

**THE HISTORY OF CENTERVILLE**  
**CHAPTER 08**  
**1920 to 1929**

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\* **DEMOGRAPHICS** \*  
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Centerville demographics are based entirely upon where you were born and these simple rules.

If you were born in a foreign country then you are classified as "Foreign Born" under the country of your nativity.

If one or both of your parents were "Foreign Born" then you are a first generation you are classified as "1<sup>st</sup> Gen US Born."

If your parents were both born in foreign countries, but not the same country, then the first generation born is assigned the father's foreign country. For example, if your father was born in Portugal and your mother was born in Ireland, then I would consider you a first generation Portuguese.

If both of your parents were born in the US then you are considered as being of US descent.

1920 Centerville Demographics				
Country	Foreign Born	1st Gen U.S. Born	Total	Percent of Total
Australia		1	1	0.07%
Canada	8	21	29	1.97%
Cape Verde Islands	3		3	0.20%
China	39	3	42	2.85%
Denmark	6	8	14	0.95%
England	16	26	42	2.85%
France	2	4	6	0.41%
Germany	7	26	33	2.24%
Ireland	10	30	40	2.72%
Italy	8	2	10	0.68%
Japan	67	42	109	7.40%
Mexico	1	4	5	0.34%
Norway		7	7	0.48%
Philippines	2		2	0.14%
Portugal	292	502	794	53.90%
Russia	1		1	0.07%
Scotland	3	5	8	0.54%
Spain	9	8	17	1.15%
Sweden		4	4	0.27%
Switzerland	1		1	0.07%
U.S. Born	305		305	20.71%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

This decade's demographics show less people in Centerville than in 1910. This is because the enumeration district map of 1920 is different from that of 1910. In other words the census of 1910 for Centerville was included more area than the census of 1920. The percentage of Portuguese people dropped from 66% to 55% this year because of an influx of Asians in form of Chinese and Japanese. Also the percentage of U.S. Born citizens increased from 17.5% to 20.7%.

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**\* BIOS \***

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*Clyde E. Anderson / Larry Bettencourt / George "Het" Machado / George A. Coit / Manuel S. Pires / Mathiesen: Peter, Melford, George and Mabel / Arnt (A.J.) Gronley / Fred Rogers / Emanuel George / Floyd E. Parks / Manuel Nunes / Howard F. Chadbourne / John R. (J.R.) Blacow / Robert A. Blacow*

**Clyde E. Anderson:**

Clyde Anderson was born in California circa 1880. His wife Olive was born in California circa 1887. They had two children, Frances born circa 1914 and Clyde Jr. born circa 1920. In 1920 Clyde was living in Oakland on Seminary Court and he worked as a watchmaker. In the mid-1920's Clyde, and his family, relocated to Centerville where Clyde operated a jewelry store and continued as a watchmaker.

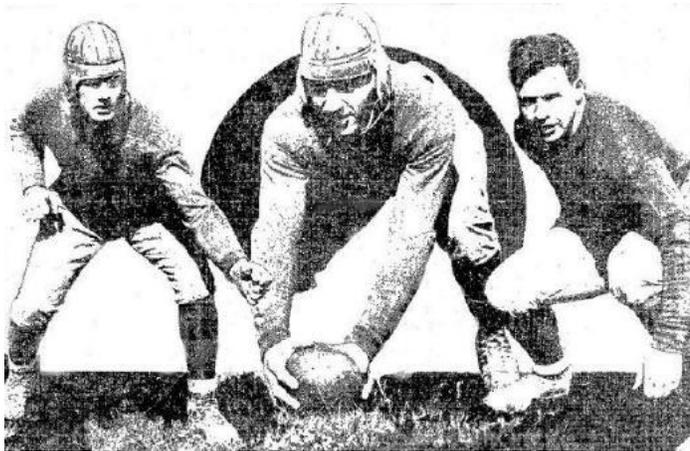
In February 1925 a very beautiful silver cup was on display in the window of Anderson's Jewelry store. It was won by the Centerville Grove of Druids degree team from the Garden City Grove of San Jose. The local lodge was very proud to have their organization hold this state trophy.

