



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 Stories from "Being Black in Tracy"</i>	Tracy Historical Museum Peter Barnett and Evelyn Tolbert
March 16, 2014 Sunday	2:00 pm	<i>Corned Beef Dinner Fundraiser</i>	Tracy Community Center
April 12, 2014 Saturday	3:00 pm	<i>"The Damnedest Finest Ruins"</i> Film Maker James Delassandro	Documentary Film, 1906 San Francisco Earthquake Tracy Transit Station
May 10, 2014	Time and date TBD	<i>Historic Downtown Walking Tour (Railroad Bowtie)</i>	Walk in the former railroad yard Tour guide-Larry Gamino



THE PIONEER PRESS

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WSPA President's Message Larry W. Gamino - President

“As the WSPA evolves, so must we stay involved”

With one complete year under my presidential term, I have shared with you our struggles, our successes and our celebrations. We have encouraged each other in new directions and preserved our traditional events and principles of the WSPA. Together, we have expanded our public outreach events to our members and all Tracy residents. For example, we amassed public interest with our Historic Downtown Tracy Walking Tour, broaden interest in our History Day at the Museum by honoring the 150th Gettysburg Address, and recognized the powerful role of Tracy women at the Museum Christmas Open House highlighted by the rededication of the 1916 Women's Improvement Club of Tracy public water fountain. Together, we accomplished great things in 2013 despite transitional leadership and financial and security issues. I credit these accomplishments to you, the changing Board of Directors, and the community supported historical organization members.

This year we began our History Seminar Series with the History of Mexican Tracy Settlement in January. At the end of the month, our Tracy Historical Museum Director Onalee Koster was honored by the Tracy Chamber of Commerce as 2013 Female of the Year. In February, we continue to celebrate our cultural diversity at our Wednesday general meeting, February 19 at 7 PM at the Museum, not Lolly Hansen Center, honoring Black History Month. An abbreviated version of “Being Black in Tracy,” by WSPA member Evelyn Tolbert, highlights February and all are invited free of charge for this exciting local revelation. The following month, we feast at the Tracy Community Center on Sunday, March 16th at 2 PM for our traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Fundraiser. The new time and day, we hope will make the St. Patrick's day experience more enjoyable.

Finally, in recognition of Tracy's diversity, we will continue to make decisions from our team of Board members, committee members and general membership to preserve and protect our local history and character into the 21st century.

The History of Mexican Settlement in Tracy

By Raymond P. Morales

From the Notes of Larry Gamino

The first guest speaker in our History Lecture Series was Raymond P. Morelos. Mr. Morelos, on January 15th, introduced the important subject of Mexican immigration to the United States and Tracy in the 19th and 20th centuries. He explained the influence of the steam locomotive engine as a transformational mode of transportation in the movement of people and cargo. Invented in England in 1825, the global influence in the U.S. and Mexico had profound cultural and political effects. It transformed the former small thirteen colonial country into a unified westward movement. Under the guise of Manifest Destiny, the march west resulted in the annexation of Mexico's northern frontier in the Mexican American War of 1846-48. After the Civil War of 1861 to 1865, the completion of the first transcontinental railway occurred in 1869 at Promontory, Utah. Similarly, Mexico, under President Porfirio Diaz, emulated the railway expansion north from Mexico City to El Paso in 1884 seeding the upheaval of the Mexican Revolution of 1910 to 1920.

This conduit to the U.S. Southwest became the spigot of thousands of "temporary" Mexican laborers who replaced Chinese coolies in the construction of new railroads after the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. These political changes set the stage for the arrival of the displaced Mexican railroad workers and their families. Called *reganchadas*, this new source of "cheap labor" were recruited by foreign rail companies such as Southern Pacific Railway Company (S.P.) to work in California and the West.

A case study of the Jesus Soria family demonstrates the opportunities and barriers facing first generation of Mexican laborers. Recruited for dangerous and low paying jobs, they received free housing next to noisy tracks and Tracy's first city dump (where Fry's Funeral Home sits). Called S.P. camps, the Mexican families lived in segregated and substandard converted boxcars with no plumbing, no electricity and no water. Yet, most took pride in their boxcar homes while remaining loyal to Mexico through the *Comission Honorifica Mexicana*. The stability as year long railroad *braceros* (muscles), not seasonal agricultural laborers, allowed families to stay together, graduate from uptown elementary school and attend high school while revitalizing their heritage and language in an alien Anglo culture.

