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

Date	Time	Event	Location/Presenter
Wednesday Nov. 18, 2015	**7:00 pm**	***The life of a SP Conductor in the San Joaquin Valley***	**Tracy Historical Museum Stephen Ridolfi**
Wednesday Dec. 16, 2015	**7:00 pm**	***Museum Holiday Open House***	**Tracy Historical Museum**
Wednesday Feb 17, 2016	**7:00 pm**	***Black History Month***	**TBD Guest Speaker**
Sunday March 20, 2016	**1:00 pm**	***St. Patrick's Day Community Corn Beef and Cabbage Luncheon***	**Tracy Community Center 950 East St.**

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
Web: www.tracymuseum.org

Vol. 26-7 *December Holiday Issue 2015*

WSPA President's Message

Larry W. Gamino - President

Seasons Greeting Members and Friends,

It's been another incredible year at the Tracy Historical Museum and the (WSPA) West Side Pioneer Association of Tracy. I am extremely proud of the wide range of history related programs that inspired the Tracy public. From the continuation of 3rd grade student museum tours of 1,200 pupils chaired by Judy and David Lee and the 1876 Lammersville Pioneer School Experience under Chair Wes Huffman, the Senior High School History Scholarship recipients under Chair Celeste Garamendi to the introduction of high school student digitalization of Tracy Press negative photos project, so far 29,344 transfers have been completed by supervisor Bill Carter, we have successfully engaged the youth of our community on the importance of capturing cultural history.

Inside the Tracy Historical Museum, we have modernized our internet systems with new archival software and state of the art computer hardware under the supervision of archivist Ellen Opie. Recently, we upgraded our display cases with castors and security locks. We purchased two new map cabinets and replaced asymmetric bookcases with antique quality ones in our conference room.

One of our chief responsibilities is to preserve our local heritage. To this end, the Museum has acquired the original 1910 West Side Bank of Tracy "cannonball" vault and the acquisition of Tracy Press photos from 1953 to 1997 under donor and publisher emeritus Sam Matthews. To illustrate this knowledge, under Education Chair Celeste Garamendi, we electronically established a Tracy Historical Museum website to expand our history accessibility.

As part of our outreach program under the Tracy History Seminar Series, we presented the Latino heritage speaker, Mr. Richard Soto, the Civil War History Days at the Museum under Chair Jean Shipment and under the Landmark Preservation Series, the Ellis marker dedication at Joan Sparks Park by Chair Peter Mitracos. In addition, we served the growing St. Patrick's Day Community Corn Beef & Cabbage Luncheon and hosted the Sunrise Rotary meeting at the Museum.

Today's dynamic programming is successful largely to the City and community investment with public support by volunteers and Board members like you. Together, we can keep on making history.

Happy Holidays!! I hope to meet you on Wednesday, November 18th with guest speaker SP Conductor Stephen Ridolfi and Wednesday, December 16th during our Museum Holiday Open House!! All Aboard!!

Tracy History Seminar Series

Life and Myths of a Trainman

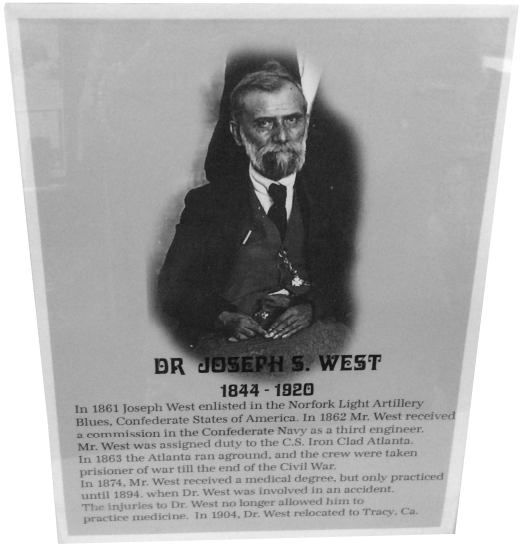
Speaker:	Stephen Ridolfi
When:	Wednesday, November 18th
Time:	7:00 PM
Place:	Tracy Historical Museum
Address:	1141 Adam St
Cost:	Free

For more information please call West Side Pioneer Association's president Larry Gamino at 209-836-9687

Mr. Stephen Ridolfi had a 40 year career as a Southern Pacific (SP) Conductor and Brakeman from Tracy. Mr. Ridolfi will describe the adventures and myth busting life of a trainman in the San Joaquin valley. Please join us for a very interesting evening.