Mrs. Anderson was very active in Centerville. In 1926 she joined the Ladies aid society of the Presbyterian Church and later became an elder in the Church. In 1938 the four councils of the Washington Township Presbyterian churches formed a single church council. Mrs. Anderson was chosen as one of the representatives to this council from Centerville. Mrs. Anderson was also very active in the PTA of the Centerville Grammar School, serving in many official capacities at the local level. In 1931 she was elected First Vice President of the Alameda County PTA.

Mrs. Anderson was also a member of the Country Club of Washington Township, and was especially active in the dramatic section of the club. She also served in several official capacities of the club. In 1937 Mrs. Anderson was guardian of the Centerville Camp Fire Girls and the Blue Birds. In the social front Mrs. Anderson organized the Centerville Bridge Club at her home.

### **Larry Bettencourt:**

Larry Bettencourt was born in Newark California on September 22, 1905, but grew up in Decoto when his family relocated there. He attended Washington Union High School in Centerville and then went on to St. Mary's College in Moraga.



Larry's play on the St. Mary's football team earned him All-American honors and a membership in the College Football Hall of Fame. During his four-year varsity career he scored 12 touchdowns, most of them on blocked punts. As a senior in 1927 he blocked punts in six consecutive games.

St. Mary's football players: On Left, Al Tobin, tackle from St. Mary's High School; Center: Larry Bettencourt, team captain from Washington Union High in Centerville, at Right: Frank Mulcahy, from Los Angeles.

Larry Bettencourt passed up offers to play professional football and professional baseball. The All-American center is as handy on the farm as he is on the football gridiron.

Larry's parents own a ranch near Centerville, and when the star athlete was not studying or playing football he enjoyed himself doing the chores on the farm. Naturally his folks are proud of their boy's achievements and they like to have his football pals visit with him. Larry has lucrative offers to play

professional baseball, but his dad says he can always make a good living as a farmer as he can plow, prune and do the other necessary work on a ranch. People of Washington Township are to honor him at a reception in Centerville on December 22, 1927.

Larry's 3-Years' Stats with the St. Louis Browns:

Year	Age	Tm	Lg	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	TB
1928	22	<a href="#">SLB</a>	<a href="#">AL</a>	67	189	159	30	45	9	4	4	24	2	1	22	19	.283	.377	.465	.842	117	74
1931	25	<a href="#">SLB</a>	<a href="#">AL</a>	74	239	206	27	53	9	2	3	26	4	3	31	35	.257	.357	.364	.721	88	75
1932	26	<a href="#">SLB</a>	<a href="#">AL</a>	27	37	30	4	4	1	0	1	3	1	0	7	6	.133	.297	.267	.564	44	8
<b>3 Yrs</b>				<b>168</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>.258</b>	<b>.360</b>	<b>.397</b>	<b>.758</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>162 Game Avg.</b>				<b>162</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>.258</b>	<b>.360</b>	<b>.397</b>	<b>.758</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>151</b>



Besides being an All-American center on the St. Mary's football team Larry was also an excellent baseball player and in 1928 signed a \$6,000 contract with the St. Louis Browns (the Browns were a Major American League team, which in 1954 were renamed the Baltimore Orioles). He played for the Browns from 1928 to 1932, coming to bat 395 times with a lifetime major league average of .258.

Larry played in the minor leagues from 1929 to 1944 for 11 different minor league teams. He batted 5,096 times for a lifetime minor leaguer batting average of .296.

In 1934 he played one season for the Green Bay Packers at Center (2 games), after which he returned to baseball and the minor leagues.

In March 1933 Larry surprised his family and friends by eloping to Reno with Miss Anna Pagini of Oakland, where they were married. He would soon leave with his bride for Hot Springs, Ark., where he was to join the Milwaukee club of the American Association for spring training. Scores of friends of the athlete honored him and his bride at a reception in Oakland, where they spent their honeymoon. For the last two years Bettencourt, who was an All-American center in his senior year at St. Mary's College, has played baseball with the St. Louis Browns of the American League. He was "farmed out" to Milwaukee this year. Larry lived to the good age of 73 years, passing away on September 15, 1978.

