annexation, was that Decoto residents are taxing themselves for facilities in the school and fire districts, which may revert to Hayward should annexation be pushed.

Directors of the Decoto Community Coordinating Council met in January 1955 at the home of Mrs. Marion Gobin, 1129 Seneca Street, Hillview Crest, to "polish up plans" for the next membership meeting on January 17th, it was announced by president Harold Strauel. Strauel said there are three matters of importance on the agenda for the coming membership meeting:

1. A discussion of a proposed Washington Township Recreation District, which comes to ballot on January 25th. There are to be speakers for and against the district at the January 17th meeting.
2. A report on juvenile delinquency in the area last year from the Judge Norris Committee on Juvenile delinquency.
3. A presentation of a zoning plan for the Decoto area by Bernie Joseph, council delegate from the Decoto Chamber of Commerce.

Some little boy and girl in Decoto may go to summer camp this year because of good behavior. On May 18, 1955 the Decoto Community Coordinating Council members established a set of standards, by which a district boy and girl will be judged. Those selected will be sent to camp at council expense.

Standards set up included these points:

1. Child's behavior.
2. Number of children in the family.
3. Financial status of the family.
4. Child's health.
5. Child's home environment.
6. Cooperation on part of the parents.
7. Child's after school activities.

A committee of four, Edward Books, Father Ralph Duggan, Louie Campbell, and Mrs. Theresa Walters, will select the children to be sponsored for the camp project. Members considered a tentative budget for presentation to the United Crusade. Funds sought by the council will be used to finance a summer camp program next year.

New officers were named at the meeting.

President:	Harold Strauel (Reelected)
Vice President:	Florence Spencer
Recording Secretary:	Harold Milam
Corresponding Sec:	Mrs. Leontine Costa
Treasurer:	Edward Heffner

In June of 1955 the council asked Alameda County for more exacting details on a proposal to locate a youth hut on county property at 10th and "Q" Street, Decoto. The Decoto Community Coordinating Council has petitioned the Board of Supervisors for use of the land for such a community building in order to combat juvenile problems. The lot was deeded years ago to the county for the purpose of a library, and the supervisors want the council to make a commitment on whether space would be allotted for one in the suggested building.

DECOTO COMM. SERVICE ORGANIZATION:

A Local chapter of a Community Service Organization for Decoto started in May 1953. Over 125 persons were present to hear Leonard Ramirez, San Jose registration chairman; Leo Sanchez, San Jose building inspector; and Juan Accordia, San Jose registrar of voters. The organization committee from Decoto consisted of Betty Rodriguez, Peter Triana Sr., and Bernice Pena. Kenneth Crump was present to represent the Decoto School District, and persons attended from Niles, Alvarado, and Russell City.

Triana was selected to represent Decoto before the California legislature when the pension plan was discussed for Spanish people of Mexican descent living in the State over 20 years. Ray Orozco was named temporary chairman for the group and Miss Carol Saucedo, secretary. Volunteers working in pre-election registrations will be:

Oralia Zendejas	Thomas Saucedo	Paul Ramirez	Paula Orozco
Danilla Memeiga	George Chavez	Beatrice Bedoya	Julia Gonzales
Eve Renteria	Mike Rodrigues	Rudolph Bedoya	Henry Ruiz
Carlos Villescaz	Sal Orozco	Jess Orozco	Alfredo Anchundo

The first object of Community Service Organization sought by Raul Ramirez of Decoto was an effort to obtain a doctor for the town. Ramirez, in expressing his willingness to appear before the County Board of Supervisors should a medical doctor apply for a permit to establish an office in Decoto, pointed out that the town at present does not have an MD.

Early this month the Alameda County Planning Committee disapproved an application by Dr. Samuel Levine of Hayward for a permit to establish a clinic in Decoto. Since then the application has been referred back to the planning commission by the board of supervisors. Further commission action of the application is set for Sept. 28, 1953.

Ramirez in stating his position said that he favored a clinic for Decoto, but was not specifically backing any one doctor. His only interest, he said, was to obtain better facilities for medical treatment for the citizens of Decoto.

At this same time registration for citizenship classes were taken on September 10th when members of the Decoto Community Service Organization meet with school officials at the Decoto School. Dr. Harold Schoenfeld, Decoto School District Superintendent, and Judson E. Taylor, principal of Washington Union High School were present to outline class schedules.

The registration will culminate several months of meetings between school officials and the Community Service Organization representatives in an effort to establish classes to assist Spanish-speaking residents in obtaining citizenship.

Another CSO sponsored project got underway on September 3rd when a specialist in immigration and naturalization matters offered his services to non-citizens of the Decoto area. There was no charge for the service. The consultant set up his headquarters at the rear of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish Hall.

In May of 1954 permanent offices for the Community Services Organization opened at 6th and "B" Streets in Decoto. Raul Ramirez explained that the permanent

downtown quarters would better enable CSO to fulfill its function of helping the Spanish-speaking people of Decoto adjust to community life. The specific goals of CSO at present are to help Spanish-speaking folk get their driver's licenses, help them to learn to read and write English, help them understand the marking of an election ballot, and help them to attain citizenship.

In March 1955 three delegates to the National Convention of Community Service Organizations in session in Los Angeles were elected at the Decoto CSO meeting. Selected to go were Paul Ramirez, Mike Rodriguez, and Carlos Villa. Members also nominated Father Ralph Duggan of the Holy Rosary Church in Decoto for the office of honorary national president of the CSO.

The Southern Alameda County Community Service Organization announced a new citizenship and language classes to begin in February 1957 at Winton School. John Sandoval, president of the CSO, said 2-hour classes would be held twice a week in citizenship (with Spanish translation) and in Basic English. Arranged by CSO's citizenship and immigration committee, the classes are sponsored by Hayward High School district's adult evening program. There is no charge to enrollees. Refugio Cabello and Joe Monte de Rey, teachers in the CSO arranged program in Decoto since 1953, will be the instructors in Hayward.

DECOTO DISCUSSION GROUP:

A club devoted to the discussion and review of the arts. This club was active throughout the 50's discussing varied books, operas and the arts.

The club included members from Niles, Mission San Jose, Centerville and Hayward:

Mrs. Ethel Avila	Mrs. Florence Wallace	Mrs. Bernie Joseph
Mrs. Boyd Morningstar	Mrs. Walter Chrysler	Mrs. Ed Gularte
Mrs. Manuel Fontes	Mrs. Louise Johnson	Mrs. Evelyn Joseph
Mrs. Dora Scudder	Mrs. Leontine Costa	Mrs. Ethyl Avilla
Mrs. C. W. Kirkpatrick	Mrs. Katherine Goularte	Mrs. Chauncy Giles
George Harkleroad	Roland Bendel	Harold Wallace
Bert Joseph	George Azevedo	Romie Taefner

DECOTO MEN'S CLUB:

The Decoto Boys Club, under the sponsorship of the Decoto Men's Club, will hold a complete card of boxing matches at the church hall on 6th and "C" Sts., on January 30, 1953.

DECOTO MOTHER SINGERS:

Decoto School District Mother Singers installed new officers at a barbecue dinner Monday at the home of Mrs. J. V. Mayes in June 1954.

President:	Mrs. Baxter Holben
Vice President:	Mrs. J. V. Mayes
Treasurer:	Mrs. Frank Mellin

Past president pins were awarded to:

Mrs. Stanley Kopacz	Mrs. Harry Vasquez	Mrs. Earl Larson
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DECOTO HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION:

A group comprised of homeowners in Decoto to give a voice to a broad segment of Decoto not represented by the Decoto Merchants or the Decoto Chamber of Commerce.

In February 1954 the homeowners association favored a proposed curfew law for Washington Township. Discussion of a possible curfew and a recreation program for children followed reports by Mrs. Florence Hidalgo and Mrs. Carmen Luevano, delegates to the coordinating council now being organized in the Decoto district. At its next meeting the association will discuss air pollution and smog control. According to Stanton McLeod, president, experts on the subject will be contacted and invited to address the association.

In April 1954 the homeowners took steps towards forming a recreation district in the Decoto-Hillview Crest at a joint meeting of the Decoto Homeowners Association and the Federation Clubs of Decoto. Guest speakers William Hildebrand and Judson E. Taylor, directors of the Newark Park and Recreation District explained ground and fieldwork required in organizing a district. Taylor suggested that school facilities should be utilized whenever available, and recommended combining facilities in the Decoto-Hillview Crest area. Afternoon and evening programs should be planned and the district should be designed to expand as the need arises, he said.

A plea for unity in youth center projects in Decoto was made by the Rev. Father Ralph Duggan to the members of the Decoto Merchant's Association. Father Duggan outlined the volunteer work of Edward Brooks in helping establish a youth center at Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

Father Duggan said, "Mr. Brooks, although not of my faith, saw a need in Decoto and without being asked spent his own time and money to fill it. That was the start of our friendship."

The priest pointed out that church property was made available without regard to creed but he could not guarantee that the archbishop will not want to use the space for a school. Therefore, he stressed the need for an independent youth center.

Brooks reaffirmed the need and stressed the point that if juvenile delinquency is to be stopped, Decoto must start now. "The character building value of athletics is not overrated," said Father Duggan, in asking for an additional program of crafts and trade training. "I hope someday to see an industrial high school in Decoto."

In December 1958 the homeowners club held officer elections. Those seated were:

President:	James Swartz
Vice President:	Mrs. Letheda Sheppard
Secretary:	George Swartz
Treasurer:	Byron Flanders

DECOTO MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION:

The Decoto Merchants and Businessmen's Association was officially incorporated in January 1955. Raymond Marsh, Hillview Crest resident and Hayward attorney, was asked to draw up the incorporation articles for the recently organized group.

One of the first items on the agenda for the merchants was the question of their contributing to the financing of Union City incorporation on an individual basis. Ralph Reyes pointed out that since membership in the association does not include all Decoto merchants, a larger fund probably could be solicited by a finance committee seeking contributions, than if a donation were to be made from the association treasury. Manuel Hidalgo and David Escobido volunteered to act as a committee to solicit financial aid for the incorporation from every Decoto merchant and businessman.

Supervisor Chester Stanley installed new officers at the Decoto Merchant & Businessmen's Association in March 1955. Installed were:

President:	Manuel Hidalgo
Vice President:	Ralph Reyes
Secretary:	Gladys Keller
Treasurer:	David Escobido
Director:	Jim Maldonado

One of the concerns of the association was the lack of a bank in Decoto. At this time, 1955, Decoto had no bank to service the community. Merchants had to go to Centerville, Alvarado, Niles or Hayward to do their banking. Before the end of the decade this problem was solved when the Alvarado Branch of the First Western Bank abandoned Alvarado and moved into the shopping center across from Logan High. Also, Wells Fargo Bank would locate a bank branch in the Fairway Park Shopping Center.

Nineteen winners were announced in December 1955 in the first annual home and business Christmas decoration contest for Decoto and Hillview Crest. The contest was sponsored by the Decoto Merchants Association, which offered prizes for the best-decorated commercial establishment in Decoto, the best decorated home in Decoto, and the best decorated home in Hillview Crest.

The judging was done by Manuel Hidalgo and Ralph Reyes, president and vice president of the association, and by George Oakes, newspaper publisher.

In the business decision, judges declared first place a tie between Freeman's Market at 206 "E" Street, and Bert's Market at 901 10th Street. Honorable mention was given to the Decoto Variety Store, Mal's Liquors, the office of Dr. Morgan F. Lee, the Economy Market, Ray's Market, the Decoto fire station, and the Decoto Post Office.

In the Decoto homes division, Joseph Vardasco of 816 7th Street was awarded the \$10 first prize. Honorable mention went to Bert Perez, W.W. Noble, Mrs. Howard Silva, Aurio Nieves, Earl Medeiros, and Tony Mota.

In Hillview Crest, Thomas F. Keenan of 1221 Utica Street was awarded first prize. An honorable mention was given to Richard Felton and Alfred Bowen.

Emphasis on only one or two large annual projects, rather than scattered attention to many, was the New Year's resolution for 1956 for the Decoto Merchant's Association by Rex de Cordoba. De Cordoba referred, in particular, to the Merchant plan for sponsorship of a queen contest in connection with a calendar advertising campaign. He said he had been unable to lay a complete plan before the membership last year because the meeting agendas were too full to allow for his report.

Ralph Reyes, newly elected president, promised De Cordoba the February 1st meeting will be devoted completely to discussion of the contest and calendar plan.

Manuel Hidalgo announced a citizen's committee meeting, called to discuss the coming bond issue of the Washington Township Hospital, to be held on January 22nd. The meeting was to be held at the Mexico Lindo Hall in Decoto, but residents of all of Washington Township would participate, he said. Hidalgo said it is anticipated a stand for or against the bond issue would come from the meeting.

A holiday party and outdoors Christmas decoration contest was planned by the Decoto Merchants Association in December 1956. Judging would take place on December 21st for the second annual decoration competition. Awards of \$10 for the best store and \$5 each for the two most outstanding homes would be given, according to Manuel Hidalgo. The board of directors who will be doing the judging are:

Ralph Ray	Manuel Boliva	Dave Escobido
Henry Rivera	Manuel Hidalgo	

The Decoto Merchants Association elected new officers in December 1956. They were:

President:	Manuel Hidalgo
Vice President:	Henry Rivera
Secretary:	Rex De Cordova
Treasurer:	Manuel Boliva

Directors:	Directors:	David Escobido
	Ralph Reyes	John Lopez

Winners of the Decoto Christmas decoration contest, judged by the association on December 21st were:

Business winners: (a tie)	
Decoto Variety Store	"H" & 6th Street
Star Bakery	14th Street

Residential Homes:	
Earl Maderos	811 6th Street (First)

DECOTO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT.

The organization of a park and recreation district in Decoto was informally approved in a May 1954 meeting of the Federated Clubs of Decoto. Although members did not go on record to establish the district, members agreed that Decoto must take the step in the near future. Members said the Decoto district should be patterned on Newark's Parks, Recreation, and Parkways District.

Everyone agreed that parks and recreations were needed for the youth and the citizens of Decoto, but there were two different schools of thought on how to accomplish what was needed. Public opinion was divided between a plan to establish a separate recreation district or to consider the present school and church programs adequate for recreation needs.

One plan to establish a Washington Township Parks & Recreation District raised voices of disapproval as some members did not wish to have "Decoto dragged into" any Township plan.

Manuel Hidalgo, speaking for a Decoto district plan, said he would like to have the present school program augmented by an evening program. He also wants a program for adults, and for children above school levels, he said.

Members discussed the existing church program. The consensus was the program is good, but it does not reach enough young people as there is a waiting list of would-be members.

Judson E. Taylor, representing the Newark Recreation District, outlined the history of that district and explained the procedure for establishing a district. He appeared at the invitation of the club membership. Taylor warned against establishing a district with too-limited boundaries. "You should strive to include as much industry as possible," he advised.

A preliminary survey of the costs of recreation to the Decoto taxpayer, under several plans open to the district, was presented to Decoto's elementary school trustees by Dr. Harold Schoenfeld, District Superintendent. Prior to the July 28, 1954 regular business meeting Schoenfeld told the trustees that Decoto is now paying 12¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation. Under an extended plan, which would include night activities for youngsters, the cost would rise to 20.3¢, he estimated.

If the district were to contract with the Hayward Area Recreation District, the cost was estimated at 14¢. For a Decoto Recreation District the cost was estimated at approximately 21¢, and for a Washington Township plan, Schoenfeld said the cost would probably not be less than 20¢ nor more than 28¢. The superintendent explained that under either the Hayward plan or the Township plan, the Decoto district would lose complete control of its recreation program.

The first step toward a community recreation center for Decoto was taken on June 21, 1955 when the Alameda County Supervisors read a letter from the Decoto Coordinating Council asking for a long term lease of a county-owned lot at the corner of 10th & "G" Streets in Decoto. In asking for the lease, the council pointed to the need for a building to house Scouts, teenage groups, and other organizations. Completion of two tracts in the area would increase the need, according to the letter. It added that there was an excellent chance to receive the gift of a building, which could be moved onto the lot. Also funds for remodeling could be obtained.

Chester Stanley, supervisor representing the area, said the lot in question had been deeded to the county, presumably to be used as a library site. This however was not stipulated in the deed. Stanley said that the need was great in all of Washington Township. He also confirmed the possibility of getting a building if a long-term lease was available. After the meeting Harold Strauel, president of the coordinating council, expressed cautious optimism that "the ball is rolling." He said he felt confident that the supervisors would reach an agreement with the coordinating council.

The Recreation District received a boost in August 1955 when Mrs. Harriett J. Olson gave a deed of trust to the town of Decoto a lot in the heart of Decoto. The deed, to be held by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors until a recreation district is

established, specifically provides the lot is to be used for recreational purposes only. A second lot, formerly deeded to the county by Mrs. Olson's husband would also be available to the recreation district. This lot originally was given as a library site, but the deed of gift bore no restriction as to use.

Members of the Coordinating Council's executive board already had met with president's of other Decoto organizations, to form tentative plans for the establishment of a Decoto recreation district. The proposed plans would have the boundaries of the Decoto Recreation District coincide with the boundaries of the Decoto Elementary School District.

Five committees were established and their chairmen named, according to Harold Strauel, council president. Committee membership ranks still were incomplete. The committees named thus far include:

1) A building committee, headed by the Rev. Richard Hopkins, pastor of Decoto's Hillview Southern Baptist Church. It would be the responsibility of this committee to determine the type of building to be constructed, costs of that construction, and requirements of the Alameda County Planning Commission. (Strauel said that tentative preliminary estimates indicate a building for community recreation should cost approximately \$72,000 at current rates of construction. It is the committee's hope that contributions and volunteer labor can bring that cost figure down to \$30,000.)

2) A legal committee made up of the Coordinating Council's executive board and headed by Strauel. S. Robert Infelise, principal of the Barnard School in Decoto also has accepted membership in this committee.

3) A program and budget committee, which will plan a year round activities program and establish the costs of conducting that program. This committee was to be headed by Chris Carabello, who would be assisted by Mrs. Charles Spencer and Dr. Harold Schoenfeld, according to preliminary tentative plans.

4) A public relations committee to be chaired by Boyd Morningstar.

5) A gifts committee, established as a medium for accepting contributions and donations from foundations, corporations, and individuals, as well as from local businesses and commercial establishments. This committee was to be headed by the Rev. Elliott Paulson, pastor of the Fairway Park Baptist Church in Hillview Crest.

A legal committee, established by the Decoto Coordinating Council to study the recreation needs of Decoto met on September 14, 1955. The members of the legal included:

Ralph Reyes	S. Robert Infelise	Edith Harkleroad
Stella Caldeira	Evelyn Joseph	Christine Anderson
Ramon Pagan	James Schwartz	Kenneth Garcia
Frank Borghi	Lawrence Kelly	

The council's legal committee presented less than satisfactory news at a September 1955 when they presented a recommendation against the formation of a recreation in Decoto, at this time. The need for more recreation for teenagers was

acknowledged, and the committee agreed the council should bend its effort to achieving that goal.

The committeemen had unanimously agreed that Decoto was not ready for a recreation district now. Members felt any attempt to organize a district would be defeated by voters. As an alternative it was suggested the Decoto Youth Center Committee be incorporated so that as a responsible legal organization it could acquire title to land.

Instability of the political situation was cited as a reason for not forming a district. Lawrence Kelly said conflict of incorporation and annexation movements would hinder such a venture. He predicted a negative vote from Hillview Crest because people there felt no identity with Decoto.

DECOTO PIRATES:

The town of Decoto had a band of pirates, literally! They ranged in age from 9 to 13 years, and were all boys who attend the Decoto School. They were the Decoto Pirates, and proud pirates they were, having won a variety of prizes for their precision marching and playing in parades in Central California and now looking forward to trips a field to compete against other performing group of boys.

The Decoto Pirates, organized in 1948, perhaps form the only group in the state operating under the direction of a woman. She was Miss Phyllis E. Hanson, director of instrumental music at the school. She reorganized the group a couple of years ago, starting the boys on their prize-winning career. There are 40 boys in the band and there is an additional crown of boys who serve as reserves and replacements. As the older boys graduate their places are filled from the reserve. Carrying the baton and leading the current bank of Pirates is Richard Seane.

DECOTO YOUTH CENTER:

Plans to incorporate the Decoto Recreational Youth Center as a non-profit organization was discussed at a board meeting held April 1954 at the home of Mrs. J. P. Caldeira, president. Art Anchundo, vice president of the youth center, announced plans for a hayride on Saturday, May 1, 1954, which will terminate at Elderberry Park in Niles Canyon for refreshments. Irvington and Centerville Youth Centers have been invited to participate.

FARM LABOR OFFICE:

There's a small office on "E" St. in Decoto where a staff of three are kept hopping the year around helping keep food on city tables. It's the Decoto Farm Labor Office, which last year (1957) placed a record 13,748 farm workers on jobs in Southern Alameda County and this year will crowd the 14,000 mark. The new head of the office is August Gubser, who is assisted by Tom Howard and secretary La Rose Hand. Gubser took over the reigns of the office on September 1, 1958 following the resignation of Gerald Swarner. He has been with the Farm Labor Bureau five years and came to Decoto from two year's service in the Imperial Valley.

FLOOD CONTROL:

When the City of Hayward threatened to take open land in Washington Township from Decoto and Alvarado, the two towns were ill prepared to handle the consequences on several fronts. One was flood control. The flooding of Alvarado was legendary in Washington Township. This was for good reason for the town of Alvarado was the lowest point above sea level in Washington Township.

Alvarado had vacillated over this problem for decades. They knew they had to correct this problem, but the price was too high. So Alvarado limped along with cleaning out the Alameda Creek bed of brush and snags with the hopes of creating a clear path to the Bay caused by the rush water in the rainy season.

When one looks at the Alameda Creek it makes you wonder how such a stream could produce the floods that have plagued the area since records started in the 1850's. The answer is called the Alameda Creek watershed, which sits at the east end of Niles Canyon. The area to the east of Niles Canyon is in the form of a bowl and it is over 630 square miles of rain catching land, and it funnels all this water through the Niles Canyon and into the Alameda Creek.

Even the Calaveras Dam did not stop the flooding of the lowlands of Washington Township. *The Oakland Tribune* even wrote a tribute to the Alameda Creek in 1890 and its bittersweet symbiosis with Alvarado & Decoto farming:

"Amid all these moving accidents of flood and field, which make the burden of the story of the day, Alvarado stands placidly smiling over the waste of waters, a modern Venice for the nonce, serenely figuring the depth of the mud which will be deposited on her lands, rich with the promise of big crops, caring little for the present discomfort, for her legs are long, if wooden. It may not be as handsome as its prototype, where the famous gondola takes its course, but the lands around are as rich as those of the delta of the Nile, and the cause is very much the same."

But even though floodwaters may carry the promise of future crops for farmers, the future for Washington Township was no longer in farming. The future of Washington Township lay in the development of land and not the tilling of the soil. The building of cities require industry to fuel the tax base and industry would not come to areas that are flood prone. Alvarado and Decoto would have to scurry to make her lands safe for homes and industry.

Flood Control was parceled out in zones and one of the zones that impacted Decoto and Alvarado was Zone 3. An explanation of Zone 3 in the Alameda County Flood Control District's plan for drainage was submitted by James Vivrette, flood control district engineer. Vivrette described the district, which encompasses Hayward south of Jackson Street west to San Mateo Bridge Boulevard and south of Alvarado and north of Decoto. It includes 20,000 acres, currently assessed at approximately \$13,000,000.

In December 1954 Frank Borghi pointed out that floods are caused by run-off in the Livermore and Pleasanton hills (the Alameda Creek watershed of 630+ square miles). Borghi further stated that control measures must begin here to be effective. But control measures in this area were still a number of years away, he stated, although the dredging of Alameda Creek was planned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Borghy envisioned the new Zone 5 as a combined flood control and water conservation measure. He suggested that control dams in the Livermore-Pleasanton hills, not only would stem flood water, but will provide a source of needed water in Washington Township for the development of industry and construction of homes.

"If we can unite on this project now," he said, "we can get the water we need, and it will save us from voting a second bond for a water supply." He emphasized that flood control and water conservation must go hand in hand here. He said there is a great waste of water by farmers of the area, which must be checked. He pointed out that the course drainage has changed in the past 30 to 40 years, primarily because of diversion by farmers. Water, which not only threatens to wash out a portion of the Alvarado-Centerville area in wet years, originally drained into the Irvington area, Borghi said.

After the failure of the Centerville, Decoto, Niles and Newark flood control bond vote another call was made to get the Zone 5 District bonds on the ballot. The near \$4,000,000 ballot measure was targeted to another vote by midyear 1955.

The topic was taken up by the Decoto Chamber of Commerce on July 5, 1955 and the Zone 5 project of the Alameda County Flood Control District received the endorsement of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. The action was approved was by a small margin and came after a spirited discussion.

Irving Williams and Henry Rivera spoke against the proposed bond issue saying Decoto did not need flood control. Williams said, "We will be paying the bill to drain somebody else's property so that they can make money subdividing." Added Rivera, "We are in no position financially to help any one else."

Kenneth Garcia, speaking for Zone 5 declared, "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."

Manuel Seoane said, "In the long run we will benefit. We will not get government aid to control Alameda Creek unless we vote yes, and" he added "that factories will not locate in parts of Washington Township unless there was flood control."

On July 19, 1955 voters in Zone 5 Flood Control District went to the polls to determine the fate of the 71-square mile area that includes Decoto, Niles, Centerville, and Newark. Within its boundaries were Washington Township's largest home developments and major industrial areas. Alvarado was in zone 3A where construction started on the project at the beginning of July. Irvington, Mission San Jose, and Warm Springs, were in Zone 6 where construction was underway also.

Backers of the bond issue maintained that flood control must come, one way or another, and that the \$3,989,000 bond issue provides the cheapest and quickest method.

The alternative, they say, is a direct tax to finance the faculties levied by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. It would be a pay-as-you-go tax resulting in a higher tax rate and slowing the improvements, according to proponents.

The Board of Supervisors were automatically authorized to levy a direct tax when opposition failed to materialize at a public hearing on the zone project last July, according to Herbert Crowle, engineer for the count flood control district.

Last December the bond issue failed to receive the necessary two-thirds favorable vote. But it did receive a majority, more than 61 per cent of the 1,677 votes being yes. The issue failed by 86 votes.

The second election worked like a charm for Alameda County Flood Control District bonds in Zone 5. Voters in the communities of Decoto, Newark, Centerville, Niles, and the Alviso District of Washington Township approved the \$3,989,000 bond issue by a count of 1,048 for the measure and 393 against it.

In October of 1957 headway was made in Zone 5. Restoration of much of the Alameda Creek channel, installation of a line between Cherry Road and Mayhews Landing Road, and improvement of Patterson Creek was undertaken. The next bond sale would provide funds for installation of a number of storm drains, improvement of Dry Creek, and acquisition of rights of way for additional portions of the comprehensive project.

In June of 1958 the county sold \$900,000 in flood control bonds for projects from Alvarado to PG&E Road. One contract to improve Dry Creek from Highway 9 through Decoto to Alameda Creek was ready to go to bid. The Flood Control District would improve the channel, build a bridge at Railroad Avenue in Decoto and would construct two culverts for the water to flow under roads.

The improvement of the creek between Alameda Creek and Highway 9 (Mission Blvd) was expected to alleviate a recurrent flood problem in the Decoto area. It involved barbed-wire fencing, chain link fencing, and concrete structures. The Alameda County Surveyor's office then prepared plans for construction of a highway bridge at the Railroad Avenue crossing of Dry Creek.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

New Decoto Firehouse / People of the Decoto Fire Department / Major Decoto Fires

New Decoto Firehouse:

The new decade started with a plan for a new firehouse. A lot, 60 by 100 feet on 10th Street was purchased by the Decoto Fire District in August 1950 as a future site for the new fire hall. Fire Chief Roland Bendel indicated if preliminary estimates for building costs were feasible, construction would probably begin in the near future. The property was purchased from Mrs. Florence Hardy and was located near the present fire hall. Two old buildings would have to be removed to make way for the new structure.

In February 1952 plans were being drawn up for the new fire hall to be located at 220 10th Street. The new structure would adjoin the present fire station. The new building will be approximately 60 X 60 feet in dimension. The fire department anticipated the day when four men may be required to man 24-hour duty, although present needs can be met with two paid firemen taking the duty on alternate nights. The department was operated solely by volunteers during the day. The anticipated cost of the new structure was expected to be less than \$40,000.

In April 1952 the Decoto Fire Commissioners awarded the building of the new Decoto Fire House to C. E. Hooper, Oakland contractor, whose \$31,649 bid was the lowest. The high bid was \$40,437.

In January 1953 the Decoto Volunteer Fire Department was operating from its new \$32,000 firehouse at 920 10th Street.

The wives of the Decoto Volunteer Fire Department decided to give the boys a shower for their kitchen at their new firehouse. Pots, frying pans, dish towels, bath towels, dishes, silverware, and many other items too numerous to mention were given to them. This was a complete surprise to most of the boys as they had left their wives at home or at some of the other ladies homes never thinking that the women had any plans. All kinds of home made cakes; pies and other goodies were brought to finish up a perfect evening.

The following ladies were present:

Raphaella Guerra	Marcella Rodrigues	Theresa Martin
Rose Seoane	Ann Garcia	Rose Delgado
Rose Garcia	Leontine Costa	Gladys Cambra
Miss Henrietta Cambra	Vivian Paniagua	Ida Paniagua
Anne Ferreira	Frances Martin	Shirley Garcia
Jessie Sanchez	Beth Leimbach	

Sending gifts were:

Mrs. Roland Bendel	Mary Ferraris	Mrs. Shields
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A flag was donated to the firemen by Mrs. Raymond Sprague of Hillview Crest, another resident of the village, Mrs. Shields, whose son Paul is a member of the department gave a radio, desk, and chair.

