

The Pioneer Press
 West Side Pioneer Association
 Tracy Historical Museum
 P.O. Box 117
 Tracy, CA 95378-0117

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 Upcoming Events 			
Date	Time	Event	Location/Presenter
July 4, 2014 Friday	TBD	<i>Tentative—WSPA/Tracy Historical Museum 4th of July Parade Entry</i>	Vintage Automobiles
August/September	TBD	<i>European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) Model Train Display</i>	Tracy Museum
October 25, 2014 Saturday	10:00—2:00	<i>Special Community Event History Day at Museum</i>	Tracy Historical Museum
November 19, 2014 Wednesday	7:00 pm	<i>Benjamin Holt—Moving Earth in the San Joaquin</i>	David Stuart Location TBD
December, 17, 2014 Wednesday	7:00 pm	<i>Christmas at the Museum Open House</i>	Tracy Historical Museum



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West Side Pioneer Association/Tracy Historical Museum
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July-August 2014

WSPA President's Message Larry W. Gamino - President

As we pass the mid-point of 2014 events and meetings, our organization is encouraged by the community response to our cultural events including the recent 1906 documentary film of the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, and the Tracy Train Town Tour of the Bowtie rail yard. Both events were well attended by Tracy residents and regional patrons. For the year, the community response and mutual interest in historical and local endeavors has strengthened our relationship with new Tracyites and reinforced our bonds with multi-generational families.

Passing our dream of educating our youth on the subject of local and community history has produced several distinguished high school senior scholars. For example, for the first time in our scholarship program, one of the deserving recipients is a two year community college bound student named Brooke Davis of Tracy High School. Our other impressive four year college bound winner is Lara Ibrahim of Kimball High School. This year we had a total of seven scholarship applicants. Their local histories will be filed into our museum archives to be viewed now and for future generations of Tracyites.

While we instill confidence to our youth, we believe all walks of life are important and worthy of preserving. The values displayed in careers, schools, occupations and family vary from generation to generation. Linked by time, we encourage our membership and friends to sketch a family tree and record individual personal histories accompanied by photos and memorabilia to reveal hidden levels of understanding in all our lives. By collecting oral and written stories of Tracy's past, the Tracy Historical Museum becomes a repository of cultural wisdom and knowledge. Only by protecting our collective wealth can we influence the immediate and future by building on our railway and agricultural foundations.

Thus, the Tracy Historical Museum is the magical place that everyone can contribute their diverse stories in a public forum. To this end, the WSPA credits our many volunteers, docents, Board members and membership for expanding the horizons of Tracyites.

Museum to be represented in the 4th of July Parade

Watch for us at the 4th of July Parade! The Tracy Historical Museum and West Side Pioneer Association will again join the annual 4th of July Parade with a vintage car caravan. If you have a Model T or other vintage car that needs to be shown off, contact Wes Huffman at 209-879-3155, weshuffman@ymail.com. Volunteers are also needed to carry the banner and help decorate the cars.

[suggest adding a picture from prior years or 4th of July fireworks graphic]

2014 Scholarship Awardees Named

We are very pleased to announce the names of the 2014 Tracy Historical Museum/West Side Pioneer Association Scholarships awardees.

- Brooke Davis – Tracy High School
- Lara Ibrahim – Kimball High School

Ms. Davis submitted a project chronicling her work at the Tracy Cemetery documenting by photos, headstone engravings and in an electronic database graves in some of the oldest sections of the cemetery. Brooke identified the importance of using cemeteries and headstones to document the lives of specific people and burial practices across cultures, thereby developing a greater understanding of historic events. Brooke's work not only documented over 1,500 graves, she contributed nearly 500 hours of community service to the project. The process Brooke helped establish and implement will serve as a lasting guide to further documentation of grave sites at the cemetery.

Ms. Ibrahim's paper was on the history of St. Bernard's Catholic Church. St. Bernard's history dates back to the late 1800s and the early days of Tracy and the parish has grown with the community. Lara's paper shows that the development of religious institutions provides one important path of inquiry to exploring a community's history.

We congratulate both Brooke and Lara on their important contributions to documenting and preserving the history of our community. Excerpts from Brooke's and Lara's papers will be presented in the newsletter, and their names will be added to the commemorative Scholarship plaque in the museum.

We received several outstanding applications this year and the selection process was very competitive. We want to thank all of the applicants for their meaningful work and excellent submissions. All projects have been added to the Museum's archives and all applicants provided a complimentary one year membership. It is exciting to see more students participate and connect how history is relevant to their experiences today.