### **George "Het" Machado:**

George Machado was born in California in April 1871. His wife Annie was born in California in October 1873. George was the son of Antone P. and Mary Machado who came to the U.S. from Portugal; Antone in 1854 and Mary in 1865. They had 15 children, 12 of which survived into adulthood. Antone farmed at what was then known as the "Four Corners," where the Alvarado-Centerville Road intersected Decoto and Jarvis Roads. Because of Antone's influence the "Four Corners" became known as "Machado's Corners."

George Machado began a blacksmith shop at the corners and would become associated with "Machado's Corners" later in life. I do not find that George and Annie had any children.

From *The Oakland Tribune* of November 10, 1949

"Machado's Corners, a wide spot in the road between Alvarado and Centerville at the intersection of Jarvis Road approach to the Dumbarton Bridge, was named for Machado's blacksmith shop, which he operated here for many years, and which fundamentally furnished the explanation for his fame on the race track.

"Don't look a race horse in the mouth," says George "Het" Machado, "look at his feet." The right kind of shoe will make a winner out of a "no-good," he always claimed, and it was this theory that was credited with the phenomenal wins of horses that had been banished from the tracks in disgrace and sold for a few hundred dollars, only to be properly shod and subsequently declared winners.

The trophies which crowd the Machado home, a white frame structure with its original gingerbread trim standing only a few feet from the respective birthplace of Mrs. & Mrs. Machado, and the scrapbook tells the story.

A 1923 sporting page picture and caption: "Here is Potreress, the once despised quitter and this season the winning pacer of the Pacific Coast. In the sulky is George Machado, the trainer and driver of Potreress, owned by George J. Gianini; and the accompanying story relates how Potreress was spotted at a track, bought for \$350, moved to Machado's training camp where he experimented with various shoes until he had thought he had arrived at the proper pattern. Potreress was entered in the pacing stakes along the Coast.

It was a gamble of more than mere monetary importance. If Potreress failed then Machado would become the laughing stock of the horse world. But she won and the racing writers of 1923 recorded her record breaking at Stockton. In the Northwest she was a riot, winner of the free for all at Eugene Oregon, where she set a new track record, winner at Salem, Ventura, and at Pomona, winning about \$5,000 in stakes.

The story of "Harry I," saddle horse champion, is the same. Given up as a racer and sold to a soldier in 1926, seeking a saddle horse for the Army, Harry I seemed destined to carry cavalymen and colonels around for the rest of his life when fate, in the person of George Machado stepped into the picture. Harry I was purchased for \$180 and was credited with \$12,000 in winnings.

Home bred "Sea Cliff," wearing Machado's magic shoes, steel for the front feet and aluminum for the back, repeated the triumphs which were making the "balanced blacksmith" famous throughout the west.

Repetitious clippings, "Easter Doll at Bay Meadows," "Morning Judge wins trophy at State Fair, Het Machado handles reins," winning at Pleasanton, Ventura, Vancouver, Tanforan, and Los Angeles.

Then Machado was stricken with food poisoning, which permanently canceled his reappearance as a participant at the race tracks. Now in fair health, he and Annie are enthusiastic spectators at the races. But he doesn't bet. "Too many things can happen to a horse" he explains, "and besides you never know what kind of shoes they are wearing."

On March 15, 1956 one of Centerville's most colorful characters died in Santa Rosa at the age of 84 years. George Machado was survived by his wife Annie. Mr. Machado, who retired about 15 years ago moved to Santa Rosa from a locality near Centerville called "Machado's Corner," named after his father Antone Machado who came to the area in 1863 to farm.

### **George A. Coit:**

Manuel Coit was born circa 1888 in California. He lived with his mother, Umbelina Coit in 1910 in Mt. Eden along with his brother Manuel and his sister Rose. Mrs. Coit was widowed at this time. His wife, Isabella Browning was born in California circa 1888. They had two children, a daughter Jean and a son Robert.

In 1920 George moved to Centerville where he was boarding in a Centerville Hotel operated by Valentine and Josephine Savio. At this time George was married but was living alone in the Centerville hotel. He had also, by this time, owned his own plumbing business in town.

In 1920 Isabella was living with her mother, Mrs. Mary A. Browning in Oakland California on 27<sup>th</sup> Street. George and Isabella had a Jean who was 11 months old at this time. When George had established himself in Centerville Isabella and Jean came to join him.