People of the Decoto Fire Department:

Members of the Fire Department were:

Chief:	Roland Bendel	
Ass't Chief:	Chris Guerra	
Captain:	Don Martin	
Lieutenants:	Joe Martin	Kenneth Garcia
Engineer:	Joe Ferraris, Engineer	

Hosemen:	Lloyd Cambra	Joe Garcia
	Manuel Garcia	Peo Paniagua
	Gonsalo Paniagua	Paul Garcia
	Alphonso Rodrigues	A. L. Costa
	Frank Sanchez	Alfred Ferreira
	Manuel Seoane	Joe Seoane
	Paul Shields	

Auxiliary Firemen:	Edward Delgado	Louis Leimbach
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Two local men were officially hired as the first full-time firemen in the Decoto Fire District during the fire commissioners meeting in March 1953. Taking the positions were Joe Ferrario, Decoto resident, and Paul Shields of Hillview Crest. Both men had served on the volunteer fire crews for several years according to Fire Chief Roland Bendel.

A public hearing on the new district budget was set for April 6, 1953 in the fire hall. Showing an increase from \$17,000 last year, the \$20,000 budget allots:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1) Wages and salaries: | \$11,280 |
| 2) Maintenance & Operation: | \$ 5,720 |
| 3) Capital Outlay: | \$ 3,000 |

The new officers of the Decoto Firemen's Association elected in August 1954 were:

President:	Joseph Seoane, Jr.
Vice President:	Louis Leimbach
Secretary-Treasurer:	Roland Bendel
Sgt.-At-Arms:	Chris Guerra

In September 1954 Decoto's Fire Commissioners decided to back Chief Roland Bendel in his stand that he would not go across fire district boundaries if the Rosseau (Fairway Park) and Treeview tracts (El Rancho Verde) were annexed to Hayward. Meeting in a special session the commissioners stood behind Bendel, who told the Community Coordinating Council "if they (the subdividers) annex to Hayward, its Hayward's baby...we won't go into Hayward."

The 1957-58 budget for the Decoto Fire Department tentatively set at \$28,000 by the Decoto Fire Commission. The new budget is \$8,000 higher than last year's but the tax rate would remain at 38¢, according to Fire Chief Roland Bendel. Bendel said the increase is needed to build an addition on the present fire station to house an extra fire truck provided by the county civil defense department. Negotiations are underway to trade a lot now owned by the department for the lot adjoining the station, Bendel said. The budget would be adopted in September.

In 1958 Fire Chief Roland Bendel and Al Rodrigues inspected the \$14,000 addition to the Decoto Fire Station, which was expected to be completed by the beginning of March. The new addition will provide room for storing all of the district's equipment under one roof. One truck is now stored in a nearby building.

Chief Roland Bendel was readying his 1958-1959 budget to submit to the Decoto Fire District Commissioners in March. The new budget would ask for expenditures of \$30,000 during the coming fiscal year. This is \$2,000 higher than the current budget. But Bendel said the current 33 cents per \$100 assessed valuation tax rate would remain the same. He said commissioners would take a week to study the proposal and consider it for final adoption at a March 11th meeting.

Fire Commissioners:

Persons who served as fire commissioners this decade were:

Keith Whipple	A. A. Amaral	Carl Zwissig
Bernie Joseph	Frank Borghi Jr.	

Major Decoto Fires: **November 1951:**

Fire of an unknown origin caused an estimated \$3,500 damage to the home of Clifford Watkins, 1006 D Street. Six men of the Decoto Volunteer Fire Dept, under the direction of Chief Roland Bendel, extinguished the blaze 20 minutes after arriving on the scene.

October 1952:

Fire destroyed the 45-year old Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church at 13th & H Streets, causing a loss estimated at \$20,000. Antone L. Costa, a parishioner and one of the volunteer firemen, fought his way through the building to the altar, broke open the tabernacle and carried the Blessed Sacrament to safety.

November 1953:

A fire of \$50,000 destroyed the 50-year old Salz warehouse and about 800 tons of hay at Depot Road and H Street. The Decoto Volunteer Fire Department fought the spectacular fire for over four hours with three pieces of equipment. The flames were confined to the warehouse, saving the adjoining feed mill grainery and office. The baled hay burned for several days, with fireman pouring water on the smoldering bales. The warehouse was owned by Mrs. Eleanor Salz of Palo Alto. Present operators of the business were Mrs. Ida Silva of Hayward and Manuel Muniz of 903 11th Street, Decoto. Mrs. Manuel Janeiro, 77, who lives on Railroad Avenue directly across from the warehouse, said that this was the third time the building had been destroyed by fire since she came to Decoto in 1879. She recalled the two previous fires occurring about 1892 and 1900. The building and its contents reportedly were mostly covered by insurance.

February 1954:

A deadly fire took the life of Dianna Duthie, an eight-week old infant, at her residence in Hillview Crest. Her father, Charles H. Duthie, 30, tried to save her but was overcome by smoke and he lay unconscious near his infant daughter. Decoto fireman, Joe Seoane, 38, 104 10th Street, who went into the house after them was overcome by smoke also. Other firemen dragged them 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.

June 1954:

Fire swept through a home garage in Decoto early this morning and destroyed one automobile and severely damaged another. Decoto firemen checked the blaze just as it spread to the rear of a home at 517 10th Street shortly after midnight. The automobiles belonged to Enrique Hernandez and Alejandro Pino, who, with their families live at the address. Members of both families escaped injuries. John R. Miramontes, 309 9th Street, Decoto, owner of the home and garage, had not made an estimate of damage late this morning.

July 1954:

A sudden fire swept over part of the Claude T. Lindsay Lumber Company yard last night, causing an estimated \$200,000. 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. The fire was discovered by Arthur Anchundo, 16, of Decoto, the night janitor. Anchundo said he saw smoke seeping through the ceiling of a rest room. He sprayed a fire extinguisher on the ceiling until flames billowed through, then he called the fire department, which was four blocks away.

November 1955:

An auto and 158 cases of beverages were destroyed in a fire that razed a garage and warehouse at 4th & "E" Streets. The building was owned by Mrs. Mary Ramos of 297 3rd Street, Niles. It contained 120 cases of beer, 18 cases of soft drinks, and 15

cases of wine, and an old auto owned by Tony Boliba of Decoto. The loss was estimated at 3,000. Decoto firemen prevented the spread of the fire to other buildings in the downtown area. It is believed the fire was started from an outside incinerator.

April 1956:

Refusal of two women to interrupt their party-line telephone conversation was blamed to day for delaying firemen "several minutes" in reaching a burning Decoto home from which a 15-year-old amputee narrowly escaped on crutches.

(For those of you that are not familiar with party lines, several families shared the same telephone line. Each subscriber on the line was given a specific ring tone to signify the call was intended for them. For example, one long ring may be for family A, a long ring and a short ring would be for family B, and two long rings could be for family C, etc. What was devastating was that when one person was engaged on the party line no other subscribers on that line could make or receive calls. And of course there was also the possibility that other subscribers could listen in on your calls. If someone picked up the phone on your line and stated this was an emergency, then you were supposed to end your telephone call.)

The fire destroyed a six-room home and the personal belongings of the Albert Amaya family. Amaya's wife, Flora, 55, and daughter, Margaret, 16, were in the house when the fire broke out. Miss Amaya, a former Washington Union High School student, whose left leg was amputated six months ago, hobbled to safety on crutches.

Mrs. Amaya asked a neighbor, Mrs. Joe Castro, 723 13th Street to call the fire department. Mrs. Castro told Decoto Fire Chief Roland Bendel that when she picked up the telephone two women were talking. She said she asked the women to hang up so she could report a fire. One said, "All right" but, Mrs. Amaya said, the conversation continued for "several more minutes, three or four" before one woman said, "well, I guess we'll have to hang up." Bendel said he reported the incident to the telephone company and will make a full investigation. Mrs. Castro says she a four-party line.

May 1956:

A drive to help the DeFrenchie family, two boys, a baby girl, an unemployed father, and an expectant mother, who were burned out of their home Tuesday, was started. Mrs. Mabel Vaughn, of Irvington, a friend of the family is organizing a charitable effort, and said donations such as clothing, furnishings, or cash can be brought to the Tennyson Fire House. Mr. & Mrs. Edward DeFrenchie and the three children, ranging in ages from 7 years to 1 year, were driven from their home at 997 "F" Street, Decoto by a fire.

August 1956:

A Decoto man, overcome by smoke while asleep August 19, 1956 was reported in "fair" condition at Fairmont Hospital today. George Roderick, 56, of Alvarado-Niles Road, was discovered nearly overcome when his mother smelled smoke and rushed to his room early yesterday morning. He was revived by the Decoto Fire Dept.'s Resuscitator squad. Firemen believe Roderick fell asleep and dropped a cigarette on his clothing on the floor. The fire destroyed the clothing, burned a hole in the floor, and filled the room with smoke. Fireman worked 20 minutes before they felt he was able to be transferred to the Fairmont Hospital. Engineer Kenneth Garcia and Lt. Joe Seoane operated the resuscitator, and five other firemen responded to the call.

November 1958:

When a fire alarm came into the Decoto Firehouse on November 28, 1958 Kenny Garcia was the only fireman on duty. A reporter at the scene said Garcia handled the matter with dispatch, advised the caller to close the door of the oven in which grease had caught fire. The reporter added that he's sure Garcia would have responded just as speedily, even if the fire hadn't been at Garcia's own house.

FLYING FOOLS:

Freddie Margarido, a member of "Decoto's Flying Fools," brought home a first-place trophy in the stunt class of the model plane meet at Tracy in October 1954. The Decoto model enthusiasts, although organized for almost a year, are just beginning to break into the win class at sectional meets.

The rules for the Western Modelers Association were received in February 1955 by the local flying enthusiasts. Al Ducharme, club adviser, announced that there would be a Western Modelers Association meeting in Newark on November 13th in the Newark Youth Center.

Membership in the Flying Fools was open to anyone interested. Club officers were:

President:	Elbert Bullard	
Vice President:	Bob Rebello	
Secretary:	Alanson Warren	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Mary Warren	
Sgt-at-Arm:	Tony Rivera	
W. A. M. Reps:	Freddie Margarido	Lawrence Gonzales

Nearly 8,000 persons milled about the grounds of the Oakland Exposition Building on March 4, 1956 to witness the Northern California Model Airplane Championships sponsored the Oakland Junior of Commerce. Decoto was represented by the Flying Fools Club and highlighted by Tony Rivera who took the top spot in Stunt Class ABC, Advanced.

GIRL SCOUTS:

October 1951:

Troop 3 of the Decoto Girl Scouts chose new officers. They were:

President:	Elvera Garcia
Vice President:	Vera Martinez
Secretary:	Angie Garcia
Scribe:	Madeline Hernandez

Mrs. Betty Margarido, Decoto Girl Scout leader, will be assisted by Mrs. Leontine Costa.

March 1953:

Mrs. James Hicks was named as the chairman of the Girl Scout Cookie Drive.

November 1954:

An investiture of Girl Scout Troop 283 was held in the Decoto School auditorium. Mrs. Ruth Lee, leader, conducted the ceremony, assisted by Mrs. Marcella Rodriguez,

assistant leader. Following a welcome address to parents and friends by Mrs. Jessie Nieto, 10 troop members participated in a candle ceremony.

Girls who took part in the ceremony included:

Helen Candelaria	Geraldine Aguilar	Jo Ann Fletcher	Sonja Pruitt
Tiodora Acosta	Kathleen Terra	Helen Zamora	Vera Narveson
Annie Nieves	Marie Rodriguez		

The following mothers were then invested:

Leader:	Mrs. Ruth Lee
Co-Leader:	Mrs. Vera Narveson
Troop Committee Chair:	Mrs. Jesse Nieto
Telephone Chairman:	Mrs. Maria Terra
Transportation Chairman:	Mrs. Phelia McFarland
Secretary:	Mrs. Tiodora Acosta
Hospitality Chairman:	Mrs. Dorothy Aguilar

March 1955:

The Intermediate Girl Scout Troop 283, Decoto, held an investiture ceremony in the Decoto Elementary School. Invested were:

Carolyn Cooper	Ruth Duran	Gloria Garcia	Linda Gonzales
Annette Seoane	Carlas Sheppard	Judy Thornton	

Other troop members included:

Tiedora Acosta	Geraldine Aguilar	Carmen Cuevas	Jo Ann Fletcher
Karen Hernandez	Karylyne Lee	Marjorie Lee	Vera Narveson
Annie Nieves	Rebecca Ortiz	Sonja Pruitt	Julia Quiroja
Marie Rodriguez	Yvonne Santiago	Janice Spence	Kathleen Terra
Evangeline Anchundo			

May 1955:

Members of Girl Scout Troop 202, Decoto, which was sponsored by Cannery Workers Local No. 768, held a combined awards ceremony dinner honoring the board members of their sponsoring body. Led by Manuel Castro, secretary, 11 members of the board attended to see the girls of Troop 202 receive their second-class badges from Mrs. Grace Lewis, a member of the Hayward Area Girl Scout Council.

Mothers of the Decoto-Hillview Crest area Monday completed an eight-week leadership-training course for intermediate Girl Scouts and Brownies. Mothers who received their pins, in token of the completed course were:

Mrs. Allen J. Lockwood	Mrs. Lillian Price
Mrs. A. P. Welch	Mrs. E. P. Marks
Mrs. Katharina Whibback	Mrs. Margaret Peterson
Mrs. Carolyn Rocha	Mrs. Patricia Feutren
Mrs. Evelyn Aguilar	Mrs. Bette Grigsby
Mrs. R. A. Celani	Mrs. Ruth J. Lee
Mrs. Wallace Gobin	Mrs. Alma Jean Welch
Mrs. Janet Steelman	Mrs. D. W. Crisp
Mrs. W. D. Cassidy	Mrs. Betty Cloud
Mrs. Winifred Klymshyn	Mrs. T. D. Proffitt
Mrs. Anne Rende	Mrs. K. C. Dexter
Mrs. Anna Senft	Mrs. Frances Finley
Mrs. Jeannette Leaf	Mrs. Betty Cody

Mrs. R. H. Peterson

Mrs. Audrey Johns

December 1955:

Intermediate Girl Scout Troops 212 conducted a candy sale. Funds from the sale will go toward a camping trip to Yosemite in 1956. The girls have been saving toward this trip for two years. Girls in the troop are:

Carol Bailey	Carolyn Collins	Kay Crandall	Matilda Esquilin
Patricia Hudson	Jackie Luce	Roseanne Mateos	Ginger Nesmith
Darlene Parkinson	Joan Ray	Linda Sandlin	Jerry Walker
Dawn Granlee			

Leaders are: Mrs. Joseph Luce Mrs. Leland Sandlin

March 1957:

Winners of the Washington Township Girl Scout Poster contest from Decoto, held last week at Decoto's Barnard School were:

Third Grade:

Diane Cadwalder	Hillview Crest
Beverly Allan	Hillview Crest

Fourth Grade:

Kathy Hawk	Hillview Crest
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HILLVIEW CREST BAPTIST CHURCH:

In September 1952 the Hillview Baptist Church occupied the old Presbyterian Church located at 9th & H Streets in Decoto. By the end of 1953 the church was progressing nicely with 86 children reported attending Sunday school.

In March 1957 the Baptist Churches of Washington Township took a stand against the proposed new St. Rose Hospital claiming the fund raising drive used deceptive practices in calling the hospital "non-denominational."

Association President, the Reverend Elliot Paulsen, pastor of the Fairway Park Baptist Church, said he and his fellow pastors also considered it "deceptive" to call the proposed hospital non-denominational and a community project. He said that it was neither, that the hospital would be under the control of the Roman Catholic Church. The Protestant ministers, he said, will tell their congregations from the pulpit Sunday their views on the fund drive.

The Rev. Paulsen said the ministers do not object to the fund drive or the hospital, only the "deception" in calling the hospital non-denominational. Naming by certain mayors of the fund drive committees gave the impression of city governmental participation, which "violates the concept of separation of church and state, the association charged.

Protestant weekday Religious Education, Inc. today announced that more than 2,000 children are enrolled in released time classes in the southern part of Hayward. Classes are being conducted in 20 schools of the Decoto, La Vista, and Mt. Eden School Districts, in addition to one school in the San Leandro District, and in Independent.

The Huntwood Baptist Church lost its second bid to two different school districts for permission to use school facilities for a dinner meeting. The Decoto School District Trustees turned down the church's request on November 13, 1958. The district's reason is that the church is located in the La Vista School District and church members are not taxpayers in the Decoto District.

Earlier the La Vista School District had turned down the church's request based on the fact that the California Constitution prohibits public property should not be used for fund raising or religious activities.

HILLVIEW CREST IMPROVEMENT CLUB:

A plan for switching school lands between La Vista and Decoto Elementary Schools District, and a suggested "demotion" of Barnard School to a kindergarten through 6th grade school was discussed by the Hillview Crest Improvement Club.

President Charles Plummer, and board member Lawrence Kelly, appointed to study the project for trading areas between school districts, explained the problem. Present district boundaries join at the junction of Eden and Washington Townships, and both districts hold some property on both sides of Highway 9 (Mission Boulevard).

To lessen the danger of crossing main-traveled highways, it had been suggested that Decoto relinquish its in property in the Treeview tract (El Rancho Verde), directly across from Hillview Crest, in exchange for an equal slice of property in the Rousseau tract (Fairway Park), just in the planning stages.

It was pointed out that the township line is an artificial boundary, which cuts across lots in the tract, leaving a front portion of a lot in one township and the rear of the lot in the other. It was conceded, however, that adjustments could be made to allow a designated area to be a "permissive" locality, with a choice of either school district.

With regard to Barnard School, which is located at 619 Whipple Road, Decoto, Kelly pointed out that the need there is for a grade school, although it is in present use as a junior high school. He suggested that the school might be converted to the lower grade use, and that the proposed Whipple School, now projected for a location deep in the Decoto area, be made a junior high and located in, or adjacent to, Hillview Crest.

Placement of a junior high school in or near Hillview Crest was unanimously favored at a September 14, 1954 meeting of the membership of the Hillview Crest Improvement Club. Members heard a report from Vice-President Lawrence Kelly, in which he said the Decoto Elementary School District, now plans an addition to Barnard School, to create a new junior high.

Kelly quoted figures to show the greatest percentage of junior high school age children will be from the Hillview Crest area, rather than from Decoto. Club members asked their vice president to represent them at a special meeting Friday, when a representative of the Schoolhouse Planning Division of the State Department of Education will appear to explain plans for school construction within the Decoto elementary district.

In asserting their stand on the matter of school location, club members hastened to add that they were in no way dissatisfied with Decoto district's school policy, or with District Superintendent Harold Schoenfeld, except in the proposed change of Barnard school to junior high school.

Charles O. Plummer, club president, relinquished his chair during the schools discussion because of his position as trustee in the Decoto School District.

The consolidation of homeowners of the Hillview Crest, Fairway Park, and El Rancho Verde tracts into a unified improvement club was considered at a board of directors' meeting of the Hillview Crest Improvement Club on September 20, 1955. Residents of the two adjoining tracts were to be invited to the Hillview Crest October meeting, when the question is to be considered.

INDEPENDENT CLUB OF DECOTO:

The Independent Club of Decoto had its monthly dance start at 9 p.m. on January 18, 1957 at the Newark Pavilion. Reys De Rhythm Orchestra of San Jose supplied the music. Mike Rodriguez was in charge of the affair.

LATIN-AMERICAN DEMOCRAT CLUB:

Installation ceremonies at Mexico Lindo Hall in April 1955 were held for officers of a new committee instituted to assist the Mexican Consulate in Decoto. Jose Amaya was elected chairman. Serving with Amaya were Juan Rodriguez, vice chairman; and Jose Juarez, secretary. Rex De Cordova, publicity chairman, said the group is expected to assist tourists planning to visit Mexico.

Rex De Cordova, 907 "F" Street, Decoto began his second term as California State Chairman of the Latin-American Democrats. The organization, which has over a half million members in the state, met in August 1955 for its annual convention in Los Angeles. De Cordova was reelected by a wide margin. De Cordova was first elected state chairman in 1951. He will serve for four years. A native of Texas, he was also state chairman there in 1943. A graduate of St. Edward's College in Austin, he taught high school for 12 years in that city. De Cordova moved to Decoto during World War II to be near his son who was stationed in California. Since that time, De Cordova has been active in Latin-American affairs. He is now representing the Mexican consulate's office from San Francisco in Washington Township.

LIBRARY:

In April 1954 the Alameda County Board of Supervisor executed a lease with George S. Smith of Decoto for the town library. The only librarian mentioned this decade was Mrs. Ethel Avilla.

LUCKY-SEVEN SEWING CLUB:

Seven girls around the vicinity of 3rd Street organized a club in November 1952, which they named The Lucky Seven Sewing Club. The girls work on fancywork and sewing once a week. They meet every Wednesday evening. The girls are:

Agnes Gonzalez	Antoinette Vasquez	Isabel Masters	Cecelia Navas
Betty Avery	Mary Howard	Betty Boliba	

MARCH OF DIMES:

Chairmen for the Mother's March for Polio (March of Dimes) in the Decoto area for the 1955 drive are Mrs. Charles Plummer, Barnard; Mrs. Carl Hagan, Hillview Crest; and Mrs. Florence Wallace, Decoto.

MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY:

A giant fiesta marking the anniversary of the winning of Mexico's independence drew over 5,000 persons to Decoto Saturday and Sunday. Reigning as queen of the two-day celebration was Esther Baca, 20, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Baca of Decoto. She received her crown on Saturday ceremonies from a representative of the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco, Chancellor Federico L. Higgins.

An hour later the story of Mexico's independence was outlined by Chancellor Higgins as he addressed a capacity crowd in the Decoto ballpark.

Fiesta activities were aired over KLOK in an hour-long program that began at 11 a.m. Sunday, September 16, 1956. On that same day, following a parade, the fiesta reached its climax of celebration with the Decoto Boy's Club, Community Service Organization, Club Guadalupano, and other groups participating. The celebration, initiated last year in Decoto, will continue as an annual event, said Juan Rodrigues, chairman of the celebration.

NEIGHBORS OF WOODCRAFT:

A full slate of 16 new officers was installed by the Neighbors of Woodcraft, Hazel Circle, at their meeting of April 23, 1955 in Decoto. The new officers:

Guardian Neighbor:	Mrs. Leontine Costa		
Advisor:	Thelma Frates		
Clerk:	Mrs. Carrie Martin		
Banker:	Adelaide Russo		
Magician:	Frances Howe		
Clerk:	Mary Miller		
Capt. of the Guards:	Vivian Costa		
Flag Bearer:	Beverly Russo		
Inner Sentinel:	Jean Carey		
Outer Sentinel:	Minnie Ferry		
Musician:	Fred Costa		
Correspondent:	Mrs. Leontine Costa		
Managers:	Edward Martin	Tony Miller	Salvador Russo
Senior Guardian:	Lucinda Martin		

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE:

Marie and Lupe Ramirez were among the dancers when the festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe was celebrated in December 1954 in Decoto. Following an afternoon in which children, dressed in national costumes, performed dances of Mexican origin, a supper was served at Mexico Lindo Hall.

PEDRO CLUB:

Pedro (pronounced "pee-drō") was an American trick-playing card game of the All Fours family based on Auction Pitch. Its most popular variant is known as Cinch, Double Pedro, or High Five. Developed in the 1880's, it was soon regarded as the most important member of the All Fours family although it went out of fashion with the rise of Auction Bridge. It has remained a popular game among the Portuguese, Spaniards, and Italians.

Roselyn and Eddie Delgado served refreshments together with linguica sandwiches at the December 1954 meeting for the Pedro Club. Attending were Shirley & "Shorty" Garcia, Jessie & Frank Sanchez and Mary and Kenneth Garcia.

PINOCHLE CLUB:

The Decoto Pinochle Club reported meetings from 1950 to 1954. Those who were reported to have attended meetings and entertainment were:

Mr. & Mrs. Lester Watkins

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Parks

Tony & Tina Costa

Florence Wallace

Norma Soares

Mrs. Harkleroad

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Spencer

POST OFFICE:

The Decoto's Postmistress during the 1950's was Miss Mary Janeiro. She reported that in 1949 her Post Office had taken receipts totaling \$8,023.60, which was slightly less than in 1948.

Nevertheless, Decoto was growing and Mary received authorization in June 1951 to solicit bids for the construction of a new Post Office. Sealed bids were accepted until June 18, 1951. Specifications for the building were: The building must be 27 by 65 feet with 1800 square feet of floor space.

At this time Mary started making a survey of the new Hillview Crest subdivision in Decoto. The survey would determine whether or not mail would be delivered house to house. Also the Decoto Chamber of Commerce called for home delivery of U.S. mail throughout all of Decoto.

Construction of the new \$15,000 Post Office in Decoto, plans for which were on the drawing boards, was expected to get underway soon, it was learned in February 1952. The building was expected to require 90 to 120 days for completion, according to Frank Hernandez, owner of the 2nd and E Street building site. The one-story building of concrete block construction will have 1600 square feet of floor space. Postal services for Decoto proper and the Hillview Crest subdivision would be handled there. A janitor's room and rest rooms were also included in the floor plan.

Postmistress Mary Janeiro moved into the new Decoto Post Office building in October 1953. Located at 2nd & E Streets, the frame and stucco edifice was constructed by Frank Hernandez, operator of the local theater. Expansion of the Decoto Post Office facilities included a jump from 501 private mailboxes in the former 10th Street building to 674 in the new building. Mail delivery for Hillview Crest area will continue to come from the Hayward Post Office. Post Office assistants were Mary Re, Vivian Peixotto, and Frances Finley.

In May 1953 home mail delivery in the Decoto area and eventual transferring of Hillview Crest mail from Hayward to the Decoto Post Office appeared to be a possibility. A letter to Mary Janeiro with the news that a postal inspector is expected in the district "any time" to conduct a preliminary survey for delivery changes.

The postal requirement for house to house service, as outlined by the postmaster, include \$10,000 in postal receipts during the past fiscal year, a 2,500 resident population in the territory, good and continuing sidewalks, house numbers, street lights and signs, mail boxes and 50 per cent of the area improved with houses.

Manuel Hidalgo, Chamber president, declared, "There is no question in my mind that the sidewalks will come through." A petition bearing 75 per cent of the property owner's signatures is now on file with the district attorney and protest hearings were anticipated for the near future, he stated. House numbers and adequate street signs should now be secured as soon as possible.

The postal survey determined that Decoto failed to meet the standards for house-to-house mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service. The survey cited stating local receipts are over \$10,000, but the area does not have continuous sidewalks, house numbers, approaches to each house and good drainage. The Postal Inspector recommended a campaign by local civic groups to meet these requirements.

Two more years would pass and Decoto would still be without house-to-house mail delivery. Sidewalks were a must prior to door-to-door delivery of mail in Decoto, said Miss Mary Janeiro, Postmistress, at the regular luncheon meeting of the Decoto Merchants Association. The postmistress was answering a question concerning Decoto's status for mail delivery. She said she had conducted several surveys, and finally had been informed by post office officials that further surveys were useless until sidewalks were constructed. In other words, no sidewalks equal no home delivery of mail.

Progress on sidewalk installation to qualify for home mail delivery was "100 per cent better than expected," Committeeman Kenneth Garcia announced on November 1957. So far there have been pledges to install 4,000 feet of concrete walks in the community. And installation of gravel walks also was also progressing nicely, he reported.

Home mail delivery was expected to start in March of 1958 Decoto if residents can provide the necessary walkways. The deadline for installation was December 15th.

Reports from 13 Postmasters of Southern Alameda County showed postal receipt increases in 1957 over the previous years. Only four communities, Alvarado, Newark, Niles and Warm Springs showed decreases.

<u>Town</u>	<u>Previous Year's Receipts</u>	<u>Most Recent Year</u>
Alvarado	\$ 7,127.15	\$ 6,908.44
Centerville	\$57,807.53	\$66,224.60
Decoto	\$21,046.33	\$25,386.81
Irvington	\$27,600.00+	\$40,788.00
Mission San Jose	\$14,818.00	\$14,918.03
Newark	\$43,720.45	\$42,759.71
Niles	\$46,536.47	\$45,531.46
Warm Springs	\$ 3,481.26	\$ 3,375.86

Postmaster Mary George urged all Decoto residents to have sidewalks installed by March 8, 1958, which is the target date for beginning home mail delivery in the community. If homeowners were unable to afford concrete walks she asked at least install walkable gravel walkways. Mailmen are not supposed to walk on the road or over slippery, muddy paths according to postal regulation, George noted.

When home mail delivery began March 8th, the Decoto Post Office would no longer be one of the community's main hubs of activity. A few businessmen would continue to pick up their mail at the post office, but most residents would have to go no further than their front porches. Local civic businessmen's groups had sponsored a drive to install sidewalks to qualify the area from home delivery.

Civic-minded citizens like Mrs. Bridget Hernandez, 33531 2nd Street, Decoto, showed Postmaster Mary George, and her assistant, John Monohan, that she had fulfilled one of the requirements for home mail delivery by changing her house number. Local resident have until February 25, 1958 to make the change, part of a countrywide program for a uniform street name and numbering plan.

Soon to be gone from the post office were about 750 of the 820 postal boxes. But Mrs. Vivian Peixotto, clerk at the post office, will still have some sorting to do when the home mail delivery goes into effect.

The cost of writing letters went up 33 per cent in August 1958. The Decoto Post Office is ready with the new stamp denominations. Starting Friday you will have to put a 4-cent stamp on first class letters that now cost 3-cents.