Soon, the second generation became bilingual and bicultural and moved out of temporary boxcars for permanent houses in the South Side Tracy (SST). Addressing immediate and deplorable conditions, they saw the need for local education, local parks, a railway underpass but never built and higher paying railroad jobs. They rallied for the construction of South side School (now McDonald Park), the creation of El Pina Park on First Street (now public housing across the Guadalupe Center) and skilled railroad jobs.

Answering the call to defend their country in WWII, the sons and daughters of the second generation began looking away from the S.P. Company and leaving Tracy for college and better career opportunities with degrees.

Today, their remains a small forgotten but thriving remnant of Mexican and Anglo culture blended neighborhood anchored by the South Side Community Organization (SSCO). Uniquely forged by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company and Anglo culture, the Mexican South Siders enjoy a rich heritage despite a forlorn image...in the shadow of the former Bowtie Rail yard.



Speaker Mr. Morelos addresses subject of Mexican immigration to Tracy to full audience



Program Director Celeste Garamendi presents guest speaker Raymond Morelos a certificate of merit for introducing important local subject



West Side Pioneer Association
Tracy Historical Museum

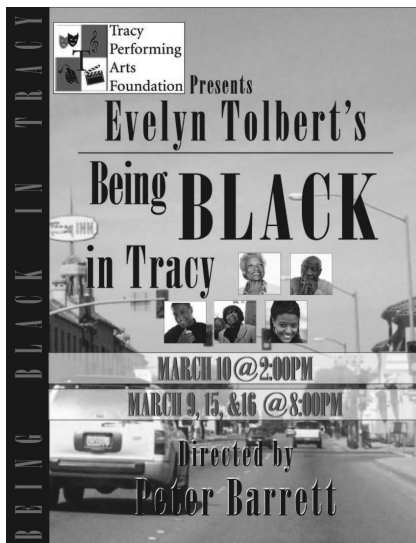
History Seminar

Stories from "Being Black in Tracy"

Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 7:00 pm

Tracy Historical Museum, 1141 Adam Street, Tracy

In recognition of Black History Month, Tracy resident and performing artist, Peter Barrett, brings together vignettes about the African American experience in Tracy. Drawing on the play, *"Being Black in Tracy"*, written by West Side Pioneer Association Member Evelyn Tolbert, Barrett and his fellow actors, paint part of the picture about the history and experience of the African American community in Tracy.



"Being Black in Tracy" is a play based on the Oral History Project located at the Tracy Historical Museum and coordinated by Evelyn Tolbert and Burke Storti.

Join us for this special performance program at the Tracy Historical Museum to learn more about Tracy's diverse history.

Poster from original production

Event is open to the community and free.
Light refreshments to follow.

The Origins of Black History Month

By Larry Gamino

What we call Black History Month originated in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) as Negro History Week in February. The second African American to earn a PhD from Harvard University after W.E.B. Du Bois, Dr Woodson challenged the commonly held belief that Black people had little history besides their subjugation into slavery. In the fall of 1915 at the national celebration of the 50th anniversary of the emancipation in Washington, D.C. Carter Woodson decided to form an organization to promote the academic and scientific study of Black life and history. On September 9th, Woodson formed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History.

Known as the “Father of Black History”, Carter Woodson was the son of two former slave parents in New Canton, Virginia born on December 19, 1875. He was raised in Kentucky and worked the coal mines until the age of 20. At this age, Mr. Woodson began his formal education and graduated from high school two years later. He went on to receive his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Chicago and finally his PhD from Harvard in 1912. Under Woodson’s pioneering leadership the ASNLH created research and publication outlets for Black scholars. In 1916, he established the Journal of Negro History and later in 1937, the Negro History Bulletin. Together, they nurtured Black history into mainstream U.S. history books with its broad and popular public appeal.

As early as 1920, Woodson urged Black civic organizations to promote the achievements that researchers were uncovering. In 1924, the national Black fraternity Omega Psi Phi established Negro History and Literature Week, which they renamed Negro Achievement Week. Their outreach was significant but too limited. In 1926, the ASNLH launched a national campaign announcing Negro History Week in February, 1926.

Woodson chose the second week of February for two reasons, the birthdays of two great leaders who played a prominent role in shaping Black history. They were Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass whose birthdays were the 12th and 14th, respectively. During the decade of the 1920’s, the Negro was called the New Negro because of the rising racial pride and consciousness in schools and the public. Similarly, the 1960’s under the Civil Rights struggle experienced a dramatic shift on the study of Black history to the Black community and African linkage. The shift to a month long celebration culminated in 1976 with “Black” History Month replacing “Negro” History Week. The ASNLH succeeded in institutionalizing the shift from a week to a month and from “Negro” history to “Black” history.

