


The Pioneer Press
 West Side Pioneer Association
 Tracy Historical Museum
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 Upcoming Events 			
Date	Time	Event	Location/Presenter
January 15, 2014 Wednesday	7:00 pm	<i>History of Mexican Settlement in Tracy</i>	Lolly Hansen Centr Raymond Morelos
February 19, 2014 Wednesday	7:00 pm	<i>Black History Month Presentation (tentative)</i>	Tracy Historical Museum
March 16, 2014 Sunday	2:00 pm	<i>Corned Beef Dinner Fundraiser</i>	Tracy Community Center
April 12, 2013 Saturday	2:00 pm	<i>"The Damnedest Finest Ruins"</i> Film Maker James Delassandro	Documentary Film, 1906 SF Earthquake Grand Theater
April 2014 (Dates to be determined)		<i>Student Art Show at Museum</i>	Co-sponsored with TRAQC Educational Foundation Tracy Historical Museum



THE PIONEER PRESS

West Side Pioneer Association/Tracy Historical Museum
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Web: www.tracymuseum.org

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November-December 2013

WSPA President's Message Larry W. Gamino - President

As the end of 2013 approaches, this President has much to be thankful. I consider 2013 to be a successful year. With the broad support of the community and city, we have carefully improved our museum facility with the addition of the Women's Improvement Club 1916 water fountain in front at 1141 Adam Street. This historical monument exemplifies the powerful role of Tracy women after earning the California state right to vote on October 10, 1911.

I would also like to thank our current Board of Directors and Program Director Celeste Garamendi for their innovations to existing educational programs such as the Lammersville Pioneer School experience, the 3rd grade museum tours, the Student Art Show, History Day at the Museum, St. Patrick's Day Dinner, European Train Enthusiasts Display, Historical Lecture Series, Christmas Open House and other various activities. The new dynamics in our Board with four new members, Treasurer Wes Huffman, Newsletter Editor Kathy Bergthold, membership chairman Bill Kaska, and financial consultant Mitra Behnam has strengthened our commitment to a polished local history program. A special thanks goes out to our friendly volunteer docents and staff members who man the functions of the museum during hours of operation.

As we adapt to our mission of preserving Tracy and Tulare Township history and culture, the WSPA in cooperation with the City of Tracy has developed a community conscious history program that lays the foundation for future collections, institutions and exhibits. Based on general membership involvement for ideas and financial support, we appreciate and thank Tracyites and visitors in our effort to educate and entertain all citizens.

Finally, I conclude with an important announcement that our Museum Director Onalee Koster has been chosen by the Tracy Chamber of Commerce to be the 2013 Female Citizen of the Year. This red carpet award reflects her community commitment to promote and celebrate Tracy history through our West Side Pioneer Association organization.

Current Events

2013 Tracy Female of the Year Museum Director **Onalee Koster**

Since graduating from Tracy Joint Union High School in 1949 and College of Arts and Crafts in 1952, Onalee Lowes (later Koster after marrying Cliff Koster) represents 60 years of Tracy's finest agricultural and community cultures. Born and still living in New Jerusalem, this daughter of an 1880's pioneer agricultural family reflects her commitment to a tradition of a quality education as demonstrated in her roles as New Jerusalem District 4-H project teacher and First Presbyterian Church School teacher.

Onalee Koster has been involved in community service for over 60 years at the local, county and state levels. Locally, she has been involved in both New Jerusalem 4-H school projects and as Tracy Historical Museum docent and demonstrator of home economic production of foods. At the county level, Onalee has offered her ranch as an agricultural laboratory to teach San Joaquin public teachers to understand agricultural values through one week workshops in her barns and fields. At the state level, for several years in association with the San Joaquin County Bureau, Onalee has hosted an annual vintage farm equipment jamboree to exemplify the progress of agricultural technology.

