

The Pioneer Press
 West Side Pioneer Association
 Tracy Historical Museum
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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 31, September 1,3,6,7,8,10,13	10:00—4:00	<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
December, 17, 2014 Wednesday	7:00 pm	<i>Christmas at the Museum Open House</i>	Tracy Historical Museum



THE PIONEER PRESS

West Side Pioneer Association/Tracy Historical Museum
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Phone: (209) 832-7278
E-Mail: tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net
Web: www.tracymuseum.org

Vol. 25, No. 5

September - October 2014

WSPA President's Message Larry W. Gamino - President

"Historic Preservation is an endeavor that seeks to preserve, conserve and protect buildings, objects, landscapes or other artifacts of historic significance."

As summer slowly sets, the Board of Directors and President have significantly rested since our last May monthly meeting to hit the ground running for the end of 2014. We will find new ways and interesting places to serve our youth, membership and communities under the banner of local history.

It is hard to believe that September is nearly here and soon we will be preparing for the holidays. And while it seems like I've just taken office, the past year has been a whirlwind of exciting activity. The April introduction of community meetings at the Tracy Transit Station with the San Francisco 1906 Earthquake and Fire documentary and the May Historic Tracy Railroad "Bowtie" Walking Tour by yours truly are strong indications of what lies ahead.

Beginning in September, we will continue our good relationship with the European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) program from August 30 through September 13 at the Tracy Historical Museum. In addition, on October 25th, we present our special community of Living History Day at the Museum. Together, young and old, Tracyites and citizens from all walks of life celebrate Tracy's heritage.

Finally, I hope you will join us at these upcoming events as the entire Board of Directors and I plan to partner with the community, membership and City of Tracy to inspire, engage and lead our organization to accomplish even greater achievements as we look to our future with Tracy history.

Display Cases of Excellence

by Larry Gamino

On May 18th, a bid quotation by John Mitracos and Company of San Francisco was accepted by Tracy Museum Director Onalee Koster to place wheels under the bases of seven museum glass display cases. The individual bases were reinforced by adding hardwood rails to its underside. Depending on the length and weight of each display case, castors were strategically installed to distribute the load along the length of the base.

After complete disassembling of display cases, all the rails were glued along the length of the base and bottom of cases. Then the locking castors of hard rubber were screwed to the rails. The hard rubber castors were chosen because it resists losing its shape from long duration of sitting in the same place.

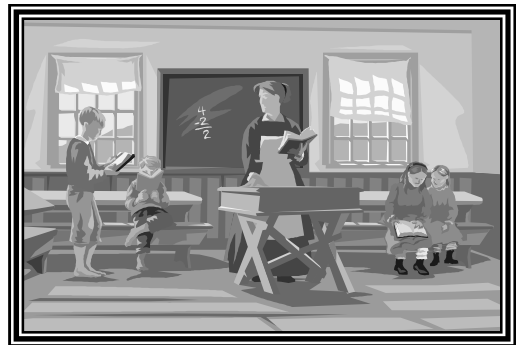
In addition to the excellent work by former Tracyite John Mitracos, I would like to acknowledge and appreciate museum personnel Onalee and Diane Koster for emptying the cases before work could begin and then cleaning glass windows when disassembled and Peter Mitracos for assisting brother John in retrofitting of old display cases. It took three long days to convert and reinforce display cases for greater mobility for museum events. Great job and teamwork!!



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.

And The Legacy Goes On

Wm. Larsen was a dedicated public servant giving unselfishly to the Community. Coming to Tracy in 1924 as manager of a bank, for 44 years he gave of his energy and talents to numerous endeavors accomplishing much. To just name a few: served on the Council for 10 years, Mayor from 1948-1952, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, President of S.J. County Chamber, Headed the Corporation which built original Tracy Inn, raised funds to build Tracy Community Hospital, Director of Cemetery Board and President of the West Side Pioneers. The Tracy Historical Museum has received a generous donation from his Granddaughter Marjorie S. Larsen's Living Trust designated to be used toward any needs.