George then became a merchant in Centerville, opening a hardware store, which he would continue to operate for decade. In January 1923 George Coit became President of the Sanitary Board for the town of Centerville. George would serve the sanitary district for twenty-eight years, giving of his time freely for the town while continuing to operate his hardware store.

George would also give his time to the Boy Scout Troop of Centerville, also spending decades giving quality time to the youth of Centerville. During WWII George Coit was chairman of the Washington Township Office of Price Administration, a division of the War Price and Rationing Board, which sought to eliminate black market activities and price gouging. At this same time George served as a member of the Centerville Grammar School Board of Trustees.

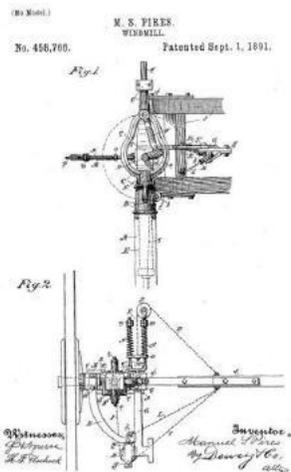
George's other passion was for the Knights of Columbus of Centerville, where in 1928, he was elected Grand Knight of the Lodge. Later in life George gave of his time on the Washington Township Historical Society, which coherently put together for the formation and progress of the township.

Isabella Coit's passion for the town of Centerville matched that of George's in the volunteer organizations she served. Mrs. Coit's passion was the Country Club of Washington Township. In the 1920's Mrs. Coit joined the Country Club and took particular interest in the dramatic section bent of the club. She continued to serve the club for decades.

Isabella served on the Centerville PTA and the Centerville Welfare Club No. 1. Besides her civic side Mrs. Coit was socially active, most formally as member of the Centerville Birthday Club.

## **Manuel S. Pires:**

Manuel S. Pires was born in California in September 1865 to Manuel and Adeline Pires. His wife Rose was born in the Azores in September 1864. She entered the U.S. in either 1864 or 1865. Manuel and Rose were married circa 1887. They had four children but only two survived, Elsie born in June 1891 and Lester born in October 1898.



Manuel was an inventor and a well borer. In the 1890's he was prolific in Alameda County digging many wells for private citizens and for Alameda County. Later he would put the windmill patent shown to the left to good use as he began the Centerville Water Co.

Windmill:  
Manuel S. Pires, Centerville, Alameda Co.,  
California.  
Patent No. 458,766, Dated Sept. 1, 1891.

The object of his invention was to provide a simple and strong windmill head by which the wheel and vane are supported properly and may have their several movements, and the power of the crank is transmitted to the pump-rod directly from below, thus avoiding any tendency to cramping or binding due to side pressure.

Manuel struggled to keep his water company afloat and in July 1920 he made an application with the Railroad Commission for increase in water fees. (The State Railroad Commission was the forerunner to the Public Utilities Commission.) Manuel had operated the Centerville Water Co. for twenty years and testified before the board that he was compelled to mortgage everything he owned to keep the business going. He said that between 1915 and 1918, when the revenues were collected by the Bank of Centerville, from which he had borrowed \$75,000, the accounts showed an average monthly revenue to \$118.81 and disbursements of \$166.32. The disbursements, Pires added did not include anything for the support of himself and his family.

The end finally came in February 1935 Manuel decided to make his future home in the City of Oakland. Manuel was a native of Washington Township and had resided here for more than 60 years.

He founded the Centerville Water Co. and operated until recently when the State Railroad Commission ruled that pressure in the mains would have to be increased and that it would be necessary to construct a steel tower 100 feet in height to provide the necessary pressure.

Not being in the financial position to comply with the order, Pires was forced to turn his holdings over to a newly formed company which had the capital to comply with the edict. Manuel had supplied Centerville for more than 30 years.

## **Mathiesen: Peter, Melfred, George and Mabel:**

### **Peter Mathiesen:**

Peter Mathiesen was born March 1862. His wife Mary was born January 1868. They both originally listed their birth places as Germany, however in the 1920 census they changed country of birth to Denmark. They had two sons: Melfred born November 1887 and George born July 1890; a daughter, Mabel V was born August 1894. All of the children were born in California.

