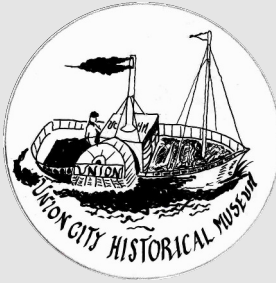


UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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.

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

Visit Us Online:

• <http://www.unioncityhistoricalmuseum.org>

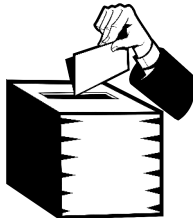
• <http://www.facebook.com/UCMuseum>

Vol. 21 No. 1 • June / July 2018

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

The General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers/Directors was held on June 4, 2018 at the Museum. The Nominating Committee conducted the election. The following officers were elected for a one-year term, from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019:

- **President - Hugh McNamara**
- **Vice-President - Ricardo Avelino**
- **Secretary - Ralf Mueller**
- **Treasurer - Carlen Gregorio**



The following directors were elected and will hold their seats for a two-year term, from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020:

- **Dom Filardo**
- **Sarabjit Cheema**
- **Dennis Jeffrey**
- **Robert Swartz**
- **Ian Candon**

The following directors will still hold their seats from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019:

- **Gloria Cardon**
- **Lagrimas Bundang**
- **Angel Villorente**

HAPPENINGS IN UNION CITY



A Walk Through Union City History: Around 150 Alvarado School 4th graders and some parents had a *Walk Through Union City History* last June 1, 2018, headed by teacher Alyson Leonard.

Four groups of 37 students each were given a PowerPoint presentation by Founder/CEO Myrla Raymundo. The students were able to answer questions about history. The students had a great time and thanked the Union City Historical Museum for their learning of the history of Union City. They said, "Now we know a lot about our town."

The picture at left shows one of the groups of 37 students.

Dedication of the Kennedy Youth Center. The Dedication of the *Kennedy Youth Center* at 1333 Decoto Road was held last May 11, 2018. It was a free event with lots of food, DJ entertainment and lots of activities. Everyone enjoyed the event.

Union Sanitary District Open House: The 100th birthday celebration of the *Union Sanitary District* was held last May 19, 2018. There were plant tours, kid-friendly activities, demonstrations, displays, giveaways and refreshments. A lot of visitors joined in the fun.

Asian-American Heritage Festival: The Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church in Union City celebrated its annual *Asian-American Heritage Festival* last May 26, 2018. There was a lot of entertainment and food.

Myanmar Thingyan Festival: The Kennedy Park at 1333 Decoto Road was the location of the event *Myanmar Thingyan Festival* last May 27, 2018. It was a celebration of Burmese culture. There were lots of different presentations and food.

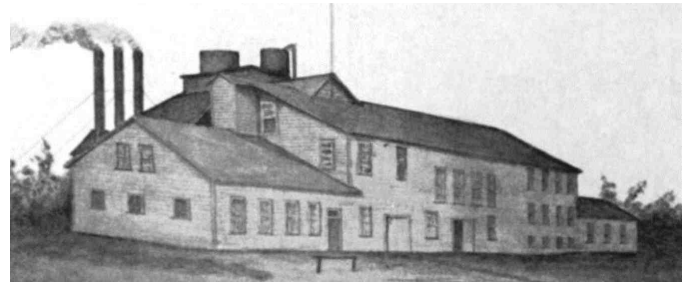
SITE OF NATION'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL BEET SUGAR FACTORY



**Contributed By
Anthony Gualco**

Alameda County Historical Marker #768, on Dyer Street & Ratekin Drive.

(Inscription) The factory was built in 1870 by E. H. Dyer, "Father of the American Beet Sugar Industry." Located on a



corner of Dyer's farm, the small factory began processing sugar beets on November 15, 1870 and produced 293 tons of sugar during its first operating season. The plant has since been completely rebuilt on the original site.

Above is a drawing from the E.H. Dyer Company of their first sugar refinery at Alvarado. Built in 1870, it ran for four years but ended in failure. As the quote above suggests, the drawing of the mill suggests many consider this to be the first commercially successful beet sugar plant in the U.S. But was it?

