

The Pioneer Press  
West Side Pioneer Association  
Tracy Historical Museum  
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## Upcoming Events



Date	Time	Event	Location/Presenter
October 15, 2016	10:00 am- 3:00 pm	<i>Living History Days/Civil War</i>	Tracy Historical Museum
December 11, 2016	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	<i>Open House</i>	Tracy Historical Museum

**Please Note:** Programs are subject to change.  
Call the Museum, to confirm schedule



# THE PIONEER PRESS

West Side Pioneer Association/Tracy Historical Museum

1141 Adam Street, Tracy, California 95376

Phone: (209) 832-7278

E-Mail: [tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net)

VOI 27-4

September-October 2016

## **WSPA President's Message**

### **"The Tracy Historical Museum Is The Local Time Capsule To Reflect On The Past To Guide Our Future."**

As summer eases into fall, so does our organizational leadership every two years. As President for two terms, I am honored to pass the baton of change to the next President and Board of Directors. The last four years have seen a remarkable continuation of our prime mission of preserving Tracy's heritage and engaging our constituents in public history. These positive directions culminated in our West Side Pioneer Association being selected by the Tracy Chamber of Commerce as the 2015 Organization of the Year.

In the meantime, this past year has been highlighted by our Tracy Press negative collection donated by Publisher Emeritus Sam Matthew in collaboration with our local high school students and the first successful Museum Yard Sale in May. In addition, we have made a recent major acquisition of a 1879 Pump Organ from the Van Allan family of Lathrop who once taught music to Banta and New Jerusalem students in the 1880's.

Together, these exciting events and more will continue with the advent of 2017 and new personnel. With a bright future ahead, I would like to thank the general membership and past and present Board members and President's for contributing to our successful historic mission in Tracy. Please join us in our community oriented goals!!



Thank you to everyone who donated articles and time for the yard sale.

It would not have happened without each of you. Total sales were \$1254.98 and we had one expense of \$140.00 to the Tracy Press leaving a profit of \$1114.98.

A special thank you to Julie Mangskau for transporting all of the items from my house to the Museum. Without them it would have taken 3 or 4 pickup loads to do the job. A special thank you to President Larry Gamino and David Castro as they spent the night at the museum for security reasons.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make our yard sale such a big success.

Johanna Nunley, Chairman

# Membership

Thank you to all who sent in your payment in response to my recent letter. Dues are important to the Museum. Anyone who you know that might want to join the West Side Pioneer Association please let me know or call the Museum as membership fees help purchase items that are needed for the Museum to Operate.

# History Day at the Museum

Saturday, October 15, 2016

10:00 am – 2:00 pm



weaving,



Civil War Re-enactors,  
Spinning,



basket  
and

Junior History Explorer Kids Activities!

# Free – Bring the Family

## *Short of Docents!!!!*

### *Information offered to you about your Museum!*

Submitted by Jean Shipman

More often than I would care to say, we are short a docent for the museum. There is a joy I feel when I am able to show a visitor around, I do not go into great detail but share a few things to grab their interest. Otherwise, the visitor will continue on, looking, viewing the display and reading the information. Sometimes I will check on them asking if there is any questions.

Well, you know a question or two will come up and if I do not know the answer will look at the library binders to find the answer. If no answer comes forth, I write down their contact numbers and our historian will send the information to them. That did happen recently! Someone drove all the way from Sacramento to find out about the Chinese Laundry where he remembered being with his great grandfather when he was a small child.

Today Louise Gukan of Fairfield, and her mother of Sacramento came in enquiring about Banta. Louise's father had gone to Tracy High School. Their family had previously owned Banta Inn. She was put in contact with one of our Historians and plans were made for her to return on another day. She plans to bring in some artifacts from her family.

On other days' visitors from Los Angeles, Louisiana, Georgia, Maryland, Canada, San Francisco. Sacramento, Manteca, San Jose, Antioch and Sunnyvale toured. All were most pleased with our small museum. One gentleman said he could see a lot of love went into the displays.

Now you must realize we are short of docents! But you can see there is no overload of work. Just being here at scheduled times will help a great deal. This is your museum let's volunteer.

Will you help us once a week? once a month? two hours? or four hours? You too can feel the joy of assisting others.

If you drive by the sign will more often than not say CLOSED! You and I can turn that around!

Please call the Museum at 832-7278 *OR* just come in when the sign is OPEN. I can give you a short orientation and talk with you about when you are available.

# Heartfelt Thank you!

*The following folks have donated to your museum*

Submitted by Jean Shipman

## Weber Commemorative Plates by Onalee Koster

The original art work based on lithograph and photos of C.M. Weber's 1850 home on Weber's Point and Julia Weber's home which was also built on Weber Point and was later moved to West Lane and the Calaveras River.

## Barbara Brenkwitz and the 1/4" to scale 1912 60 horsepower Holt Tractor

This to scale tractor was built by Wood Crafter Lino Giovacchini of Tracy. It is the exact replica of one created by Holt Tractor Mfg. of Stockton. He used reclaimed spruce wood.

## Barbosa Cabinets, Inc. donated the countertop for our new barber shop Display

For this display we have the 1930's barber chair from the Tracy Inn and the original barber chair brought from the town of Tesla. Barber William H. May continued his practice in the new town of Tracy and had several barber shop locations starting in 1909 on Central Ave.

And Yes! There are two strops donated. One from Jeanie Karas and the other from Dennis Maddix.

## George Roessler of Valley Springs donated an 1879 Pump Organ

This organ belonged to his great grandmother, Ethel Allen, who taught music in the Banta and Lathrop area, as well as having connections with Tracy.

## Two elegant Amoires to be used for much needed storage by Johanna Nunley



Thanks to one and all for donations big and small.