Besides being one of Tracy's most important agricultural ambassadors, Onalee Koster has shouldered one of Tracy's most important citizen roles as the first and only Tracy Historical Museum Director. Since 1993 when Tracy established its first museum on Bessie Avenue, Onalee has taken on the helm of preserving Tracy's identity and values. With a cohort of her fellow peers, she appeared before the City Planning Commission and City council meetings since the 1980's to create a city museum and establish a downtown historic district. By collecting artifacts, memorabilia and documents, Onalee has transformed the 1937 U. S. Post Office into a rededicated and living Tracy Historical Museum representing Tracy since 2003. As past West Side Pioneer Association President in 2005-06, her vision and tenacity has made the Tracy Historical Museum a repository of Tracy's rich knowledge and evolution. Her reverence for history fills the halls and rooms of collections and archives of Tracy's past, present and future possibilities.

Because of her selfless dedication as a volunteer and her determination to make a difference in the community she calls home, Onalee Koster has been named Female Citizen of the Year by the Tracy Chamber of Commerce.



Historical Lincoln Highway Relocation

On Tues. Dec. 3, Chris Foley of Tracy DPW was notified that we wanted to move the original Historical Lincoln Highway sign from its present location, on the sign post across the street from Perko's Restaurant. This sign was almost completely obscured by another traffic sign in front of it, and by a tree along side of it, near the curb on 11th St. Chris was kind enough to move it to another light post about 125 feet to the east, near the entry to the "Auto Zone" parking lot. Amazingly, Chris was at the site in 20 minutes after I called him, and in another 15 minutes it was switched to a much more visible pole.

The next effort in Tracy will be to attach our current Historic LH sign to the City Limit signs located E/bound on Byron Rd. (east of Grant Line), and W/bound on 11th St. at the east end of the MacArthur Bridge. This will be by a co-sponsorship proposal including the LHA Cal Chapter and the Tracy West Side pioneer Association. I will be presenting this project to the City Managers soon.

Submitted by: Mike Kaelin.....LHA.Cal.Chapter Project Mgr (and member of the TWSPA).



November is National American Indian Heritage Month

By Larry Gamino

On August 3, 1990, U.S. President George H. W. Bush declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month. It is commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month. This was a landmark bill officially honoring America's tribal people.



The history of public observances for American Indians at the federal level began in the 97th Congress Public Law 97-445, May 13, 1983 known as American Indian Day. It grew to a week on November 23-30 in 1986 until its month extension in 1990.

Prior to federal recognition in 1983, at the turn of the twentieth century, Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca who was the Director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y., persuaded the Boy Scouts of America in 1912 to adopt a day for the "First American." In 1915, the annual Congress of American Indian Association issued a proclamation on September 28, 1915 declaring the second Saturday of May as American Indian Day. This national appeal formally recognized Indians as legitimate citizens. It was not until 1922 under President Woodrow Wilson would all Indians be officially recognized as U.S. citizens under his Executive Order.

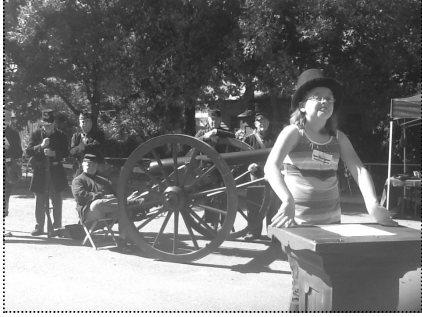
The first American Indian Day at the state level was declared in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states have since followed. Presently, there are a few states that have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day but without recognition as a national legal holiday.

Currently, in Tracy with a total city population of 82,922, there are 1,462 or 1.76 % of American Indian and Alaska Natives, according to the U.S. Census of 2010.

Museum American Indian Artifacts Exhibit



Located in our museum near the main lobby entrance are two display cases. One case displays a collection of arrowheads. Seventy-five percent from Northern California and the rest from Nevada. In the other display case is housed baskets of tulle and horsehair from the Pima and Navajo of Arizona, Alulc of Alaska, the Seminole of Florida and a maiden dress from the Blackfoot tribe.



Ashley Christopher, of Art Freiler School, recited the Gettysburg Address on the 150th Anniversary in front of the recreated Wisconsin Company E of the Grand Army of the Republic during History Days at the Museum.