2015 WSPA in Review

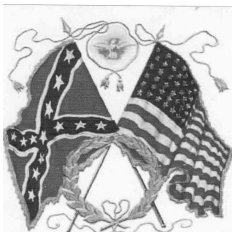
History Days At The Museum Draws Civil War Crowd



Civil War photo of Dr. Joseph S. West at History Day at the Museum on October 24th

Civil War veterans both Confederate and Union who relocated to Tracy after Civil War

Led by Board member Wes Huffman, citizens fall in during Civil War reenactment



Period costumes graced the War Between the North and South

Grand Army of the Republic band plays union songs

2015 WSPA in Review

Ellis Marker dedication and Latino Heritage speaker

Tracy City Mayor Michael Maciel (L) examines Ellis Marker at Joan Sparks Park with Tracyites

Landmark Preservation Chair Peter Mitracos dedicates Ellis site in front of Newsletter Editor Kathleen Bergthold

Pete Mitrocos giving the history of the Ellis Marker to Tracy dignitaries

Charter school students listen to Mr. Richard Soto during Latino Heritage Month

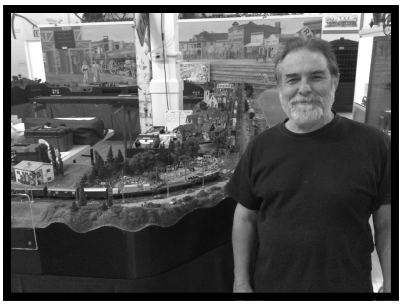
Latino Month guest speaker Richard Soto explains Cinco de Mayo to former City Councilman Woody Sousa and current City Councilwoman and daughter Mary Sousa-Mitracos

2015 WSPA in Review

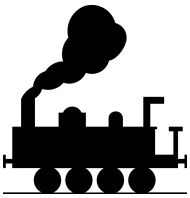
European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) Enthrall Tracy-

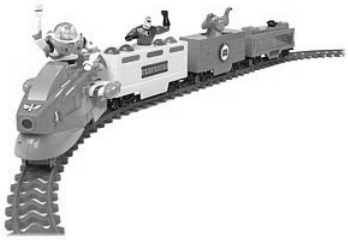
Tracyites admire the European landscape

Local family enjoys (ETE) European Train Enthusiasts during annual visit to Tracy Museum



Office supply contractor John Mitracos enjoys railroad layout and trains





Tracy students are mesmerized by different European passenger trains

2015 WSPA in Review

Tracy Press Photo Project

Board members plan WSPA budget and needs for Tracy Historical Museum

Tracy Press Publisher Emeritus Sam Matthews, President Larry Gamino and digital photo project supervisor Bill Carter examines computer transfer

President Larry Gamino and Cultural Arts Chair Anne Marie Fuller attend inaugural Tracy Cultural Festival at Lincoln Park

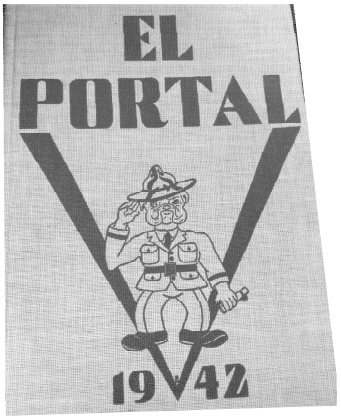
Two Millennium High School students learn photo digitalization on the computer over the weekend

2015 WSPA in Review

Scholarship committee member Janice Johnson congratulates two Tracy High Seniors as History Awards recipients

IT Specialist Nick Romo and Archivist Ellen Opie install new computers and software to update internet in Museum

Former Board members Leona Willis and Betty Galli check in at St. Patrick's Day Corn Beef and Cabbage Lucncheon



1915 Tracy High School Graduation Class celebrated through annual year books since 1922

Museum Holiday Open House

Wednesday, December 17, 2015

7:00 pm

Come and enjoy music, refreshments, decorations, meet new and interesting people and all that the Museum has to offer.

For information call the Museum at 209-832-7278 or email tracymuseum @sbcglobal.net

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 or two days a week)

If you can commit to a few hours one day a week or every month, or o 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
- 3rd Grade Museum Program Coordinator – Judy Lee - 209-814-3358
- Historic Lammersville Pioneer School Program Coordinator – Wes Huffman - 209-879-3155

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

Museum Launches New Web Site

www.tracymuseum.org

We are pleased to present our new web site at our existing URL, **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.

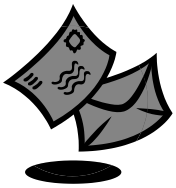
Check back regularly at **www.tracymuseum.org** for the most current news from the Tracy Historical Museum and West Side Pioneer Association.

SUPPORT THE MUSEUM

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016

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 to help the museum continue to serve your community

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

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 2015-2016

Elected Board Officers	***Name***	***Telephone #***
President	Larry Gamino	209-836-9687
1st Vice President-Publicist	David Lee	209-814-6658
2nd Vice President-Program Director	Open	
Recording Secretary	Janice Johnson	209-836-3770
Treasurer	Mitra Behnam	209-740-2764
Corresponding Secretary	Jean Shipman	209-835-8933
Museum Chairperson	Open	
Old Lammersville School	Wes Huffman	209-879-3155
3rd Grade Tour Director	Judy Lee	209-814-6658
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	Johanna Nunley	209-835-1560
	David Castro	209-835-2478
	Kathy Bergthold	408-569-8931
	Celeste Garamendi	209-914-0792
Ex-officio		
Immediate Past President	David Lee	209-814-6658