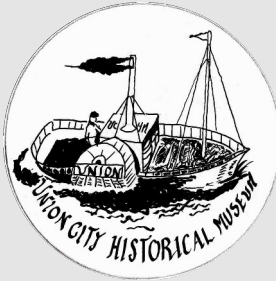


UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Founded by Myrla Raymundo, MBA • Founding Editor/Writer • raymundomyrla@gmail.com

3841 Smith Street, Union City, CA 94587 • Telephone: (510) 378-6376



Mission Statement: *The Union City Historical Museum is a non-profit organization committed to the preservation, maintenance and protection of, and the education of the public about the architectural, cultural, natural and historical heritage resources of the City of Union City.*

Three Components: (1) Museum & Artifacts; (2) Oral History; (3) Preservation of Historical Homes.

Museum Board meets quarterly at the Museum at 7:00pm.

Visit us at <http://www.unioncityhistoricalmuseum.org>
Dennis Jeffrey, PhD, Webmaster.

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THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM CELEBRATES 15th ANNIVERSARY

FEBRUARY 20, 2016: TAKING PLACE AT THE MUSEUM

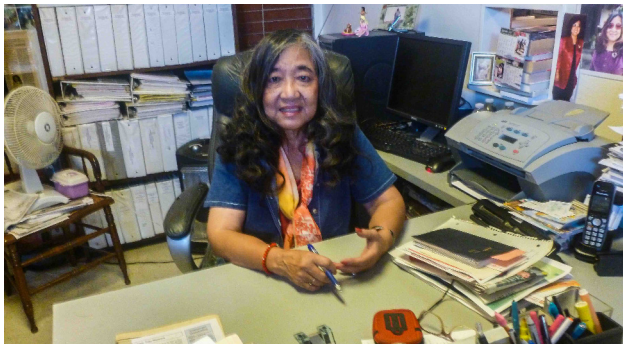
The Union City Historical Museum celebrates 15 years of saving history.

Marking the achievement of unprecedented milestones in history, the Union City Historical Museum is celebrating its 15th anniversary, commemorating a period of saving the culture and heritage of our City, the City of Union City.

When she realized that Union City was the only city in the area that did not have a historical society or museum, Myrla Raymundo, MBA, interested in preserving the local history, founded the Union City Historical Museum. In 2001, the City leased an old fire station, a historical structure, to the Museum to house and display the collections.

Since its opening, the Museum has been able to maintain regular day-to-day operations, conduct school and group tours, and work on archives and collections. The Museum also puts out a bi-monthly newsletter, hosts various walking tours and historical presentations, and holds annual events. Myrla Raymundo also authored two history books: "Union City Through the Years" and "Union City Oral History."

From those modest beginnings, guided by the objective of saving history, the Museum has grown into what it is today. Through the years, with great pride, the Union City Historical Museum helped the residents learn about our history. Our commitment is not only to educate our residents in history today, but to leave a legacy to our future generations. Now, the Museum is hosting a Commemorative Reception to thank all the members and the volunteers. All are welcome to celebrate on **Saturday, February 20th, 2016 from 11:00am to 4:00pm.**



Myrla Raymundo, MBA



School and Group Tours

Happenings in Union City

Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association Arts and Wine Festival, October 11, 2015 at Alvarado Park. It was a fun-filled event with Kid Zone, wine, art, live music, performances, demonstrations, and vintage/newer model cars.



We thank the Museum volunteers for helping out in the works in the Museum.



The Community Ambassadors for Seniors continue with their helping of the seniors in way of information and referrals to the different resources.



Visitors to the Museum



Ray and Myrta Raymundo with the Museum Volunteers in their Halloween Celebration last October 31, 2015.



The family of Al Rose, first Fire Chief of the Alvarado Fire Department, visited the Union City Historical Museum.



Happy Halloween!