The 150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address

by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate - we can not consecrate - we cannot hollow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



On Monday, October 28, docent Judith Anne Lee educates 3rd grade class from Poet Christian Elementary School about Tracy's early past of railroading and agriculture.

History Seminar Series

A History of the Western Pacific Railroad Carbona Junction and the Introduction of Lettuce Packing and Shipping

By Larry Gamino



Wayne explains the importance of Carbona Junction to Tracy agriculture to interested audience.

On Wednesday, November 29, we had guest speaker, Wayne Monger a former Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) conductor, discuss his research on the interesting topic of lettuce implementation by railway in Tracy's agricultural past. Currently, Mr. Monger is Director of the Western Pacific Railroad Museum of Portola, CA and Feather River Rail Society. His curiosity in Carbona Junction came about as an ACE conductor riding daily between Stockton and San Jose. With the assistance of former Tracy Press reporter Sam Matthews, he reviewed railroad history at Carbona Junction in the year 1948.

The history of Carbona Junction begins on May 1, 1895. Presently, located on west Linne Road, 3 miles south southeast of downtown Tracy, Carbona Station was originally a part of the Alameda and San Joaquin Railway spur from Stockton to Tesla coal mines in Corral Hollow. In 1903, Western Pacific Railroad built a main line from Oakland to Salt Lake City, Utah crossing at Carbona Station. The intersection of these two mainlines created Carbona Junction and then was purchased by the W. P. the same year.

Although the Tesla spur was abandoned in 1911, Carbona Junction became an important connection for the Western Pacific RR as an agricultural hub of the Central Valley connected to the rest of the country. With its freight and passenger depot intact, Carbona Junction extended its spurs over Linne Road to several agricultural loading sheds from the former Lambert Packing Company.

This set the stage for the Fudenna Brothers of Irvington District near Fremont to purchase and extend their vegetable packing and distribution facilities to Carbona in 1948. This Carbona plant introduced the new vacuum cooling process. With two large cylinders, first eliminating the warm air and then icing and sealing the lettuce crates, the Fudenna Company protected the perishable products for long haul distribution by rail or truck.

This successful experimentation lasted five years. By then, traditional competition adapted from El Centro, Ca, Arizona and Texas were able to adjust their season lengths. Also, the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1944 promoted interstate infrastructure which expedited truck shipping over railway. Specialty farmers like Mitsuo Kagehiro, George Matsuoka, Ed Nasaki and the Alvarez Brothers soon returned to growing tomatoes and beans, the mainstay of Tracy's agricultural industry.

In conclusion, according to Mr. Wayne Monger, this history and noble experiment to modernize railroad shipping through scientific packing at the Carbona Junction of the Western Pacific Railroad, was unable to overcome adaptation by traditional competition and the improvement of highway distribution. Today, a stationless Carbona Junction is owned by the Union Pacific with only the rail sidings and spurs reminding Tracyites the important role both railroads and agriculture have played in Tracy's past, present and one day the future.