Today, the legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson as the “Father of Black History Month” endures throughout the country. People of all ethnic and social backgrounds discuss and support the cultural celebration of Black History Month.

The Making of Martin Luther King Day

By Larry Gamino



Officially called The Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. commonly known as Martin Luther King (MLK) Day is a federal holiday observed on the third Monday in January which is around the time of MLK's birthday of January 15th. Martin Luther King was best known as a civil rights activist. He was a leader in the movement to end racial segregation in the U.S. His most famous address was the "I Have A Dream" speech. In 2014, MLK Day was celebrated in Tracy on Monday, January 20th.

The idea of a national holiday to honor MLK originated four days after Reverend King, Jr. was assassinated on April 8, 1968. It was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman John Conyers, a Democrat from Michigan and U.S. Senator Edward Brooke, a Republican from Massachusetts, into a bill to make King's birthday a national holiday but it failed in November, 1979 by 5 votes. The chief arguments against MLK Day were he was a private citizen, never held office and it was too expensive.

On the state level, the initial movement to adopt a MLK Holiday began in 1973 sponsored by Assemblyman Harold Washington and signed into law in Illinois that year.

In 1980, the MLK Memorial Center in Atlanta, Georgia organized national support from the corporate community and the general public. Six million signatures were collected for a petition to Congress to pass a MLK law. The petition was the largest petition in U.S. history.

In August 1983, House of Representative Katie Hall, a Democrat from Indiana and Jack Kemp, a Republican from New York, proposed creating a federal holiday to honor King. It passed with a 338 to 90 margin in favor. At the U.S. Senate, a MLK Holiday sponsored by Senator Ted Kennedy, a Democrat from Massachusetts passed 78 to 22 in favor on October 19, 1983. At the White House Rose Garden on November 19, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the bill. Finally after 15 years, a federal holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. was first observed on January 20, 1986.

After the federal MLK Holiday went into effect in 1986, a handful of states were reluctant to observe MLK Day by using alternative names or not a state paid holiday. In 2000, Utah became the last state to recognize MLK Day by his name. At last, The Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

Get your **IRISH** on!



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Join us for our annual

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Fundraiser

Sunday, March 16, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Tracy Community Center, 950 East St., Tracy

Reservations Required – RSVP by Monday, March 10, 2014

Tickets - \$20/plate, includes door prize ticket; Take-out available

Cut along this line and mail reservation form with your check to Museum.

March 16, 2014 Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner – RSVP by March 10, 2014

Name _____ email _____

Address _____ phone _____

Tickets @ \$20/plate _____ # Take-out plates @ \$20/plate _____

Sponsored by West Side Pioneer Association/Tracy Historical Museum

Cordes Family Tribute Hangs in Lammersville School House

Lammersville School was built sometime after March 22, 1876 when the Lammersville School District received property near the district's headquarters on Von Sosten Road. It was named after Martin Lammers who donated the land for the school.

When Lammersville School District built a new school in 1953, Rancher Julius Cordes purchased the schoolhouse for \$500 in an auction. The Cordes family farmed land on Hansen Road for six generations, and had many family members who attended school in this building. Mr. Cordes moved the old school to his land a few miles away.

Mr. Cordes put a foundation under the schoolhouse and it remained a sturdy building for 50 years where it waited quietly in the shade of pepper trees. The Cordes family used the schoolhouse for family reunions and as a storeroom. Once it held 100 tons of barley.

When David Cordes sold the family ranch, Tracy Historical Society's West Side Pioneer Association members raised funds to move the school from the Cordes ranch to City of Tracy grounds, where it currently sits in Clyde Bland Park.

The Lammersville School Committee hung a framed tribute to the Cordes Family on the west wall of the Lammersville School House on May 30, 2013. Pictured in the tribute is David Cordes.



Framed tribute to the Cordes Family with docents Marilyn Thompson and Janice Johnson



New Lincoln highway signs displayed on both ends of Tracy City Limits. One is on 11th street and the other is on Bryon Rd. Photos by Michael Kaelin.



1896 Living School days at Lammersville. Students from Tracy Unified School District dress, learn and play as the early pioneer children did during the end of the nineteenth century.



The Tracy Women's Club President Sharon Gibson rededicated the 1916 Women Improvement Club water fountain on December 18' 2013 at the Museum Christmas Open House. Photo by Anne Marie Fuller.