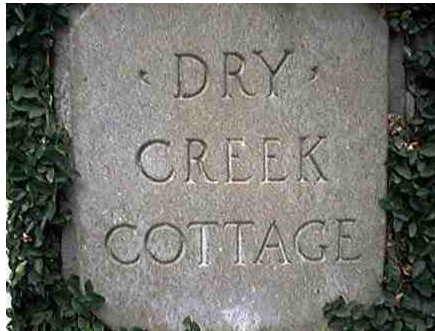


Myrta Raymundo was invited to do a Presentation of Union City History to 75 *Guy Emanuele Elementary School* first grade students on November 3, 2015. Students asked questions to describe what these areas in life were like long ago: schools, transportation, work/chores of men and women, dress of women and girls and men and boys, games, manners, stories and festivals. It was a very good exchange of questions and answers and everybody enjoyed the lessons in Union City history.



UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA 94587 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 1770-1900

- 1770** – Spanish Explorers crossed Union City plain and discovered thousands of Costanoans Indians (Coastal People).
- 1775** – The Costanoan Indians were the people who greeted the Spaniards who crossed the Union City plains in 1775. The Costanoan Indians lived in Indian villages ranged along Dry Creek.
- 1790** – Spanish Missionaries developed settlements in Union City area.
- 1797 to 1836** – Franciscan Padres attempted to "Christianize" and colonize Indians at Mission San Jose.
- 1842** – Mexican Governor Juan Alvarado granted his cousin, Jose de Jesus Vallejo, land in the Decoto area.
- 1844** – Mexican Governor Manuel Micheltoarena gave land grants to Tomas Pacheco and Augustin Alviso (Alvarado area).
- 1846** – Mormon farmer's ship, the "Brooklyn", arrived at Yerba Buena. Ship carried Horner and Mowry families.
- 1850** – John Horner formed Union City settlement. Union City named after River Steamer, "The Union." Horner was the founder and builder of the first warehouse upon the bank of the creek.
- 1851** – Union City first sprang into existence. It is located on the banks of Alameda Creek near a point known as the Devil's Elbow. Alvarado was formed from original settlements Union City and New Haven. Union City was a mass of land, with cauliflower and carrots and the beautiful gladiolas, for which the city is noted.
- 1852** – "Horner Stage" first stage line between Mission San Jose and Union City.
- 1853** – The first school in Alvarado was a private one, but was soon turned into a public school. First County Court House on 2nd floor of Smith's store. Alvarado was the first Seat for Alameda County in 1853 - 1855.
- The biggest business in Alvarado was the Alvarado Sugar Factory/Holly Sugar. The biggest business in Decoto was the Pacific States Steel.
- Dry Creek Cottage, owned by the Meyers sisters and hidden for nearly 100 years, was named after the stream that curves S-like through four acres of landscaped grounds.
- First steam powered mill.
- Alvarado Post Office established.
- 1854** – First stage line between Alvarado and Mission. Union City and New Haven settlements combined to form Alvarado. Named in honor of former Mexican Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado. First bridge over Alameda Creek built by Horners. First Alvarado hotel built by A.M. Veasy. Decoto Brothers Ezra, Adolphus and John sailed through the Golden Gate from New York via Panama.
- 1860** – Dyer Brothers, Ephraim and Ebenezer, imported sugar beet seed from Germany and planted 150 acres as a test plot. First formal Alvarado School erected on Smith Street. Served until 1924. Prior to that, schools operated out of homes. Saint Anne Catholic Church was built in Alvarado on Smith and Watkins Street.