Peter Mathiesen was a long time butcher for the town of Centerville. On November 26, 1921 Peter Mathiesen passed away.

### **Melfred Mathiesen:**

Melfred was born in California in November 1887. It appears that Melfred stayed single throughout his life.

Melfred went to work for the Bank of Italy in Centerville under branch manager Frank T. Dusterberry. In July 1921 he was listed as an Assistant Cashier (an Ass't Cashier is a bank officer and is not to be confused with being a teller). In January 1928 Melfred was promoted to branch manager of the Daly City office of Bank of Italy. Soon thereafter the Bank of Italy would change its name to the Bank of America.

Melfred served Centerville in many civic and social association, among them:

- The Knights of Pythias, No. 170 where he was elected Chancellor Commander in 1920.
- The Native Sons of the Golden West No. 160 where in 1923 served officially as financial secretary.
- Centerville Boy Scout Troop: Melfred was one of the founding members of the troop and served as its first Scoutmaster. He continued to be affiliated with the Boy Scouts for many years.
- He also served on the Centerville Chamber of Commerce, holding the office of Secretary in 1924.
- Melfred served on the Centerville Volunteer Fire Department being named as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant to Fire Chief Fred Rogers.

By 1930 Melfred Mathiesen had returned to Centerville and lived with his sister Mabel and her husband Daniel Fitzgerald. At this time Melfred listed that was retired. In 1940 he was still living with his sister, who by this time

was widowed. Melfred gave his employment as a clerk at the Tanforan Race Track.

On November 19, 1951 Melfred (Matt) Mathiesen died in Oakland. He left his brother, George and his sister of Mrs. Mabel Oaks, both of Centerville. Aged 63 years, native of WWI, member of the Washington Township Post No. 195 of the American Legion, Washington Parlor No. 169 of NSGW, Knight of Pythias Lodge No. 170 of Centerville, President of the Board of Commissioners of Centerville Fire Protection District, and a member of Advisory Board of Bank of America, Centerville Branch.

### **George W. Mathiesen:**

George Mathiesen was born in California in July 1890. Luella Mathiesen, George's wife, was born circa 1890 in California. They were married circa 1921 and had two sons, George and Roy.

George worked at his father's butcher shop after his schooling. He was still a butcher up until his father passed away in 1921. By the end of the decade he went to work as a bus driver for the local school. He was still employed by the school system in 1940 where he had now become a custodian.

George was associated with the Centerville Boy Scout Troop and in August 1924, when the new Washington Union High School was dedicated, George took the Boy Scouts to the dedication where they lead the flag salute.

In November 1925 the Centerville Volunteer Fire Department officers were announced as:

Fire Chief:	Fred Rogers
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant:	M.P. Mathiesen
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant:	George Mathiesen

George was also associated with and active in the following organizations:

- The Men's Club of St. James Episcopal Church
- The Washington Parlor # 169 Native Sons of the Golden West, where he served as president in 1914.

Mrs. Luella Mathiesen was also active in Centerville civic and social organizations:

- She was elected as the financial secretary in the Centerville School PTA.
- Luella was a member of the St. James Guild of the Episcopal Church
- Luella was also an active member of the Centerville Sweet Sixteen and the Sweet 4 X 4 Clubs.

### **Miss Mabel Mathiesen:**

Mabel Mathiesen was born in August 3, 1884 in Centerville. She attended the local schools and graduated from Union High School #2, Centerville (Washington Union High School) in 1912.

Centerville put on one of the largest Fourth of July parades ever seen in these parts. Miss Mabel Mathiesen, daughter of Peter and Mary Mathiesen of Centerville, was "the Goddess of Liberty." She was seated on a throne of white and gold, attended by Cupids in white, the float being drawn by four white horses

In 1920 Mabel worked as a sales lady in a general merchandise store in Centerville. During this time she Married Daniel A. Fitzgerald and the settled down in Centerville. Daniel worked as a salesman for an oil company. In January 1926 Dan was elected president of the St. James Men's Club.