Scholarship Fund Donations Welcome

We accept donations throughout the year to our Scholarship Fund. The scholarship program is designed to encourage our youth to document and preserve the history of our community. The goal is to raise at least \$1,000 each year for the two \$500 scholarships for graduating seniors. Thank you for considering a donation to the scholarship program.

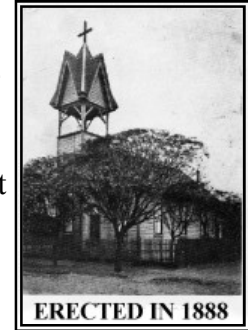
The History of Tracy's Saint Bernard's Catholic Church

Excerpted from Scholarship paper by Lara Ibrahim

Saint Bernard's Catholic Church in Tracy, California is as historic as the city itself. Since its official founding in 1908, St. Bernard's has had a profound impact on the Tracy community by providing spiritual services and community programs. The church's first mass was held in 1865 in a section



house in Ellis, about four miles west of current day Tracy. The use of this section house as a place of worship alludes to the beginnings of Tracy as a railroad town. Until 1878, priests from St. Mary's in Stockton held services in Ellis. After a more efficient rail line that avoided the Altamont hills was constructed in 1878 in what was to become Tracy, the coaling station at Ellis became obsolete. Tracy began to grow due to the record setting traffic in the 1870s brought by travelers heading to and from the Bay Area. The city of Tracy was established in 1878, and the booming transportation center brought many workers and families to the town, which called for a larger church for the community. In 1888, to meet the demands of a growing agricultural and railroad town, a small church fit for around one hundred parishioners was constructed at 8th Street and Central Avenue.



As Tracy grew, St. Bernard's became an important center for the community. In 1908, the parish was officially founded by the Archbishop of San Francisco. (Since that time, the Diocese of Stockton, which St. Bernard's is now a part of, was formed separately from that of San Francisco.) Father T.P. Moran became the pastor of the new parish, and led the construction of another church at 8th and Central in 1911. St. Bernard of Clairvaux, France, who lived from 1090-1153, was chosen as the patron saint of the parish.



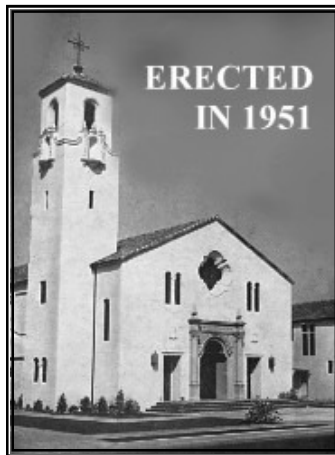
*St. Bernard
of Clairvaux*

The St. Bernard's Church that Tracy locals recognize today traces back to 1947. Under the leadership of Father Thomas Fleming, the parish began building a church large enough to seat seven hundred on Eaton Avenue in 1950. Completed on December 16th, 1951, the church was built with a parish house on the side of the church where the priests live. In 1956, the construction of the school and convent began at the same site. The school opened in 1958 with first through third grades, under the administration of the Daughters of the Cross, a religious order originally from Liege, Belgium. By 1960, various other buildings still in use today were erected, including a multi-purpose hall, a kitchen, and a gymnasium named Father Fleming Hall.

St. Bernard's current pastor, Monsignor Ivo D. Rocha, led a renovation of the church, and in the 1990s, the parish offices and the Ministry Center were built. In 2000 the church established an expansion plan for a second church and complex. In 2007, the Holy Family Center multipurpose hall was opened at the Corral Hollow and Valpico Roads site. (cont')

The History of Tracy's Saint Bernard's Catholic Church
Excerpted from Scholarship paper by Lara Ibrahim
(cont')

Today, St. Bernard's parish holds daily and Sunday masses, funeral services, weddings, and other special masses. The church provides several services, including ministries for the elderly and sick, services in Spanish, Tagalog and other languages, religious education, and a thrift store. St. Bernard's also serves the larger community and supports the Knights of Columbus, Pregnancy Resource Center, and Portuguese Festival and Parade, and hosts its annual Fall Festival. Since St. Bernard's Parish's early beginning in the humble town of Tracy, the parish has grown as the city developed to serve the community and meet residents' spiritual needs.