- 1862** – John Quigley began salt production on a large scale in Union City.
- 1863** – John Whipple came to present day Decoto to begin farming.
- 1864** – Old Fellows Hall was built as the Armory for the Alvarado Guards.
- 1867** – First railroad line went through Decoto area, the Western Pacific Railroad. Line ran through Niles Canyon and turned north to Oakland and South to San Jose.
- 1868** – First recorded earthquake hit Union City area at 7:45 AM on October 21.
Union Pacific Salt Company incorporated by John Whortum.
Brick shop in Alvarado destroyed.
- 1869** – The first railroad line was put through Union City.
- 1870** – Decoto founded. Decoto Brothers purchased 284 acres from Western Pacific Railroad.
Streets in Decoto laid out after railroad put in.
Dyer Brothers delivered the first ton of sugar to markets in the Western United States.
- 1871** – Sugar beet processing plant opened in Alvarado. Decoto Post Office was established.
- 1873** – Glue factory was established.
- 1877** – Alvarado Post Office opened.
- 1878** – First Decoto General Store opened by Andrew Jackson. Central Pacific Stadium Agent is the owner.
Second rail line built in Union City. Southern Pacific Railroad ran from Santa Cruz through Alviso, over the bay marshes of Newark, to Alvarado and then eventually Oakland.
Alvarado Station built.
Alvarado slough connected with San Francisco. Captain James Barron took first load of Alvarado grain to San Francisco.
Hall shelter built.
- 1880** – Alvarado population reached 400.
International Order of Odd Fellows Hall built in Alvarado on Smith Street. Building served as a movie house and event center in the 1900s. Building demolished in 1964.
- 1882** – James Logan came to Union City. The James Logan High School was named after him.
- 1887** – Spur to Alvarado Sugar Co.
- 1890** – The Masonic Home in Decoto was founded.
- 1896** – Decoto population reached 600.



International Order of Odd Fellows Hall.

UNION CITY INCORPORATED ON JANUARY 13, 1959

In 1958, the Citizens' Committee for incorporation of Decoto-Alvarado was able to petition the Alameda Board of Supervisors asking for an incorporation election. The immediate pressure of the City of Hayward to over-run the Decoto Area along the railroad tracks from the Fairway Park and Tennyson districts by annexation hurried the process.

The Union City election called for the consolidation of historic New Haven, Alvarado and the railroad town of Decoto, into one entity known as Union City. This name had originally graced the town lots adjacent to John Horner's wharves and pier where the hay-steamer "The Union" had originally been berthed.

The favorable incorporation election was held on January 13, 1959.

At the time of incorporation, the combined Alvarado-Decoto districts had a population of around 6,000 with a diversified ethnic distribution of Caucasians, Asians, Filipinos, Hispanics and African-Americans.

The first elected City Council was composed of Tom Kitayama, Mayor, John Ratekin, George Sloan, Joseph Lewis and Oscar Dowe. Dean Seager was appointed city administrator.

"The Horner's in Alvarado"

Contributed by Anthony Gualco



Stacy & Sarah Horner of Monmouth, New Jersey had ten children: Alfred, Fanetta, John M., Isaac, Redbon, Elizabeth, William Y., Roulif, Emmeline and Edward. All eventually ended up in Washington Township with exception of Alfred who died in 1851 in New Jersey.

We know of John Meirs Horner who, more than any other individual, led the expansion of Washington Township. John came to Washington Township in 1847 and in January 1850 was joined by his brother William Yates.

By the end of 1850 John and William began to prosper and bought land at a place called the Devil's Elbow along the Alameda Creek. Here he founded the town of Union City and in mid- December 1850 lots in his Union City were being sold by his real estate broker in San Francisco. In the fall of 1851 he bought a steamboat named the "Union" and it ran regularly between Union City and San Francisco 6 times a week. In 1853 he added a steam-powered flourmill to his landing at Union City. In 1854 he suffered serious setbacks in economic fortune and by 1857 his business in the Bay Area lay in ruins.

The 1852 Santa Clara County census showed that ten of the twelve members of the Horner family were in Washington Township. Alfred died in New Jersey and Emmeline was in Washington Township by 1870. In March 1853 the town of Alvarado was created by California State legislative action at the time of the creation of Alameda County.

In the early part of 1853 Redbon Horner, who had recently married a young wife, built a large hotel in Union City, to which all hands resorted of nights and Sundays to drink whisky and play poker, as such were about the only amusements that were practical. As there was but few ladies there at the time to form other society a new comer had a choice of four things, that is, to drink, to gamble, to smoke or get out. But for the advent of Dr. Morrow, a faithful Methodist minister of the old school, who made his appearance on Sunday twice a month at the hotel, and held services in the dance hall, just above the barroom where the drinking and sporting were going on, it is doubtful if many would have remembered when, if at all, Sunday came. But soon after this Redbon drops from sight and his whereabouts after this I could not locate.