Mabel was a member of the Country Club of Washington Township acting as a hostess in March 1928 along with Mrs. Thomas E. Chadbourne, Miss G. Crocker, Mrs. Howard Chadbourne, and Miss Elizabeth Dusterberry. In May 1930 Mabel was elected treasurer of the WTCC

By 1940 Mabel was widowed and her brother Melfred came to live with her. In 1951 Mabel's brother Melfred passed away and it was noted that Mabel had remarried and was now Mrs. Oakes.

In March 1955 Mrs. Mabel Oakes was elected Treasurer of the St. James Guild of Centerville. On August 1, 1983 Mrs. Mabel Oakes passed away, just two days shy of her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Arnt (A.J.) Gronley:**

Arnt Gronley was born in Norway circa 1886. He entered the U.S. between 1904 and 1906. His wife Petra was also born in Norway circa 1888. She entered the U.S. between 1904 and 1906. They were married circa 1909 in San Francisco, and their first child, Pauline was born in San Francisco. In San Francisco Arnt worked as a painter in a paint shop.

Arnt moved his family to Centerville where he opened his own paint shop and also worked as an interior decorator. Arnt and Petra added to their family: Judith, John, Lawrence, Olga and Carrie.

Arnt was a member of the Alameda Lodge of the Centerville Masons where he served as Junior Warden in December 1921. Arnt was also a member of the Victory Circle of the Centerville Druids.

In November 1923 Arnt was part of the committee that formed the Centerville Troop of the Boy Scouts.

Arnt also served as an engineman in the Centerville Volunteer Fire Department. In October 1926 he was appointed a Fire Commissioner for the Centerville Fire Department after the passing of former commissioner J.C. Mowry.

A.J. Gronley passed away on January 30, 1925 at the age of 49 years. He came to Centerville after 1910 from San Francisco. He was a painter and an interior decorator. He left a wife six children: Mrs. A. Alameda, Judith, Alga, Carrie, John, Lawrence, and wife Petra.

### **Fred Rogers:**

Fred Rogers was born in Centerville in June 1887 to Albert and Mary Rogers. Albert was one of five children: Albert, Frank, Mamie, Fred, and the fifth is not known. Albert attended the Centerville Grammar School and in 1916 he

married Miss Helen Cullen. They had a daughter, Helen born in 1917, who became an auditor with the State Board of Equalization; a son Fred Jr., born in 1918, who became a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. air Force; and a son Stanley, born in 1920, who is an electrician living in Newark Calif.

In 1920 Fred owned a confectionary store in Centerville, and in 1924 he joined the sales force of the Ed Rose Garage in Centerville; but in 1927 he became an employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department of Alameda County. He would pursue this line of work until his retirement in July 1957 after 30 years as the game warden for Alameda County.

At this same time Fred began a long association with the Centerville Boy Scout Troop becoming a charter committee member in November 1923. Here served with Fred Dusterberry, Arnt Gronley, G.W. Wright, Sid Holman, G.W. Mathiesen, and Arwin Ormsby.

Fred was also a member of the Knights of Pythias, No. 179, serving as Consul Commander in 1924. Fred was also an active member of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce.

But Fred Rogers will long be remembered as the force behind the Centerville Volunteer Fire Department. Fred had been a member since 1908, he can recall when the fire department had one length of hose and five push carts. In 1956, when he retired after 48 years, he saw it now equipped with a new fire station with up-to-the-minute fire-fighting equipment. Fred, the dean of the fire-fighters in Washington Township, announced his retirement at the beginning of 1956. He was 69 years old at this time and had been one of Centerville's Fire Commissioners.

Fred had seen change in fire-fighting during his tenure at the Centerville fire station. In 1918 Centerville purchased its first piece of fire-fighting equipment, a \$750 two-wheel chemical unit. This unit was first towed behind an automobile. When the auto rounded a corner too sharply, the unit overturned and tore off the wheels. However, firemen were ingenious. One of the firemen, Frank Bontelho, who was also the town undertaker, offered the use of his hearse, not then in conventional use. The chemical unit was mounted on the hearse body, and lent a macabre note to fire calls for many months thereafter.

The district bought its first fire truck in 1928, a second one in 1940, and third in 1950. The latter two were still in use in 1955.

The early fire department history of Centerville was destroyed in a fire, but Rogers' recalls there were two or three fire chiefs that had preceded him.