Without you what would the museum be!

## *Facts about Tracy that you may not know...*

- ◆ Tracy was incorporated in 1910 and grew rapidly after the first irrigation district was established in 1915.
- ◆ Tracy was mentioned in Hunter S. Thompson's book, "Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs."
- ◆ Tracy was mentioned in Jack Kerouac's book, "On the Road."
- ◆ The parade scene in the film "The Candidate" starring Robert Redford was filmed in Tracy.
- ◆ The 1975 Academy Award nominated documentary The California Reich depicts members of the American Nazi Party living in Tracy.
- ◆ The Tracy High School football field and MVP trophy are named after Peter B. Kyne, a novelist from San Francisco whose Bohemian Club friends orchestrated the naming in 1927, even though Kyne had very little to do with Tracy. It was re-named for long time Tracy High football coach Wayne Schneider in 2012 after the field was completely rebuilt.
- ◆ Kathy Griffin recorded her CD "Kathy Griffin: For Your Consideration" live on February 17, 2008 at the ETK Theatre at the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts in Tracy.
- ◆ The book *The Blue Mexican*, by Danny Ruiz, is based in Tracy.
- ◆ In the year 2000, the census showed that there were 56,929 people.
- ◆ In 2010 the population was 82,922.
- ◆ Tracy has been a sister city of Memuro, Hokkaido, Japan since 1989. The city is also a sister city of Velas in the Azores, Portugal.



## A SWELL SHOP

(EXCERPT FROM THE TRACY PRESS SEPTEMBER 3, 1910)

The Bank Barber Shop is now in new quarters in the P.P. Schmidt building on Central Avenue, and W.H. May has a right to be proud. Everything is brand new. Near the entrance, a laundry office has been installed with a large counter and a number of convenient shelves.

Two fine chairs have been placed opposite the door, with mirrors in front and back. A new case for individual shaving mugs and brushes is also installed. In the rear will be found some elegant tubs with hot and cold water connections. Mr. May has decided to



## STREET FAIR AND CARNIVAL

October 1910

*Excerpts from the Tracy Press October 22, 1910*

Amid the blare of trumpets, under the glare of hundreds of Electric lights and with Front Street and Central Avenue blocked with a sea of humanity, the coronation of Queen Vesta the First took place on the royal throne Thursday evening.

The Queen and her Court looked very fine in the robes of state, with all the spangles and glitter of court attire. The following comprised the Court: Ella Miller, Lila Hart, Viola Schmidt and Ruth Howard. Berthel Bliss and Roy McKeaney were the pages and the little Misses Thelma Rine-



hart, Thelma Davis and Gertrude Bliss acted as flower girls.

## Volunteers needed for Museum and Living History Program

Our Historical Museum is run by volunteers. We need your help to volunteer to staff the Museum when it is open and the wonderful 3<sup>rd</sup> grade living history programs that the Museum operates.

- Regular Museum Hours:

Monday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Tuesday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Friday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm OR by appointment for groups.



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program at Museum: Mondays 9:00-11:00 on school days
- Historic Lammersville Pioneer School Program: School days in January-May (one or two days a week)

If you can commit to a few hours one day a week or every month, or on special events, we can use your help to keep these wonderful programs going. Please call the program coordinator for more information and to lend a helping hand:

- Museum Coordinator - Open - 209-832-7278
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Museum Program Coordinator - Sue Broztowski
- Historic Lammersville Pioneer School Program Coordinator – Wes Huffman - 209-879-3155



## Museum Launches Web Site [www.tracymuseum.org](http://www.tracymuseum.org)

We are pleased to present our new web site at our existing URL, [www.tracymuseum.org](http://www.tracymuseum.org). We have not only updated basic organizational information, but we can also now easily post announcements

and program updates on the site. We will also start to build an online archive of many written documents and photographs that are in the Museum library archives.



Special thanks to Kevin Harb for his technical expertise to develop the site.

Check back regularly at [www.tracymuseum.org](http://www.tracymuseum.org) for the most current news from the Tracy Historical Museum and West Side Pioneer Association.

## Have you forgotten to provide your Email Address



Although we are a historical museum, there are some technological advances we need to adopt! Because email is now a common form of communication, we are going to start to update our membership records with email addresses. We will continue to issue the *Pioneer Press* in print. Please consider providing your email to us as it is the most cost effective way for us to communicate with members about program updates and reminders. You can add your email to the Annual Dues Payment Form included in this issue when you send in your check, or you can email the Museum at [tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net)

### **West Side Pioneer Association Board of Directors for 2015-2016**

<i><b>Elected Board Officers</b></i>	<i><b>Name</b></i>	<i><b>Telephone #</b></i>
President	Larry Gamino	209-836-9687
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	David Lee	209-814-6658
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Dennis Maddox	209-835-8678
Recording Secretary	Janice Johnson	209-836-3770
Treasurer	Mitra Behnam	209-740-2764
Corresponding Secretary	Jean Shipman	209-835-8933
Museum Chairperson	Larry Gamino	209-836-9687
Old Lammersville School	Wes Huffman	209-879-3155
3rd Grade Tour Director	Judy Lee	209-814-6658
Landmark Committee	Pete Mitracos	209-835-0270
<i><b>Elected Board Members at Large</b></i>	David Middleton	209-835-3797
	Ruth Sanford	209-835-6023
	Virginia Mynatt	209-836-1171
<i><b>Appointed Board Members</b></i>	Johanna Nunley	209-835-1560
	David Castro	209-835-2478
	Kathy Bergthold	408-569-8931
	Celeste Garamendi	209-914-0792
<i><b>Ex-officio</b></i>		
Immediate Past President	David Lee	209-814-6658