Its first year was successful, making a profit of \$15,000 to \$18,000 for which it received many accolades. However in its second and third years, the managers of the mill were tight-lipped about operations and in the fourth year they announced they would cease operation and that the mill would move to Soquel in Santa Cruz County taking with them much of the internal equipment. The empty building was then bought by E.H. Dyer as he bided his time to make a success where failure had been.

Some historians call this the first successful beet sugar mill in the U.S. while others refer to its successor, the Standard Sugar Company, founded on the same site in 1879 as the first successful beet sugar mill. It is more likely the crown of the first successful beet sugar mill would be the Standard Sugar Co. of Alvarado of 1879. The California Beet Sugar Co. of 1870 had one successful year and then folded in its fourth year.

There is one other claimant to the title of the first successful beet sugar mill and that is in Grand Island, Nebraska, built in 1890 by H.F. Oxnard. That it was successful there is no doubt, but it claims this title by throwing shade on the Alvarado sugar mill and Claus Spreckles Watsonville beet sugar plant. Alvarado's 1879 plant predated Oxnard's by eleven years and Claus Spreckles predated Oxnard's by one year. The claim that the Grand Island, Nebraska beet sugar plant was first is being pushed by the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, but its claim does not hold water.

In the next article we will look at the Standard Sugar Company of Alvarado founded in 1879 by E.H. Dyer on the same site where the California Beet Sugar plant failed.

UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA, CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 2015

By Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO, Union City Historical Museum

2015 (January) - Congratulations to the re-elected officials of the City of Union City: Councilmembers Pat Gacoscos, Lorrin Ellis and Emily Duncan.

2015 (January) - Congratulations to the re-elected New Haven Board Members Sarabjit Cheema and Linda Canlas.

2015 (January) - Tony Acosta was appointed as the Interim City Manager.

2015 (January) - The Installation Ceremony of the new Board of Directors for the Union City Chamber of Commerce was held. Micelle Powell was elected President.

2015 (January) - Community Ambassador Program for Seniors help Union City seniors get benefits through different sources. Senior Ambassadors Myrla Raymundo, Fely Garcia, and Carlen Gregorio manned the table at the Union City Farmers Market.

2015 (January) - Union City Police Department had a swearing in ceremony for its newest officers: Ninja Allen, Terrence Olson, Nicolas Perry, Ryan Ramon and Rony Ziya. Chief Darryl McAllister administered the oath of office to the new officers.

2015 (February) - The members of INGRESS had an event at the Union City Historical Museum. Mark Sison led the group of around 100 members.

2015 (February) - Josephine Pando, a Lifetime Member of the Union City Historical Museum, passed away at age 89.

2015 (March) - Leo Alvelais, former Mayor of Union City, passed away. He was 97.

2015 (April) - Museum members Dom and Bess Filardo manned the table at Logan High School Community Service Job Faire.

2015 (May) - The Sociedade Divino Espirito Santo de Alvarado at Watkins Street held its 89th Annual Holy Ghost Festival.

2015 (June) - The Union City Historical Museum Election of Officers/Directors was held at the Museum. Dom Filardo was elected President.

2015 (June) - History Day: 150 Alvarado Elementary School 4th Graders went on a History Day at the Union City Historical Museum.

2015 (June) - Museum Volunteers helped at the Mighty 4 Event.

2015 (June) - CAPS Ambassadors (Community Ambassador Program for Seniors) helped seniors at the Farmers Market.

2015 (July) - Museum members Ray and Myrla Raymundo attended the St. Anne's Festival.

2015 (July) - The Union City Historical Museum Officers/Directors were inducted into office. Councilmember Pat Gacoscos was the Inducting Officer.

2015 (July) - Swearing In Ceremony of 2015-2016 Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association Officers and Directors by Union City Police Chief Darryl C. McAllister.

2015 (July) - Myrla Raymundo, President of the Friends of the Union City Library, managed a Library Book Sale.

2015 (August) - The Knights of Columbus, St. Anne's Catholic Church, had an Induction of Officers for FY 2015-2016.