The year 1958 was the year in which house to house mail delivery began in Decoto and Postman Joseph Vardasco had the dog bite scars to prove it.

PTA'S OF DECOTO SCHOOLS:

Decoto School's / Decoto Elementary School PTA / Barnard Elementary School PTA / Hillview Crest Elementary School PTA / El Rancho Verde PTA

PTA at Decades Start:

Decoto started out this decade with one school, the venerable Decoto Grammar School. By the end of the decade there were six elementary schools Decoto, Barnard, Hillview Crest, El Rancho Verde, H. C. Searles, and Manuel White. Each would have its own PTA and four of the six-reported activity during the decade.

Sometimes several of the schools PTA's would get together for a multi-school meetings or events. Here are such examples.

Mrs. Frances Finley, health chairman for the Decoto P-TA has announced that she and her committee have weighed, measured and checked the vision of all school children in Decoto Elementary School and Barnard School during the month of December 1951.

Serving on her committee were:

Mrs. Mildred Maderos
Mrs. Elvie Cordoza
Mrs. Florence Wallace

Mrs. Isabel Escalona
Mrs. Betty Margarido
Mrs. Eula Hicks

Mrs. John Navas
Mrs. Bernie Joseph

Mrs. Finley also oversees a well-baby clinic, which is open each Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. assisting her in this project are:

Mrs. Stella Cambra	Mrs. Irma Andrade	Mrs. Mary Cardoza
Mrs. Hazel Costa	Mrs. Betty Margarido	Mrs. Isabel Escalona
Mrs. Marcella Rodrigues.		

The Halloween Carnival was planned by Decoto School District and the PTA's of Decoto, Barnard and Hillview Crest in October 1952. Spearheading the committee was Mrs. Elvie R. Cardoza, President of the Decoto PTA, Mrs. Arnold D. Thomas, President of Barnard and Hillview Crest PTA's and Alfred Pinard, Chairman of the Recreation Department of the Decoto School system.

A real extravaganza of events was given in November 1953 with the Decoto, Barnard and Hillview Crest PTA's and teachers conspired to entertain the children with a full schedule of activities. First on the agenda was the primary costume parade at Decoto School in which 35 children paraded before judges and parents:

At 1 p.m. almost 200 children from the 4th, 5th and 6th grades jammed Barnard School for an afternoon of games and contests.

At 7 p.m. the P-TA booths and concessions at Decoto and Hillview Schools opened to the general public with candy and a variety of prizes given away.

At 9 p.m. teen-age dances at the two schools started, with the 7th & 8th graders from Barnard School and their friends and parents in attendance.

In total over 3,000 children and parents took part in the day's events, with over 900 prizes of different types and sizes given out.

P-TA and teacher chairmen for the events released by P-TA presidents, Mr. Ramona Fine of Decoto, Mrs. Edna Hicks of Barnard and Mrs. Louise McCord of Hillview Crest were as follows:

Decoto School:

Darts & Balloons	Vivian Peixotto	Mr. & Mrs. Z. Boughn
Fish Pond	Betty Margarido	
Popcorn	Ramona Fine	
Hot Dogs	Lola Knobles	Evelyn Joseph
Tire & Football	Ben Riffel	Refugio Cabello
Grab Bag	Hazel Costa	Amelia Vargas
Movies	Neal Kauffman	
Fortune Telling	Vivienne Dunn	Mary Cardoza
	Florence Wallace	Renee Stiarwalt
Tickets	Hester Thomas	Margaret Robinson
	Ardis Edwards	
Dance	John Dewey	

Hillview Crest School:

Darts & Balloons	Mr. and Mrs. Dexter	
Fish Pond	Mr. and Mrs. Fay Fletcher	
Popcorn	Mr. and Mrs. Elson	Mr. & Mrs. Malone
Hot Dogs	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Houle	
Grab Bag	Mrs. Dorothy Scott	Mr. & Mrs. Mansfield

Tire & Football	Mrs. Shirley Ramos Mrs. Cov Mrs. Dodd	Mr. & Mrs. Mellbloom Mrs. Zablonki Mrs. Raskauska
Movies	Mr. and Mrs. Betts	Mr. McIntire
Supervisors	Mr. Robert Infelise	Boyd Morningstar
Tickets	Mr. and Mrs. Schaaf	Mr. Vassallo

Barnard School:

Supervisors	John Dewey Elliott Betts	Ben Riffel
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Decoto School P-TA:

P-TA installation ceremonies took place on May 10, 1950. Officers installed were:

President:	Mrs. Elmer Peixotto	
Vice President:	Lewis Musick	
2 nd Vice President:	Mrs. Gus Abrue	
Secretary:	Mrs. Charles O'Malia	
Auditor:	Mrs. T. Costa	
Historian:	F. Margarido	
Delegates:	Mrs. E. O. Cardoza	Mrs. J. H. Caldeira.

Certificates were presented to the following persons in September 1950 for having completed the health-training course:

Mrs. Tony Costa	Mrs. Florence Wallace	Mrs. Joe Caldeira
Mrs. Mary Lucero	Mrs. L. J. Fine	Mr. B. R. Joseph
Mrs. Frank Margarido	Mrs. Elvie Cordoza	Mrs. Chris Guerra
Mrs. Elmer Peixotto		

In April 1952 new officers were installed. They were:

President:	Mrs. Mary Cardoza	
1 st Vice President:	Florence Wallace	
2 nd Vice President:	J. W. Perry	
Secretary:	Betty Margarido	
Treasurer:	Grace Caminada	
Historian:	Mrs. Netha Martin	
Auditor:	Vivian Peixotto	
Parliamentarian:	Mrs. John Navas	
Delegates:	Mrs. A. Costa	Mrs. B. R. Joseph
Alt. Delegates:	Mrs. G Gonzalez	Mrs. Frank Mateo

New officers were installed at the May 1953 meeting of the Decoto P-TA. Those seated were:

President:	Mrs. L. J. Fine	
1st Vice President:	Mrs. John Navas	
2nd Vice President:	Mr. Robert Infelise	
Secretary:	Mrs. Vivienne Dunn	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Bernie Joseph	
Auditor:	Mrs. Rinaldo Caminada	
Historian:	Mrs. Constance Amaral	
Parliamentarian:	Mrs. Elvie Cordoza	
Delegates:	Mrs. Florence Wallace	Mrs. Gallo Gonzales

Alternates: Mrs. Alphonso Rodriguez Mrs. Frank Mateo

"Get acquainted" was the theme of the first fall meeting of the Decoto P-TA held in September 1954. The PTA officers were introduced to the teachers. Committee chairmen introduced by Mrs. L. J. Fine, president of the P-TA were:

Program Committee: Mrs. John Navas
Hospitality: Mrs. Alwyn Searles
Health: Mrs. Florence Wallace
Publicity: Mrs. Frank Margarido
Magazines & Emblems: Mrs. Elmer Peixoto
Room Mother Rep: Mrs. Joseph Vargas
Budget & Finance: Mrs. Anthony Knobles
Life Membership: Mrs. J. V. "Tillie" Goold
Membership: Mrs. Elvie Cordoza
Founder's Day: Mrs. Louis Pagan
Recreation: Mrs. Neal Kauffman

Chosen for the '54 to '55 in slate of officers of the Decoto School PTA were:

President: Mrs. Joseph Nieto
1st Vice President: Mrs. Manuel Seoane
2nd Vice President: Mr. Kenneth Crump
Secretary: Mrs. Bernie Joseph
Treasurer: Mrs. Constance Amaral
Auditor: Mrs. Peter Rodrigues
Historian: Mrs. Vivienne Dunn
Delegates: Mrs. Charles Finley Mrs. Gallo Gonzales
Alternates: Mrs. John Neves Mrs. Joseph Vargas

Two new committees were created at June 1954 meeting of the Decoto P-TA. The committees, for which Mrs. Joseph Nieto is seeking volunteer chairmen and members, are school education and welfare.

Committee member appointments were announced as follows:

Program: Joseph Monte de Rey Miss Phyllis Hale
Membership: Mrs. Leslie Madeiros
Publicity: Mrs. Rinaldo Caminada
Founder's Day: Mrs. Elmer Peixotto
Room Mothers Rep.: Mrs. Joseph Seoane
Budget & Finance: Mrs. Manuel Garcia
Magazines & Emblems: Mrs. Vernon Goold
Flowers & Invitations: Mrs. Alwyn Searles
Hospitality: Mrs. Kenneth Garcia Mrs. John Navas
Recreation: Mr. Neal Kauffman
Life Membership: Mrs. Mateo
Health: Mrs. Florence Wallace
Baby Clinic: Mrs. Hazel Costa
Ways & Means: Mrs. Alfonso Rodrigues

A Costa steps in and a Costa steps out when the Decoto P-TA installs new officers at the May 11, 1955 Decoto School PTA meeting. Those who took office were:

President: Mrs. A.L. Costa
1st Vice President: Mrs. Joseph Andrade
2nd Vice President: Mr. Kenneth Crump

Secretary:	Mrs. Bernie Joseph	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Constance Amaral	
Historian:	Mrs. Vivienne Dunn	
Auditor:	Mr. Neal Kauffman	
Delegates:	Mrs. Florence Wallace	Mrs. Joseph Vargas
Alternate:	Mrs. Charles Finley	
Parliamentarian:	Mrs. Hazel Costa (Past President)	

Names of standing committee chairmen for the Decoto P-TA were announced in September 1955.

Membership:	Mrs. Antone Costa
Program:	Mr. Joseph Monte de Rey
Founder's Day;	Mrs. Elmer Peixotto
Room Representatives:	Mrs. Charles Finley
Hospitality:	Mrs. Joseph Vargas
Magazine & Emblem:	Mrs. J. V. Gould
Flowers:	Mrs. A. Searles
Recreation:	Mr. Neal Kauffman
Health:	Mrs. Florence Wallace
Baby Clinic:	Mrs. A.L. Costa
Publicity:	Mrs. Grace Caminada
Welfare:	Mrs. Moureader
Sunshine & Health:	Mrs. George Dulas
Hearing Tests:	Miss Teresa Walters

The Decoto P-TA elected new officers for the coming term in April 1956. They are:

President:	Mrs. Robert McClenathan	
Vice President:	Mrs. Eugene Davidson	
2nd Vice President:	Mr. Kenneth Crump	
Secretary:	Mrs. Harry Vasquez	
Treasurer:	Mr. Refugio Cabello	
Historian:	Mrs. Florence Wallace	
Parliamentarian:	Mrs. Antone Costa	
Delegates:	Mrs. Vivian Mowreader	Mrs. Bernie Joseph
Alternate:	Mrs. John Swartz	

The new officers nominated in March 1957 were:

President:	Mrs. Dorothy Davidson	
1st Vice President:	Mrs. Fay McClenathan	
2nd Vice President:	Mr. Kenneth Crump	
Secretary:	Mrs. Harry Vasquez	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Blanche Kuykendall	
Historian:	Mrs. Florence Wallace	
Auditor:	Refugio Cabello	
Delegates:	Mrs. Lucy Cooper	Mrs. Evelyn Joseph

The Decoto School P-TA met in September 1958 to fill existing committee vacancies. According to Mrs. Manuel Boliva, president, the following people were recommended to fill existing vacancies.

Vice President:	Mrs. John Navas
Secretary:	Mrs. Byron Flanders
Magazine Chairman:	Mrs. Vernon Goid
Clothing Chairman:	Mrs. John Cease
Alternate Delegate:	Mrs. Jean Delgado

Other persons active in the Decoto School PTA this decade were:

Alphonse Rodrigues	Margaret Williams	Jack Navarro
Rosemarie Gonzales	Mrs. Gallo Gonzales	Jerry Delgado
Mrs. Manuel Seoane	Mrs. Joseph Andrade	Mrs. Manuel Garcia
Mrs. Lorraine Davis	Mrs. Theresa Walters	Mrs. Ruth Lee
Mrs. Constance Amaral	Mrs. Robert McClenathan	Mrs. Lucy Cooper
Robert McClenathan	Mrs. Melba Thrasher	

Barnard School PTA:

Officers elected for the new term at the March 1953 for Barnard School:

President:	Mrs. J. E. Hicks	
1 st Vice-Pres:	Mrs. L. J. Fine	
2 nd Vice-Pres:	Mrs. Kenneth Crump	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Alphonse Rodrigues	
Secretary:	Mrs. J. W. Stiarwalt	
Auditor:	Mrs. Neal Kaufman	
Historian:	Mrs. Florence Wallace	
Delegates:	Mr. J. W. Curry	Mrs. R. W. Newham
Alternate Delegate:	Mrs. Vern Williams	

Mrs. James Hicks presided at the Barnard P-TA where new officers elected for the 1954-55 term. Officers elected were:

President:	Mrs. Albert Webb	
Vice President:	Mrs. Anthony Lucero	
Secretary:	Mrs. Harriet Robertson	
Treasurer:	Mrs. George Harkleroad	
Historian:	Mrs. Arnold Thomas	
Delegates:	Mrs. Verne Williams	Mrs. Al Rodrigues
Alternate:	Mrs. George Moffat	

New officers installed at the Barnard School P-TA on May 18, 1955 were:

President:	Mrs. Harold Strauel	
1st Vice President:	Mrs. Vern Williams	
2nd Vice President:	Mr. Boyd Morningstar	
Secretary:	Mrs. James Turner	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Mary Webb	
Auditor:	Mr. Edward Heffner	
Historian:	Mrs. Alfonso Rodrigues	
Delegates:	Mrs. Christine Schafer	Mrs. George Moffat
Alternate:	Mrs. John Young	

New officers installed at the Barnard School P-TA in May 1956 were:

President:	Mrs. John Miller
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1st Vice President:	Mrs. Lorenzo Guzman	
2nd Vice President:	Mr. S. Robert Infelise	
Secretary:	Mrs. George Reynolds	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Frank Tomzak	
Historian:	Mrs. Shirley Powell	
Auditor:	Mr. George Perazzo	
Delegates:	Mrs. Albert Webb	Mrs. James Turner
Alternate:	Mrs. George Harkleroad	

New officers to be installed for 1958 were:

President:	Mrs. Maurice Conger	
1 st Vice President:	Mrs. William Wilson	
Secretary:	George Silva	
Treasurer:	Stanley Kopacz	
Auditor:	George E. Reynolds	
Historian:	Raymond Miller	
Delegates:	Harry Wilson	Frank Sanchez
Alternate:	Janette Stellman	
Honorary Vice President:	Reggie Minnette	

Other persons active in the Barnard School PTA this decade were:

Mrs. Harold Strauel	Harold Strauel	Mrs. Albert Webb
Byron Simpson	Mrs. Orville Gilman	Mrs. Ken Lemon
Mrs. Roy Frandsen	Mrs. Ross Lynch	Mrs. John Miller
Mrs. Baxter Holben	Mrs. George McMahon	Mrs. Maurice Conger
Mrs. Richard Walker	Louis Ambrosi	Chris Carabello
Mrs. William Wilson	Mrs. O. J. Gilman Jr.	

Hillview Crest PTA:

Assuming official duties as officers of the Hillview Crest P-TA at the June 1954 meeting were:

President:	Mrs. George Reynolds
1st Vice President:	Mrs. Maryjane Larson
2nd Vice President:	Mr. S. Robert Infelise
Secretary:	Mrs. Eddie Turner
Treasurer:	Mrs. Kenneth Christensen
Auditor:	Mrs. George Moffat
Delegate:	Mrs. Lucille Barbee
Alternate:	Mrs. Carl Hagen
Past President:	Mrs. Elmer McCord

A nickel a spoon dinner for the benefit of the Cub Scouts will be held by the Hillview Crest P-TA at the Hillview Crest School on November 13, 1956. Mrs. Robert Houle, president, and her board served the spaghetti and chicken noodle menu, which will be prepared by a committee headed by Mr. W. M. Spears. Others that assisted were:

Mrs. Frank Nichols	Mrs. Earl Sherff	Mrs. W. E. Rudd
Mrs. Ray H. Aro	Mrs. R. T. Sullivan	Mrs. Lee Cox
Mrs. Manuel Carolo	Mrs. John DeClercq	

El Rancho Verde P-TA:

El Rancho Verde P-TA members will hear a discussion of the program for blind students in the Decoto School system when they meet on in October 1957. Leading the program topic will be the instructor for that phase of the curriculum, Robert Rottman. He will demonstrate the Braille system now in use in instructing children in the special class. Mrs. William F. Spears, president, will officiate and will be assisted by Mrs. William E. Strain, vice president in charge of the evening's program, and Mrs. Don Doody, hospitality chairman.

RUBY SOCIAL CLUB:

The newly formed Ruby Social Club of Decoto (May 1956) elected the following officers:

President:	Miss Blanche Cardenas
Vice President:	Miss Mary Zamora
Secretary:	Miss Lydia Alvarez
Treasurer:	Miss Esther Baca

The club, which now has 36 members, meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at 915 9th Street, Decoto. Unmarried women and girls over 16 years of age may join.

SANITARY DISTRICT:

Early on in 1950 Decoto realized that its rapid growth required a Sanitary District that could handle the increased volume created by a massive influx of people that Decoto saw coming. Hillview Crest (Tareyton Village) was already a going concern at this time and El Rancho Verde and Fairway Parks were ready to join in the Decoto boom.

As early as June 1950 an idea of looking to the future needs of sewage in Decoto was stressed by Ed Paniagua about the new subdivisions coming into the area. Ed thought that if there will be 600 homes built nearby, the need of a large sewage plant might well join in with the established Decoto Sanitary District, of which he was the superintendent. Bernie Joseph thought that the Supervisors should be contacted to see if they could help with the matter. A letter was sent to the Supervisors as well as the Planning Commission asking for help.

The early concepts of sewage for Decoto were made by an Engineer for the State Board of Sanitation that the Union Sanitary Board and Decoto areas would have to carry its effluent to the Bay. Decoto presently had land upon which it dumps its effluent. They noted if the effluent was taken down Jarvis Road, the land presently used could be sold and used to pay its share of the cost. They noted that the land should be worth more for building than for sewage disposal.

In September 1953 the Decoto and Union Sanitary districts discussed a merger that could be effected through petitioning 55 percent of the landowners of both districts. If the merger should be effected, Decoto would continue its responsibility for its own outstanding bonds, an estimated \$24,000, and would also have to assume its share of Union District's outstanding bonds. In addition it would be necessary for Decoto to have a supply line from its treatment plant on Alvarado Niles Road to the Union District's line west of Alameda Creek and pay part of the costs for a new outfall line through the Alviso area.

Six months later the consolidation of the Decoto and Union Sanitary Districts considered for more than a year appeared probable. The Sanitary Board would meet in April 1954 to arrange for presenting the proposal to the property owners. No public opposition had been expressed to the merger. The Union Sanitary District now comprises Centerville, Newark, and Niles. The combined districts would cover nearly 12,000 acres with an assessed valuation of \$14,500,000. The Decoto District serves about 600 acres and has an assessed valuation of \$1,250,000.

Since the boundaries of the two districts are contiguous, there would be no cost for the hookup, except that Decoto would pay for the increased size of the main through the recently annexed Alviso area to the Union District's lines. Sale of the Decoto District's 15-acre disposal plant on the Niles-Alvarado road would practically offset this cost. Decoto would pay its share of the district's operating costs plus a diminishing tax for bonds voted two years ago to enlarge the Union disposal plant at Newark. The Alviso area, annexed to the Union Sanitary District in February 1954 by a vote of 136 to 14, is to pay for its own lines through a \$200,000 bond issue to be submitted to the voters April 17th. If the voters approve the consolidation, a combined board of 10 commissioners would serve until September when a five-man board would be elected.

Also at this time Decoto looked into mandatory garbage collection in their area. Dick Lucia, Washington Township Garbage Company of San Leandro submitted an offer in May 1954 to the directors of the Decoto Home Owners Association that there would be a monthly fee to the homeowner for garbage collection plus on stated days, to haul the debris of area clean up campaigns. Lucia's proposal was for a 75-percent fee for garbage collection and offered to return a percentage of the collections for community use, possibly a district recreation program. Members then voted to invite Albert Gambia of the East Bay Garbage Company to attend a special meeting and ask him to submit an alternate offer, if interested.

The property owners of Decoto approved the annexation of the Decoto Sanitary District to the Union Sanitary District. Al Ferreira, Secretary of the Decoto Sanitary District, said that "almost 100 percent" of Decoto's residents were willing to sign the petition for annexation. There was no public opposition. Decoto residents had been told that the annexation was desirable for reasons of economy. The merging of the two districts will permit an expansion of service to the Hillview Crest and Treeview tracts, and will make it unnecessary to enlarge the present treatment plant.

On August 8, 1955, Engineer Harry Goodridge was directed by board members of the Union Sanitary District to prepare exterior boundaries for the North Decoto annex to the district. To be known as Annex 11, the area included the entire Decoto area northwest of present district boundaries, and then reached almost to the Hayward city limits. It would make possible the development of several new subdivisions in the Decoto area.

Meanwhile in June 1956 the sanitary district approved a ten-year contract for Alvarado and Decoto with the East Bay Garbage Company. The firm will turn over 10 percent of its receipts to the sanitary district.

The Decoto sewer project was approved July 31, 1956, by the Union Sanitary Board of Directors after a public hearing brought only one written and one oral protest over the Decoto annex. Improvements in the Decoto annex were protested in a letter from the Western Pacific Railroad. The railroad said the proposed sewer line would

cut across land owned by the company on the north side of Whipple Road between Western Pacific and Southern Pacific tracks. The railroad claimed the property had been purchased for industrial development and crossing it with a sewer line would cause considerable depreciation. Directors of the sanitary district overruled the protest and stipulated the lines crossing the railroad property be encased in cement to permit building industrial installation on top of the sewer.

In January 1958 it was found that consolidation of the Alvarado and Union Sanitary Districts would be "entirely feasible." Because of economy of scale and lack of duplicate facilities, the consolidation would save \$120,000 over the \$7,200,000 expansion of both districts alone.

Union Sanitary District voters overwhelmingly supported a \$6 million sewer bond issue in a special election on June 24, 1958. Although only 18 percent of registered voters turned out, the margin was 2,968-696 in favor of the bond issue to finance sewer line and treatment plant expansion for the next twenty years. Only Alviso District and Warm Springs District voted against the bonds. Planned were main line sewers throughout Fremont, Newark and Decoto and eventually into the unincorporated area of Alvarado, presently outside the district. Treatment plants at Irvington and Newark would be improved and a new plant would be built in Alvarado to handle sewage from the Niles-Decoto area.

In September 1958 a survey was conducted and found that only five per cent of the pollution problem in the southern end of San Francisco Bay was caused by south county sewer wastes. That might not make that foul smell, which fills the air these hot summer nights any easier to take, but at least residents will be able to know where to place the blame.

About 95 per cent of the sewage, which causes the gas that creates this unpleasant odor of rotten eggs, comes from Sunnyvale and San Jose. This was pointed out in a regional water pollution control board study of pollution in the Bay south of Dumbarton Bridge had just been made public. The survey revealed that Sunnyvale and San Jose were the main contributors while Union Sanitary District, which serves Fremont, Newark, and unincorporated parts of Washington Township have only one problem area. That is USD's Irvington treatment plant. At present the sewage being dumped into the Bay from this plant account for the other five per cent of the smell because it is hardly treated at all.

But steps are already underway to solve this problem. Voters last spring approved a \$6 million expansion bond issue to take care of future needs in the fast growing district. A Palo Alto engineering firm had already started designing an \$800,000 sewage treatment facility at the Irvington plant. This would be completed in the spring and solve the district's part of the pollution problem for several years to come.

In all, \$2.7 million of the total bond issue was earmarked for sewer treatment facilities. This will spent on further improvement of the Irvington plant, added capacity in the Newark plant, and a whole new plant in Alvarado to take care of sewage from the Niles-Decoto and eventually Alvarado.

But the main problem of pollution in the Southern Bay waters was still not be affected by these improvements. They merely indicate that the Alameda County district would do its share to insure the Bay is kept clear. Until Sunnyvale and San Jose plants were overhauled, the south Bay will remain useless for such things as

fishing, recreational swimming, and boating, the pollution board reported. The familiar rotten egg smell caused by hydrogen sulfide will continue to offend the sense of Southern Alameda County residents as well as their neighbors across the Bay, which causes the problem.

Persons who served on the Decoto Sanitary Board during the 50's were:

Al Ferreira	George Smith	Clarence Frates
Fred Sanchez	Manuel White	Bernie Joseph

Five directors were named in an election Sept. 17, 1956 for the Union Sanitary District Board of Directors. They were:

Bernie Joseph	Decoto
S. G. Scott	Newark
Manuel Bernardo	Centerville
George Coit	Centerville
William Rose	Irvington

SEWING CIRCLE:

Members reported to have participated in meetings and events during the decade were:

Josephine Bernard	Lillian Janeiro	Florence Wallace	Linda Cunha
Zelma Oliver	Francis Avilla	Harry Vasquez	Sally Muniz
Grace Caminada	Pat Grandstaff	Agnes Gonzalez	Anita Dennis
Dennis Gonzalez	Isabel Masters	Antoinette Vasquez	Mary Re
Bruce Vasquez	Emma Cella	Mrs. Louise McCord	

SIDE WALKS:

When the 50's dawned among the things that Decoto wished for (there were many) were sidewalks and home mail delivery. In 1950 Decotan's had to go to the Post Office and get their mail from their Post Office box number. Not everyone could afford the rental of a P.O. Box so there was also a General Delivery window where patrons could call for their mail.

Sidewalks for Decoto town residences had been an on again off again topics for many years. The need for sidewalks in Decoto was first mentioned at a Chamber of Commerce meeting held in April 1915. The need of sidewalks was the topic that was discussed, and it was mentioned by the newspaper reporting on the meeting that, "no doubt the Chamber will build them out of its own funds, at least on Main Street, and perhaps on Fifth Avenue."

It would appear that every decade past 1915 the topic of sidewalks for Decoto would be raised and then dropped when it came time to pay the cost of constructing them.

But in May 1952 the Decoto Chamber of Commerce again took this problem up in earnest. Discussions began with private financing and the formation of a special tax district as a possible means of constructing sidewalks. By August 1952 some 100-property owners had already signed an agreement stating they would be willing to pay for walks along their frontage. It was stated that if 51 percent of the property

owners on one block signed up to install sidewalks then the remainder of the residents on that block should be forced to conform.

At this time the Decoto tax rate was \$3 per \$100 assessed valuation and with the addition of a sidewalk tax district that amount would be upped to *only* \$4. Manuel pointed out that the county had promised to pave all streets from curb to curb if the property owners would provide for walks and curbing.

In November 1952 the Decoto Citizen's Organization was formed to promote the signing of a sidewalk petition by Decoto homeowners. The signatures that were originally solicited during the summer got the program off to a good start.

A year later procedures for setting up a sidewalk tax district for Decoto was outlined at a Decoto Chamber of Commerce Meeting by F. E. Bryan, civil engineer. Bryan, associated with the Berkeley firm of Bryan and Murphy, addressed the public meeting at the invitation of Manuel Hidalgo, chamber president. In reply to a spectator's question of "why can't we be told exactly what sidewalks will cost us?" Bryan said the first step after a petition for sidewalks has been received by the Board of Supervisor would be for the district engineers to make a preliminary survey of cost. Bryan noted that, by law, the engineer's estimate would have to come within 10 percent of the actual cost of the completed project. The estimate is then presented to each property owner, along with notification of a hearing date in the supervisor's chambers.

If the supervisor's act favorably, Bryan said, the final drawings are made and the contract is awarded to the lowest bidder. The supervisors must also approve the contract, giving any protesters another opportunity to be heard, Bryan pointed out. Reiterating that no exact figure could be arrived at without a careful survey, Bryan estimated that sidewalks, curbs, and gutters for Decoto would cost \$4 per running foot. The debt, he said, could be paid off in cash or added to taxes, payable at 6 percent interest, for a period of ten years.

With their hands figuratively clutching their wallets, a small but vociferous group ended the decorum of a Chamber of Commerce sponsored mass meeting on September 1, 1953. By the time it was over half of the 60 persons present left out of boredom or in anger.

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

R. L. de Cordoba, of the Chamber, reported that the proposed sidewalk district would involve that part of Decoto, which lies east of the Southern Pacific railroad track (towards the foothills). Such a division had been decided upon by the committee when petitions circulated showed that 73 percent of the people living in that area were in favor of sidewalks, while only 15 percent living west of the tracks favored such a move.

Joe Seaone objected to splitting the town, while several spectators agreed that it "wasn't democratic." Said Lester Madera, such a move would create "an old town, and a new town, with the old town drinking the new town's water."

Al Ferreira questioned the cost of such a project, pointing out that sidewalks would create a greater need for flood control. Taxes for sidewalks, plus taxes for flood control, he noted, would create a burden for a great number of people.

Hidalgo assured Ferreira that the move for sidewalks was still in the petitioning stage, and that any such project would offer several opportunities to protest to the board of supervisors. Hidalgo was backed by Bryan, who noted that any such project would offer several opportunities to protest to the board of supervisors.

As comments grew more heated, Dr. Harold Schoenfeld made a motion that the chamber endorse the activities of the sidewalk committee and ask it to continue its studies for another month.

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

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

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

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

The walkout continued.

By the time a vote was taken on Schoenfeld's motion only about 25 people remained in the auditorium. The vote was favorable. The sidewalk study would continue.

At a committee meeting on September 6, 1953 a new petition was planned. The petition, which had been circulated, included sidewalks for only the homes living east of the SP railroad tracks. When this was mentioned in the committee's report favoring sidewalks for part of the town, spectators at the meeting protested the division as unfair. Robert Hendrick moved to add three more members to the present 10-man committee and circulate a new petition for sidewalks to cover the whole town, including west of the tracks.