Bibliography

- “Celebrating The History of Railroading in California’s San Joaquin Valley.” Railtown Tracy. (n.p.), (n.d.), Web. Retrieved 29 March, 2014 from <http://www.tracyrail.org/>
- Matthews, Sam. “First Service at Sunrise”. *Tracy Press*. 09 April, 2009. Web. Retrieved 29 March, 2014 from <http://tracypress.com/bookmark/2286105/article-First+service+at+sunrise>
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"The Damnedest Finest Ruins"

On Saturday, April 12 at 3:00 PM, filmmaker and author James Dalessandro presented a documentary film on the devastating 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire. Presented at the Tracy Transit Station at Sixth and Central Avenue, Mr. Dalessandro spoke to the full capacity audience about the restored silent film footage, rare photographs and vintage interviews. In front of over 50 WSPA members and general public, the crowd witnessed the destruction of the "Paris of the Pacific."

After an interesting question and answer period, Tracyites feasted on cookies, pastries and bottled water while examining his novel **1906** following the reception. All in all, the WSPA educated and entertained this extraordinary tragedy of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire.



A large crowd attentively listens to guest speaker James Dalessandro on the utter destruction of the "Paris of the Pacific."



Onlookers WSPA members Sam Matthews, Peter Mitracos and others view vintage photo collection of 1906 SF Earthquake and Fire in Transit Station lobby.



Historic Railroad Bowtie Walking Tour

By Larry Gamino

On Saturday, May 10th at 1:00 PM, an enthusiastic crowd of 30 Tracyites met at the Tracy Transit Station to celebrate Tracy Train Town Designation from Union Pacific. On this National Train Day, the 145th anniversary of the completion of the first transcontinental railway in Promontory, Utah, 1869, Tracy Mayor Brent Ives received a distinguished U.P bronze plaque and silver medallion. He was followed by San Joaquin County Board of Supervisor Robert Eliot, and state and federal representatives from Susan Eggman, Cathy Galligani? and Jeff Denham. The last speaker was David Jackson who pursued this Train Town Designation under the Tracy Chamber of Commerce sponsor.

After the scheduled outdoor exchanges by dignitaries, people moved into the Transit Station. In a circular pictorial presentation in the main lobby graced vintage images of Tracy's glorified past. Landmark Southern Pacific water and yard towers amid a bustling steam locomotive passenger and freight yards era pictures recreated Tracy's magnificent railroad junction of roundhouse vitality and switching operations.

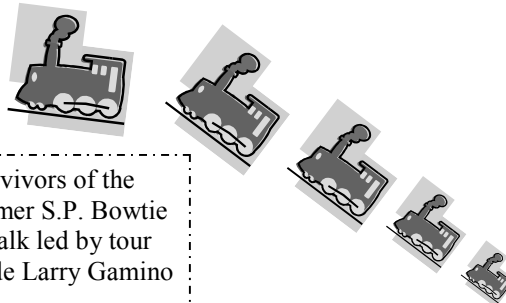
After a wait, a hardy crowd enjoyed a hour long walk by tour guide former S.P. conductor and brakeman Larry Gamino. A third generation Southern Pacific railroad family and Tracyite, our guide pointed to the original Central Pacific passenger depot remaining floor tiles, the 1910 S.P Club House of which a lone palm tree survives, the deserted S.P. Baseball Diamond sandlot, the huge 10 engine stall roundhouse and 120 foot turntable vacant lot and finally the long gone Tracy Ribbon Rail Plant which provided all the original rail for BART until 1978.

The survivors of this railroad sentimental journey enlightened those who did not know of Tracy's historic role in transportation and brought a nostalgic tear to those who remembered the whistle blowing and chug a chug of yesterday.

WSPA President Larry Gamino and Mayor Brent Ives discuss future of Tracy's abandoned rail yard before receiving Union Pacific Designation as Train Town plaque and medallion.



Survivors of the former S.P. Bowtie walk led by tour guide Larry Gamino



May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

By Larry Gamino

The history of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month began in 1977. Two House of Representatives named Norman Y. Mineta of California and Frank Horton of New York introduced a H.R. Resolution to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian Pacific Week. A similar bill was introduced one month later in the Senate by Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga both of Hawaii. The purpose of the designated week was to celebrate the culture, traditions, and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

The reason the May week was chosen by Congress was to commemorate the first immigration of Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843 and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the first transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 of which the majority of RR workers were Chinese immigrants. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint congressional resolution observing the first week in May as Asian Pacific Week.