### **Emanuel George:**

Emanuel George was born in July 1865 in California. His wife Mary was born in California in October 1865. They were married circa 1896 and had one son, Lawrence, who was born circa 1901.

Emanuel was a fruit farmer in Centerville his entire career, but he augmented his income with outside jobs, although it was evident he was a successful farmer.

In March 1900 Alameda County Assessor Dalton named Emanuel George of Centerville as one of his assistants to help gather field information for the next county and state assessment. In August of 1908 it was mentioned that Emanuel was receiving a \$100 a month salary in the county assessor's office.

In November 1910 Emanuel George was one of Assessor Dalton's assistants called before a Grand Jury in Oakland to testify as to whether they had given kick-backs on their salaries to Dalton in exchange for their appointments in the assessor's office. Several of Dalton's assistants had accused Dalton of asking for kick-backs. The rest of the deputies interviewed before the Grand Jury, including Emanuel George, testified that they had never given Dalton money out of their salaries and said that no such practice was employed in his office.

In July 1910 the Bank of Centerville was formed and Emanuel George was one of the persons to sit on the board of the bank.

Emanuel George joined George Bontelho, Joseph Roderick, G. Wales, and S. B. Vandervoort in planning for a giant Fourth of July celebration to be held in Centerville in July 1911. The celebration was joined by all towns in the township and drew people from as far San Francisco and Oakland to the big festivity.

In 1913 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors created the Alameda County Water District, which enabled Washington Township to create its own water district. The board of directors for the water district was: Eugene H. Stevenson, William D. Patterson, Emanuel George, William Trenouth, and J.C. Shinn. Emanuel would serve many terms on the board of the water district.

On August 25, 1941 Emanuel George passed away in Centerville. Besides working his farm, Emanuel had spent several decades as the county assessor and tax collector for the Centerville area.

### **Floyd E. Parks:**

Floyd E. Parks was born in Missouri circa 1901 to George and Mary Parks. Floyd came to Centerville after 1920 from Mr. Eden where his parents owned a grocery store. In November 1928 Floyd was married to his wife Florence. They had a son Floyd Jr. and a daughter Mary.

The first mention of Floyd Parks was in June 1925 when his business, "Park's Grocery Store" was mentioned in the *Oakland Tribune*. The following year he was mentioned as being elected as secretary of the St. James Men's Club.

The last mention of Floyd Parks was in the 1940 census showing him still living in Centerville and still owner of a grocery store.

### **Manuel Nunes:**

Manuel Nunes was born in California circa 1877. His wife Maggie was born in California circa 1878. In 1910 they had two children, Fred 4 years old and Lester 1 year old. At this time Manuel owned and operated a grain farm in Centerville. By 1920 Manuel had gone into the well boring business and he then expanded his business by opening a hardware store, operated by his wife and son Lester. By the 1940 Manuel and Lester had relocated to Castroville where Manuel was retired and Lester had taken over his father's well boring business. Lester was wed to Irene Nunes and they had a son Ronald circa 1938. Mrs. Manuel Nunes had passed away prior to 1940.

### **Howard F. Chadbourne:**

Howard F. Chadbourne was born in California to Thomas J. and Henrietta Chadbourne circa 1874.

Howard's father, Thomas J. Chadbourne, came west in 1852, and founded the Eclipse Cracker Bakery on Dupont Street in San Francisco along with his brother Joseph and Mr. W.H. Pierce. In 1860 Thomas J. and Joseph Chadbourne were living in San Francisco along with Joshua Chadbourne. Joshua would later relocate to Washington Township and start a going warehouse business near Warm Springs.

The Eclipse Cracker Co. made crackers and bread for the Pacific Mail Steamship line as well as fulfilling U.S. Army contracts. Thomas J. & Joseph Chadbourne and Mr. Pierce all became wealthy from this enterprise until stiff competition and lowering prices forced the closure of the major part of their factory in May 1901.

Prior to 1876 Thomas J. Chadbourne purchased the Charles Breyfogle ranch in Centerville, which stood at the corner of today's Mowry Avenue and Fremont Boulevard. Today that land is called the "Fremont Hub" shopping mall. Also on that land is the Chadbourne Carriage House, a relic of the 1870's. With the death of his father in 1913, and the death of his older brother Thomas E. in 1929, Howard became the owner of the Chadbourne Estate.