Jim Swartz asked that Bernie Joseph serve on the committee and that Joseph choose two more men. Joseph is one of those who lives on the west side and is interested in obtaining sidewalks for that side of town. The other two men would also come from the west side of Decoto.

In July 1954, Decoto finally got an estimate for curb, gutter, and sidewalk installation. The estimate for Decoto property owners was \$6 to \$7 per front foot according to an engineer's estimate.

Sidewalks for Decoto have never had the backing or approval of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce, angry members asserted at an August 3, 1954 meeting. At the insistence of members, minutes were searched for the past two years in an effort to find a motion of approval of a sidewalk plan. Minutes of a meeting of last fall apparently indicate that chamber approval was given, it was discovered, but members charged that the records are incorrect. Members insisted that Manuel Hidalgo, chairman of the sidewalk committee and last year's chamber president, introduced the motion almost a year ago, and asked for chamber approval. That approval was withheld, they said.

Charge followed charge on the sidewalk issue. Phil Hernandez, Decoto property owner, and Jack Faletti led the discussion. They hit at what they termed "secret" meetings of the sidewalk committee. They said reports on committee action never were fully presented to the Chamber of Commerce, and that the petition asking for sidewalks for Decoto was presented by the Chamber of Commerce for general membership approval.

Hidalgo's committee was authorized to seek a survey on the sidewalk question, members granted, but they denied that the authorization to a circulation of petitions had not actually been presented.

County records show that at one period, a letter signed by seven committee members, some of whom are not even Decoto taxpayers, it was charged, urged the supervisors to take immediate action on the question of sidewalks for Decoto. The letter purported to represent public opinion in Decoto.

Ever spiraling costs of the project were the principal bases for last night's objections. At first announced to be \$2 a front foot, estimates later rose to \$5, then to \$7, and now are fixed at \$8 and may go higher. Rather than a total cost of \$200, as first estimated, price of the project for the average homeowner now exceeds \$350.

Discussion ended with the passage of a motion directing the secretary to write the board of supervisors advising them that the Decoto Chamber of Commerce never had endorsed petitions for sidewalks, nor had the organization ever endorsed any specific plan for sidewalks.

Even the anonymous citizen entered the picture with a letter to the Editor of *The Oakland Tribune* on August 11, 1954:

"Letter to the Editor of the *Oakland Tribune*:

In view of the pros and cons of the sidewalk situation in Decoto, I wish to express my opinion.

Why is it that in most communities the people are always striving to better themselves and frequently do so through their Chambers of Commerce? This organization, made up of local merchants, will and does go out of its way to make its community a better place in which to live.

Our (Decoto) present chamber of commerce consists of a few property owners who for selfish reasons refuse to let our town develop with the rest of Alameda County. I, as a private citizen, feel we should have businessmen in our Chamber of Commerce like other communities because they believe in progress for the community as a whole.

Are we always to walk in mud puddles because of a few?
---FED UP
In Decoto"

This letter to the Editor of the *Oakland Tribune* was answered just three days later by another anonymous citizen:

"Letter to the Editor of the *Oakland Tribune*:

This is in reply to "Fed Up" (August 11th) who is afraid of a few mud puddles.

Our present chamber of commerce is headed by a few average wage earners who realize how much sidewalks are going to cost the poor people of this town. When merchants head your chamber they start biting off more than they can chew. This is an old established town with a lot of poor old people. Let's do some cleaning up instead of sidewalks in front of run down two room shacks.

Do you realize how much sidewalks are going to cost the property owners? In addition to installation, there are still surveyors, attorneys, and interest.

---FED UP TOO
In Decoto"

But progress continued to move forward, this time by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors who proceeded with the plan to call a public hearing on the proposed Decoto sidewalk assessment district and a special election, if it seems warranted, despite objections from the Decoto Chamber of Commerce.

The Supervisors received a letter from the Decoto Chamber of Commerce alleging that:

1. The Chamber voted against endorsement of the sidewalk installation plan August 3rd.
2. The majority of Decoto taxpayers do not approve of the assessment district, according to a recent survey.
3. A committee appointed by the Chamber in 1952 to study, investigate, and report on the possibility of improving Decoto's appearance by installing sidewalks and street curbs exceeded its authority. The committee failed to report its findings to the Chamber of Commerce and initiated action for the sidewalk district without the Chamber's endorsement.

Board Chairman Chester Stanley ruled that the board was "in order" last December when it ordered a topographical survey of the Decoto area proposed for improvement with sidewalks, curbs, and gutters. It took this action, he pointed out, in response to petitions signed by more than 50 per cent of the voters in the area who asked for establishment of a sidewalk district.

An estimated 100 homeowners, attending a special meeting of the Decoto Homeowners Improvement Association unanimously approved establishment of a sidewalk district. At the same time they disapproved inclusion with boundaries of a proposed Washington Township Recreation District.

The Board of Supervisors put off until Thursday, November 4, 1954, a decision on instituting proceedings for a Decoto sidewalk district after hearing heated arguments at its last meeting.

A crowd of 110 persons packed the supervisors' chambers for October 28, 1954 advertised public hearing. The factions sat on opposite sides of the room and the proponents appeared to have the edge in numbers. Board Chairman Chester E. Stanley limited the two groups to one speaker each in a prearranged board plan to avoid fireworks.

Eugene Rhodes, attorney for the protesters, reminded the board that if 51 percent of the property owners protested in writing, they should be heeded, unless overruled by a four-fifths of the board. He claimed that his petition contained "in excess of 60 per cent" of owners "by area and frontage."

Rhodes insisted his clients are "not reactionaries against progress" but are motivated "primarily because of finances." He cited the low value of property in the area, which would "make the burden of taxes oppressive and overwhelming" on his people. He concluded that these holders "can't afford" the load.

These remarks brought outcries from the proponents, who were represented by Manuel Hidalgo, an officer of the Decoto Home Owners Improvement Association.

Hidalgo called sidewalks "the need of the people." He declared they would improve the value of homes, provide health, and safety for residents, particularly children forced to walk in the middle of the road in the winter because "of mud and slush."

Hidalgo declared that some of the opponents present were from outside of the proposed district and cited letters to the board from proponents unable to be present. He urged that the supervisors put the job out to bid, "so that everyone will know the actual cost" of assessments per lot.

Two letters read stated the opposition forces had contended these particular owners would be required to pay \$700 and \$1,000. The writers asked that their names be withdrawn from protestant petitions. Stanley said the board would have to consider that signatures were gathered according to law "regardless of how they were secured."

Assistant District Attorney Douglas Dunning said that it was "sound procedure" to submit the petitions to Attorney Eugene K. Sturgis, a specialist in this field retained by the county, to check the validity of the petition signers. Attorney Rhodes asked representation with them in the checking method. "If any names are found to be insufficient, they should be returned to the group with the reason why they insufficient," Rhodes said.

Stanley and Dunning wouldn't agree with this method. Dunning was confident Sturgis, who has appeared several times before Decoto groups on the proposal,

would render "a fair and unbiased opinion." Sturgis agreed and said that his findings would be public records, a copy of which he is willing to send to Rhodes.

Two weeks later the Board of Supervisors were still feeling uneasy about calling for an official vote on the Decoto sidewalk issue. Instead they opted to mail out ballots to registered owners of property in Decoto to decide the issue. Manuel Hidalgo of the Decoto Home Owners Association was warned by Supervisor Chester Stanley "if you force a vote today we'd vote it down."

The Board of Supervisors finally acceded to a special election in Decoto, the first of its kind, which would probably determine whether a sidewalk assessment district would be formed there. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors ordered the special election to be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. December 11th at Barnard School. Each property owner within the proposed Decoto district will receive one vote for each lot, which he owns. The supervisors excluded from the districts property fronting on Highway 9 (today's Mission Boulevard).

The supervisors said the vote would not be binding, but would be a guide on which to make a decision at 10 a.m. December 16, 1954 when the formal sidewalk hearing will be continued.

On December 9th the Trustees of the Decoto Elementary School District approved a resolution to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors asking that Decoto school property be excluded from a proposed Decoto sidewalk district. Trustees explained that their action did not mean opposition to the proposed district, but was dictated by financing problems only.

On December 13, 1954 the results of the "special election" by the property owners in Decoto was announced. The measure went down to defeat by a count of 345 No to 275 Yes. Approximately 80 per cent of the estimated 750-800 eligible ballots were cast. The vote was not binding.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted to abandon the creation of a Decoto sidewalk district on the morning of December 16, 1954. The action, by a 3-0 vote, followed an unofficial "opinion election" held in Decoto. Supervisors said the action did not mean the proposal for a sidewalk district could not be reopened in the future.

Another crushing defeat was handed to Decoto in June 1955 when Postmistress Miss Mary Janeiro stated that sidewalks are a must prior to the onset of door-to-door delivery of mail in Decoto. She said she had conducted several surveys, and finally had been informed by Post Office officials that further surveys were useless until sidewalks were constructed.

In October 1957 the gauntlet was again picked up with the announcement that home mail delivery could be only \$15 away. This was the estimated cost of putting in a four-foot gravel or red rock sidewalk in front of a home on a 50-foot wide lot.

Three organizations spearheading a drive noted the sidewalks would pay for themselves within five years since most residents are paying 90 cents quarterly for boxes at the post office. This does not include savings in gas and time spent going to the post office they say. The Union City Chamber of Commerce, the Decoto Merchants Association, and the Decoto Home Owners Association were going to make a survey to determine areas without sidewalks or with walks, which are in

need of repair. A report would be made at a meeting and a letter devised to send to property owners.

A mass meeting of Decoto residents that met on the evening of October 29, 1957 launched an all out sidewalk installation drive. Three organizations were sparking the move to install walkways in front of some 680 homes to make possible home mail delivery. Cost to the individual property owner with a 50-foot lot would be \$15 for a minimum gravel or red rock walkway and \$275 for a standard concrete walk. The meeting was called to enlarge the working committee for a house-to-house canvass to sign up residents willing to install the walks. Deadline for installation was December 15th with home mail delivery expected to start in late February.

Kenneth Garcia and Bernie Joseph were named at the October 29th meeting to head Decoto's 10-man sidewalk committee. The community hoped to get home mail delivery installing walkways in front of 680 homes. Presently there are 1,200 homes that now have sidewalks. Target date for installation of the walks was December 15th with home mail delivery expected to begin in late February. The Union City Chamber of Commerce, Decoto Merchants Association, and the Decoto Home Owners Association were sponsoring the campaign.

At the end of November 1957 Ken Garcia exclaimed that progress on sidewalk installation to qualify for home mail delivery is "100 per cent better than expected." So far there have been pledges to install 4,000 feet of concrete walks in the community. And installation of gravel walks also is progressing nicely, he reported. Home mail delivery is expected to start in March if Decoto resident can provide the necessary walkways.

On January 30, 1958, official inspection of sidewalks being laid in Decoto was done by the Decoto Sidewalk Committee and the District Post Office. District Post Office Manager Charles Gainor of San Francisco, Union City Chamber of Commerce President Kenneth Garcia, Decoto Postmistress Mrs. Mary (Janeiro) George, and Decoto Merchants Association President Manuel Boliva made the inspection. Home mail delivery would start in Decoto March 8, 1958 after some 10,000 feet of concrete and gravel walkways had been installed.

On February 7, 1958, Postmistress Mrs. Mary George urged all Decoto residents to have sidewalks installed by March 8th, target date for beginning home mail delivery in the community. If homeowners are unable to afford concrete walks she asked at least install walkable gravel walkways. Mailmen are not supposed to walk on the road or over slippery, muddy paths according to postal regulation, George noted.

Decotan's were basking in the glory of having curbs and sidewalks in their town. As an added benefit Decoto's streets will be swept on a regular schedule beginning in September 1958. Union City Chamber of Commerce President Kenneth Garcia said he had been notified that an Alameda County street sweeper will sweep all streets with curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, for the first time in history. Residents will be notified a few days ahead of time so they can move cars off the street out of the sweeper's way, Garcia said. The sweeping was made possible by last winter's intensive campaign to put in sidewalks for mail delivery, Garcia said.

SOCIEDAD DE BENEFICIOS NO. 2:

The Sociedad de Beneficios No. 2 was mentioned in December 1951. The organization handed out candy and oranges to children in the Decoto area at the Mexican Hall near Decoto Elementary School. Several bags of candy and fruit were also presented to children of the area Sunday at the school grounds. Members of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce, Decoto faculty and P-TA members assisted Santa Claus, who was represented by Charles Runner. A Christmas tree donated by Joe Valenzuela was the center of attraction while Christmas carols were played. This was the only reported activity for this organization in the 1950's.

SONS OF ITALY LODGE:

Installation of new officers of the lodge will take place at a February 22, 1952 meeting of the Giuseppe Mazzini Lodge of the Sons of Italy in Decoto, announced Nick Fazio, president of the local lodge. Henceforth, new members will be eligible for benefits six months after they join the lodge, according to a new rule. Marie Fazio and Attilio Orocchi entertained with accordion selections. This was the only reported activity for this organization in the 1950's.

SONS OF PUERTO RICO LODGE:

The application of the Fraternal Order Sons of Puerto Rico for permission to conduct a dance 616 "E" Street, Decoto, on August 16, 1958 was granted. This was the only reported activity for this organization in the 1950's.

STREETS IN DECOTO:

Streets and roads in and near Decoto needed to be brought up-to-date for Decoto. Some homeowners went so far as to improve their street at their own expense. Following is a listing of street projects that were needed to be done or had been completed in Decoto during this decade.

1950:

In June 1950 the Chamber of Commerce requested to the Board of Supervisors that Railroad Avenue be widened and that 8th Street, from "H" Street to Decoto Road, be opened.

1951:

A survey of the crossing at Whipple Road and the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks in Decoto was authorized by the California Utilities Commission. The request for the survey was instigated by the Decoto Chamber of Commerce through the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County. Supervisors encouraged the survey due to the fact that a new grammar school would be opened and the crossing had been a serious hazard.

In April the Alameda County Planning Commission approved a petition requesting that a portion of Seventh Street in Decoto be abandoned.

1952:

The Decoto Chamber of Commerce had asked County Surveyor Wallace Boggs to recommend installation of traffic signals at the Hillview Crest entrance at the Niles-Decoto Road intersection. But the county determined that fixed traffic lights were not warranted by traffic volume at the Niles Road entrance to Hillview Crest. Instead county engineers indicated they would attempt a partial solution of the traffic

problem by striping the Niles Highway to keep the middle lane free at all times for left turning traffic. Note: At this time Ithaca Street had not been opened to Whipple Road so there was no way entrance to Hillview.

The Decoto Chamber then directed a request to the State Highway Department for pedestrian walkways at bus stops at the Hillview Crest entrance and at the intersection of D Street with the Decoto-Niles Highway. They also asked that a 35-MPH speed limit be levied on Niles Road from Hillview south to Decoto Road.

The county announced that in May repairs to 5th, 7th, and 8th Streets in Decoto would get underway as soon as county road equipment can be made available.

In November the Holy Rosary Guild of Decoto received news that four streetlights were to be installed in the Decoto area. Chester Stanley informed the group that night lighting will be installed at the corners of 6th & B, 6th & C, 8th & B, and 8th and C.

1953:

After an agreement between the County and the Southern Pacific Railroad, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved a flashing light signal at the Whipple Road crossing in August 1953.

In September 1953 the Board of Supervisors designated "E," "H" and 9th Streets in Decoto as main thoroughfares and all streets intersecting will be marked by "Stop" signs. Also "G" Street would be designated as a "Passenger Loading Zone," while a "Bus Stop" will be identified on "G" Street.

New "Stop" signs were installed in town in November 1953. They were put in along "E" Street from 9th to the Highway and along "H" Street from the Highway down to 15th Street. Since the addition of the "Stop" signs at these Decoto streets, the CHP has been giving out many tickets for those that run the signs. More drivers are now stopping at the "Stop" signs.

1954:

Decoto roads to be improved after the completion of the 1954 rainy season:

1. Railroad Avenue from "I" Street to "J" Street.
2. "F" Street from Railroad Avenue to 12th Street.
3. "G" Street from 10th Street to 11th Street.
4. "G" Street from 12th street to 15th Street.
5. "J" Street from 12th Street to 13th Street.
6. 7th Street from "H" Street to Decoto Road.
7. 13th Street from "I" Street to "J" Street.
8. 7th Street from Whipple Road to "E" Street.
9. 8th street from "A" Street to "C" Street.
10. "D" Street from 9th Street to the Southern Pacific Tracks.
11. "F" Street from 12th Street to 14th Street.
12. Railroad Avenue from "H" Street to "I" Street.
13. 12th Street from "F" Street to "G" Street.
14. 13th Street from "F" Street to "G" Street.
15. Depot Street from "H" Street to Decoto road.

In March a need was identified at the Hillview Crest tract for an outlet street to Whipple Road. The Chamber requested funds from Supervisor Chester Stanley if

funds for a proposed road joining Ithaca Street to Whipple Road have been appropriated, and if construction could get under way next month as previously announced. A deed from four property owners, who have donated a 58-foot right of way for the street, was approved by county Supervisors in April 1954. The new street will be an extension of Ithaca Street southeast to Whipple Road.

In June it was announced that twelve new streetlights would be erected in Decoto in the near future because of the efforts of the Community Coordinating Council. The lights, which have been approved by PG&E's lighting engineer, will be installed at these corners in Decoto:

8th & "F"	7th & "F"	8th & "H"	2nd & "G"
4th & "G"	2nd & "D"	2nd & "C"	11th & "E"
12th & "G"	13th & "I"	13th & "H"	6th & "E"

1955:

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved the improvement of 7th Street in Decoto between "A" & "B" Streets in May.

A petition by the Decoto School District for the abandonment of 325 feet of 16th Street, north of "G" Street was approved by the Alameda County Planning Commission in August. This street was dedicated on the original map of Decoto and was never constructed nor accepted by the county. It lies within a 13½-acre tract for the proposed Searles School.

Assemblyman Carlos Bee informed the Decoto Coordinating Council that signal lights would be installed at Decoto Road and Highway 9 (Mission Blvd.). The County Board of Supervisors has approved the expenditure of \$5,700 for the project.

Residents of Decoto got their wish to have "A" Street paved from Railroad Avenue to 11th Street, the Board of Supervisors decided on December 6, 1955. Although the 382-foot section is a heavily traveled artery and is part of the county road system, it had never been paved.

1957:

Traffic lights at Decoto Road and Highway 9 in Decoto are expected to start operating some time late in January.

Hayward City Manager S.D. Smith says the State Highway Department will put in traffic signals at Tennyson Road and Castro Street (Mission Blvd). The State turned thumbs down on signals for Fairway-El Rancho Verde area, despite pressure by Hayward and the Treeview Improvement Club. What irks both city and club is installation of signals at Decoto Road and Highway 9 (Mission Blvd), is far less heavily used than either Tennyson or Fairway...

In June the city fathers of Newark decided to see if a historic tradition could be preserved by giving part of Decoto Road back its original name of Jarvis Road. Councilman Leonard Lucio made the proposal and City Attorney Charles Snow was directed to investigate the possibility and report back at the next meeting. The route was known as Jarvis Road for about 75 years before it somehow became named after Decoto, Lucio said. It was named after Howard and F. C. Jarvis, two brothers who once operated the landing around which Newark grew up. Known at different time as Beard's, Mayhew's, and Jarvis Landing, it was originally a shipping point for

Mission San Jose. Author Richard Henry Dana reputedly visited the landing in 1835, and mentioned it in his famous book, "Two Years before the Mast."

In July the Southern Alameda County highways were high on the list of Alameda County Highway Advisory Committee recommendation yesterday to start wiping out a \$437 million road deficiency in the county. Route studies, surveys and plans for the Hayward to Niles Highway, include the addition of a fourth lane to the three-lane section between Sycamore Lane and Decoto.

1958:

Extension of "H" Street from Decoto to the proposed 40-acre campus of a new high school to serve the Decoto area will be supervised by the Alameda County Surveyor's Department. The Board of Supervisors yesterday approved \$970 in inspection costs for construction of the four-tenths of a mile extension of the proposed campus on the Alvarado-Niles Road. Plans for the project will be prepared by the Washington Union High School District.

In June the State Highway Commission approved an expenditure of \$80,000 to build the first two lanes of a future four-lane expressway on Alvarado-Niles Road between Decoto Road and the Fremont City limits. The stretch of road measures .9 of a mile.

TEENAGE CLUB OF DECOTO:

The Decoto School District Recreation Department Decoto Teen-age Club held its first election of officers Monday, Sept. 22, 1952. Elected officers were:

President:	Mollyne Bartunek
Vice-president:	Mario Yanez
Secretary:	Renee Stiarwalt
Treasurer:	Martin Cervantez
Sgt-at-Arms:	Fred Sanchez

The second in a series of Teenage Club sponsored dances for the benefit of needy families will be held November 27, 1953 at the Decoto School auditorium. Theme of the dance will be "Happy Birthday, Candy," honoring Candy Collin's, president of the club. Working on the committee will be Harold Reposo, Sherrill Stiarwalt, Mary Avila, Juaneta Galarsa, Henrietta Villa, Willa Hicks, Gary Grandstaff, and Phyllis Fine.

TELEPHONE SERVICE:

Decoto, like the rest of Washington Township was served by the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. PT&T started construction in September 1951 on Decoto's new community dial office building to be located on the east corner of "H" and 7th Streets. Upon completion of the new 25' by 33' structure, technicians would begin installation of modern dial equipment of enlarged capacity to replace the existing dial equipment serving Decoto telephone subscribers.

With the new dialing switches the residents of Decoto would receive access to the company's enlarged telephone system starting in May 1952. Along with the new service would be new telephone numbers for all subscribers. The new phone numbers were not to be used until 12:01 a.m. May 16th. Before that subscribers must still use the old phone numbers. PT&T mailed new telephone directories to all subscribers. A mass installation was set for Hillview Crest on May 17th and 18th,

when a crew of 35 to 40 men was expected to complete about 200 of the 300 applications on order there. The balance would be completed soon after June 1st.

Decoto and Alvarado telephone subscribers would have direct dial service to Hayward numbers beginning April 11, 1954. S.D. Smith, district manager for PT&T, said that the improved service will include telephone numbers with the prefixes **LU**cerne (**58X-XXXX**), **BR**owning (**27X-XXXX**), and **JE**fferson (**53X-XXXX**). A central exchange for intertown dial service for Irvington, Mission San Jose, and Warm Springs was approved, but until installation is completed residents of the other Washington Township communities will continue to dial operator for all number outside of their respective communities.

Decoto learned in August 1955 that they had the largest growth of telephone subscribers in the Hayward area. There were 11 times as many telephones in Decoto (1,118), as there was 10 years ago. More calls are being placed each day also, six times as many as 10 years ago. Now 11,778 calls are placed daily in the Decoto area.

A new PT&T building was scheduled for Decoto it was announced in August 1956, which will eventually bring wide-range dialing to the Decoto and Alvarado areas. This development, which the already announced \$3,200,000 Fremont building, is expected to bring wide-range dialing to all of Southern Alameda county with the exception of Sunol and Pleasanton.

Construction started in mid November 1956 on the new dial telephone building in Decoto. It was erected on the corner of 2nd and "E" Streets in Decoto. When the building was ready for service, telephones in Decoto and Alvarado would get new seven digit telephone numbers beginning with the prefix **GR**eenleaf (**47X-XXXX**) number. Nationwide dialing means that persons here would be able to dial their own call to hundreds of cities and towns in California and across the United States. Prior to this people had to dial the operator to hook to a long distance calling line. The telephone number change will play a key role in the establishment of nationwide direct distance dialing. The **GR**eenleaf prefix fits into a nationwide numbering plan, which helps make it all possible.

The telephone company thought it was being misunderstood in Washington Township. For internal clarity it was trying to do away with the names of old exchanges now combined in the areas of south of Hayward. So far it has lumped Mission San Jose, Warm Springs and Irvington, the old "**OL**iver **6**" (**676**) number into a thing it calls South Washington.

The only time this became confusing was when people were asked to accept collect calls from "Joe Doakes, in South Washington." They'd growl, "I don't know anyone in South Washington," and then hang up. The company now gets around that by not giving a town name at all unless the called party asks for it.

But Washington Townshippers were mumbling again. There was a PUC meeting in Centerville to hear PT&T's petition to lump Niles, Newark users, and Alvarado and Decoto phones into another overall designation, North Washington.

The proposed establishment of a "North Washington" telephone exchange was aired in a public hearing on December 19, 1956 in the county building on Fremont Avenue.

F. Everett Emerson, of San Francisco acted as Commissioner for the State PUC and conducted the hearing "because of widespread area interest."

Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company had filed an application with the commission to consolidate the now separate Centerville, Alvarado, Decoto, Niles and Newark exchanges into one "North Washington" exchange.

A letter expressing disapproval of the proposed "North Washington" telephone exchange designation for this region has been forwarded to the Public Utilities Commission in December 1956 by the Washington Township Industries Committee. The PUC has scheduled a public hearing on the matter.

The new name for the new telephone exchange in Washington Township and phone service offered to three South Hayward tracts were taken under advisement on December 19, 1956 by the California Public Utilities Commission. Four hours of debate and testimony on both matters were heard yesterday by F. Everett Emerson, commission examiner, in the Alameda County Building, Fremont Avenue. It may be some four to six weeks before the decisions will be announced, he said.

The long hearing grew out of an application by the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company to consolidate the now separate Centerville, Newark, Niles, Alvarado, and Decoto exchanges into one "North Washington" exchange. These areas would be served by two new buildings, part of an area-wide \$3,600,000 expansion program. Basic monthly rates would not be affected and only negligible message unit increases would be caused by the consolidation, a company report showed.

Fremont and Newark city representatives were on hand to protest the use of "North Washington" designation as being "confusing" to persons mistaking it for Washington state or Washington D.C. The basic alternatives offered by the protesters were, Fremont-Newark, Southern Alameda County, Dumbarton, and Hesperian.

Roger S. Pillsbury, president of the Treeview Improvement Club Association, renewed the long-brewing complaint of residents in El Rancho Verde, Hillview Crest, and Fairway Park Tracts in Hayward. Emphasizing, "We want the same telephone service as Hayward has," Pillsbury urged "now is the time" to delete the three tract areas from the Decoto exchange and add them to the Hayward exchange.

He was questioned by John W. Scanlon, Hayward city attorney with other Hayward representatives taking the stand to support Pillsbury's plea. They were S.D. Smith, city manager, and Roger Anderson, Chamber of Commerce manager.

"We run up terrific unit toll charges calling into these regions from a Decoto, rather than a Hayward Exchange," Pillsbury asserted.

Bourdette Goode, the telephone company's general commercial engineer in California, pointed out the Decoto basic telephone rate charge is 25 cents less than Hayward and "we couldn't properly conduct a traffic study of the tract area until after this proposed new exchange is in operation." This is not expected before early 1958.

In February 1957 PT&T said some 10,200 Washington Township customers would be able to reach each other by direct dialing in a few months. New installations, due for completion in May, at the main Decoto exchange would provide direct dialing between the following points:

Alvarado to Centerville
Niles to Centerville
Newark to Centerville
Centerville to Newark
Centerville to Niles
Decoto to Niles
Niles to Decoto

Currently Decoto residents can get Hayward by dialing 6 and then the regular number. All other calls outside the exchange must be made through the operator. The new service, which will not involve any rate change, will provide faster service and free trunk lines for other traffic.

At the same time the telephone company was still getting growls from residents of Hillview Crest, Fairway Park and El Rancho Verde. They want out of the Decoto exchange and into the Hayward system.

February 1957 brought some hope to Washington Township residents in their fight to prevent naming their new telephone exchange North Washington. The Public Utilities Commissioners termed "unfortunate" PT&T's selection of that name. Commissioners asked the company to review the name situation and find a more acceptable name.

Hayward's Hillview Crest, Fairway Park, and El Rancho Verde tract residents continued to protest putting their phones in the Decoto exchange. The commission said political boundaries should not be a determining factor in setting telephone rates. The three tracts will be served out of the Decoto dial exchange, now under construction, and so should share the toll charges of adjacent Decoto area residents, commissioners said.

Commissioners suggested tract subscribers wishing Hayward telephone service without unit toll charges, should request Foreign Exchange Service from the telephone company. Therefore, those desiring the extra service will be paying for it. The application approval consolidates now separate Centerville, Newark, Niles, Alvarado, and Decoto exchanges into one exchange. Basic monthly rates will not be affected and only negligible message unit increases will result, phone officials say.

The Central Fremont Businessmen Association members took a strong stance on April 14, 1957 against listing Fremont telephone numbers under the general Hayward heading (in the telephone directory). The businessmen asked that Fremont receive a separate listing if any major telephone directory changes are made. If that is not agreeable to the telephone company, the Fremont group would have the present Washington Township listing system retained. The telephone company pointed out that the company could not avoid taking Alvarado and Decoto from the Washington Township section and putting it in with the Hayward listing.

New inter-community telephone dialing begins May 1, 1957 in Southern Alameda County. On that date, the following calls may be dialed directly instead of through an operator. In each case a special "directing" number, indicated in parenthesis, must be dialed first.

Alvarado to Centerville (11)
Centerville to Newark (7)
Centerville to Niles (5)
Newark to Centerville (11)

Newark to Niles (13)
Niles to Centerville (11)
Decoto to Niles (12)

Come Sunday, June 1, 1958, some 9,000 telephone subscribers in Washington Township can dial Hayward or New York directly. Sunday also signals the start of new telephone numbers for many people in the area now having Alvarado, Decoto, Centerville, Newark, or Niles Telephone numbers.