Fanetta Horner married Joseph Ralph, also of Monmouth New Jersey and by early 1852 Joseph was in the hotel business in Union City. He sold this enterprise and began farming, becoming one of the largest landholders and farmers in today's Union City area. Joseph and Fanetta had five children, William T., Ivins V., John H. (Sr.), George C., and Frances.

William T. became a farmer in the Alvarado area and George C. was a store clerk in 1880. Frances married Frank Randolph of San Francisco. Ivins V. (I.V.) Ralph became a merchant in Alvarado, first partnering with Frederick C. Harvey, and then opening his own store, which he kept until 1920 when he sold his enterprise and moved to Oakland where he had bought an interest in a flavoring plant. He died in 1922.

Sarah Horner, matriarch of the Horner family, died in Alvarado at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fanetta Horner Ralph in January 1890 at the age of 99 years.

John H. Ralph (Sr.) entered business in Alvarado as a merchant but passed away at the early age of 29 in January 1877. His infant son, John H. (Jr.) would go on to become an Alvarado fixture and cement the Ralph family legacy as a merchant until August 1950 when he retired.

In May 1903 John Ralph and J. Ludwig Olson purchased the General Merchandise store of Mr. Young of Decoto. Ralph would cash out of the business and return to Alvarado a few years later. Olson became a Decoto business leader for decades and helped lead Decoto to prosperity.

By 1905 John Ralph would partner with John Scribner in a store on Levee Street in Alvarado. The Ralph & Scribner store would become an Alvarado fixture for nearly twenty years, when in August of 1924 John Scribner announced he would move to Livermore.

In February 1911 John Ralph was named Postmaster for Alvarado, replacing E.A. Richmond who had been Postmaster since 1877 with the exception of four years when I.V. Ralph was Postmaster.

John Ralph was active in many social and civic organizations including the Alvarado Fire Department in which he was

Fire Chief for many decades and then later served as a Fire Commissioner for Alvarado. He was also very active in the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce and was a staunch supporter of both the Presbyterian and Catholic Churches in Alvarado.

In August 1950 Ralph announced his retirement and the Oakland Tribune gave this account of John Ralph and the store he occupied:

The closing chapter of one of Alameda County's oldest general merchandising concerns is expected to be written soon, following the announcement by John Ralph, Alvarado's veteran merchant and civic leader, that he is planning to retire. The concern has been known to traveling salesman of varied items including hardware, clothing, groceries and practically anything else a household needs, since it was established not long after Alameda County had its first official headquarters at Alvarado in 1853.

The first proprietor was a man named J.J. Stokes, Ralph relates. James Johnstone Stokes, born in England in 1816 and first arrived in the U.S. in 1829. Mr. Stokes arrived in San Francisco in 1849 and kicked about the mining country in several ventures before settling down in Union City in 1859 and engaged there in merchandising. He moved to Alvarado and purchased the building adjoining his present store, which was destroyed by fire in 1876. In the following year he built the one he now occupies.

Subsequent owners have been I. V. Ralph, uncle of the present owner, Charles Perry, Ralph & Harvey, Ellis Brothers, Ralph & Scribner; and for the last thirty years, John Ralph. Ralph has been active for many years in the Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Fire Commission. He will continue to reside at his home on Vallejo Street but will spend "more time" at his summer place in the Santa Cruz mountains.

President's Message



Dom Filardo

The month of November this year is truly a very memorable date for all of us members of Union City Historical Museum. It is memorable indeed because it is the 80th Birthday of the Museum founder. Happy birthday, Myrla! We hope we could reach the same age as you do and still be as dynamic as the way you manage your various activities.

Last Nov. 4 during our yearly celebration of the Community Ambassador Program for Seniors (CAPS), which was coincidentally Myrla's birthday, I was requested by the overall CAPS program coordinator to say something about the celebrant. Although it was an impromptu speech I thought it would be prudent and yet fitting to recap to our readers: who is Myrla Raymundo?

Myrla believes that volunteering is a good habit. Even when she just arrived in this country she thought of getting involved in various things with the community. While she worked for Blue Cross and Blue Shield and with the Alameda County in the administration department, she was also involved with the Union City as commissioner and also a candidate for council member.