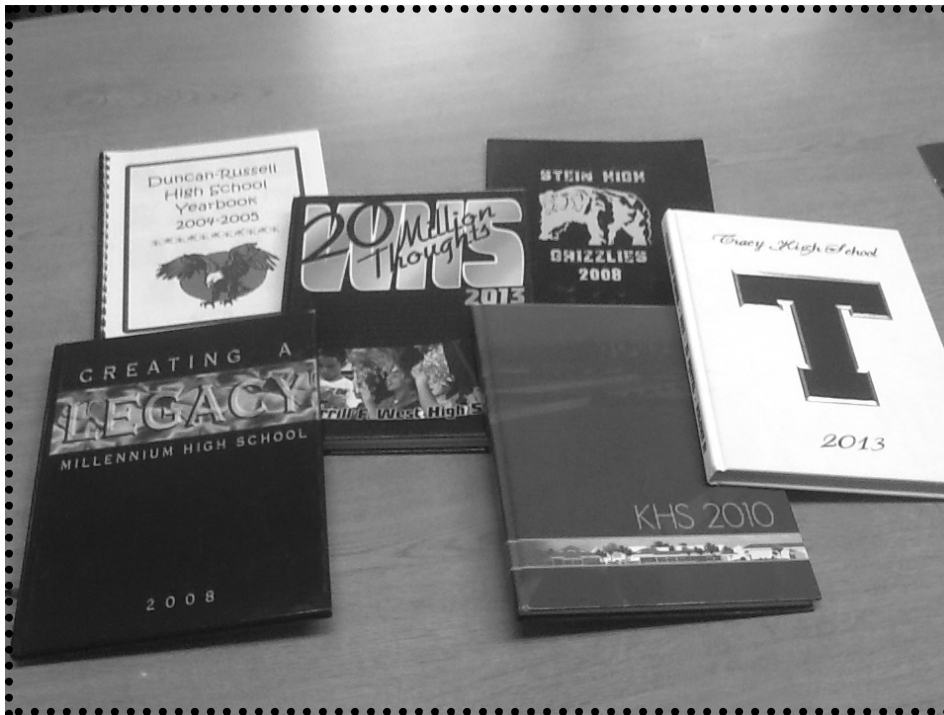


Historic Carbona Junction next to Union Pacific mainline near Linne Rd

High School Yearbook Roundup

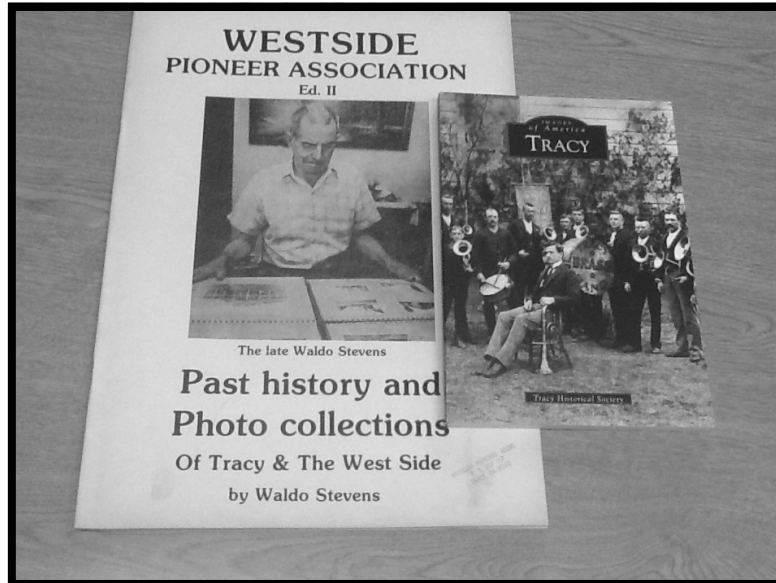
With the cooperation of the Business Superintendent's Office, the Tracy Unified School District high schools have generously donated a total of 46 high school annuals to our extensive collection. Beginning with the Tracy High Bulldogs, journalist teacher Nancy Stamatis contributed 21 editions. Merrill F. West High School donated 8 Wolf-pack yearbooks. John Kimball High School under English teacher Chris Monger delivered 3 Jaguar yearbooks. Duncan-Russell High School offered 7 editions. Stein High School sent 4 Grizzlies yearbooks. Last but not least, Millennium High School of Tracy Learning Center delivered 3 Falcon yearbooks.

The West Side Pioneer Association appreciates the continuing cooperation of the Tracy Unified School District in order to preserve our Tracy education archives for future generations.



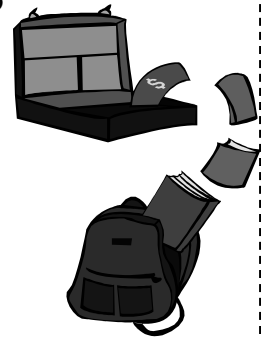
Museum Holiday Gift Giving Ideas

Several gift ideas are available at the Tracy Historical Museum. Included are Tracy local and regional books, colorful Afghans depicting historical buildings, Camp Tracy hats and WSPA "T" shirts. Come by and shop during operational hours: Saturday 10-2 PM, Sunday 1-4 PM and Monday 9-2 PM.