As the letterhead stationary states: Marge is smiling down on you.....our friendship meant so much to her. The Board voted to use her gift for the Scholarship Fund.

New Museum Sidewalks Coming Soon

On July 5th, the Tracy Historical Museum received a construction advisory letter concerning the City of Tracy sidewalk, curb and gutter replacement FY14 Project. Beginning on July 7th through the next eight weeks, Trident Contractors, Inc. will be performing construction that includes the removal of sidewalks, curbs and gutters on Adam Street in front of the Tracy Historical Museum.

During the construction phase, the rear entrance will be used during regular museum hours of operation on Saturday, Sunday and Monday and by appointment. Finally, we hope when you join us for the upcoming (ETE) European Train Enthusiast Program in September, you will be greeted with our new and improved museum sidewalk in partnership with the City of Tracy Public Works Department.



Tracy Historical Museum "Revs" it up for 4th of July Parade

The Tracy Historical Museum and West Side Pioneer Association were well represented in the 4th of July Parade.

Bill Cunningham drove his 1928 Black and Blue Ford Model A sedan. He was joined in his magnificent Model A are his grandchildren Samantha, Mekayla and Madison, who had to get out and push the stalled car to the delight of the crowd.



David Lee and Wes Huffman with Bill Cunningham's 1928 Model A

Bill Whitlock followed in his beautifully restored 1931 Tan with Red trim Ford Model A coupe. Granddaughter Bailey and French Foreign exchange student Margo sat in the rumble seat. Board members Wes Huffman and David Lee carried the Tracy Historical Museum banner.



In the second spot is Bill Whitlock and his 1931 Model A.

THANK YOU to the Cunningham's and Whitlock's for sharing their vintage automobiles with our community. It was a Grand 4th!

Ellis Historic Marker Planned For Joan Sparks Park

By Larry Gamino

Landmark Committee Chair Pete Mitracos, working with comments and suggestions from the public and WSPA members, has crafted an interpretative municipal monument to honor the town of Ellis (1869-1878), Tracy's predecessor.

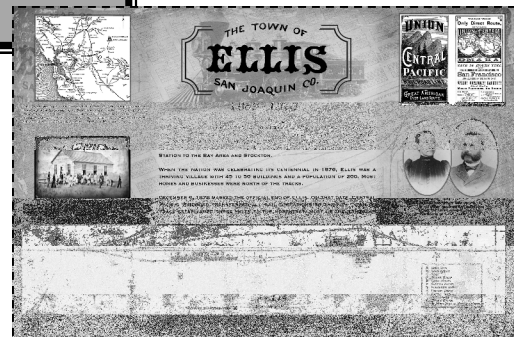
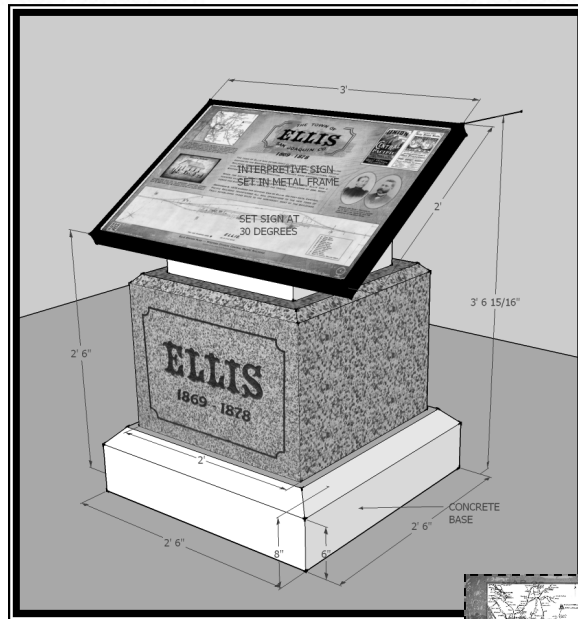
Early next year we expect to dedicate the WSPA's first historical marker. Mr. Mitracos and the WSPA board recently finalized the marker design. Once approved by the City of Tracy for installation in Joan Sparks Park, a concrete walkway and base will be built. The concrete base will carry a block of granite topped with a 36 by 24 inch plaque that lays out the history of Ellis researched by Ellen Opie.