The new Alvarado and Decoto numbers, about 3,000, will begin with the prefix **GR**eenleaf **1 (471-XXXX)**. About 6,000 subscribers in the Centerville, Niles, and Newark will have number beginning with **SY**camore **3 (793-XXXX)** or **SY**camore **7 (797-XXXX)**.

UNION FUNERARIA DE DECOTO:

The Union Funeraria was a beneficial social lodge which also helped pay for final expenses of its members.

Officers named at the December 1954 meeting of Union Funeraria de Decoto were:

President:	Philip Hernandez		
Vice President:	Henry C. Rivera		
Secretary:	Victor Hernandez		
Recording Secretary:	Leonard Garcia		
Treasurer:	Alfonso Chamoro		
Directors:	Andre Sanchez	Juan Eques	Frank A. Martin
Investigators:	Julian Hernandez	Pedro Cordova	
Ways & Means:	Edward Gonzalez		
Sgt-at-Arms:	Basilio Pacheco		

Officers named at the December 1956 meeting of Union Funeraria de Decoto were:

President:	Philip Hernandez		
Vice President:	Jose Garcia		
Recording Secretary:	Sotero Donaire		
Corresponding Sec:	Leonard Garcia		
Treasurer:	Alfonso Chamoro		
Trustees:	Edward Gonzales	Antonio Zendejas	Bacilo Pacheco

Outgoing Officers were:

President:	Henry Rivera
Vice President:	Frank Martin
Recording Secretary:	Victor Hernandez

UNITED CRUSADE:

Mrs. Harry Vasquez was named to the Southern Alameda County United Crusade drive for the town of Decoto in May 1958.

VFW:

Charles A. Hoehn was installed as commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9616, Decoto, in ceremonies held April 27, 1954. Hoehn succeeds Sumner W. Rice.

Also taking office was:

Sr. Vice Commander:

Jr. Vice Commander:

Quartermaster:

Senior Adjutant:

Post advocate:

Chaplain:

Surgeon:

Trustees:

William Dair

Joseph Percy

Victor J. Riolo

Alvin L. Dethlef

Sumner Rice

John Barriet

Charles Riley

William Struthers

Alfred Pinard

Marshall Winkler

VOTING:

These are the November 4, 1952 voting precincts for the new proposed \$1,250,000 Washington Township General Hospital. The polling places for Decoto were:

Decoto 1: Fire House, 926 10th Street

Inspector: Geneva E. Smith

Judge: Florence Wallace

Clerk: Doris King

Clerk: Ida Alameda

Decoto 2: Garage, Corner of D Street and Hayward Niles Highway

Inspector: Stella B. Caldeira

Judge: Katherine Goularte

Clerk: Agnes King Rebello

Clerk: Irene G. McHenry

Decoto 3: Library Room, Masonic Home

Inspector: Lillian W. Peairs

Judge: Loretta E. Hyman

Clerk: John C. Hearn

Clerk: Nora E. Dixon

Decoto 4: Library Room, Masonic Home

Inspector: Lucy A. McLean

Judge: Laura B. Seymour

Clerk: Starr Riddle

Clerk: Ruben Baer

Decoto 5: Decoto Grammar School

Inspector: Marion Zwissig

Judge: Mary Cordoza

Clerk: Anna White

Clerk: Emma Bettencourt

The 1952 vote (unofficial) for the presidency from Washington Township was as follows:

1952 Presidential Candidates		
Candidate:	Eisenhower	Stevenson
Alvarado	265	276
Centerville	377	365
Decoto	707	700
Hillview Crest	195	434
Irvington	348	407
Masonic Home	675	731
Mission San Jose	133	110
Newark	244	191
Niles	164	45
Warm Springs	349	593
Totals:	3,457	3,852

Voters could register for the October 19, 1954 Washington Union High School district tax election at the following locations for voters in the Decoto School District:

Raul Ramirez 411 3rd Street, Decoto
Mrs. Lorraine Smith Barnard School, 619 Whipple Road, Decoto
Mrs. Ramona Grieve Hillview Crest School, Decoto

Polling Places for the May 1956 election are:

1503: Henry Barnard School
Inspector: Florence W. Wallace
Judge: Edith Bettencourt
Clerks: M. Spencer Cecelia M. Navas

1504: Garage, Corner of "D" and Hwy 9
Inspector: Stella Caldeira
Judge: Joyce L. Cease
Clerks: Marcella Rodrigues Gertrude Yost

1505 (A - L): Library, Masonic Home
Inspector: Loretta E. Hyman
Judge: James B. Murray
Clerks: Charles Hufstedler Nora E. Dixon

1505 (M - Z): Library, Masonic Home
Inspector: Lillian Hayes
Judge: E. Jane Hoover
Clerks: Allen Lair William H. Cowell

1506: Auditorium, Right Side, Decoto Elementary School
Inspector: Alice Carey
Judge: Anna White
Clerks: Rose S. Silva Mary A. Soito

1507: Auditorium, Left Side, Decoto Elementary School
Inspector: Marion Zwissig
Judge: Catherine Luna

Clerks:	Doris King	Antoinette Seaone
<u>1508:</u>	Decoto Fire Station, 926 10th Street	
Inspector:	Hazel M. Costa	
Judge:	Ida Alameda	
Clerks:	Henrietta Cambra	Mildred L. Thornton
<u>1509:</u>	Garage, 1898 Revere Avenue	
Inspector:	Ruth O. Strauel	
Judge:	Edythe Harkleroad	
Clerks:	Estey Lee Garrett	Valentine Duncan
<u>1510:</u>	Garage, 1685 Cornell Avenue	
Inspector:	Mary Jane Webb	
Judge:	Ellen M. Goodrich	
Clerks:	Marion W. Williams	M. June Walker
<u>1511:</u>	Garage, 1267 Carlyle Street	
Inspector:	Edna L. Hicks	
Judge:	Twila L. Moffett	
Clerks:	Ella H. Biddlecome	Laura Banks
<u>1512:</u>	Garage, 1613 Lafayette Avenue	
Inspector:	Margie Burke	
Judge:	Mary N. Bartunek	
Clerks:	Marjorie A. Person	Birdie May Whitley
<u>1513:</u>	Garage, 1252 Carroll Drive	
Inspector:	Georgia R. Helm	
Judge:	Stella A. Doctor	
Clerks:	Velma Martin	Minerva Monte de Rey

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATS:

Election of permanent officers of the Washington Township Democratic Club was the major order of business at its next meeting on June 19th. "Now is the time to let your voice be heard," said Kenneth Garcia, temporary chairman on June 15, 1953, 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 are: Kenneth Garcia, president; and Raymond F. Marsh, Hillview Crest, treasurer.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HOSPITAL:

For the first time since the Washington Township Hospital District was established in 1946, residents will vote for a slate of directors in the October 1954 election. Two of the five candidates are from the Decoto area. They are:

Manuel Hidalgo - A Decoto businessman and resident for the past eight years, he has lived in Washington Township for 11 years. He formerly was in business in Warm Springs.

Raymond Marsh - Residing at 1271 Seneca Street, in Hillview Crest, he has lived in Washington Township for two years. He has been a Hayward attorney for the past two years and half years, and is associated with the law firm of Newman, Marsh, and Furtado.

ZONING:

As Hayward began to close in on Washington Township land north of Decoto, zoning became crucial to Decoto. Not only did Decoto have to save its township property but it also had to have a plan in place as part of the new City of Union City. Meetings were held and much thought and effort was put into place as to what Decoto's wanted for the future.

Zoning laws and plans for the future are always important to any town or city. Zoning defines the type of city you will become. So it was important what Decoto and Alvarado chose for zoning.

In August 1953 Decoto's Community Service Organization proposed the formation of a zoning Master Plan. The CSO had outlined its specifications and had presented it to a member of the Alameda County Planning Commission technical staff.

Thus began the journey that was to define what Decoto and Alvarado hoped to become. By the end of 1953 the Alameda County Planning Commission stated it was in the preliminary stages of a Master Plan for the Decoto-Hillview area and proposed to zone nearly 900 acres of land near Decoto for industry.

Opposition to the proposed plan was immediate and came mostly from the residents of Hillview Crest who happened to be adjacent to where the industrial zone would be located. The county preferred the zone that lies just west of the Western Pacific railroad tracks in Decoto, which they characterized as having "a great opportunity for industrial growth, which could be a blessing or misfortune depending on the nature of future planning."

Hillview Crest residents immediately pointed out that many of them had moved away from city residences to escape the fumes, odors, and nuisance created by industry, and now would find themselves right back in the same situation.

In April 1955 the Decoto Chamber of Commerce and the Decoto Merchant's Association recommended that two large tracts of land in the Decoto be recommended for industrial zoning.

The committee's industrial recommendations cover all of the Zwissig property, which lies along Highway 9 across from the Masonic Home, and is bounded by Decoto Road on the south and the SP Railroad tracks on the west.

The other large parcel land recommended for industrial use laid alongside the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific railroads, from Alquire Road (today's Industrial Boulevard) to Dry Creek.

For residential purposes the committee recommended the entire area extending from the site of Searles School (15th Street) to the Alameda Creek, as well as the foothills above Highway 9. The committee suggests that an area be reserved along Highway 9 at Dry Creek for a future park.

In connection with the industrial zoning, the committee suggested that factories and large plants be located deep inside the industrial zone, with fringe areas adjacent to residences being reserved for offices, parking, and the more attractive aspects of industry.

The county planning commission and leaders of the Decoto-Alvarado area continued to hone a Master Plan for the Union City area. Precise zoning of the Decoto-Alvarado area of Alameda County was completed by the Alameda County Planning Commission and transmitted to the Board of Supervisors for final enactment in September 1955. The plan retained present industrial zoning for lands along the railroad tracks but also set aside about 60 acres just west of Decoto for residential development with a 6,000-foot minimum lot size.

Commercial areas were designated in Decoto and Alvarado but Smith Street in Alvarado, which would ultimately become a primary connection with the freeway, was established as residential.

The salt ponds and salt works areas along the Bay front were left unclassified for want of an adequate classification. Most of the remainder of the area was left in agricultural status.

The Patterson lands, south and west of Decoto had been requested for residential, commercial, and industrial division, but were left in an agricultural zone at this time.

The County Planning Commission reported to the board describes the area is the "most intensively used agricultural land in Washington Township, the last large area not yet subjected to suburban development."

In Alvarado the commission recommended commercial zoning be limited mainly to existing uses on both sides of the old state highway 17 (the old Hesperian Blvd., Levee Street and Alvarado Centerville Road), with single family residences patterned around the existing development from 15th Street (today's Bulmer Street) on the west to Granger Street on the east, industrial zoning recommended by the commission recognized the developed area of Holly Sugar Co. and United States Pipe & Foundry. Within the western Decoto area laid some acreage zoned in 1948.

Industrially zoned areas and that area between the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific railway tracks the commission recommended remain unchanged. The major change recommended involved deleting all single-family residence within the agricultural zone and designating the area west of the old City of Decoto for 6,000 square foot lots for single-family dwellings.

In Alviso, the commission recommended that except in that portion now used for salt extraction, the land use designation should be agriculture. Salt flats are to remain in an unclassified zone.

Industry was being zoned out of the county, the Board of Supervisors was told in a November 17, 1955 meeting. The best industrial sites in the county are in the neighborhood of Decoto, Alvarado and Alviso, and unless they are set aside for industry, it will go elsewhere, the supervisors were warned.

Most of the area sought by industry had been designated for agriculture by the commission. It could be rezoned for industry when the time comes, the commission contended. This, the protesting group held to be impractical. Industry will turn aside and look elsewhere for sites if the land has to be rezoned before industry can use it, its spokesman said.

On April 9, 1956 the County Planning Commission carved out a 1,560-acre chunk of industrial land between Decoto and Alvarado for heavy industrial usage in an effort to attract and retain industry for the county. There was no opposition from owners at the public hearing and some owners, who said they represent 1,000 of the 1,560-acres, said they were for the zoning changes. The zoning was adopted with provisions that there be no sites less than 3-acres; that there be a 100-foot setback on all structures and that there will be a 200-foot minimum width.

The County Supervisors then set August 16, 1956 for public a hearing on proposals to rezone a total of 3,000 acres on either side of Highway 9 between Hayward and Fremont (Decoto). First to be considered would be the Southern Pacific railroad's application for industrial zoning for 260-acres (the old Zwissig property) in the south of Decoto Road and west of Highway 9 for industry. The land is presently zoned for agriculture with single-family residences, highway frontage, and general commercial use.

Second, the board considered a proposal from the planning commission to reclassify 2,200-acres in the hills east of Decoto and Highway 9, and a 500 -acre parcel at Alvarado-Niles Road and Decoto, adjoining Southern Pacific's property. The commission recommended agricultural zoning with a belt of single-family residences in the area currently being subdivided. The agricultural zoning, according to the commission, not only recognizes the predominant land use, but it also eliminates a mixture of zoning designations current in the area.

The commission also recommended agricultural zoning for the smaller area along Alvarado-Niles Road on the grounds it will eliminate the possibility of residential development abutting the industrial subdivision contemplated on Southern Pacific's property.

After the meeting the Alameda County Board of Supervisors rezoned 3,000 acres on Highway 9 in Decoto. Changed from various uses to heavy industrial zoning was a 260-acres parcel of the Southern Pacific Company on the south side of Decoto Road west of Highway 9. Most of the land is the old Zwissig Ranch, which had been bought up by the SP.

Zoned agricultural, as a "holding-action," were 2,200 acres in the hills east of Decoto and Hayward and 500 acres at the Alvarado-Niles Road adjacent to the SP property. The land has been in unclassified or residential zones. The Supervisor's explained the "holding" action by saying much of the land is potentially good for industry but at the present time is still subject to flooding.

* **MEMORABLE EVENTS** *

INTENTION TO WED:

Walter Blake, Centerville & Charlotte Janeiro, Decoto, January 1950
Rudy Caminada, Decoto & Barbara Ponti, Centerville, March 1950
Aurelio P. Baca, 27 Decoto, & Gloria A. Laredo, 21, Irvington, November 1951
Jimmy Sanchez, 23 & Serfa Hernandez, 27, both of Decoto.
Bruce Lawrence & Mary Paniagua, Decoto, January 1952
Raymond Montellano & Antoinette Sanchez, both of Decoto, January 1952
Jack Ferraris, Centerville & Ida Paniagua, Decoto, September 1952
Joseph Montes, 27, Decoto & Phyllis Grindell, 21, Hayward, January 1953
Benjamin Padilla, 29 & Esther Renteria, 20, Decoto, June 1953
Tony Nieves & Frances Martinez, both of Decoto, December 1953
Tony R. Ramos, 23, Decoto & Virginia M. Mottershaw, 17, Niles, April 1954
Eldin P. Andrade, 24, of Newark & Betty Jean Gonzales, 19, of Decoto, April 1954
Richard A. Freitas, 18, Decoto & Georgiana Carabello, 16, Hayward, June 1954
Edward P. Zamora, 23, Decoto & Connie M. Diaz, 21, Hayward, September 1954
Raul Orozco, 19 & Louisa Campa, 21, both of Decoto, April 1955
Angelo Gonzalez, 22, Decoto & Vecenta Mateos, 22, Hayward, August 1955
Raymond Berrios Jr., 21 & Virginia Villa, 21, both of Decoto, December 1955
Fred Sanchez, Decoto & Marilyn Rose Mecchi, Oakland, November 1956
Donald Soto, 26 & Antonia V. Flores, 21, both of Decoto, December 1956
Joe P. Pacheco, 24, Hayward & Gloria B. Pagan, 19, Decoto, May 1957
Don Martin & Rita Ann Sanchez, both of Decoto, September 1957
Lawrence A. Gonzales, 19, Decoto & Frances P. Terra, 19, Pleasanton, Sept. 1957
Albert A. George, 48 & Mary B. Janeiro, 46, both of Decoto, November 1957
Stephen Pacheco, 30 & Christine Martinez, 24, both of Decoto, December 1957
Rodney Hendricks, Alvarado & Loretta Ferreira, Decoto, January 1958
Max R. Gonzales, 16, Decoto & Carol J. Gabbard, 17, Hayward, February 1958
Bernino Lozano, 34 & Alice E. Gleed, 20, both of Decoto, August 1958
Cyrus C. Caldeira, 27, Decoto & Elaine T. Joseph, 26, Fremont, August 1958
Rafael L. Perez, 59 & Lucia P. Carrero, 62, both of Decoto, September 1958
Tony L. Zendejas, 28, Decoto & Sara G. Ramirez, 27, Alvarado, September 1958
George Sanchez, 21 & Virginia Montellano, 17, both of Decoto, September 1958
Jerry Shook, 20, Decoto & Donna Carlson, 18, Modesto, November 1958
Ramon Orozco, 21 & Alvesa Campa, 21, both of Decoto, November 1958

MARRIAGES:

Benjamin Vegas to Fe L. Garzon, both of Decoto on April 29, 1950
William Grandstaff to Annie Boliba, both of Decoto, November 1951
Merle Runolfson, Newark to Antoinette Navas, Decoto, December 1951
Bruce Lawrence, San Lorenzo to Mary Paniagua, Decoto, April 1952
Edward Carrero to Mary Jane Garcia, Decoto, September 28, 1952
Alvin Paniagua, Decoto to Clara Nunes, San Jose on Sunday, April 5, 1953
Frank Borghi Jr., Decoto to Elvamae Rose, Newark, September 1953
Robert Hernandez to Carol Saucedo, both of Decoto, January 24, 1953
John Chacon, Newark to Patricia Grandstaff, Decoto, August 1955
Rodolfo D. Cantu, 23, Decoto to Jeannette M. Walker, 19, Hayward, December 1956
Fred Sanchez, Decoto to Marilyn Mecchi, Oakland, January 1957
Johnny Martinez to Mary Lou Mendez, both of Decoto, December 1957
Don Martin Jr. to Rita Ann Sanchez, both of Decoto, February 1958

DEATHS:

Mrs. Juana De La Torre, From an Article Dated June 9, 1950:

Mrs. Juana De La Torre, 60, mother of ten children has passed away. She was the wife of Arthur De La Torre of 7701 12th Street, Decoto. She was the mother of Arthur Jr., and Pascual De la Torre and Mrs. Maria Morales, all of Oakland, Frank De la Torre of Los Angeles and Elmer, Robert, Arnold, Lupe, Esther and Ruth De la Torre, all of Decoto.

Frank Sanchez, June 10, 1950:

Frank Sanchez of Decoto passed away on Saturday, June 10, 1950. Mr. Sanchez was en route to a hospital following a long illness when the ambulance in which he was riding was involved in an accident. His wife Mary survives him. A son, Frank Sanchez Jr., is employed in the Sheet Metal Department of the Wedgewood factory in Newark.

John Pagan, From an Article Dated June 23, 1950:

Final rites were given Thursday morning for John Pagan, 73, of 4th Street. Mr. Pagan was a native of Puerto Rico, but lived for many years in Hawaii. He is survived by his wife Mary, 12 children, 43 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Melton (Tony) Vigil, July 4, 1950:

A search for Melton C. (Tony) Vigil, 7, ended tragically last night, July 4, 1950, when he was found suffocated in an unused refrigerator leaning against the side of his home, 312 7th Street, Decoto. The Boy's body was found by an aunt, Mrs. Annafelia Vigil, 28, who lives next door, after the bots parents, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M Vigil, had led a two-hour search in which neighbors and youngsters took part. Besides his parents Melton had two brothers, Albert 4, and Cecil 9.

Frank Carrillo, From an Article Dated July 21, 1950:

Funeral services for Frank O. Carrillo, 27, of 300 9th Street, Decoto will be held at Stockton. He died Saturday from injuries suffered in a traffic accident Saturday. He leaves a wife, Hope, a daughter Eva and a son Frank Jr., all of Decoto. Also involved in the accident that took Mr. Carrillo's life was Charles Harper, 45, of 507 10th Street Decoto.

Jose Cortez September 11, 1950:

Jose R. Cortez of Decoto passed away September 11, 1950 at his home on 332 9th Street. He was the husband of Mary, father of Joe, Harold, John, and Sam Cortez all in California and father to Tony Cortez of Decoto; and father to Mrs. Mary Rodrigues and Mrs. Anne Ferreira, both of Decoto. He was 71 years old and a native of Spain.

Edward Juhl, June 19, 1951:

Edward M. Juhl, 76, a native of Decoto, died in Oakland Tuesday, June 19, 1951. Mr. Juhl operated a clubroom in Hayward for many years. He is survived by his wife, Mary E. Juhl.

Clarence Salz, From an Article Dated September 25, 1951:

Clarence Salz, who operated Salz Warehouse in Decoto for many years, passed away in Palo Alto last week.

Mrs. Mary Decoto Crosby, January 14, 1952:

Mrs. Mary Decoto Crosby died in Hayward on January 14, 1952. She was the wife of Henry Crosby and sister to Mrs. August May (nee Janet Decoto) of Alvarado, Peter L.

Decoto of Alvarado, Louis A. Decoto of Piedmont, and the late Ezra W. Decoto Jr... She was a native of San Lorenzo, aged 86 years.

John Ruperto, June 24, 1952:

John Ruperto, 54, whose late home was at 500 4th Street, Decoto, died June 24, 1952 at a nearby hospital after an extended illness.

Tony Freitas, From an Article Dated February 13, 1953:

Tony B. Freitas, 43, of 617 5th Street, Decoto died at an Oakland Hospital after a brief illness. He was the husband of Florence Freitas and father of Richard, Anthony, Better, Paul and Shirley Freitas, all of Decoto. He was the brother of Mrs. Mary Boliba, also of Decoto.

Jess Cuevas, July 16, 1953:

Jess Cuevas, dearly beloved husband of Mrs. Clemencia Cuevas of Decoto passed away on July 16, 1953. He was father to Jess Cuevas, Jr., and Carmen Cuevas. He was the devoted son of Anthony Cuevas, and brother of Anthony Cuevas, Jr., Ernestine Hernandez, Nadine Cervantes, and Esther Moran, all of Decoto.

Mrs. August May (nee Jeanette Decoto), March 4, 1954:

Mrs. Jeanette Decoto May, 83, a resident of Washington Township all her life and daughter of one of the founders of Decoto, died her home at 947 Vallejo Street, on March 4, 1954 after a lingering illness. Mrs. May was the wife of the late August May Jr., one of Alameda County's first bankers and also of a pioneer family.

Mrs. May was the sister of Louis Decoto of Piedmont, Peter Decoto of Decoto, and the late Judge Ezra Decoto Jr. She was the daughter of the late Ezra Decoto Sr. who arrived in San Francisco from New York via the Isthmus of Panama in 1854, and who with his brothers, John & Adolphus, founded the town of Decoto in 1871.

Ettore Caminada, April 20, 1954:

Funeral rites for Ettore A. Caminada, 72, who died on April 20, 1954, will be conducted in Hayward. Mr. Caminada was a native of Italy and had lived in Decoto for 29 years. He was the husband of the late Angelina Caminada. He was father to Mrs. Lydia Vardenega, Hayward, and Rinaldo Caminada of Decoto. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Diane, Rinaldo, David and Thomas Caminada and Donald and Richard Vardenega.

Mrs. Guadalupe Olivencia, From an Article Dated November 11, 1954:

Funeral services will be held Saturday morning for Mrs. Guadalupe Vasquez Olivencia who died in Decoto yesterday after a prolonged illness. She was 59. She was the wife of Foro Olivencia, Decoto and is also survived by her stepchildren, Eddy Olivencia of Decoto, Emilie Cortez of Newark, and Lucy Cicairos of Alvarado. From an article dated November 11, 1954.

Mrs. Juanita L. Contreras, April 18, 1955:

Mrs. Juanita Contreras, 48, 829 14th Street, Decoto, passed away April 18, 1955. She is survived by her husband, Fernando, and ten children, Jess Contreras, San Jose; and Mrs. Sadie Hacobo, Mrs. Lidia Baca, Mrs. Angie Elexadre, Ernando, Joe, Robert, Sally, Ruth, and Pasqual Contreras, all of Decoto.

Pasqual Zamora, April 22, 1955:

Mrs. Pasqual Zamora, April 22, 1955:

A Decoto couple was killed instantly last night, April 22, 1955, when their car was hit by the Southern Pacific's Shasta Daylight near Zamora (NW of Sacramento). Killed were Mr. and Mrs. Pasqual Muela, 611 2nd Street, ages 50 & 55, who were visiting relatives in Zamora. The Muela's are survived by their daughter, Mrs. Socorro Garcia of Newark.

Peter Decoto, July 4, 1955:

Peter Lowrie Decoto, descendant of a prominent pioneer Southern Alameda County family, died yesterday, July 4, 1955 in an Oakland hospital. He was 86. Mr. Decoto was one of the seven children of Ezra Decoto, Sr., who with his two brothers, owned the land that was sold to the railroad and the town of Decoto was founded. He is survived by a brother, Louis A. Decoto, of Piedmont. He was also the brother of the late Judge Ezra Decoto Jr., who was the Alameda County District Attorney, president of the Railroad Commission, and later Superior Court Judge for Alameda County; and Mrs. August (Janet Decoto) May jr., wife of the first banker in Washington Township.

Mr. Decoto was born at Decoto and lived there until three years ago, when he moved to Mrs. August May's home (his sister Jeannette) at 937 Vallejo Street, Alvarado. He was a farmer and was the perennial treasurer of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. He began another term in January. Peter also spent several terms as president of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce and helped found the Boy Scouts of Decoto, where he was scoutmaster for many years.

Trino J. Ramirez, July 9, 1955:

Peter Zamora, July 9, 1955:

Mary Helen Zamora, July 9, 1955:

Santos Zamora Villa, July 9, 1955:

Henrietta Villa, July 9, 1955:

Gloria Villa, July 9, 1955:

Six persons drowned in the San Joaquin River on July 9, 1955 as a big family picnic ended in tragedy. Four girls, a small boy, and a man lost their lives in the water. All were from Decoto. The victims were: Trino J. Ramirez, his three-year old son Peter, and his two-year old daughter, Mary Helen Santos Zamora Villa, 18, and her two sisters, Henrietta 15, and Gloria 7. Ramirez' wife, Lucy, raced to the highway to report the tragedy. Also on the picnic was Clemente M. Villa, father of three of the girls who drowned.

Raoul Zamora, October 17, 1955:

Raoul Zamora of 320 8th Street, who died last night, October 17, 1955 of head injuries, was a passenger in the car driven by Gil G. Sisneros, 16, of 712 3rd Street, Decoto, which went out of control while bound northeast on the Niles-Alvarado Road. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Zamora of Decoto. He was the brother of Theresa Alcorcha, Leonard, Frank, Mary Rachel, David, Hortensia, and Rebecca Zamora, all of Decoto.

Ava Velez Dies, From an Article Dated December 15, 1955:

Mr. Ava Velez, 85, who operated a grocery in Decoto, passed away in Decoto after a long illness. He leaves his wife, Modesta Velez of Danville, and many children and grandchildren from various parts of the Bay area.

Mrs. A. W. Meyer, April 3, 1956:

Mrs. Annie Whipple Meyer, whose grandparents crossed the plains in a covered wagon, will be buried with four generations of her family in Cypress Cemetery,

Decoto tomorrow. Mrs. Meyer, whose parents were pioneers, Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Whipple of Decoto, passed away Tuesday, April 3, 1956, at the age of 87. She was born in Alvarado.

Mrs. Meyer lived in Decoto until 1914 when she moved to Oakland where she lived until her death. She was married to the Frederick Meyer, who died in 1939. He worked at the Central Bank of Oakland for 20 years. The Meyer family formerly held the land upon which Hillview Crest is now located, south of Hayward. Mrs. Meyer was one of eight children, two of whom still survive. They are Mrs. Clara H. May of Decoto, and Mrs. Bertha Faull of Alameda. Mrs. James Whipple, widow of Mrs. Meyer's brother, is prominent in social circles in Niles. She is a member of the Washington Township Historical Society.

Margaret Amaya, April 28, 1956:

A 16-year old girl amputee who escaped death by fire less than a month ago is dead today. Margaret Amaya, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alberto Amaya, 401 7th Street, died Sunday, April 28, 1956 at a Castro Valley hospital. Miss Amaya, whose leg was amputated because of cancer, and her mother, Flora, 55, fled an April 6th fire, which destroyed their former home at 762 13th Street and most of their possessions. Neither was injured in the blaze. She is survived by her father, Alberto Amaya, her mother Flora Amaya, by a brother Jess, 18, and a sister Mrs. Jennie De Anda, Hayward.

Alfred Anchundo, December 2, 1956:

Alfred Anchundo, 37, 400 Whipple Road, Decoto, died yesterday, December 2, 1956 after complaining of stomach pains. Anchundo's wife, Elenor, told sheriff's deputies her husband has been drinking and about 4 p.m. had decided to lie down for a while. He awakened about 7 p.m. complaining of stomach pains and a feeling of nausea. Mrs. Anchundo told deputies she called the Decoto Fire Department when her husband fell to the floor. The resuscitator squad worked for almost an hour, but was unable to revive Anchundo.

Diego R. Gonzales, December 27, 1956:

Diego R. Gonzales, 80, former resident who died Thursday, December 27, 1956 in Menlo Park following a long illness will be held at the Sorenson Brothers Chapel in Hayward. Mr. Gonzales left a son, James Gonzales; and a daughter, Mrs. Laura Martinez; both of Decoto

Jose Montes, July 11, 1957:

Jose R. Montes, 72, of 704 3rd Street, Decoto, passed way on Thursday, July 11, 1957. A resident of Decoto for 34 years, he was a retired carpenter. He is survived by his wife, Florentina, a daughter, Mrs. Isabel Masters, and two sons, Raymond and Joseph Montes. He is also survived by a brother, Manuel Montes, of Decoto.