**West Side Pioneer Association
High School Local History Scholarships Available
*Application Deadline March 31, 2014***

The West Side Pioneer Association (WSPA) offers two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from schools in the Tracy Unified School District (TUSD) area. One scholarship is targeted for a graduating senior planning to attend a 2 year junior college and one for a graduating senior planning to attend a 4 year college. Applicants must demonstrate some involvement in local history, for example through volunteer work at the Historical Museum or a local history project, research paper or essay. The **application deadline is March 31, 2014**. Applications are available through the Counseling Office at each high school or by contacting the Tracy Historical Museum at tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net or 209-832-7278





**Meeting of the Minds in Manteca
Historical Museum**

This summer I had the good fortune to meet some of the Board members of the Manteca Historical Society at a special viewing presented by Manteca Fire Chief. From left to right are Victor Nusbaum, Victor Gulley, Mark Abram and Fire Chief Mike Brockman.



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 with your name and address. Thank you for your help and support.

**West Side Pioneer Association Board of Directors
for 2013-2014**

Elected Board Officers

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Telephone #</i>
President	Larry Gamino	209-836-9687
1 st Vice President	Bill Carter	209-834-6170
2 nd Vice President	Celeste Garamendi	209-914-0792
Recording Secretary	Judith Ann Lee	209-814-3358
Treasurer	Wes Huffman	209-879-3155

Appointed Board members

Corresponding Secretary	Jean Shipman	209-835-8933
Museum Chairperson	Onalee Koster	209-835-2493
Old Lammersville School	Janice Johnson	209-836-3770
Landmark Committee	Pete Mitracos	209-835-0270

Elected Board Members at Large

David Middleton	209-835-3797
Ruth Sanford	209-835-6023
Virginia Mynatt	209-836-1171

Appointed Board Members

Bill Kaska	510-773-7066
Mitra Behnam	209-740-2764
Kathy Bergthold	408-569-8931
Betty Galli	209-836-4046

Ex-officio

Immediate Past President	David Lee	209-814-6658
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SUPPORT THE MUSEUM



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014

Annual Membership Dues
(Starting every January)

Adults	\$10.00
Couples/Families	\$15.00
Students	\$ 5.00
Organizations	\$10.00
Commercial	\$20.00
Lifetime Membership	\$150.00



Use the renewal form below and the envelope in your newsletter to help the museum continue to serve your



Cut along this line

West Side Pioneer Association Membership Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Annual Membership Dues
(Starting every January)

Make checks payable to
West Side Pioneer Association

Adults \$10.00
 Couples/Families \$15.00
 Students \$5.00
 Organizations \$10.00
 Commercial \$20.00
 Lifetime Membership \$150.00

Return application and payment to:
West Side Pioneer Association
1141 Adam St.
Tracy, CA 95376

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 3rd grade living history programs that Museum operates.

- Regular Museum Hours:
Monday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm OR by appointment for groups.
- 3rd Grade Program at Museum: Mondays 9:00-11:00 on school days
- Historic Lammersville Pioneer School Program: School days in January-May (one day a month)



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:

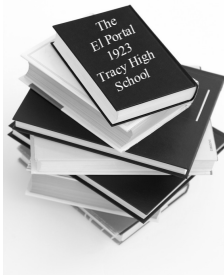
- Museum Coordinator - Onalee Koster – 209-832-7278
- 3rd Grade Museum Program Coordinator – Judy Lee - 209-814-3358
- Historic Lammersville Pioneer School Program Coordinator – Janice Johnson - 209-836-3770



Come out and volunteer and have fun at the same time.

We need you!!

Looking for Long Lost Tracy High Annuals



The El Portals of 1923, 1924 and 1939

One of our many functions of WSPA/THM is to procure and preserve our educational heritage. Currently, we house the largest collection of Tracy High School yearbooks including those when THS was originally known as West Side Union High School. To be complete, we request the pre-WWII yearbooks of 1923, 1924 and 1939. We also need the more recently THS Annuals 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1982, beyond and infinity. Please, donate if possible. We will take care of them and give them a stately home in the Tracy Historical Museum.