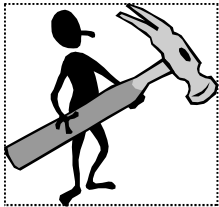
Over the next ten years, Presidents Carter, Reagan and George H. W. Bush continued to annually proclaim one week as Asian Pacific American Week. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a bill passed by Congress to extend Asian Pacific American Week to a month. Officially, May would be designated as Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month (AAPIHM).

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 18.5 million or 4.8 % citizens who identify as Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and/or Native Hawaiians. Given the option to identify one self by racial and/or ethnic terms, identity represents a shifting geopolitical territorial perspective. Asian Americans were defined as “a person with origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent.” This area includes China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Samoa and on the Indian subcontinent including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan. The definition of Pacific Islander is “a U.S. citizen whose origins are from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, Samoa, Fiji, Guam, the U.S. Trust Territories of the Pacific or North Marianas.

In sum, the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month acknowledges and observes the significant role by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the creation of a dynamic and pluralistic U.S. society. Today we celebrate their contributions to the sciences, arts, industry, government and commerce.

Emergency Repairs to Lammersville School House

On June 3, 2014, the Tracy City Council voted to provide Capital Improvement funds to repair the fire damage that occurred at the school on February 13, 2014. Staff will return to Council to award a construction contract in mid-August. The estimated costs associated with the repairs of the Lammersville School House total \$85,000. The City has filed a property loss insurance claim with the Central San Joaquin Risk Management Authority for the damages. The City will be reimbursed for any project costs beyond the deductible of \$25,000. It is hoped the repairs will be completed by January 1, 2015 for the school's planned start date of January 5, 2015. Teacher sign ups for the field trip will be postponed from October to December 2015.



Veteran School House Teacher Retires

Marjorie Macial retired from her Lammersville Pioneer School Teaching post after the school year ended on Friday, May 30, 2014. Marjorie volunteered to be a Docent in 2004 when she saw what her friend and neighbor Karla Woodard was doing as a School House Docent. Since that time, Marjorie has been regarded as an example of how to present the program to visiting classes.

According to Marjorie, "Children remember this Pioneer School experience for a long time." She has had eighth graders fondly recognize her as their 3rd Grade Pioneer teacher. One day while she was at the school, an 18 year old stopped by. The girl visited as a 3rd grader and could even remember the seat she sat in.

The high quality of the program is reflected by the ability to recruit and train volunteers. Marjorie leaves a team of devoted and well-qualified Docents. Plus we have a list of professional teachers waiting to join our Docent ranks upon their retirement. This interest exists because there is value in the program we offer which is a day in the life of a pioneer student.

Regarding the ongoing vandalism at the school, Marjorie suggests a long-term goal of moving the building to the bowtie in central Tracy. The next best option is moving the building closer to the street to enable more efficient police patrol.





Current List of Lifetime Members*

Mitra Behnam
Stephen Brenkwitz
Tom/Barbara Brenkwitz
Nick Buthman
Rich Calderon
Larry/Barbara Celestine
Celeste Garamendi/Mark Connelly
Betty Grande
John/Cindy Gustafson
Bill/Mary Kaska
Kimberly Krohn
Rose Lighty
Albert Celeste Navarra
William Noblitt
Leroy/Sue Petz
Robert Patrice Raspo
Ruth Sanford
Dale Shupe
Evelyn Tolbert
Bob Young
Marc Valdez

*Lifetime Membership is \$150

Thank you for all your support!!!

*Docent Duty Schedule**

DAY	DATE	TIME	DOCENT
Sunday	June 1	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster Open
Monday	June 2	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster Open
Saturday	June 7	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Mitra Behnam
Sunday	June 8	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox Burke Sorti Mitra Behnam
Monday	June 9	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster Open
Saturday	June 14	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter David Middleton
Sunday	June 15	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster Open
Monday	June 16	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster Open
Saturday	June 28	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter David Middleton
Sunday	June 29	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster Open
Monday	June 30	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster Open
Saturday	July 5	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	July 6	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox Burke Sorti
Monday	July 7	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster Open
Saturday	July 12	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Mitra Behnam
Sunday	July 13	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster Mitra Behnam
Monday	July 14	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster Larry Gamino
Saturday	July 19	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	July 20	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox Burke Sorti
Monday	July 21	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster Larry Gamino
Saturday	July 26	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter Open
Sunday	July 27	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster Open

***REMEMBER, IF YOU CANNOT WORK, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT OR ALTERNATE AND CALL ONALEE KOSTER, 835-2493. VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOMED.**



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 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 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
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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