2015 (August) - The Adobo Festival was held at the Kennedy Park. Food is central to the Adobo Festival. The original Vinta, displayed at the event, was shipped from the province of Zamboanga, Philippines. A Vinta is a vessel of ancient heritage closely associated with the people of Western Mindanao in the Philippines.

2015 (August) - There is now a Filipino Restaurant, named Pinoy Handaan, at Smith St. in old Alvarado.

2015 (August) - The Union City Historical Museum released the Chronology of Events 1770 – 2015 that contains all the happenings in Union City from those dates.

2015 (August) - 11th Anniversary of the Sister City Festival was held at Mark Green Sports Center.

2015 (October) - The Alvarado Historic District Arts and Wine Fest was held at the old Alvarado Park.

2015 (November) - Myrla Raymundo did a Presentation of Union City History to 75 first graders at Guy Emmanuel Elementary School.

2015 (November) - Myrla Raymundo celebrated her 80th birthday.

2015 (November) - Union City Police Chief McAllister received the prestigious NAACP Award.

2015 (December) - Alvarado Middle School was renamed Itliong-Vera Cruz Middle School in honor of Fil-Am labor leaders.

2015 (December) - Christmas Tree Lighting held at old Alvarado Park.

2015 (December) - Bruce Goldstein created the Museum Logo.

2015 (December) - Ed Roldan landscaped the Museum front yard with beautiful plants and flowers.

2015 (December) - Myrla Raymundo, President of the Friends of the Union City Library, and Mariza Dysiong, Secretary, announced the start of the Union City Library Lobby Book Sale.

ANNUAL REPORT (FISCAL YEAR 2017 - 2018) JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018

Presented by Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO: July 1, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

On behalf of the Union City Historical Museum, I am presenting this FY2017 - FY2018 Annual Report.

This document contains information about our goals and objectives, our activities and accomplishments for this fiscal year and the people who contributed to make the past fiscal year productive and successful and to fulfill the City's request to account for our activities.

Our 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.

UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM PAST ACTIVITIES:

Election of the FY 2017 - 2018 Officers and Directors.

Presentation and proclamation recognizing May 15, 2017, as National Police Week in Union City.

Past Mayor of Union City, Bernie Morales turned 100 years old.

Proclamation recognizing the St. Anne Knights of Columbus, headed by Peter Petit.

Anthony Gualco visited the Union City Historical Museum and donated three big binders filled with stories and information about Alvarado.

Around 150 Alvarado School 4th graders had a Walk Through Union City History.

Anthony Gualco wrote about WWII.

The newly-elected officers/directors of the Union City Historical Museum were inducted into office by Vice-Mayor Pat Gacoscos.

The Union City National Night Out with the Police and the City was held at the Union City Veterans Park.

Anthony Gualco wrote about Veasy Street.

The Alvarado Fall Fest featuring iBike-Union City was presented by the Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association and the Union City Chamber of Commerce at the Old Alvarado Park in Union City.

The Filipino-American History Month was held at the Itliong-Vera Cruz Middle School in Union City.

The Flight 93 Remembrance and Celebration of Life was held in Union City.

We welcome the new City Attorney for Union City, Kristopher Kokotaylo.

Anthony "AC" Lorenzo, Vice-President of the Union City Historical Museum, passed away.

Anthony Gualco wrote about the Oakland Paving Brick Company.

The Lions Club of Union City invited seniors from all over the City to its annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

The Alvarado Winterfest, sponsored by the Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association, was held at the Old Alvarado Park in Union City.

Fernando Cabiles, one of the Museum's Lifetime members, passed away.

The annual Paskuhang Pinoy, celebrating Christmas the Filipino Way, was held at the Community Center in Union City.

The Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward had their annual Night of Remembrance honoring those who have experienced a loss of their loved ones.

We welcome Thomas Ruark, the new Public Works Director, City of Union City.

Anthony Gualco wrote about the California Brick Company.

Bernie Morales, the first Mexican-American Mayor of Union City, passed away at age 100.

The Union City Historical Museum celebrated its 17th year anniversary.

Anthony Gualco wrote about the Pacific States Steel Co.