The Ellis marker is envisioned as the first in a series of markers to memorialize our area's history. Where do you think the next marker should be? Pass on your ideas to Pete Mitracos, Ellen Opie or any board member.

PETE MITRACOS
BUILDING DESIGN & DRAFTING

209 835 0270
PETE@MITRACOS.COM

PO BOX 261
TRACY, CA 95378



History Day at the Museum

Saturday, October 25, 2014
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Civil War Re-enactors, Spinning, Basket Weaving,
, Junior History Explorer Kids Activities

Free – Bring the Family

Tracy Historical Museum, 1141 Adam Street
209-832-7278, www.tracymuseum.org

Attention History Buffs!

History Day returns to the Historical Museum on **Saturday, October 25, 2014**. It will be a full day of living history demonstrations and presentations. Some of highlights include:

- Civil War Re-Enactors
 - Wool Spinning Demonstration
 - Children's History activities
- And more...

Plan to attend and enjoy a day full of interesting and fun historical facts - and artifacts.

SPECIAL MONETARY GIFTS:

Tracy Woman's Club
Marjorie S. Larsen Living Trust



HONORARIUM:
John and Bernice Mancuso
By: Ray and Carol Fosse

The Memorial/Honorarium Program is a very special way to remember those who have passed away or to honor one for a special event or tribute. All gifts are tax deductible.

Gifts can be designated by the family to the following
...Tracy Historical Museum enhancement needs
...Historic Landmark Committee Projects
...Historic Lammersville School needs

2014 Scholarship Awards

In our May newsletter, we provided an excerpt from the paper of one of our 2014 Scholarship winners, Lara Ibrahim. This month we highlight our second 2014 Scholarship Winner, Brooke Davis who did a project on the important of cemeteries to historical preservation. Thank you to Brooke and Lara for *“Helping us Make History.”*

Cemeteries and Their Importance in Historical Preservation

Excerpted from Scholarship paper by Brooke Davis

When you think about cemeteries, do you realize that each and every stone represents a story? Learning about different types of headstones and what the information on them means is important to understanding the history of the person, their family and the times in which they lived. Although not commonly thought of, understanding the history of cemeteries and the important role they play in history is essential to ensuring that these final resting places and the historical information they contain are preserved forever.

One of the first cemeteries from European settlers is Myles Standish Burial Ground in Duxbury, Massachusetts, the final resting place of several well-known Pilgrims who arrived on the Mayflower in 1620. The Revolutionary War Cemetery in New York had its first burial in 1767, when the cemetery was established. After the Civil War, many people were concerned about taking up valuable land near cities and also worried about public health concerns believed to exist at burial grounds. Cremations became popular and columbariums and mausoleums were built to allow more burials in less space (nps). Town cemeteries and burial grounds started being created and reflected the history and culture of the area where they were located, including National Cemeteries such as Arlington.

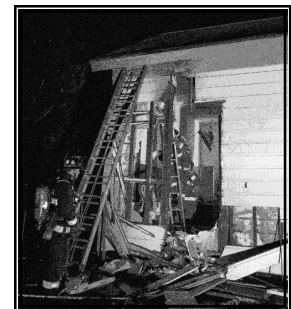
California enacted the first of a series of legislative Acts concerning cemeteries in 1854. Cemeteries were then created that began looking like public parks with trees and landscaping, like most being used today. Although there are many cemeteries in San Joaquin County, only two of them are public cemeteries operated by special districts, the Tracy Public Cemetery and the Escalon “Burwood” Cemetery.