Mrs. Mary Ramos, August 13, 1957:

Mrs. Mary Ramos, 63, who for forty years operated a Decoto grocery store, died yesterday, August 13, 1957 at a Hayward hospital. Since retiring, Mrs. Ramos, who lived most of her life in Decoto and Hayward, has been residing with a daughter, Mrs. Josephine Robiejo in Hayward. A native of Spain, she was the widow of the late Tony Ramos, and mother of Mrs. Robiejo, Mrs. Annie Boliba, and Mrs. Jessie Delcraw of Niles, Mrs. Mary Garcia and Tony Ramos of Decoto. She was the sister of Mrs. Antoinette Leiva, Mrs. Jenny Seoane, all of Decoto, and Bernard Lopez of Hayward.

Peter Navas, August 28, 1957:

A Requiem Mass will be celebrated Saturday for Peter Navas, 65, a retired construction worker of 605 7th Street, Decoto, who passed away at an Oakland hospital yesterday, August 28, 1957. Mr. Navas lived here for thirty years. He is survived by his wife, Antoinette; nine daughters, Mrs. Bella Ayala and Mrs. Isabel Arhontes, both of Hayward; Mrs. Jennie Bolivia, Mrs. Carmen Morley, and Mrs. Isabel Bauer, all of Decoto; Mrs. Olivia Mason of Bodega Bay; Mrs. Alice Blasquez, Mrs. Annie Ayala, and Mrs. Antoinette Runolfson, all of Ashland; and three sons, John Navas, of Decoto; Henry Navas of Oakland; Manuel Navas of San Leandro; and his mother Mrs. Olivia Navas of Decoto.

Margaret Paniagua, October 29, 1957:

Mrs. Margaret Paniagua, 77, of Decoto passed away on October 29, 1957. She was the wife of Emilio Paniagua and mother to Mrs. Julia Delgado, Gonsalo, Paul, Tony, and Peter Paniagua, all of Decoto, and Mrs. Flora Renas of Antioch.

Silverio Orozco, March 29, 1958:

Silverio Orozco, the 11-year-old boy called the "silver tongued trumpeter" by his friends and teachers, blew some notes from the "St. Louis Blues" late yesterday, March 29, 1958 and within a few minutes was found dead by hanging. A short time earlier, the boy's father, Ricardo, had told him that W. C. Handy famed "father of the blues" had died in New York at the age of 84. Avid about the blues, an ardent player of his trumpet, a boy to whom music practice was a joy rather than a chore, Silverio placed Handy's music book on top of this stand and blew a succession of note for half an hour.

Then he went into the bathroom, closed and locked the door and apparently ended his own life, according to Deputy Sheriff Robert Valin. Valin said the boy, a sixth grade student at the Decoto Grammar School, apparently looped his trouser belt between two towel racks and hanged himself. His mother, Lupe, sent the boy's 12 year old sister, Margaret, to call him from the bathroom. When the door was unlocked they found the boy hanging from the floor. Silverio also had a younger sister, Mary, 5.

Carlos Torres, April 15, 1958:

Carlos Torres, owner of Carlos' Pool Hall in Decoto died in a car crash on the flood Niles Canyon Road. Torres was riding in a car driven by Mrs. Alice Imperial, also of Decoto. A friend from Salinas was also in the car. The car in which the three were riding went out of control on the flood-impaired Niles Canyon Road at approximately 10:30 last night, April 15, 1958, just outside the Fremont City limits. It sped off a turn, plunged down a 40-foot embankment, and 350 feet farther, overturning before it came to rest in the creek. Thrown into the water, Torres was dead, either from drowning or injuries, when a rescue group reached the scene. Torres lived at 33427 5th Street, Decoto.

Mrs. Antoinette Boliba (Boliva), June 12, 1958:

Mrs. Antoinette Boliba of 640 "F" Street, Decoto, passed away yesterday, June 12, 1958, at her home at the age of 80. Survivors include three daughters, Mrs. Marie Ezra, and Mrs. Frances Gutierrez, both of Decoto, and Miss Flora Boliba of Chicago; and four sons, Antone and Manuel Boliva of Decoto, and Joseph and Raymond Boliba of Niles.

Manuel R. Monte Dies, July 7, 1958:

A mass for Manuel R. Monte, 81, will be said Thursday at the Holy Rosary Church. A native of Spain and resident of Decoto for 40 years, Mr. Monte died yesterday, July 7, 1958 at his home, 33462 3rd Street, Decoto. A retired farm laborer, he was survived by his sisters-in-law, Mrs. Presentacion Monte and Mrs. Florentine Monte, both of Decoto. Mr. Monte was the brother to the late John & Jose Monte and the late Mrs. Encarnacion Alcalde.

Harry C. Searles, August 4, 1958:

Harry C. Searles, of Decoto, passed away on August 4, 1958 at the age of 82. He was the husband of Lillian Searles and father to Olivia Searles, both of Decoto; and grandfather of Harry G. Searles of San Jose and Sandra Searles of Decoto.

Herbert F. Harrold, December 12, 1958:

Herbert F. Harrold passed away in Mill Valley on December 12, 1958 at the age of 77 years. He was the loving husband of Mrs. Inez Whipple Harrold. He was a retired civil engineer for the Southern Pacific Railroad, retired engineer for the Alameda County Water District and had served as a trustee for the Decoto Grammar School and Washington Union High School.

OTHER DECOTO EVENTS:

January 1950:

Snow!

Snow blanketed the Oakland hills as a wintry storm that didn't want to leave got in a few last licks during the night of January 11th and then began its slow trek out of this area. The weatherman said it would move out yesterday, but that was just before all hail (and thunder, lightening, rain and snow) broke loose. A heavy white coating also was reported on the Livermore hills and the Niles/Decoto area. Residents said snow extended nearly halfway down the hills bordering Niles Canyon and was the heaviest seen there in years.



Dude Martin:

Recent attendees at a Redwood City Dance (where they met Dude Martin in person!) were:

Mrs. Katie Boliba	Louie Pagan	Paul Pagan	Eleanor Hernandez
Betty Hernandez	Dick Sanchez	John Sanchez	Frank Sanchez
Mrs. Frank Sanchez			

May 1950:

New Bridge over Dry Creek:

Bids for the construction of a bridge across Dry Creek on Whipple Road near the new Decoto Elementary School now under construction will be opened by the Alameda County Board of supervisors on May 16th. The contract will entail the removal of the present bridge, which is considered inadequate for increased traffic when the new school is completed.

June 1950:

Searles 50th Anniversary:

There was a celebration of a pioneer school trustee of Decoto School, Harry C. Searles, 83, this when he and his wife celebrated their 50th anniversary. His wife Lillian is 72 and the two honored people celebrated the big event at the home of

their son, Harry Alwyn Searles, of 725 8th Street, Decoto. The son is now trustee like his father was and is doing a fine job in his native town of Decoto. Searles served as trustee of the Decoto Grammar School for 35 years and relinquished his position to his son, the couple's only child. The elder Searles is a past master of the Alameda Lodge of Mason's at Centerville, a past patron of the Orient Chapter, OES, of which his wife is a past matron, past president of the Men's Club of Washington Township, and of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce.

Present at the gathering was Paul Martin of Oakland, who was Principal of the Decoto School in 1900. Assisting Mrs. Searles in receiving were Mrs. Harriet Olson and Mrs. Clara May, long-time neighbors and Mrs. Vivian Logan of Alvarado, who rendered piano music during the reception.

Searles was born at Rohnerville, California on July 10, 1876, and came to Decoto at 14 years of age. His three sisters are Mrs. Ida Hutchings of San Francisco, Mrs. Lillie Price of Lakeport, and Mrs. Carrie Armstrong of Eureka. Mrs. Searles, a native of Colorado, came to Decoto as an infant. Her father William Graesslin ran a hotel here in the 1870's. Her brother Frederick Graesslin lives in San Francisco and a sister, Miss Katherine Graesslin, resides with Mrs. Searles.

July 1950:
Caldeira and Silva Injured in Auto Accident:

Four youths from Niles and Decoto were reported in good condition at a San Jose hospital where they were flown in private planes following an automobile accident in Nevada. They are Alvin Silva and Cyrus Caldeira of Decoto; Richard Brunelli 21, and Lloyd Rash of Niles. The mishap occurred early on Saturday morning between Battle Mountain and Winnemucca Nevada, when their car skidded on wet pavement, hit a soft shoulder and overturned several times.

Rash and Silva were accompanying Brunelli and Caldeira who were on route to Flint, Michigan to attend graduation exercises at a General Motors school they had attended for two years. After he was notified of the accident, Brunelli's father, Romeo, owner of Central Chevrolet in Centerville, chartered a plane at the Centerville airport and flew to Nevada. With two additional planes chartered in Reno, he flew his son and his three companions to O'Connor Hospital in San Jose from the hospitals in Reno and Elko where they had been taken. Silva and Caldeira were the most seriously injured, Silva with a fractured pelvis and possible internal injuries and Caldeira with a broken collarbone and four broken ribs.

September 1950:
Miss Ida Paniagua:

Miss Ida Paniagua, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Paniagua of Decoto, is probably one of the most colorful dancers in Alameda County. She was very much enjoyed at the County Fair program this year. For a few years now she has been invited to dance for many affairs in Oakland and other cities, as much as three times a week. Ida was born in Decoto, and is now a freshman at W.U.H.S. in Centerville. She is 14 years old. The family resides at 802 11th Street, Decoto. Her father is president of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. Ida danced at the Civic Auditorium in Sunnyvale and before the Spanish Club at Vacaville in early October.

December 1950:
Song Ends with Arrest:

Hayward policemen John Smith and others at the coffee shop in the Greyhound Bus Station at B and Watkins Street looked up from their coffee last night when one of the customers burst into song. Frank Medina, 39, 315 6th Street, Decoto, sang merrily for a couple of minutes and then stopped with the exclamation, "Just like Bing Crosby!" Smith walked over to the crooner, got a whiff of his breath, and booked him on a drunk charge.

February 1951:

Pagan De La Torres Injured:

An auto-pedestrian accident at Niles-Decoto Road intersection sent Marjorie Pagan, 11, 725 12th Street, Decoto, and her companion, Ruth De La Torres, 17, 701 12th Street, Decoto to Fairmont Hospital. Miss Pagan suffered a broken leg and Miss Torres suffered minor injuries. The two girls had alighted from a bus at the intersection and in their attempt to hurry out of the rain, ran across the highway, apparently not seeing an oncoming car.

May 1951:

Homely Woman Lifts Wallet:

A man and woman are wanted for grand theft today after successfully pulling the old "caress" trick on a Decoto man yesterday afternoon. James S. Johnston, 220 5th Street, Decoto, said he was walking down the street there yesterday when a car stopped near him. A man and a woman, both about 40, asked him directions.

When he answered the woman she said, "Step a little closer, I'm hard of hearing."

Johnston obliged.

As he directed the man, the woman leaned out of the car over him with her arms on him, Johnston, 73, said he hardly noticed. When he started to buy something later, however, he said he found his wallet, with \$50 in it, was missing.

Johnston said he could identify the woman anywhere. She was, he described, "Homely as sin"

July 1951:

PG&E Substation to be built in Decoto:

Pacific Gas & Electric Company will build a new substation known as the Jarvis Substation at Decoto to provide new high voltage supply of electricity servicing Washington Township. With related transmission lines, the construction the project will cost an estimated \$450,000. A three and one half acre substation site on Decoto Road at the Southern Pacific right of way has been purchased from the Zwissig Dairy Company. A 60,000-volt transmission line seven and one half miles long will be built to supply the substation with power, tapping from an existing line between the big Newark substation and Livermore.

September 1951:

No Parking ends with Shooting:

There was a little trouble between Mr. Herrera and Mr. Barrera in Alvarado last night when they tangled over a parking space. Joseph Herrera, 43, 521 10th Street, Decoto, couldn't find a parking space for his car. After hunting all over, he said, he found one but it turned out to be the driveway of Leonardo Barrera, 57, 1265 Centerville Highway, Alvarado.

Barrera told Herrera to move or he'd shoot. Herrera didn't move and Barrera shot him twice with a revolver. As a result, Herrera is in Highland Hospital, and Barrera is in the sheriff's custody for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon.



Three Children Hurt:

Three Decoto children are recovering today from injuries suffered in three separate "home" accidents.

Most painfully injured of the trio was Frankie Myers, 8, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Myers of Railroad Avenue, who suffered first and second degree burns over one-third of the surface of his back yesterday morning when he was dressing. Treated at a private hospital in Decoto, Frankie was discharged to complete his recovery at home. The accident occurred when Frankie chose the top of a gas stove on which to sit while he dressed in the chill of the morning. The back of shirt caught fire and before the blaze could be extinguished the child had been burned extensively.

Several stitches were required to close a cut in the mouth of four-year-old Minerva Peña, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cipriano Peña, who fell Monday from the top of a bedspring, which had been leaned temporarily against the wall. Her teeth puncture her lip. She is recovering at home.

A rock thrown in fun by a playmate yesterday afternoon was allegedly responsible for a cut forehead for Anthony Escalona, 4, son of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Escalona, Sr., of 6th & "H" Streets. Two stitches were required to close the wound.

October 1951:

Fred Sanchez Hurts Elbow:

Fred Sanchez, 417 5th Street, Decoto, was treated for a dislocated elbow here Tuesday after he was injured while playing at Barnard School on Whipple Road where he is a pupil. The boy was taken to a doctor's office by Boyd Morningstar, principal. It was reported Fred was able to return to school yesterday.



Goodbye Party for Irving Williams:

Irving Williams, of 717 10th Street, Decoto, was honored at a surprise farewell party given by his brother Tony and sister Margaret last Saturday evening at their home. Irving leaves for his pre-induction examination on Wednesday at San Francisco. He had been attending San Mateo Junior College. Attending the part from Decoto was:

Mrs. Mary Silva	J.P. Caldeira	Mrs. J.P. Caldeira	Chester Caldeira
Cyrus Caldeira	G. Paniagua	Mrs. G. Paniagua	Ida Paniagua
Rinaldo Caminada	Mrs. R. Caminada	Butch Caminada	David Caminada
Marion Delgado	Mrs. M. Delgado	Donnie Delgado	Louie Pagan
Allen Luna	Alvin Silva		



Yolanda Triana Hurt:

Five-year-old Yolanda Triana, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luis Triana of 916 E Street was examined for injuries after she fell and was stepped on by a horse. She was found to only have a bruised back.

**February 1952:
Rising Electric Bills:**

To the Editor of the *Oakland Tribune*:

Our lowest gas and electric bill the very first month after we bought our new home here in Hillview Crest was \$10.26. Since then it has been \$14, \$16, and up to \$24. It's unheard of and not only that, but it seems like we are getting off cheap. Our neighbor's bill for two months was \$37. Now tell me, when does the hand out end and the hold up begin?

MRS. V SIMON
Decoto

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**Shower for Mary Paniagua:**

Marcella Rodrigues and Florence Hidalgo were hostesses in a lingerie shower for Mary Paniagua at the Rodrigues' home at 316 6th Street, Decoto, last Friday evening.

Attending from Decoto were:

|                    |                  |                 |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Frances Martin     | Julia Pagan      | Jennie Bolivia  |
| Hazel Costa        | Maxine Costa     | Raphaela Guerra |
| Agnes Gonzalez     | Antoinette Diaz  | Theresa Martin  |
| Mary Garcia        | Josie George     | Isabel Escalona |
| Laura Martinez     | Frances Martinez | Grace Caminada  |
| Supernina Paniagua |                  |                 |

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Stork Shower for Mrs. Shirley Garcia:

A stork shower was given for Mrs. Shirley Garcia last Tuesday afternoon by Mrs. Kenneth Garcia at the latter's home at 209 Whipple Road, Decoto. Attending were:

Frances Martin	Theresa Martin	Rose Delgado
Lorenza Guerra	Cecilia Garcia	Cecilia Navas
Julia Delgado	Julia Pagan	Julia Mateo
Minnie Garcia	Raphaela Guerra	Frances Garcia
Lucy Pagan	Antonette Diaz	Frances Gutierrez
Sophie George	Rose Seaone	Laura Martinez
Agnes Gonzalez	Annie Garcia	Margarite Garcia
Marcella Rodrigues	Carmen Luevano	Anita Ferreria
Carrie Valdez		

Unable to attend but sending gifts were:

Jessie Sanchez	Florence Hidalgo	Mary Ramos
Carrie Lopez		

**April 1952:
Fourteen Receive Civil Defense Cards:**

Fourteen Decoto residents have completed the civil defense course, according to the assistant direct of civil defense for Washington Township. Presented with identification cards were:

Elvie R. Cardoza
Henry P. Grundbrecker
Delmer Martinez
Patricia Proffitt
Joseph (V) Valenzuela

Mary Cardoza
Pedro Hernandez
Louise McCord
Thurber Proffitt, Jr.
Howard Vincent

Hazel Costa
Manuel Hidalgo
Vivian Peixotto
June Thompson

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**Boy Shot with a Rifle:**

12 year-old Gary Grandstaff of 509 10th Street, Decoto, was shot in the leg with a .22 rifle by a younger boy, also of Decoto. The two had argued earlier and got into a fight where the Grandstaff boy was bitten on the hand. He was taken to the hospital by the parents of the boy who had shot him, apparently after warning him to "come no closer," as the Grandstaff boy walked past his house to have his hand bandaged.

**June 1952:**

**Miss Faye Martin's Birthday Party:**

Miss Faye Martin, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Don Martin of Decoto, Decoto, was honored at a birthday party, June 15, at Alum Rock Park in San Jose.

Teenagers attending were:

|                    |                 |                |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Tommy Meeker       | Ronnie Westray  | Dorothy Soto   |
| Manuel Garcia      | Wally Bolivia   | Johnny Chacon  |
| Sonny Martin       | Freddie Sanchez | Leotas Bayliss |
| Joe Sanchez        | Pauline Vierra  | Raul Orozco    |
| Arnie Gardetto     | Renie Navas     | Lenny Brown    |
| Ginger Mottershaw  | Betty Gonzales  | Joe Cardoza    |
| Tony Nieves        | Ed King         | Jim Faletti    |
| Dick Guerra        | Donnie Martin   | Danny Davis    |
| "Cookie" Hernandez | Bernice Cloonan | Ernie Delgado  |
| Louisa Campa       | Frank Velardi   |                |

**July 1952:**

**Firecrackers Bring Fine:**

Selling firecrackers to the son of the sheriff's department captain proved to be a mistake for Dian Chow, 24, Friday, but her husband made the matter worse by attempting to bribe the citation-issuing deputy sheriff, according to complaints filed today at the Niles county building. As the story goes Willard A Condon, 19, son of Captain Richard Condon, purchased ten packages of "double rabbit" firecrackers from Mrs. Chow at the Fourth Street Market, operated by her and her husband.

Deputy Sheriff J. N. Chisholm's report states he had been waiting outside the market for Condon and, on seeing the purchase had been completed, he presented the citation. As he was going out of the store, Lee Fong, 34, followed him out and suggested "some other way" to handle the matter and offered a \$5 bill, which the deputy accepted. Fong was then arrested on a misdemeanor bribery charge, and has been released on \$500 bail, according to the sheriff's department.

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Lover's Serenade Brings Arrest:

In spring a young man's fancy turns; hence, Manuel Rivera of Decoto decided to serenade his wife with guitar accompaniment at 5 a.m. last week. So what happened? She called the sheriff's office and demanded hubby's arrest for disturbing the peace. Judge Norris turned the rejected suitor over to the probation office as Rivera moaned something about "That's love for ya..."

August 1952:

Mrs. Margaret Martin new Daily Review Correspondent:

Taking over as staff correspondent for "The Daily Review" in the Hillview Crest and Decoto areas is Mrs. Margaret Martin, a resident of 1240 Payne Street, Hillview Crest. Moving to the community last September, both Mrs. Martin and her husband, Clyde, have actively participated in numerous community gatherings.



Auto Collision hurts four from Decoto:

Four Decoto youths were injured, one of them critically, in a head on collision at midnight on the San Jose Highway near Warm Springs. Most seriously hurt was the driver of the car, Raul Castello, 24, who suffered head injuries. His companions were Andrew Sanchez Jr., 20, who has a fractured right ankle; Noe Mijares, 21, who had a back injury; and Raul Rojas, 18, who suffered cuts and bruises.

September 1952:

Relaxing at Niles Canyon:

Vernon and George Baca, Albert Cease, and Frankie and Freddie Margarido, accompanied by Betty Margarido, spent the day at Niles Canyon on Sept. 4th, getting in that last vacation day.



Stork Shower for Mrs. Annie Grandstaff:

Agnes Gonzalez, Betty Bolivia and Frances Fernandez were hostesses last Friday evening at the Gonzalez home when the honored Annie Grandstaff at a stork shower. Those attended were:

Gale Monte	Carmen Mateo	Antoinette Grandstaff
Cecelia Navas	Mary Jane Garcia	Antoinette Valdez
Lillian Patterson	Frances Martinez	Louisa Campa
Margaret Pagan	J. Pagan	Gloria Pagan
Marlene Bolivia	Faye Martin	Dorothy Soto
Ginger Mottershaw	Elaine Bolivia	Patricia Grandstaff



Mary Jane Garcia Receives Bridal Shower:

Miss Mary Jane Garcia was honored at a bridal shower last Saturday evening at the home of her sister, Mrs. John Navas who was hostess along with Cecelia Garcia and Julia Mateo. Attending were:

Carrie Valdez	Vickie Munoz	Clara Garcia
Saturnina Arribas	Gloria Bassignani	Pauline Garcia
Mary Rebiejo	Jerry Pagan	Julia Pagan
Margarita Garcia	Betty Bolivia	Agnes Gonzalez
Barbara Pagan	Antoinette Navas	Jennie Bolivia

Carmen Morlye

Juster Garcia

Anita Garcia

October 1952:

Mrs. Luevano has Bridal Shower for Sister:

Mrs. Carmen Luevano entertained last Monday afternoon at her home at 710 4th St., at a bridal shower for her Ester Lambaren of Decoto. Those attending were:

Ruth Orozco	Mary Orozco	Mary Garcia	Laura Martinez
Frances Martinez	Marie Vizcarra	Lillian Janeiro	Alice Luevano
Josephine Bernard	Lillie Ramirez	Shirley Garcia	Elosa Diaz
Marcello Rodrigues	Florence Hidalgo	Annie Garcia	Raphael Guerra
Frances Martin			

November 1952:

Louis Pagan – Decoto School Bus Driver:

Louis Pagan, a bus driver for the Decoto School, has been named "Uncle Louie" by all the passengers he motors back and forth from school. Louis, who drives on both the Hillview and Decoto school routes, said he has very obedient children but admits he has to "bribe" them once or twice a week with candy. This, Louis says, keeps them from hanging out of the windows, etc. Until two months ago, Louie was employed at the American Forge Co., in Niles. His dad, Ramon Pagan, is employed as gardener for both the Decoto and Bernard schools.

January 1953:

Irene Cole Shower:

Minnie Sanchez, Rose Delgado, Lorenza Guerra and Julia Delgado were hostesses last Saturday evening at the Sanchez home when the honored Irene Cole who was recently married to George Cole. Attending the shower from Decoto was:

Martina Delgado	Margaret Paniagua	Clara Garcia	Celia Garcia
Raphaella Guerra	Frances Martin	Margaret Williams	Lucy Pagan
Mrs. S. Delgado	Laura Delgado	Perfelia Delgado	Celia Navas
Delores Gonzalez	Jester Garcia	Isabelle Delgado	Mary Garcia
Agnes Gonzalez	Annette Ferreira	Shirley Garcia	Ann Garcia
Frances Gutierrez	Frances Delgado	Vivian Paniagua	Julia Mateo
Julia Pagan	Antoinette Paniagua	Jesse Sanchez	Anita Garcia
Mrs. A.L. Costa			

February 1953:

Cardoza's House Warming:

The Elvie Cardoza's were surprised at two house warmings recently at their new home in Niles.

The First House warming:

Attending were:

Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Peixotto and children	Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Fine
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Joseph	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Paniagua
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Luna	Mr. & Mrs. L. Erickson
Mr. & Mrs. Eldon Cordoza	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Margarido
Florence Wallace	Charles Janeiro

Invited but unable to attend were:

Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Perry	Mr. & Mrs. Tony Janeiro
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Rose	

The second house warming, in which the Rev. Ralph Duggan led a prayer blessing the Cordoza home. Present were:

Hazel Costa	Frances Avilla	Linda Cunha	Florence Wallace
Cecilia Navas	Stella Caldeira	Doris King	Marcella Rodrigues
Julia Pagan	Marion Zwissig	Florence Hidalgo	Edith Bettencourt
Mary Janeiro	Zelma Oliver	Mae Soito	Katie Luna
Eva O'Malia	Laura Martinez	Lillian Janeiro	Evelyn Joseph
Florence Silva	Rose Silva	Anna White	Jennie Bolivia
Julia Mateo	Mae Frisch	Ruth Hansen	Connie Amaral
Mrs. J. W. Perry	Mrs. Mary Smith	Raphael Guerra	

Unable to attend were:

J. George	Rose Seoane	Mrs. J. L. Olson	C. Cardoza
Eva Decker	Annie Vigil	Helen Roderick	Anne Azevedo
Mae Watkins	Mary Noia	Louise Guarti	Alice Santos
Madeline Muniz	Marie Terra	Katie Goularte	G. Caminada
Henrietta Cambra	Rose Delgado	Mae Rocha	Eva Cummins
Peggy Sanderson	Stella Cambra	Annasilia Vigil	Alma Searles
Jennie Davis	C. M. Anderson	Genevieve Smith	Vivianne Dunne
Alice Carey	Leontine Costa	Nora Cordeiro	Jeanne De Silva
Josephine Bernard	Irma Andrade	Mary E. Janeiro	Ruth Strauel
Jeannette Schaaf	Edna Hicks	Ann Garcia	Margaret Garcia
Frances Martin	Antoinette Diaz	Theresa Martin	Mrs. Shield
Mrs. Sprague	Mary Plane	Gladys Fairbanks	Agnes Gonzalez



Daily Review Editor:

Something we've been taking more than just a little interest in during the past month is a hillside out near Decoto...the one that is supposed to be blossoming into a home-covered hill.

What we're particularly interest in is an old, run-down house and barn that's been standing there for years...the one that somebody's taking a picture of or painting every Sunday afternoon.

Anyway, the place is the old Mousen house...and we've been up against a stone wall in trying to trace through the history it must have. And since they're planning to tear it down one of these days to make room for more modern dwelling, we heard it might be a good idea to do an article on it before the deed is done.

We've managed to trace it through 1884 when a fellow named August May (Sr.) first bought the land out there...and the house was standing there then. "Just in case you happen to know anyone who knows anything about the house, would you mind letting us know..."

March 1953:

Linda Gonzalez, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Gonzalez of 700 6th Street, held a party for some of her friends to celebrate her 8th birthday. Attending were:

Cathy Sanchez	Frankie Sanchez	Butch De Silva
Valerie De Silva	Arlene De Silva	Richie De Silva
Wayne Gurski	Terry Gurski	Gerald Escalona
Anthony Escalona	Annette Seoane	Lester Mederos

Sandra Searles
Kenita Garcia
Harold Martin

Mary Jane Garcia
Evelyn Sanchez
Paul Santos

Eve Patterson
Tommy Navas

Unable to attend was Margie Lee.

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**Rosemarie Gonzalez Celebrates 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday:**

Sweet sixteen was the theme for the party held last Saturday evening at the home of Jim Gonzalez in honor of his daughter, Rosemarie who celebrated her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her guest list included:

|                  |                  |                   |                    |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Betty Gonzalez   | Linda Gonzalez   | Danny Davis       | Barbara Enos       |
| Betty Enos       | Daffy Davis      | Jimmie Cartwright | Faye Martin        |
| Donnie Martin    | Freddie Sanchez  | Joyce Childers    | James Andrade      |
| Ernie Soto       | Edwin Knox       | Mervin Pinto      | Mary Jane Caldeira |
| Chester Caldeira | Angelo Gonzalez  | Vee Mattos        | Marlene Bolivia    |
| Alvesa Campa     | Monchie Orozco   | Louise Campa      | Raul Orozco        |
| Ralph Martinez   | Frances Martinez | Tony Nieves       | Billie Rose        |
| George Mendoza   | Marlene Lewis    | Mel Pimentel      | Donna Bettencourt  |
| Cecilia Luevano  | Margaret Pagan   | Ginger Mottershaw | Joe Sanchez        |
| Tom Meeker       | Jimmie Bolivia   | Bob Darbo         | Don Brazil         |
| Eddie Mateo      | Manuel Garcia    | Gerry Rebello     |                    |

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Going Away Party for Angelo Gonzalez:

Many of Angelo Gonzalez' friends attended the recent farewell party given to his complete surprise at the Jim Gonzales home at 700 6th Street. Angelo entered the service of Uncle Sam on Thursday, March 12th. The party was given by Mr. & Mrs. Gallo Gonzalez, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sanchez, and Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gonzalez and family.