Heidi Kitayama, wife of Union City Past Mayor Tom Kitayama, passed away at the age of 95.

CONCLUSION:

In closing, I would like to thank all the officers, members and volunteers of the Union City Historical Museum and the community for their valuable contributions during the past fiscal year. I would also like to thank the City of Union City for their assistance.

The Museum is a unique vehicle to make us aware of our beautiful heritage and culture. This is the only way to preserve our history. The Union City Historical Museum pledges to continue to provide services to the residents of Union City.

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hugh McNamara

THANK YOU

I wanted to thank the Museum members for electing me President for the term July 1st, 2018 through June 30th, 2019.

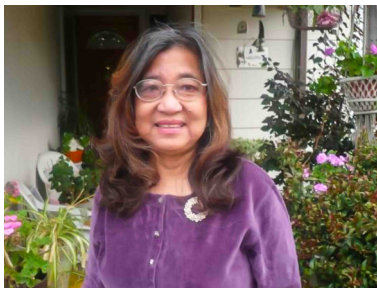
We must work with each of his or her abilities to continue improvement in the Museum. With many new ideas and goals of new and incoming members with fresh new eyes, it can be done.

We must work with the city to fix or improve the items that is their responsibility and some of ours, all in a cooperative way.

Let us see how all will work out this next year. As always and forevermore, we will see you at the Museum.

I also want to thank the Immediate Past President Dennis Jeffrey for a good job done for two years.

FOUNDER'S NOTES



**Myrla Raymundo, MBA,
Founder/CEO**

This year, we have a new set of Museum officers and directors, which means a fresh start, a clean start, and a chance to begin again. This is an opportune time to think of the following strategic plans:

Groups of students come to hear presentations of Union City history. Researchers from different state universities and colleges and other organizations and groups do their research work in the Museum. Continue to educate the community.

In connection with the City's Preservation Ordinance, which identifies and encourages preservation of historical homes and buildings, the Museum has a list of 400 historical homes and buildings. Continue to work on this project.

Continue interviewing residents, particularly the old-timers for our Oral History.

Continue to collect and maintain artifacts and maintain the library of books and historical documents.

Conduct several open house events.

Conduct fundraising events.

These are the big challenges facing us this new Fiscal Year. I enjoined the new Board of Directors to think of ways to make these things happen. We look forward not only to this fiscal year, but also to the next 100 years.

Let's all keep up the good work!

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Installation of the Museum Officers/Directors will be held on June 18, Monday, at 7:00 PM at the Museum. Museum members and guests are welcome.

Refreshments will be served.

THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO

Officers: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Hugh McNamara, President
Ricardo Avelino, Vice-President
Ralf Mueller, Secretary
Carlen Gregorio, Treasurer

Directors:

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019

Gloria Cardon
Lagrimas Bundang
Angel Villorrente

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020

Dom Filardo
Sarabjit Cheema
Dennis Jeffrey
Robert Swartz
Ian Candon

EDITORIAL BOARD

Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

MUSEUM MEETINGS FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

October 2, 2018: Quarterly Board Meeting
January 7, 2019: Quarterly Board Meeting
April 8, 2019: Quarterly Board Meeting
June 3, 2019: Election of Officers and Directors

All Meetings on Mondays, 7:00pm at the Museum

MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS

Phil & Leila Verzola
John & Cathy Tester
Eva Kamakea
Mike dela Cruz
Myrla Raymundo
Gina Lewis
Al & Marsha Badella
Barbara Scheifler
William & Dorothy Pearce Hubbard
Robert & Leslie Swartz
Steve Miller & Diane LaMountaine
Helen Cabiles
Allen Cecil
Angelo dela Cruz
Marcos Gatan, Jr.
Joey & Vilma Golaw
James Celcer
Sarabjit Kaur Cheema
Emily Duncan
Richard & Barbara Aro Valle
Kathy Logan
Manuel & Lita Abad
Elmer & Vicky Guzman
Alice Robie
Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association
Dennis Jeffrey & Smruti Parichha
Adrian Swartz
Ann Bess Chanco
Edgar Roldan
Evelyn Abellera
Marlene O. Benedict