The 20 acres of land for the Tracy Public Cemetery was purchased from Crocker Bank on October 18, 1880 for \$1.00. The Tracy Cemetery Association (now Tracy Public Cemetery District) was formed on March 26, 1881. There are approximately 32,000 people interred at the Tracy Cemetery and by about 2018, all available plots and niches are expected to be sold. Last year, the Tracy Public Cemetery District bought another 20 acres of land that is expected to serve the community for another 100 years.

Headstones also provide an understanding of the history. “In a very real sense, memorials erected to the dead are the material representatives of those now departed and we often draw our impressions of what these persons must have been like from the things we find upon them” (Keister). Many headstones have symbols, such symbols signifying a religious faith. Headstone symbols have changed over the centuries, from death’s head symbols that were popular until the early 1900’s, to weeping willow trees and gates of heaven opening up. Two symbols that have been used for centuries and are still being used today are the baby cherub and the innocent lamb, which usually mark the grave of a child. Today, headstone symbols and images are changing even more reflecting the person’s hobbies, interests and profession. With modern technology, some stones contain solar powered video screens or Quick Response Code (QR code) that when scanned with a cell phone or iPad, will launch a personal website for the deceased person.

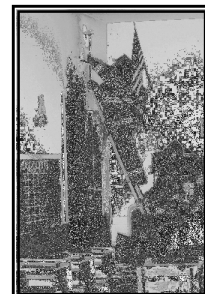
Traditionally, cemetery records were in paper files, but increasingly cemeteries are moving to electronic files using specialized software applications. The Tracy Public Cemetery uses now uses computer software for basic records and has added an image and document management feature to scan all of the paper documents and take a digital picture of each headstone. My senior project is to start was to start the data conversion process by scanning documents, photographing headstones and using the software to place this information into each person’s computer file so that it can be preserved forever.

Cemeteries play an important role to help ensure that their final resting places as well as the history about the individuals and the times in which they lived is preserved forever.



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





Current List of Lifetime Members*

Mitra Behnam
Stephen Brenkwitz
Tom/Barbara Brenkwitz
Nick Buthman
Rich Calderon
Larry/Barbara Celestine
Celeste Garamendi/Mark Connelly
Ray/Carol Fosse
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	DOCENT
Saturday	August 2	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter	Dave Middleton
Sunday	August 3	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox	Burke Sorti
Monday	August 4	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster	Jean Shipman
Saturday	August 9	10AM-2PM	Larry Gamino	Open
Sunday	August 10	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster	Open
Monday	August 11	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster	Open
Saturday	August 16	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter	David Middleton
Sunday	August 17	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox	Burke Sorti
Monday	August 18	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster	Jean Shipman
Saturday	August 23	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter	Open
Sunday	August 24	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster	Open
Monday	August 25	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster	Jean Shipman
Saturday	August 30 ETE	8AM-4PM	Bill Carter	Vicki Besse
Sunday	August 31 ETE	10AM-4PM	Onalee Koster	Dick Kendall
Monday	September 1 ETE	10M-4PM	Larry Gamino	Open
Wednesday	September 3 ETE	10PM-4PM	Dick Kendall	Bill Carter
Saturday	September 6 ETE	10AM-4PM	Bill Carter	Vicki Besse
Sunday	September 7 ETE	10AM-4PM	Dick Kendall	Dennis Maddox
Monday	September 8 ETE	10AM-4PM	Larry Gamino	Ruth Sanford
Wednesday	September 10 ETE	10AM-4PM	Bill Carter	Mitra Behnam
Saturday	September 13 ETE	10AM-4PM	Bill Carter	Vicki Besse
Sunday	September 14 ETE	10PM-1PM	Open	Open
		1PM-4PM	Open	Dennis Maddox
Monday	September 15	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster	Jean Shipman
Saturday	September 20	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter	David Middleton
Sunday	September 21	1PM-4PM	Onalee Koster	Open
Monday	September 22	9AM-2PM	Onalee Koster	Jean Shipman
Saturday	September 27	10AM-2PM	Bill Carter	Open
Sunday	September 28	1PM-4PM	Dennis Maddox	Burke Sorti

***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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