Attending were:

Ralph Pimentel	Joe Agalarte	Betty Gonzalez	Willy Galan
Rosemarie Gonzalez	Ernie Soto	Donnie Martin	Marlene Lewis
George Mendoza	Billy Rose	Jim Faletti	Barbara Enos
Loretta Ferreira	Eddie Mateo	John Chacon	Cathy Orozco
Vee Mateo	Freddie Sanchez	Rita Sanchez	Jim Bolivia
Marlene Bolivia	Anne Garcia	Faye Martin	Ernie Delgado
Dick Guerra	Pat Grandstaff	Buzzie Batterson	Danny Davis
James Andrade	Frances Martinez	Tony Nieves	Margaret Pagan
Marcus Montellano	Dorothy Soto	Louisa Campa	

April 1953:

Mrs. Theresa Martin Celebrates Birthday:

Mrs. Theresa Martin was hostess at her home in honor of a party celebrating her birthday. The party was attended by:

Carmen Luevano	Raphael Guerra	Laura Martinez
Antoinette Diaz	Faye Martin	Betty Gonzalez
Frances Martin	Mary Garcia	Shirley Garcia
Sophie George		

June 1953:

Rogelio Gomez in Critical Condition:

Rogelio Gomez, 45, of 511 Whipple Road, Decoto, was reported in critical condition from internal injuries, a broken arm, and possible head injuries. His wife Leonora, 50, suffered a broken left leg, possible internal injuries, and serious lacerations of the throat and chin. Two passengers in Gomez's car were also injured. Joseph Valenzuela, 57, 304 2nd Street, Decoto, suffered a fractured leg and possible head injuries. He wife, Lupe, 45, received chest injuries. Gomez is the owner of the Oro Linda Cafe in Decoto. There were no witnesses to the accident, and highway patrolmen were unable to question the seriously injured immediately.

July 1953:

Decoto AC Baseball:

Gil Orozco slammed a homer this past week for the Decoto AC in the C-2 baseball league. The Decoto AC sits in third place with a 1 - 2 record in the first half of play.



Decoto AC blasted out 12 hits in its runaway over Fara's Liquors. The AC boys started off the contest by shoving eight runs across in the first inning as 12 men came to bat. A series of three walks, two errors, singles by Peter Alcon, Ernie Orozco, and Eddie Galvan, coupled with as double by Elmer de la Torre accounted for the first inning total.

August 1953:

Hillview Crest Homeowners Favor the City of Hayward:

Hayward here we come! They had a straw vote among 400 (out of 608) homeowners in the Hillview Crest area near Decoto, and 281 votes went for annexation to Hayward, 16-favored formation of an incorporated homeowners association, and 20 favored incorporating with Decoto. But when the results were announced at a Decoto mass meeting, many voiced heated opposition to the proposed Hayward annexation. A petition asking an annexation election will now be circulated.



Hillview Causes Decoto Consternation:

Wanting to do right by Our Little Nell, but not quite sure what kind of trouble Nell is in, the Decoto Chamber of Commerce called a mass meeting on August 20th. Nell is otherwise known as Hillview Crest.

The purpose of the meeting, according to Manuel Hidalgo, president, was to discuss a proposal to change the boundaries of Supervisor George Jansen's Second District, which was made by the Hayward City Council. The extension would run south to Dry Creek, between Hillview Crest and Decoto, which would put both Hillview and Hayward in the same district.

This fact, coupled with a development of last week in which Hillview Crest residents indicated that they would like to annex to Hayward, prompted Hidalgo to call the special session. The chamber president stated that an extension of Zone 2 would encompass valuable industrial land, which could eventually become part of Hayward, thus taking tax monies out of Decoto's pocket.

A few present were inclined to picture Hayward as a moustache-twirling villain, playing it "cagey" in his overtures to Nell.

Ken Garcia, on the other hand, said he didn't think Hayward even wanted Hillview Crest.

Keith Whipple, fire commissioner, pointed out the new firehouse was planned with an eye on the fact that Hillview Crest was in the district, and that the proposed annexation with Hayward would remove Hillview from the fire district.

At this point a spectator accused the press of not presenting a whole picture of redistricting and annexation. "All I know is what I read in the paper," he said, and concluded with, "give the paper two words and they'll make a story out of it."

Whereupon Stuart Nixon, Niles publisher of the weekly "Township Register" rose to defend the press. He pointed out that newspapers are allowed only to report what actually happens at official meetings, that reporters may know what is going on backstage but cannot put it in print.

"The purpose of the redistricting proposal now being discussed by supervisors," said Nixon, "is an attempt to juggle votes. He said that each supervisor wishes to dispose of those areas within his present district which didn't show votes for him."

(Agitation for redistricting, however, didn't come from the supervisors, but from various improvement clubs. The supervisors have full power to redistrict without consulting the voters, but have failed to do so though the proposition has been discussed at various times for the past several years.)

It was finally decided, at the suggestion of Whipple, to turn the whole matter over to the Township Chamber of Commerce. The Township Chamber will be asked to study all aspects of redistricting, and annexation in terms of what it means to Decoto and Washington Township in general.

September 1953:

Medical Center Planned for Decoto:

Ninety members of the Alameda County Community Service Organization Thursday night heard Dr. Samuel Levine describe plans for opening a medical center in Decoto. Establishment of the center is contingent upon obtaining approval for a use permit from the Alameda County Planning Commission when that body considers his petition Monday at 1:30 p.m.

CSO members voted unanimously to support the doctor's plan to appear in his behalf before the commission. The only opposition to the proposal was expressed by two Decoto businessmen on the grounds that the proposed location of the center was not in the best interests of Decoto merchants.

Commenting on this, Vice-president Carlos Villescaz, who chaired the meeting stated, "The people of Decoto have been hoping to get adequate medical service for many years. According to health authorities there should be at least one doctor for every 800 people in this area. We have over 5,000 people and only one doctor."

October 1953:

Decoto Boys Attend UCLA - Stanford Football Game:

Ninety boys attended the UCLA vs. Stanford football game along with sponsors:
Reverend Father Duggan Louis Leimbach Alfred Hawkins

And school employees:
Bus Driver: Marian Delgado
Decoto Vice Principal: Neal Kaufmann
Hillview Vice Principal: Jack McIntire
Barnard Rec. Director: John Dewey
Hillview Crest Principal: Robert Infelise
Child Welfare/Rec. Dir.: Alfred Pinard

November 1953:
Silva's Hall Torn Down:

An old building, which stood on 10th & I Streets for over fifty years, was taken down after a fire burned out most of the roof. This building was known as Silva's Hall and had not been used for over ten years. The old timers of this town remember this building as it used to be a dance hall and many of the old lodges and clubs used to meet here. Later on, it was used for a show house and many of the early silent pictures were shown here. According to Peter Decoto, the grand old man of this town, this hall was built in 1895. Pete says he remembers this year because he was in Alaska at the time, and when he came home he was surprised to see this new building.

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**Decoto to get Medical Clinic:**

Establishment of a clinic at the northwest corner of 4th Street and Decoto Road were approved unanimously this morning by the Board of Supervisors. Their action brings to an end an issue, which has been tossed back and forth between the Alameda County Planning Commission and the supervisors since the original application was filed July 24th by Dr. Samuel Levine of Hayward.

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Sneeze Breaks Glass:

Louis Pagan, who works at Hillview Crest School, told me a very strange incident, which happened Saturday at the home of his mother, Mrs. Lucille Pagan, who was canning tomatoes and happened to sneeze! The kitchen window broke. It was completely shattered. Her son said she evidently hit the right "tone pitch" or "vibration", which is about one chance in a million.

January 1954:
El Rancho Verde:

A subdivision development near Decoto that was "hot" about 18 months ago (El Rancho Verde) appeared to be reviving today with the announcement from county planning engineers that Treeview Homes Corporation will build here soon. The Southern California developers who built the 600-home Hillview Crest subdivision will soon submit maps on a similar residential development directly across the Niles Highway.

Projected drainage problems were a major consideration in the planning commission's rejection of the Treeview Homes application 18 months ago. The subdivision must now be reevaluated in the light of development of Zone 3 of Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, which recently voted bonds.

Other problems that must be solved include sewer and water services for the new homes. Hayward furnished both these services to Hillview Crest. The proposed tract would be one-third in La Vista School District and two-thirds in the Decoto district.



"..clean out this dusty old town a bit."

The other day I noticed a car backing down 10th Street across the intersection of J & 10th to Decoto Road. This wasn't bad enough, but up the 11th Street came the same car at approximately 60 MPH followed by several other cars going at the same speed. When I related this incident to some they remarked, "What can you expect in Decoto?" There's that old phrase again. It's too bad some of our local groups can't forget their own personal frictions and clean out this dusty town a bit. They might find it a bit dirtier than they think. From an Unknown contributor to the Decoto News section of *The Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper.

February 1954:
Peter O'Donnell:

Friends of Peter O'Donnell, captain of the altar boys of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary church, will be interested to hear that he has completed his first half school year at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland with good marks. Peter commutes daily by bus. That necessitates riding three buses each way. His teachers never slight him in the least when it is time to assign homework. So, it is easy to see that with his other duties he is a very busy little guy.

March 1954:
Betty Gonzalez Bridal Shower:

The Mesdames Minnie Sanchez, Jessie Sanchez, March Sanchez, Helen Andrade, Dolores Andrade and Dolores Gonzales were hostesses at a bride shower for Betty Gonzales who will become the bride of Alvin Andrade on Easter Sunday. Those attending were:

Cookie Gonzalez	Rita Sanchez	Evelyn Sanchez	Fay Martin
Marlene Bolivia	Gloria Pagan	Margaret Pagan	Anita Garcia
Ginger Mottershaw	Barbara Enos	Marlene Andrade	Dorothy Soto
Cookie Hernandez	Louis Campa	Buzzie Batterson	Frances Martinez
Pat Grandstaff	Connie Montellano	Norma Orsetti	Mary Lopez
Loretta Ferreira	Fretzie Moore	Evelyn Amaral	Minnie Garcia
Florence Shearer	Lenora Andrade	Bernie Abreu	Diane Reider
Betty Gibbson	Gerrie Rebello	Marian Jasper	Antoinette Paniagua
Irene Cole	Rosemarie Gonzalez		

Mesdames:

Frances Garcia	Theresa Martin	Julia Manuel	Marie Naia
Betty Sanchez	Ann Ward	Lydia Orsetti	Carrie Lopez
Millie Amaral	Cecilia Garcia	Aline Andrade	Marcella Rodriguez
Gertie Bragg	Floria Vriz	Julia Mateo	Manuel Abreu
Frances Martin	Anita Ferreira	Katie Delgado	Mary Miller
Rose Santos	Isabel Delgado	Carrie Andrade	Rita Perry
Justa Garcia	Vivian Paniagua	Lorenza Guerra	Violet Andrade
Raphaella Guerra	Lucy Pagan	Frances Mello	Josephine Cardona
Laura Martinez	Carol Andrade	Tony Garcia	Atilana Gonzalez
Mary Mello	Emily Rieder	Genevieve Tasolis	Clara Garcia
Julia Delgado	Mary Rodriguez	Edith Pine	Mae Rose

Grace Sanchez
Agnes Gonzales

Mary Noia
Phyllis Navarro

Elvamae Borghi
Betty Nunes

Lillian Maloney
Patty Perry

Sending gifts but unable to attend were:

Edna Sanchez
Antoinette Diaz
Marie Silva
Isabel Andrade
Isabel Souza
Alvesa Campa

Mary Gonzalez
Mae Silvia
Grace Caminada
Florence Hidalgo
Dolores Gonzalez
Eleanor Moura

Vivian Garcia
Carrie Veldez
Lee Andrade
Adelaide Andrade
Ida Paniagua
Grandmother Gonzalez

Mary Novo
Josie George
Ida Flower
Mildred Amaral
Shirley Mello



Mal's Liquor Baseball Team:

Mal's Liquor, of Decoto, beat the Oakland Braves in a 10-9 extra inning thriller in a semi-pro game played at Barnard School. Pitcher Johnny Garcia won his own game by smashing out a four-bagger in the 10th. The players for Mal's:

Ortiz, CF
Garcia, P
Perez, SS

Priego, RF
Abbott, P
Nieves, 1B

Kelly, 3B
Pacheco, LF
Fields, C

Elizarrey, P
Serbantes, 2B

Mal's Liquors made it four in a row at Barnard with a 20-5 rout of the Berkeley Yellow Jackets. Pitchers Frank Romero and John Garcia teamed up to allow the Jackets five hits and four runs. Decoto batters having a multi-hit game for Mal's was Pacheco, Pryor, and Fields.

Mal's Liquors will be seeking its sixth baseball victory of the season this Sunday when it engages the Alameda White Sox at the Decoto ballpark. The Liquors team downed the Jim Ellis Sports Shop of Oakland last Sunday, 4 to 2, for the second time this season as Johnny Garcia hurled the victory. L. Ortiz was the big hitter for Mal's as he went two for four, although first sackers T. Nieves batted in a pair of runs.

May 1954:

City of Hayward Ensnares Hillview Crest:

The City of Hayward will furnish water and sewer service to a 586-home subdivision to be built on the east side of the Hayward-Niles Road opposite Hillview Crest. The application for service was approved by the city council last night. Treeview Homes is the subdivider of the tract, No. 1406, which received county planning commission approval a month ago (this is El Rancho Verde). Hayward now furnishes water and sewers for Hillview Crest. Extension of the facilities to El Rancho Verde will bring approximately 1,200 the numbers of homes in the Decoto are depending on Hayward for their source of service.



178-Year old Flag:

A flag that has seen the pages of history turn for 178 years, that has made a continent spanning journey from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and that has survived eight major wars will be displayed in Flag Day observances in the Decoto School district next month. The flag is on loan to the Decoto district from Mrs. Laura Whipple, daughter of a pioneer family and one of the foremost in the township in the zealous collection of historic materials. It is one of the original 13-star American

flags, dating back to 1776. (Although it is not the flag designed and stitched by Betsy Ross).

Old now, and faded, and edges tattered from the shipping winds of former years, the flag is unfurled only on patriotic holidays. It came into possession of the Whipple family in 1902, the gift of a Civil War veteran, J. E. Walmsley, now deceased.

July 1954:

The Decoto Sign with Feet:

The State highway sign indicating Decoto's population and elevation might soon be known as the Perambulating Sign. It began when a Hillview Crest resident directed an inquiry to the office of the *Daily Review*. Why, he wanted to know, had the sign been moved a half-mile up the road toward Hayward? It makes it look he claims, as though at least a third of Hillview Crest is part of Decoto. The caller was informed the paper would investigate.

A call was placed to the office of the County Surveyor Wallace Boggs, who doesn't have anything to do with state markers, but always seems to be in the know. Boggs and his staff kicked the question around without success, they suggested that contact be made with Jack Campbell in Hayward. So we dialed Campbell at the State Maintenance Yard on Center Street and posed the question to the lady who answered the telephone. Campbell was out. She advised calling the State Highway Division HQ in San Francisco. We did. The girl on the switchboard directed the question to various offices, until we finally wound up talking to a man named Glover Hughes. Hughes is a sign engineer, and was just the man we were looking for, it turned out.

Why, yes, Hughes remembered moving the sign. It had been done at the request of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce. After all, he asked, isn't Hillview Crest considered part of Decoto, more or less? We averred that there might be a few people in Hillview who wouldn't share the notion.

"Oh, well," said Hughes, "then if there are any objections from out there, we'll just move the sign back."

"You mean that you'd dig up that sign and move it back just because some protests?" we asked.

"Oh, sure," said, philosophically, "we've done it before."

By the way, you people out in Washington Manor favoring annexation might take a lesson, just move the San Leandro sign up the road a few miles.

Speaking of Decoto, four hours before the \$200,000 blaze at Lindsay Lumber Company yard started Thursday, the company had just been given a favorable rating following a safety inspection. Investigation of the fire indicated that it had been started by faulty wiring in the main building.

August 1954:

City of Hayward to Annex Washington Township Property:

Hayward's southern city limits will soon be at Decoto's doorstep if proposed annexations are completed. The Hayward City Council set Sept. 7th for the first public hearing on an annexation, which would move the present city limits on the Niles Highway almost two and a half miles south to within about a mile of Decoto. The

hearing will be on the so-called Washington annex, which includes 151-gross acres on the east side of the Niles Highway northeast of Hillview Crest. Of the total acreage, 122-acres will be subdivided into about 600 homes.

The present Hayward city limit on the Niles Highway is near Webster Street (south of Moreau High School on Mission Blvd.). If the annexation is completed the new limits will be opposite Hillview Crest.

Another major annexation on the west side of the Niles Highway is also expected. Oliver C. Rousseau, who plans to develop an 1,100-home tract between the Hayward Golf Course and Hillview Crest (Fairway Park), told councilmen he would file preliminary maps for annexation to Hayward today.

Rousseau first asked for city water and sewer services for his tract without annexation. Councilmen said city policy is to grant facilities only when annexation is sought. After being assured that he could proceed with his development without any delay, Rousseau said he would start annexation proceeding immediately. He said, "We want to build in the city, but want to build as rapidly as possible.

On the resolution setting the hearing for the Washington annex, Councilman Carlos Bee voted no. The other four councilmen voted yes. Bee said he voted no because he was not present at the original negotiations with the developers.

The council also took action designed to aid Hayward's industrial promotion program, on the recommendation of R. A. Derr, city industrial agent, and the City Planning Commission, the council recommended to the Alameda County Planning Commission and the board of supervisors that more than 1,200 acres of land west of Clawiter Street (near Baumberg and Mt. Eden) be zoned for industry. The land is now zoned for agricultural use. Derr said if the land is rezoned it will be easier to attract new industries to Hayward.

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#### **Decoto to Discuss Meaning of Hayward's moving into Decoto Space:**

A public meeting, tentatively set for August 30th, will be a meeting sponsored by the Community Coordinating Council to discuss what current Hayward plans for annexation will mean to Decoto and Hillview Crest. The council includes organizations in the Decoto-Hillview Crest area.

It is planned to have a representative of the Alameda County Planning Commission, an executive from the Rousseau tract (Fairway Park), the Decoto Chamber of Commerce, the Hayward City Council, the Decoto Fire District, and the Decoto Sanitary District, to participate in a panel discussion, with Harold Strauel as moderator.

#### **September 1954:**

#### **Hayward moves forward Hillview Crest annex and also Tennyson Annexes:**

Three annexations initiated last night by the Hayward City Council will increase the city's area by 496-acres. Overriding objections raised by Decoto interests, the council voted for the 337-acre Washington annex to come into the city and in addition introduced resolutions bringing in the 123-acre Stromberg annex south of Tennyson and west of the freeway and the 36-acres Drysdale annex, also south of Tennyson.

Approximately 1,700 homes will be constructed on those properties, tentative maps for which have already been submitted to the city.

Washington annex lies south of the Hayward Golf Course (Fairway Park) on the Hayward-Niles Road. Its inclusion in the city extends the city boundary almost to Decoto, an expansion that has generated criticism in that community.

**January 1955:**

**City of Hayward Judicial District now covers Hillview Crest:**

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has authorized the district attorney to prepare an amended county ordinance, which will permit adjustment of the boundaries of the Hayward-San Leandro and the Niles-Centerville judicial districts. Existing law prohibits a city from extending its boundaries beyond a judicial district. Recent Hayward annexation near Decoto has pushed Hayward into the Niles-Centerville judicial district, it was explained. The latter district's boundaries will be adjusted to exclude the new Hayward annexations.



**Juvenile Delinquency not on rise in Decoto says Official:**

Despite quoted figures to the contrary, there is no evidence that juvenile delinquency is increasing in Washington Township or even in Alameda County, Robert D. Shaner told members of the Decoto Community Coordinating Council last night. Shaner is head of the delinquency prevention division of the Alameda County Probation Department. "No one can give facts or figures to support statements that juvenile delinquency is increasing," he said. Juvenile court cases for Washington Township last year numbered only nine.

Questioned about figures released by J. Edgar Hoover and a report now published in a national magazine, which says juvenile delinquency increased 45 percent last year, Shaner said that the figures were on a national level and not for Alameda County. "There are no facts or figures to support those statements here," he repeated.



**Foul Weather hits Bay Area:**

Rain, Hail, lightning, and snow again last night gave the Bay Area a wide variety of weather. The U.S. Weather Bureau said the storm, which passed through Monday night was little slower about breaking up than expected, but that this should be the last day. Fair but colder weather is predicted for tonight and tomorrow. Snow fell again during the night January 18<sup>th</sup> on the Livermore hills, Mt. Diablo, Mt. Hamilton, Mission Peak, and the hills around Decoto and Niles.

Four inches of new snow fell on Mt. Diablo during the night. Added to what remained of a six-inch fall previously, there was about seven inches on the ground at the summit. Mt. Hamilton reported 12 inches of snow on the ground, the deepest in many winters. In the lower elevations, hail and heavy downpours of rain kept the area soaked. Tonight's forecast for the region predicts as low as 30 degrees in the higher elevations.

**March 1955:**

**Fidel Gonzalez Honored:**

Fidel Gonzalez is one of the *Daily Review's* newspaper boys of the month. Fidel, a 12-year old, is a student at the Barnard School in Decoto and is in the seventh grade. He has devoted all of his spare time developing his newspaper business and now serves 108 customers. Fidel thus earns his own spending money and at the same is saving a portion of his earnings toward college education. Fidel is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fidel Gonzalez, 220 6th Street in Decoto. His father is an employee of the Frieden Calculating Company in San Leandro.

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SP Owns Option to Purchase Old Zwissig Land:

The Southern Pacific Railroad today confirmed reports it holds an option to acquire 222 acres of land near Decoto in Washington Township. The property, presently owned by the Zwissig family, would be used by the SP for future industrial development.

Once the site of one of the state's largest dairy farms, the property is bounded by State Highway 9 on the east and by Decoto Road on the north, it is SP's present line along the westerly boundary. Across the SP tracks at that point are two factories. One belongs to the Pacific States Steel Company. A second is PG&E's pipe wrapping plant. Zwissig Brothers dairy, before it was broken up three years ago, ran 300 cows on the property. Since then it has been planted to tomatoes and sugar beets.

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**Hillview Crest to get PX Supermarket:**

Hillview Crest residents have been waiting three years for a shopping center and soon they will have a \$1,500,000 development in their front yard. A huge, modern P-X supermarket, surrounded by a full complement of modern stores will be built at the entrance to Hillview Crest. The development will be called Hillview Center.

Approximately five acres were purchased by a group headed by William T. March, president of P-X Market, Phillip J. Fay, and several associates. Purchase price was in excess of \$300,000, March said.

The commercial development will serve the more than 600 homes in Hillview Crest, Decoto residents, and another 1800 homes under construction on both sides of the Highway north of Hillview Crest. The Residents of Hillview Crest have been waiting for a shopping center since construction of the tract began in 1951. Many were told by the original developer that a shopping center would be built. It did not materialize.

Purchase of the property by March & Associates is expected to fulfill the expectations of tract homeowners. March said his group plans to start construction of Hillview Center as soon as possible. The shopping center will be the largest between downtown Hayward and San Jose. The P-X Market, focal point of the center will contain 17,500 square feet.

**April 1955:**

**SP Buys Zwissig Ranch:**

The 222-acre Zwissig Ranch here will be sold this week to the Southern Pacific Company for industrial development. The sales price has been estimated at

approximately \$1,000,000. The company decided to exercise its option on the property and will terminate the deal with members of the Zwissig family this week.

#### **May 1955:**

##### **Loma Linda Fights Pinball Machine Confiscation:**

Is it legal to confiscate a pinball machine for evidence without a warrant? Is it illegal for an officer to take part in a criminal act in order to obtain proof? These questions were asked when Roy Pucci, attorney for Joseph and Lupe "Stella" Valenzuela, moved for dismissal of charges of operating a gambling pinball device. The Decoto couple, owners of the Loma Linda, appeared yesterday in Washington Township Justice Court to plead not guilty to the charges.

During the trial assistant district attorney Kiernan Hyland called Deputy Fred H. Bormann, who testified that on April 12th he played a pinball game in the Loma Linda for over an hour. When he had scored 25 free games, he received \$2.50 from Mrs. Valenzuela and left the café, he said. The next day Bormann and Captain Richard Condon of the Washington Township sheriff's substation returned, placed the Valenzuela's under arrest, and removed the machine as evidence. He admitted he did not have a warrant for the removal.

Mrs. Valenzuela took the stand in her own defense and testified that sheriff's deputy Bormann "asked" her for the \$2.50 pay-off on the machine.

"Why did you give it to him?" asked Pucci her attorney.

"You hear so much about payoffs to the police these days," said Mrs. Valenzuela, "I thought it might be one of those."

Pucci, in asking for a dismissal, stated that evidence taken without a warrant was illegal and that without the pinball game the prosecution had no case. Pucci also claimed "entrapment." By this, he explained, Forman had no right to "lure" the Valenzuela's into a payoff on the game. The case was continued until the trial on May 27th.

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Rivera to Enlarge Trailer Court:

E. C. Rivera has received approval of the Alameda County Planning Commission to enlarge a trailer court located on the southwestern side of Highway 9, north of Whipple Road. His application had the endorsement of the Decoto Merchants and Businessmen's Association, the Decoto Chamber of Commerce, and a petition signed by 18 neighboring property owners.

June 1955:

Wee Chihuahuas:

Barbara R. Sanchez, daughter of Mrs. & Mrs. Isaac Sanchez, 309 5th Street, showed her one-month-old Chihuahua, Coquita, lounging in a teacup. Coquita has two sisters, Pepita, Chiquita, and a brother, Pepito. The pups' mother is Chi Chi, a four-year-old thoroughbred Chihuahua. Her father, Coco, is three years old.

August 1955:

Laborer Escapes Death:

Ralph Pacheco, about 40, of 342 4th Street, Decoto, a laborer escaped with apparently minor injuries today when he was buried for 30 minutes in a cave-in at a water main construction site. Fellow workers managed to uncover his head in 10 minutes and with the help of police and firemen had him free in 30 minutes.

October 1955:

Raoul Zamora Perishes in Car Crash:

A 15-year old Decoto youth died in Highland Hospital, Oakland, today, from injuries received in a car crash early Sunday in which six other teenagers were hurt. Raoul Zamora of 320 8th Street, who died last night of head injuries, was a passenger in the car driven by Gil G. Sisneros, 16, of 712 3rd Street, Decoto, which went out of control while bound northeast on the Niles-Alvarado Road and crashed into a telephone pole near Alvarado.

Treated at Fairmont Hospital for lacerations and cuts and bruises and subsequently released were Sisneros; Barbara Arbolda, 15, of 520 Magnolia St, Newark; Joe Ruyna, 17, of 601 8th St., Decoto; Bob Maldonado, 15, of 106 "D" St., Decoto, and Vernon Baca, 17, of 505 Railroad Ave., Decoto.

Another passenger, Louie Campa, 16, of 222 6th St., Decoto, was given emergency treatment at Fairmont Hospital and transferred to Eden Township Hospital where he was also treated for laceration of the face.

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#### **SP to Abandon Decoto Train Depot:**

Southern Pacific Railway Co. has announced it will abandon its station building in Decoto. The station was built in 1901 and hasn't been used for the past two years, according to R. W. Hallowell, a company spokesman. Notice of the company's proposal to abandon the station will be posted on the premises. It is to become effective December 1st.

#### **November 1955:**

##### **Construction Started on Huge P-X Market near Hillview Crest:**

Ground breaking ceremonies for a huge P-X Market on the Hayward Decoto Highway, the largest of the nine-store chain, will take place next week. The half million dollar, 18,000 square foot market will be completed in four months. The new market will be the key structure in the \$1,500,000 shopping center to serve Hillview Crest, Decoto, and the surrounding area.

#### **December 1955:**

##### **Dry Creek Floods parts of Decoto:**

Dry Creek, on the outskirts of Decoto created the worst flood situation this morning when its swollen banks overflowed, sending tons of debris and water across Niles Road. Much of the water flowed along the highway to Whipple Road where it cascaded between buildings to flood "D" Street.

Alvarado-Niles Road was closed between Decoto Road and Alquire Road. Whipple Road was also closed at Alquire. Decoto road was closed from Alvarado-Niles Road west to Highway 17. Decoto streets were muddied and covered with debris from Dry Creek.

#### **February 1956:**

### **Rezoning:**

A rezoning hearing is on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors agenda for February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Price Nicolls Contractors, Inc., has applied to the board for rezoning the 150 X 160 foot corner of 11th & "B" Streets, Decoto, for business. The company proposed to locate an office and warehouse there. The area is currently zoned for homes. The application has the approval of the planning commission.



### **Airplane Crash Decoto/Niles:**

By Alan Black, February 17, 1956, 1345 PM:

When we got there, we saw there had been no reason to hurry. The tragedy had occupied but a second, and there was nothing anyone could do now. *Daily Review* reporter Walt Johnson and I were among the first persons to reach the wreck of the plane, which carried 38 Marines to instantaneous death against a steep canyon wall in the Decoto hills yesterday.

We reached the scene after an arduous hour climb from Palomares Canyon Road. We joined a crew of Navy men who started into the wilderness with fire fighting and medical equipment. Both were unnecessary.

As I slid down the muddy hillside, I saw what was left of the plane, only the tail section and shreds of smoldering wreckage strewn across the scarred hillside was recognizable, not far below the crest of the ridge. As soon as I saw the wreck, I wasn't in a hurry anymore. It was obvious no one could have possibly survived and I was about to come upon a ghastly scene.

Actually, the horrors I anticipated only partially materialized. The destruction was so complete that for the most part only meaningless fragments were left. The fire I had seen was only a small section of a wing hurled a hundred yards beyond the tail section. A twisted mass of metal was one of the engines, the other three had apparently disintegrated.

As I reached the scene, the first thing I came upon was a Marine jacket with first lieutenant's bars on it. It was charred around the edges and still smoking. I could find no name in it. Other everyday items were scattered among pieces of metal and machinery, bringing the tragedy home to me with unexpected poignancy. There was one slipper, a toilet kit, a hat, and an address book. Hanging high on a bush was an incongruous note, a gay pink tie.