With some resourcefulness and diligence, she had researched about the history of Union City and collected artifacts, thus eventually founding the Union City Historical Museum. Up to the present time she is the Chairperson/Founder and CEO. She is also the President of the Friends of UC library, President of the Filipino-American Association of Alameda County, Vice-President of FAUCEB, Secretary to the Board of Fremont Writers Club, and the Site Coordinator of CAPS for Saint Anne Catholic Parish.

Myrla has been active in the community and had served as UC Planning Commissioner for several years and also as chairperson, Commissioner with UC Sister City, and UC Arts Council. With the County of Alameda, she served as Public Health Commissioner, Social Services Commissioner, and as President of the Mental Health Board.

Myrla has also served the Church as Eucharistic Minister, Lead person of the Filipino Cursillo Group, Vice-President of Saint Anne Catholic Parish Council and Coordinator with the Church Senior Organization. She belongs to the Toastmaster International Club in various positions of trust. With a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Myrla is also an editor, columnist in the Tri-City area and presently a contributor with the Tri-City Voice Newspaper.

Myrla, we wish you many more birthdays to come and good luck!

Have a good Thanksgiving Day to all, and enjoy your Christmas holiday!!!



Dom Filardo with Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci, receiving the Certificate of Completion with UC Citizens Academy.



President Dom Filardo congratulating CEO Myrla Raymundo on her 80th birthday during the CAPS meeting.



Happy birthday, Myrla!

Founder's Notes



**Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Founder/Chief Executive Officer**

The Union City Historical Museum has three components: Artifacts, Oral History and Preservation of Historical Homes and Buildings.

Artifacts: We have a good collection of artifacts donated by the Union City residents. We continue to receive artifacts.

Oral History: We continue to interview residents, especially the old timers for the continuation of our Oral History.

Preservation Of Historical Homes and Buildings: We continue to write the owners of historical homes and buildings to make their homes and buildings historical.

You will enjoy visiting the Union City Historical Museum.

Tours are conducted by Museum docents every Saturday. From these historical tours, you will know the history of your city.

News coverage about Union City is clipped and filed by subject matter and is available at the Museum. The collection is from 1800 through the present. Read all about it and you will know the history of our city.

Come and visit!



New Museum Logo: Thanks to the hard work of one of our Project 22 volunteers, the Union City Historical Museum has a new logo. The logo depicts the "Union", John Horner's steamer that gave rise to the name Union City.



YOU'RE INVITED to... Union City Historical Museum Holiday Potluck!



**Date: Monday, December 14
Time: 6pm – 10pm
Location: 3841 Smith Street, Union City**

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Bring your favorite seasonal dish or cultural dish, some holiday cheer and a healthy appetite.

Join friends and people who are a part of the Union City Historical Museum for a festive evening!



Union City Historical Museum Toy Distribution



Date: Saturday, December 19
Time: 10am – 2pm
Location: 3841 Smith Street,
Union City, CA

Children 1yr – 12yrs old are welcome to come and receive one toy. Children have to be present to receive a gift. All toys are new and have been donated to the Union City Historical Museum.



Many Thanks to Myrla Raymundo, the Founder/CEO of the Union City Historical Museum in Union City, for always giving back to the community!



**2015 - 2016
Museum Meetings
Mondays 7:00pm at the Museum**

**July 6, 2015
(Induction of Officers/Directors)**

October 5, 2015

January 4, 2016

April 4, 2016

**June 6, 2016
(Election of Officers/Directors)**

THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nancy Chin
Angeles (Tina) Santos
Lay L. Tint
Litiana F. Songa

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO

Officers: July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Dom Filardo, President Adrienne Realiza, Secretary
Allen Cecil, Vice-President Fely Garcia, Treasurer

Directors:

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo Anthony Lorenzo
Carlen Gregorio Anthony Pabros
Dennis Jeffrey Hugh McNamara
Rey Mendiola Oliver Olano

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2016

Sarabjit Cheema
Grace Olano
Noel Panlilio

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Myrla Raymundo, MBA Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo
Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

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Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association
Dennis Jeffrey & Smruti Parichha
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