



The Albany Historical Society

Volume 6, Number 1

October – December 2015

President's Message

Where does the time go? We have all been busy with family and Albany events, hence the delay in our newsletter.

Our thanks to Jackie Armstrong for sharing Dianne (Pursell) Hoffman's treasures from the Hal Hoffman's estate. These treasures included: *The Story of the City of Albany*, a Golden Gate Fields brochure (1975), various Albany Business Directories, *A History of Albany*, *Stories of Albany*, *Albany California* (a publication of the Albany Chamber of Commerce) and the Albany Community News Calendar (1982). Also, our thanks to Ed Fields for donating several documents pertaining to the history of the Albany Bulb.

Our current projects include the installation of a plaque in recognition of the Veterans' Memorial Building (in the Spring of 2016), collaboration on a film about the Albany "Garbage Wars", and continued efforts to make archival history more accessible to the community.

Joan Larson, President

Save the Date
Sunday, January 31, 2016
Albany Historical Society Annual Meeting
Edith Stone Room
1247 Marin Avenue Albany, CA
1:00 – 1:30 PM
Business Meeting
Election of Board of Directors
1:30 – 3:00 PM

Veterans Recognition and Thank You

Light Refreshments provided by the Albany Historical Society

SPOTLIGHT



Albany Veterans' Memorial Building

Many of us pass by this building every day, some on their way to the dog park, students on their way to eat lunch, people attending community events, baseball fans going to watch a ballgame, children enjoying the play structures, families having a picnic, and fans of the music concerts in the late Summer. Inside the building, people celebrate receptions, Quinceneras, attend the Albany High School Madrigal Dinner and concerts, participate in Scout meetings and events, and enjoy pancake breakfasts and crab feeds.

In the early 1920s, voters in Alameda County approved a tax to construct buildings that would honor veterans of World War I and also of the Civil War and the Spanish American War. Ten Veterans' Memorial buildings were built in Alameda County between 1927 and 1935. The buildings provided a meeting place for veterans' organizations.

The Albany Veterans' Memorial Building was built in 1932 in Albany's Memorial Park, which was created by the City in 1925. The building was the result of the combined efforts of generous citizenry, their legislative representatives, the county board of supervisors, the city council, and the city park board of Albany. The building was designed by Alameda County architect Henry Haight Meyers in the Spanish vernacular style characterized by white-painted plaster and terra cotta tile roofs. Meyers designed many buildings in the Bay Area including Veterans' buildings in Alameda, Berkeley, and Oakland. The Veterans' Memorial Building is managed by the American Legion, Albany Post no. 292. It is available for private events.

50 Years Ago

October 6, 1965

A ribbon-cutting was held for the Chin family's new Richfield filling station at Santa Fe & Solano Avenues.

The official groundbreaking for BART was scheduled for October 7th at Solano and Masonic Avenues.

Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Streeter were honored at their home at 526 Cornell. Married for 50 years, the couple had lived at the Cornell address since 1919.

An eight-room home at 611 Curtis was offered for sale at \$23,950.

October 13, 1965

A divided City Council agreed to allow beer sales at the Kue & Kushion Billiard Center at 813 San Pablo.

Grand Opening festivities celebrated the Super Stop Market at 747 San Pablo Avenue. Prizes included a Teflon griddle, steam iron, and a portable hi-fi.

The former City Hall at 1045 Solano and the former police and fire station at the corner of Washington & San Pablo were offered for sale.

The Famous Meat Mkt. at 1109 Solano featured sirloin steak for 95c per pound, while Dagna's Market at 1382 Solano offered Pippin apples at 4 pounds for 49 cents.

October 20, 1965

An armed robbery at the M & L Tavern at 979 San Pablo turned deadly when the owner was able to access his personal pistol and shoot and kill one robber. Albany, Berkeley, and El Cerrito police surrounded the bar and were able to arrest the other two robbers. Within 24 hours, officers were summoned to another

bar, The Contact Club at 665 San Pablo, where an argument over money ended when the bartender shot and wounded two patrons.

October 26, 1965

Board of Education members wielded gilded shovels at the groundbreaking for Albany High's new shop and theater arts buildings.

An Albany High senior boy was hospitalized with a fractured skull after knife and club-carrying attackers invaded a "weenie roast" and swim party at the Albany Beach.

November 3, 1965

The Buehrer Company (a materials handling equipment service firm) celebrated completion of a new facility at 1061 Eastshore Highway. The firm also celebrated their 49th year in business.

The Albany Theatre was featuring Peter Sellers' comedy "Wrong Arm of the Law" - adults only, no one under 18 admitted.

November 10, 1965

Phyllis Lyon, of 955 Ventura Ave, was one of three winners of KCBS radio's contest - "Why Would You Like to Have Breakfast at Tiffany's?" In addition to champagne and scrambled eggs with truffles, served at a San Francisco store, she received tickets to the movie at the St. Francis Theatre and an RCA Victor album of the movie soundtrack!

November 17, 1965

Fire department calls for the week were 3 locked out citizens, 2 overheated grease fires, 1 broken power line, 1 case of lint in the furnace, 1 gas leak, 1 cigarette-caused auto fire, 1 smoke scare, and 1 medical transport.

November 24, 1965

Mrs. Bernice Potter, who had organized

volunteers to catalog over 3,000 books to create a PTA-sponsored library at Castro School, was hired as a Library Assistant for the Albany Library.

December 1, 1965

Maid of Albany Valerie Hanelt presided over the drawing at Jim Woulfe Ford with a Grand Prize of a '66 ford. Runners up received Kodak Instamatics, electric knives, Philco radios, or a Corningware Buffet Set.

December 8, 1965

The former Arnold's Drapery at 1549 Solano was renovated for occupancy by a team of four local realtors. Once the Blankensip Dance Studio, the office would house an innovative arrangement with four salesmen sharing a common telephone number.

At 1120 Solano, Del Courtney TV featured a Sylvania 21' color TV for \$499.50

December 15, 1965

Kay Geering was appointed to the Board of Education, filling the remainder of the term of Rae Volz, who resigned.

December 22, 1965

Several pages of Christmas Greetings ads from local businesses included the Albany Land Fill Co, (operators of the Albany Dump), Howard Motor Sales at 969 San Pablo, Hollfelder's Jewelry at 1131 Solano, Call Bros. Jewelers at 823 San Pablo, Dimick Tire Co. at 500 San Pablo, and the Bertha Mitchell Employment Agency at 1302 Solano.

December 29, 1965

Albany Jaycees announced the winners of their annual holiday decorations contest. The home of the Frederick Cabrals at 977 Cornell, the John Pleich home at 801 Key Route, and the Ronald Grisham family at 951 Stannage were selected for the honors. The H.L. Moore Chrysler-Plymouth Company furnished transportation for the judges as they toured Albany to view the entries. Votes were tallied at Serb's Restaurant.

75 years ago

United States Department of Agriculture research chemists moved into the new Western Regional Research Service facility in November 1940. Located on Buchanan Street, this facility conducts research to enhance the healthfulness of foods, to develop new food and industrial products from renewable resources, and to protect and enhance the quality of the environment.

Upcoming Meetings:

Board Meetings: the first Friday of each month, 9:30 am, basement of the Community Center
Cataloging Meetings: the third Friday of each month, 9:30 am, basement of the Community Center
Check with Joan Larson, 510-526-7769 for possible rescheduling dates.