There was an odor around the wreck, strong but not offensive. It was somewhat sweet, not like the usual odor of a fire. I didn't know what it was. Later I learned it was the smell of burnt flesh.

As I went closer, I looked for bodies. I didn't see any at first. Then I realized they didn't look like bodies; they were only charred, shrunken shapes. I saw many of them

In another situation the countryside would have been beautiful. Looking down the ravine into Palomares Canyon and across to neighboring hills, I saw a scenic panorama under the low overcast. There was only wilderness visible, no houses, and no roads, not a sign of civilization. Yet Niles (and Decoto) is only a few miles away.

The Navy crew roped off the area. There was nothing else it could do. A helicopter descended on the scene, but the pilot saw a landing was impossible in the rugged terrain and left.

As I looked with silent shock, others came up. Some had followed our route from the canyon; others had taken a longer trek over the mountain from Mission Blvd.

One of the latecomers was a Marine officer who declined to give his name. His sorrow must have been mingled with relief and gratitude. "I ran out of gas this morning on the way to El Toro Base," he said, "I was supposed to take this plane."

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Father Thomas McCullough gave Last Rites:

Father Thomas McCullough of the Holy Rosary Church of Decoto, said last rites at the scene where a Marine Corps transport plane crashed on the afternoon of February 17th taking the lives of all 38 persons aboard. The plane, en route from Camp Pendleton Marine base, near San Diego, was within minutes of its destination, Alameda Naval Air Station. All aboard were Marine personnel.

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#### **More on Marine Plane Disaster:**

The big Marine plane was just 21 miles, 9 minutes from a landing at Alameda Naval Air Station on a flight from El Toro and Camp Pendleton marine bases in Southern California. The RD5, Marine equivalent of the DC4, carried five crewmen. The others, clad in dungarees, when being transferred to Treasure Island Navy Base for reassignment. One passenger was from El Toro, the others from Camp Pendleton.

The pilot was Major Alexander Watson, 32, of Santa Ana, Calif., a Silver Star winner in the Korean War. Major Watson's last report was at 1:42 p.m., notifying Oakland Municipal Airport he was starting an approach toward the nearby naval air station.

The fog and mist was so heavy that helicopters failed for hours to find the wreckage 1,300 feet up in the dense brush county 3½ miles from Niles on the eastern side of San Francisco Bay. The area has claimed 123 lives in three major plane crashes within 4½ years. Besides the 38 killed in this accident, 35 were killed March 20, 1953, in a Transocean Air Lines DC4 in a barley field in Alvarado, and another 50 died August 25, 1951, in a UAL DC6B that collided with Tolman Peak in Decoto.

The final determination was that the Douglas R5D2 crashed into Sunol Ridge after circling for half-an-hour while attempting to land at Alameda Naval Air Station. Non-adherence of the crew to the holding pattern and departure from the radio beacon and descent in an un-prescribed manner was the cause of the crash.

#### **March 1956:**

Two Gypsy fortune tellers should have read "tilt" in the tea leaves last night when a pair of gum-shoeing police-women came into their Decoto parlor for a reading. They didn't, and as a result sisters-in-law Dina John, 23, and Millie John, 20, are probably shuffling the Black Queen and Ace of Spades today, trying to figure out what will happen when they get to court.

They'd put out black and orange handbills offering half-price introductory readings and claiming, "All Questions Answered. Help with your troubles and problems." They go to the troubles and problems of their customers, the wife a sheriff's detective, and the Township constable's Clerk, as soon as the (marked) \$5 bill crossed their palms.

"Come back Friday with a jar of water wrapped in a \$10 bill and a clean white handkerchief," Dina told one of the girls after some mumbo jumbo promising better tidings. "I see an older woman with wrinkles," Millie recited, "but you and your husband will be joined together very soon. They were. The husband came in to make the pinch.

**April 1956:**

A surprise birthday party was given for Sylvia Harrison Friday evening by her parents, the S. Harrison's of Decoto. Teenagers attending were:

|                 |                  |             |              |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Beverly Geren   | Louise Alexander | Pat Hidalgo | Gordy Fodge  |
| Manuel Martinez | Richie Martinez  | Chuck Brown | George Baca  |
| Ronald Nunes    | Leverette Lyke   | Lyle Woods  | Bill Beavans |
| Arthur Beavans  | Gwen Boggs       |             |              |

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EDITOR:

Today I received a form letter announcing your School Week Edition, and I was reminded of a *Daily Review* carrier who acted as a welcoming committee of one to a stranger in this area. For it was three years ago last August that I signed a contract to teach in the Decoto School District, went to the Parks Realty in Niles, and was able to obtain a house in Hillview Crest.

My family and I drove into Hillview Crest like a group of lost souls, and we met a boy who asked if he could help us. He led us to the address we were seeking, gave us a copy of the *Daily Review*, and two days later, when we moved in, he was our first visitor.

Russell Stevens, one of your boys, was our first friend. He directed us to the different stores, etc. He is no longer here, he moved to San Leandro or San Lorenzo, somewhere, but we shall never forget that it was he who made us feel that Hayward and the *Daily Review* were glad to have us.

We still take your paper and all your boys in the Hillview Crest area has been equally nice, more power to them and to you, but we will always remember Russell Stevens as a real representative of the *Daily Review*.

I do not make a habit of writing to newspaper, just to do so, but since we hear so much about bad teenagers, it is nice to hear about some good ones too. Do you agree?

Joe Monte de Rey
1452 Troy Place
Hayward, Calif.

June 1956:

Two Obtain U.S. Citizenship:

U.S. citizenship has been granted to two Decoto residents in the May naturalization hearing before Superior Judge (pro tem) Edward J. Smith. The two men from Decoto were:

Pedro Zavala Hernandez, 56, 507 8th Street

Antonio Ortiz, 50, 525 8th Street.



Barbara Enos Named Miss Union City:

An 18 year-old Decoto secretary and part-time fashion model has been named Miss Union City. Miss Barbara Enos, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Enos of 4th Street, Decoto, was named over two other contestants. Barbara, of 401 4th Street, is a secretary and part time model, stands 5'4", weighs 120 pounds, and measures 36-24-35. Miss Enos will participate on Union City day at the Alameda County Fair on June 25th. The runners-up were Beverly Ratekin, daughter of John A. Ratekin of Holly Sugar Co. and Miss Frances Alvarez of Decoto.

July 1956:

Holy Rosary Ball Team:

Holy Rosary of Decoto, winners of the sixth grade league, will meet a picked team of all-stars from the other five teams in a preliminary contest. Holy Rosary will be led by Paul Renteria, star pitcher, who hurled his team to the championship with three two-hitters. Renteria, a fastball pitcher, will be backed up by Bill Avelar, star left fielder and home run hitter; Pete Mendoza, an agile infielder; and Tom Gudino, a fine catcher.

August 1956:

Bee Causes Accident:

Rinaldo Tabaracci, 49, of 941 70th Avenue, told highway patrolmen a bee flew into the cab of his pickup truck as he was southbound on East 14th Street near 166th Avenue yesterday. While trying to bop the bee, Tabaracci lost control of the truck, sideswiped a parked car and struck the rear of another car, knocking it into a third parked car. The occupants of the second car, Mrs. Betty Ponce, 23, of 411 6th Street, Decoto, and her children, Edward 22 months; Manuel, 6; and Reuben, 5; were shaken up but refused hospitalization. Tabaracci was cited for speeding and making an improper turn.

September 1956:

Esther Baca Queen of Mexican Independence Day:

Esther Baca, 20, a lovely brunette, will reign as queen of the fiesta celebrating Mexican Independence Day Saturday in the Decoto ballpark. She is a graduate of Washington Union High School, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Baca, 505 Railroad Avenue. La Comision Honorifica Mexican of Decoto is staging the traditional fiesta.

November 1956:

Decoto Man Beaten and Robbed:

A 35-year old Decoto man told sheriff's officers last night that eight or nine boys jumped him at 7 p.m. and robbed him of his wallet containing \$30. Benny Guzman, Decoto vegetable grower's worker, told officers that the gang attacked him at the

corner of 5th & "E" Streets in Decoto. Officers rounded up five boys in a search of the neighborhood, but Guzman was unable to identify any of them as his attackers.

February 1957:

Decotoans Mired in the Mud Flats:

Two men and a boy in a motorboat were rescued from the mud flats off Alameda yesterday by a Coast Guard helicopter. The men shouted and waved for nearly two hours during the early afternoon to attract the attention of persons passing by at the end of Encinal Blvd in Alameda. Lifted from the little craft by the 'copter were Floencia G. Galvin, 43, and Michael A. Lima, 13, both of 700 5th Street, Decoto, and Tony P. Marshall, 40 of Irvington. Another pleasure boat pulled free from the mired boat, with its owner, Frank C. Brazil, 35, also of 700 5th Street, Decoto.

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**March 1957:**

**Window Breaking at Arizona Café:**

Two indignant Decoto citizens crossed swords one night this week, figuratively speaking, with the result that one of them was out-citizenized. The incident began when a gentleman, a bit the worse for alcoholic content, walked into the Arizona Cafe and was refused a drink. Outraged, he thrust his fist through a three-by five plate glass window, withdrew it, and struck again, this time shattering a five-by-five window. Whereupon, equally outraged, bartender Blas Lopez placed the glass smasher under citizen's arrest with such authoritative sounding magnificence that the culprit waited meekly until sheriff's deputies could arrive and hustle him off to the pokey.

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A Beauty of a Mushroom:

Spring means many things to many people, but to Mrs. Rose Delgado, 910 9th Street, Decoto, it signals the hunting season. Mrs. Delgado hunts mushrooms, mostly, and was hugely rewarded yesterday. She telephoned the *Daily Review* to reveal she was in the possession of a giant mushroom. It is seven inches tall, seven inches in diameter, and has a stem measuring five and one-half inches around, she reported.

"It'll make enough sauce for six people," Mrs. D. estimated happily, "but I think I'll eat it all myself."

A small jurisdictional dispute could have risen over ownership, since the find was actually made by Mrs. Dudley Silva, 369A Decoto Road on her property. However, Mrs. Silva, acquiescing to Mrs. Delgado's greater love of mushrooms, handed it over without a murmur.

"Are you going to eat it?" we inquired.

"Sure, I'm planning on having it for dinner," responded Mrs. Delgado, and went on to describe the beauty of her prize, "white on top and a real pretty pinkish brown underneath."

"Are you sure it's a mushroom?" we wondered anxiously.

"Sure I'm sure it's a mushroom," Mrs. Delgado replied firmly, then added airily, "we'll know tomorrow if it isn't."

April 1957:

Scuffle at Arizona Café:

Sheriff's deputies Dale Chambers and Robert Valin suffered damages to the face and wristwatch respectively when they attempted to break up a melee at the Arizona Cafe on 205 "E" Street in Decoto this morning. Sheriff Chambers was kicked in the face while trying to make an arrest at the tavern. Two Decoto men were arrested for drunkenness and resisting arrest.

July 1957:

WP Buys Vega Ranch from May Estate:

The Western Pacific Railroad has announced the purchase of 255 acres of additional industrial site land at Decoto. This tract, purchased from the May estate, is known as the Vega Ranch and is on the south side of Whipple Road at the Western Pacific crossing. It is directly across the road from railroad's present industrial development at that point, occupied by the plant of the U.S. Pipe and Steel Company. The price paid was in excess of \$1,000,000.

August 1957:

Gas War:

The latest Bay Area gas price war spread deeper into southern Alameda County today. Stations in Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, Decoto, and Hayward are the latest in the East Bay to trim prices, said oil company officials. In the East Bay, regular gas that usually sold for 30 to 32 cents a gallon was down as low as 24.9 cents. Ethyl (premium) was as low as 28.9 cents.

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**Decoto Tire Service Ball Team:**

The Decoto Tire Service (little minor) league team is the new champion of the American Blue League. The Decoto nine trimmed the Teamsters minor division team 12-8 Monday night to win the pennant. Jim Olson and Gary Lester paced the Decoto triumph. Lester slammed a home run and a double, while Olson collected two for three at the plate and got credit for the win on the mound. Dave Kolasky and Sanford Shrout also hit two for four for the winners.

**October 1957:**

**L.E. Martinez Adopts Oakland Dog:**

I can't say that I knew where Decoto was, until Sunday, and I think it is a WONDERFUL place. You see, I am the Doberman whose picture was featured in Sunday's edition of *The Tribune* as the homeless-dog-of-the-week. Well, as it turned out, I was adopted by L. E. Martinez (he really should live in Martinez, it would make things so much EASIER) of Decoto. I am happy to announce that he has a fine home for me and all is pleasant for me once again. I was at the Oakland City Pound when Mr. Martinez came to adopt me.

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Tomato Pickers Needed:

The need for tomato pickers in Southern Alameda County was reported this morning by the State Farm Labor office in Decoto. Officials said the demand for pickers to

handle the crop, still only 50 per cent picked, has brought wages up considerably. Pay averages from 14 to 18 cents per field box.

Pickers may be men or women, working full or part time, with Saturdays and Sunday included. Most growers are paying every day. Applicants may apply directly to growers or to the farm labor office at 607 "E" Street. The season in South County will last until the first heavy rainfall or frost, or until the end of the month.

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**Cold Metal Products comes to Decoto:**

A new steel fabricating plant is planned for Decoto it was learned today. Cold Metal Products Division of Jones & Loughlin Corp. has bought a 15-acre site adjacent to U.S. Pipe and Foundry Co. on Whipple Road. The land was sold by the Western Pacific Co but would give no more specific information than that the site had been bought. They located it as "fronting on Whipple" on the same side of the road as U.S. Pipe. No timetable was given on plant construction, nor was there any indication of size.

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Decoto Theater:

Starts Thursday

"Cupido Piedre a Paquita"

"Ella Y Yo" -- Miraslavia

Kiddee Matinee Every Saturday

Phone: **DE**coto 2-3717

Open Thurs. thru Sunday

November 1957:

Mal's Shoe Store Robbed:

Mal's Shoe Store, 505 3rd Street, Decoto, was broken into and \$506 in loot was carted away. Stolen items include some 40 pairs of shoes, shoe polish, and nylons. The culprits entered the store after breaking a side window.

December 1957:

Traditional Mexican Marriage Ceremony:

A traditional Mexican ceremony held during a Sunday Mass at Decoto Holy Rosary Church, joined in marriage Mary Lou Mendez and Johnny Martinez, both of Decoto. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Mendez, 500 4th Street. Martinez, who has made his home in Decoto for several years, is the son of Geronimo Martinez, a newcomer to the area and Mrs. Martinez, now in Mexico City.

Two best men and two matrons of honor stood for the bridal pair. Sharing honors were Mr. and Mrs. James Sevilla and Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Mallagon.

Customary also was the appearance of one bridesmaid attired in white signifying the bride's honor. She was Manuela Gonzalez. Six bridesmaids dressed in yellow, pink, and blue chiffon were Eleanor Gonzales, Beatrice Belmares, Esther Baca, Ramona Perez, Flora Cervantes and Helen Duarte.

Ushers duties were discharged by Andricus Sanchez, Jose Mallagon, Guillermo Martinez, Ignacio Lozo, Guillermo Macias, and Joe Maldonado.

Serving as flower girl was Gloria Flores, while the ring bearer was Robert Mendez. Margaret Porraz carried the cushions to the altar and Silva Diego the coins. The latter were offered the bridegroom to his bride, following the old world custom.

The bride's white gown with sweeping train and full length veil were imported from Italy for the occasion. She wore a crown of orange blossoms imported from Mexico City with her orange blossom bouquet.

At the conclusion of the rites, the Mariachis from Oakland, a seven-man group, played and sang Mexican music as a greeting to the to the newly-wed couple. The musicians were attired in black costumes and wore large black sombreros.

A reception followed in the Union Hall, Hayward, with approximately 600 guests in attendance, with the Mariachis providing entertainment until 8 p.m. at which time an orchestra played for dancing until midnight. The newlyweds will honeymoon in Carmel and will make their home on 9th Street in Decoto.

January 1958:

Schubert's Grocery Store Robbed:

Two compromising robbers settled for a six-pack of beer after attempting to hold up Schubert's Grocery Store Saturday at 317 6th street, Decoto. The men entered the store about 9 p.m., picked up the beer and asked the owner, Benito Schubert, 36, how much they owed. When told the price of the beverage, one of the men fished into his pocket and came up with an automatic announcing, "This is a holdup."

Schubert told them to take the beer if they were broke. He also informed the men he had seen them around before and warned would get into trouble doing that sort of thing. Just then his wife, Hope, entered from a back room. Told by her husband what was going on she went to the back door and passed the word on to a neighbor. The holdup men promptly fled with their foamy booty.



Pedro Rico Runs into Train:

Pedro M. Rico, 65, 429 Railroad Avenue, suffered bad face and chest injuries today when he drove into the part of northbound Southern Pacific freight train. The engineer of the 44-car train estimated its speed at 30 mph. The car was dragged a quarter of a mile from where it was hit at the "H" Street crossing in Decoto. Rico was listed in fair condition at Fairmont Hospital.

February 1958:

Rita Sanchez Marries Don Martin Jr.:

The former Rita Ann Sanchez of Decoto met Don Martin Jr. of the same community at the altar of the Holy Rosary Church Sunday where the pair exchanged wedding vows. The bride is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sanchez of 407 Whipple Road, and is a graduate of Washington Union High School. Mr. & Mrs. Donald Martin Sr. of Decoto are the parents of the groom.

The Maid of Honor was Evelyn Sanchez from Decoto. The bridesmaids were: Marilyn Sanchez, sister-in-law of the bride of Oakland; Faye Hernandez and Rose Marie Davis, cousin of the bride of Decoto.

Ernie Soto of Decoto acted as Best Man and ushers were Freddy Sanchez of Oakland, brother of the bride; Chris Hernandez of Decoto, Dick Martin, cousin of the bridegroom from Nilas, and Harold Martin, brother of the bridegroom.

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**Decoto, the Gateway to Yosemite:**

Decoto School District, which has 2,600 kids in five schools now, which will have at least 2,800 in six schools next fall, is recruiting again. Last year at this time they sent out a beautiful brochure describing to teachers across the land, in glowing text and sparkling photos, the wonders of life in "Decoto, the Gateway to Yosemite."

This got results, everyone's heard of Yosemite, and the district hired teachers from as far away as Michigan. It got a few cat-calls too, so they've modified the pitch on the new folder ready for mailing.

"Decoto, in Beautiful Northern California, Heart of the East San Francisco Bay Empire," it proclaims without over-tooting, "is calling you."

Decoto got schools with swimming pools? They got a cameraman at the Hidden Valley Ranch, down in Warm Springs, and who can tell the difference back in Michigan?

**March 1958:**

**Donald Delgado in Auto Crash:**

Two persons were injured early today in a head-on collision on Highway 9, just south of Decoto Road. Officers said a northbound auto driven by Donald Delgado, 16, of 722 11th Street, Decoto, veered into the southbound lane and smashed into the car of Lloyd Trowbridge, 61, of Decoto Road. Trowbridge was treated at Fairmont Hospital for lacerations and possible chest injuries and then transferred to Highland Hospital. Delgado had a minor laceration.

**April 1958:**

**Decoto, a Sea of Water:**

Highway 9 (Mission Blvd.) closed yesterday afternoon due to floodwaters. Decoto was a sea of water. Workmen were busy clearing debris from the Nilas-Hayward Highway in downtown Decoto.

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Decoto, Alvarado and Hayward, Flooded:

In Southern Alameda County, the 15-square mile triangle between Decoto, Alvarado, and Hayward remain threatened by floodwater from the Alameda Creek, with thousands of acres in western Fremont under water. If rain resumes and Alameda Creek rises, industrial plants in the area could be endangered.

Some 50 soldiers at the Nike Battery between Newark and Alvarado were isolated. A helicopter from Crissy Field in San Francisco supplied them with food and fresh water.

The Marsh Road between Newark and Alvarado is officially closed, but considered passable. The Niles Canyon road is closed in several places and one landslide has been partially eroded by Alameda Creek.



Decoto Bowling Team:

The Decoto Variety Bowling Team placed first in the Boys Saturday Morning Junior Bowling Tournament. Team members, Washington High students, include Doug Harris, Bob Hidalgo, Steve Gossard, and Fonsy Rodrigues.

June 1958:

Tit for Tat Dept.:

A fellow walked into a Decoto bistro the other night, and before startled patrons realized what was up, he broke a customer's nose with a tire iron. Hustled off to jail for what seemed an unprovoked attack, he expressed righteous indignation at being deprived of a citizen's right of fair play. "After all," he grumbled to deputies, "last night he hit me with a bicycle chain."

August 1958:

Teenage Auto Clubs:

Auto clubs that throw out a member with two traffic tickets, count cooperation above speed records, or only allow female members, these all are teenager groups in Washington Township. The organizations commonly known are known as "hot-rod" clubs, but "hot-rodding" like speedsters down public roads certainly is not one of their objectives.

In the words of one club president, Dave Marin of the Charioteers: "We are not a racing club. We organized some three years ago to learn more about modifying our cars into custom lines. We have since formed a racing team for competitive meets, but we take just as much interest in showing our cars. Attaining club cooperation and responsibility are our most important aims and we seek to encourage them by assisting the cerebral palsy, heart fund, and other drives," he declares.

The Charioteers are just one of the five teenage car clubs participating in the Fremont Car Club Council, which also has representatives from adult auto clubs and is under the sponsorship of the Fremont Community Recreation Department.

Other Washington Township teenage car groups the "Dresdens," composed of only girls; "High Winders," Washington Union High School club; "Premiers," "Slicks," and "Strollers." All the clubs rate safety and courtesy as primary purposes of their organization. Generally, members are charged 10 per cent of any court fine for a traffic violation, the second brings a suspension, and the third automatically puts a member out.

An outgrowth of the "Charioteers" is the "Dresdens" headed this year by Sharon Warner. Other members are Loretta Ferreira of Decoto, Bev Ratekin of Alvarado and Patty Mottershaw of Centerville.

As a "Dresden" Loretta Ferreira of Decoto puts it, "We try at working over our engines," but even she quickly admits they have most of it done commercially. "We have learned a lot attending drag races, however, we are more interested in safe

driving methods, general automotive information, driving courtesy, and benefit club activities, like the "March of Dimes," she stated.

Local boys in the Charioteers are: John Gualco, John Moskito and Rodney Hendricks from Alvarado, and Johnny Perry from the Decoto area.



Fairway Park Shopping Center Opens:

Oliver Rosseau, builder of Fairway Park homes got some civic assistance in cutting the ribbon that formally opened the \$3 million, 37-store Fairway Park Shopping Center in South Hayward. Helping with the ribbon cutting were Mrs. Floyd Rupp, of the Fairway Park Home Owners Association; John Purchio, Hayward City Councilman; Frank Biggs, Hayward Mayor; Harold Schoenfeld, Decoto Schools District Superintendent; and Floyd Attaway, Hayward Vice-Mayor.

**September 1958:
New U.S. Citizens:**

Some 99 new citizens will be honored Thursday night as 25 Southern Alameda County organizations join in presenting "I am An American Day." New citizens invited to participate in the 8 p.m. event in the Veterans Memorial Bldg., 737 Main Street, Hayward from Decoto include:

Albertina Duarte	810 7th Street
Clara Flores	33432 11th Street
Lee Fong	33504 4th Street
Isabel Peña	130 9th Street



Good Samaritan not so Good:

As far as he's concerned the Good Samaritan in his case is a rat. Carlos P. Gonzalez, 33, 22324 9th Street, told Highway Patrolmen. The officers said they found Gonzalez inside his wrecked car at 6th Street near Decoto Road this morning. The front end of his car was pushed against a pole. He told police that a man, who he knew only as Joseph Pulido, offered to drive him home from a Niles tavern, because he felt Gonzalez had too much to drink. Not one to argue, Gonzalez climbed in on the passenger side and dozed off while his friend drove away.

The next thing he knew, he said, he was awakened by a terrific impact. The last he saw of his friend, the other man was climbing a fence and running in the general direction of Niles. Patrolmen said damage to the car and injuries to Gonzales indicate he was not driving the car at the time of the accident. Gonzalez was taken to Highland Hospital for treatment of a broken right arm and facial cuts.



Ex-Hawaiians Win Hawaii Vacation:

Come a few days before Christmas Mr. & Mrs. George Fletcher, 33552 5th St, Decoto and their two younger children Frank 7, and Gil 4, will be enroute to Hawaii for the holidays. Mrs. Fletcher, of all people, was the winner of a trip-for-two-to-Hawaii drawing at the Fairway Park Shopping Center. We say "of all people" because Mrs. Fletcher was born in Maui and Christmas just hasn't seemed like Christmas ever since she left there in '46.


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**Letter to the Editor of the Oakland Tribune, September 28, 1958:**

The letter written by Robert M. Mayhew in last Sunday's Tribune deserves some clarification. Mr. Mayhew says that the bulk of the Chinese people, who represent nearly a fourth of humanity, have rejected the Nationalist government...

When Communism manages to control a nation's government, that nation's people cannot do anything but to reject the former administration. If it were possible to hold a free election in China today, which is highly improbable, it would doubtlessly be an overwhelming majority for the Nationalists.

I also want to remind Mr. Mayhew, as President Eisenhower did in his recent speech that a policy of appeasement and cowardice simply increases the velocity of a war. Mr. Mayhew expresses the feeling that the Nationalist held offshore island Formosa (called Taiwan today) itself are "geographically, ethnically, and historically Chinese"

Austria, the Sudentland, and Czechoslovakia were "geographically, ethnically, and historically: German, Hitler opined. The world allowed Mr. Adolph to have said territory. We all know what the outcome was...

I am expressing these opinions because I believe in them. I am 17 and realize that after graduation I may have to fight to help continue our non-appeasement policy. But I'd rather fight, and I'm sure that practically every teenager in the free world would say and believe the same, than to see the Lord's good earth lowered into the chasm and inferno of Communism.

Joe Andrade, Decoto

**October 1958:**

**Arizona Café Stabbing:**

Louis H. Arista, 35, of San Jose, said he suffered three major knife wounds when he was attacked by several men in front of a Decoto café October 2, 1958. Arista said he and some friends stopped at the Arizona Café, 205 "E" St. for refreshments, but left when an employee and a customer became involved in an argument. His companions were walking ahead of him, he said, when the men attacked. He could not explain a reason for the assault. He was treated for loss of blood and deep gashes of his right arm and sides at Fairmont Hospital. He was later released to the care of a private physician.

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Joe Lucero Jr. in Auto Accident:

A Decoto youth nearly made a getaway after his car rolled over during a race on Santos Road (Mowry Road today) Saturday night, October 25, 1958, but he left too many spare parts behind. Police reported that they responded to an accident call but could only find a hubcap and few stray pieces of chrome beside a mutilated PG&E power pole as evidence an accident had occurred.

Checking the area they spotted two cars, one badly smashed, and after the broken parts had been matched to the wrecked car, its driver, Joe E. Lucero, Jr., 18, admitted he sped away when his vehicle landed upright and running after rolling over two or three times.

Lucero and the driver of the other car, Anthony C. Martinez, 17, of Decoto, who Lucero had been trying to pass when he lost control, were cited for speeding and leaving the scene of an accident. In addition Martinez was cited for having no valid driver's license.

November 1958:

Pipe company strike in 3rd Month:

The U.S. Pipe & Foundry Co. Strike in Decoto has entered its third month with no sign of a break in the deadlock. Since 97 members of Local 509 International Union of Operating Engineers walked off the job September 19th, the huge plant has been shut down, although union officials processing and shipping operations have been continued by foremen and office employees.

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**Ann & Ed's Café:**

Ann & Ed's Café in Decoto is truly the home of home cooking. Ann is an excellent cook. All puddings, pies, pancake batters, gravies are made from scratch. The comfortable dining room in the rear of the café is just the thing for families. Bring the kids anytime, they are always welcome. Ann & Ed's is located in Decoto on Mission Blvd. Just beyond the PX Market (just before you get to the PX if coming from Niles).

**December 1958:**

**Gambling Debts Reason for robbery:**

A youngster caught red-handed stealing from the poor box at the Decoto Catholic Church, turned doleful eyes on sheriff's deputies, explained he need the money to pay his grammar school gambling debts.

**January 1959:**

**Juveniles Swipe Pigeons:**

Three Decoto 13-year-olds are in trouble again because they can't resist pigeons. Early on January 1<sup>st</sup> they swiped 16 of the birds belonging to Robert W. Swartz, 18, 33825 Eighth Street Decoto.

Sheriff Deputies checked around the neighborhood but couldn't find the missing birds, so Swartz set out to do a little sleuthing himself. He located nine of the pigeons and the culprits. The kids admitted to taking the birds and dividing them up. But they told deputies that, unfortunately, some of the birds got away. A check of the records revealed that the three already were slated for juvenile court on January 7<sup>th</sup> for earlier pigeon thefts in Decoto and Hayward.

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Schubert Grocery Robbed of \$110:

Three young thugs robbed the Schubert Grocery Store on 6th Street in Decoto. The attendant said the trio got away with \$110. Grocer Irving H. Powell of 5th Street said the three appeared to be between the ages of 17 to 21 years of age, entered the store at 8 p.m. Two of them were armed with blue steel automatics.

HELLO UNION CITY, GOODBYE DECOTO

January 13, 1959 – 11:59:59:

This is the date and time of the last official second of the town of Decoto’s existence on earth. At 12:00:00 it became known as the Decoto District of Union City.
Goodbye “Old Decoto”

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 J. Seoane, 41, Decoto Chemical Worker and Union Official, 574 votes
Oscar Dowe, 51, Decoto steel plant executive, 571 votes
Joe Lewis, 65, retired oil company worker, 428 votes