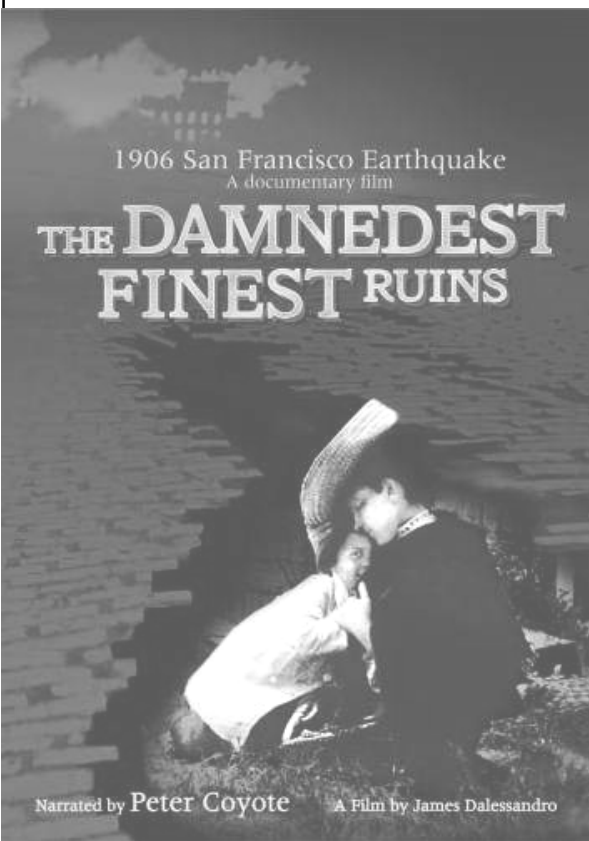
“ The Damnedest Finest Ruins ”

Saturday, April 12, 2014, 3:00 pm

Tracy Transit Station, Central Avenue & 6th Street

Filmmaker and author James Dalessandro will present his award winning documentary film *“The Damned Finest Ruins”* which chronicles the devastating 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

Narrated by actor Peter Coyote and using restored silent film footage,

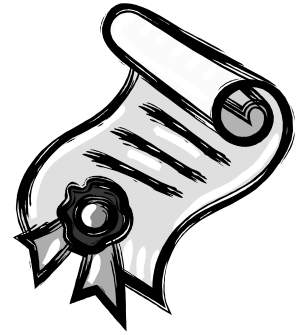


rare photographs, and interviews, *“The Damned Finest Ruins”* presents the events before and after the quake that all but destroyed the “Paris of the Pacific. Dalessandro, author of the novel 1906 and other works, will be on hand to answer questions about the film and film making process at the showing and at a reception following the presentation.

Join us for this extraordinary event about the tragedy of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake. Reception following the program will include disaster preparedness

information from the Red Cross and Tracy Fire Department.

Congratulations!



Tracy Historical Museum Director Onalee Koster receives Tracy Female of the Year 2013 from Mercedes Gouveia at Winter Gala.



Onalee Koster with the WSPA president Larry Gamino



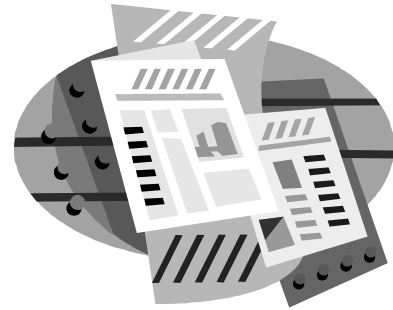
The Tracy Historical Museum Board of Directors



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The memberships for 2014 are coming in very slow. We have a total of 220 families in the West Side Pioneer Association and only 61 families have paid for 2014 and 3 members have paid for 2015. We thank those for their continued support. We also have 22 family life memberships. There are 134 memberships that are one or more years behind. **This will be the last newsletter for those who haven't paid for 2013 yet.** The printing and mailing of the newsletter is a great expense for the Association and we can't continue mailing to those who aren't paying their fair share. Feel free to phone me with your concerns about your status.

Bill Kaska
Membership Chairman
209 836-4491



Memorials

In Memory of Dan Bilbrey

By Sidney L. Alegre

In Memory of Peter Obelar

By Betty Galli

In Memory of Goldie Ridolfi

By Betty Galli

In Memory of Janice Birkhahn

By Barbara Brenkwitz

In Memory of Peter Yroz

By Betty Galli

Memorials may be designated to the following programs: Tracy Historical Museum, Historic Landmark Committee projects, or Historic Lammersville School.

Other monetary gifts that are not designated for a specific program, will be applied to the general fund for use where needed most as determined by the WSPA Board.

All gifts are tax deductible. Forms are available at www.tracymuseum.org or call the Museum at 209-832-7278.

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!!

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

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 tracy-museum@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
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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