In 1900 Howard Chadbourne was employed as a clerk in the Eclipse Cracker Bakery. At this time he had been married for four years and had a daughter Estelle, was 3 years old and a son Howard B., who 2 years old. His wife Martha had been born in Ireland circa 1875.

When the Eclipse Bakery closed Howard became an attorney practicing in the City of Hayward in 1910, but he later relocated to Centerville with his family. Here Howard would continue his practice of law and also took care of the family farm.

It was noted that the largest well in Washington Township for private use was installed at the ranch of H.F. Chadbourne in June 1922. Farmers in all sections of lower Alameda County were waiting to learn the results of Chadbourne's irrigation plan. The well, which was drilled to a depth of 185 feet, had a flow of 18 inches in diameter. A peculiar geological formation made a gravel stratum at the 185 foot depth at the Chadbourne ranch, causing a small subterranean reservoir.

In the 1940's the Chadbourne Estate was sold the Williams Brothers, the large farming family of the Centerville area. Howard and Martha Chadbourne were both active members of the St. James Episcopal Church in Centerville, with Howard servicing officially with the St. James Men's Club.

Mrs. Chadbourne was active with several clubs in Centerville and several that served the East Bay. Mrs. Chadbourne was a member of the Centerville Welfare Club and she also served as Chairman of the annual Christmas Seal campaign for Centerville. She was a Past President of the Country Club of Washington Township, and in 1946 she was recognized as was one of the five remaining charter members of the old Town Hall Association, joining Mrs. Ed Hawley, Mrs. D.A. Fitzgerald, Mrs. George Mathiesen, and Mrs. J.S. Bell. Mrs. Chadbourne belonged and active served several East Bay Club and organization, among then she the Treasurer of the Alameda County Federation of Women's Club, she was a long time member of the Oakland Reading Club, and she also active with the Toyon Baby Clinic.

### **John R. (J.R.) Blacow:**

John R. Blacow was born in Centerville in July 1879 to Alfred and Josephine Blacow and was the grandson of Robert and Helen (Catherine) Blacow. In 1900 he was living with his mother, Josephine, who was widowed, in Centerville. At this time he was working as indigent clerk and assistant in the Alameda County's expert office. J.R. tendered his resignation to this office effective February 1, 1905 and then joined the staff of the Bank of Alvarado.

In 1910 John was living with his uncle Richard D. Blacow in Centerville as a single man. In 1920 he showed he had married Florence Blacow and they lived in Centerville without any children.

In January 1912 J.R. was made an officer of the Bank of Alvarado when he was promoted to Secretary - Cashier of the corporation. In January 1924 J.R. was elected to the Bank of Alameda County (the Bank of Alvarado was the forerunner of this bank) Board of Directors.

In 1931 J.R. was still on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Alameda County, which now had branches in Alvarado, Irvington and Niles.

John was a prominent member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce and also chaired or participated in the following fund raising activities: January 1940, the March of Dimes campaign; June 1941, the Southern Alameda County USO Drive; Chairman of the Washington Township Tire Rationing Board; Chairman of the Red Cross Alvarado & Alviso fund raising drive and the Chairman of the Washington Township Victory Bond Drive.

On August 1, 1944 approximately 50 officials and employees of Central Bank attended a dinner to honor John R. Blacow, Manager of the Alvarado Office, who retired effective August 1, 1944. Blacow has been associated with the bank for 40 years, having started with the old Bank of Alvarado in 1904.

Florence Blacow passed away in Palo Alto on April 19, 1964 at the age of 79 years. John Blacow passed in 1966, both were interred in Palo Alto where the Blacow's had relocated to for retirement.

**Robert A. Blacow:**

Robert A. Blacow was the son of Richard D. and Lena Blacow of Centerville and was the grandson of Robert and Helen (Catherine) Blacow. He was born in July 1889.

Robert was employed by Bank of Alameda County (the old Bank of Alvarado) where his cousin John R. was the cashier. By January 1912 Robert was made a bank officer by being named Assistant Cashier. In 1931 he was the Cashier for the Bank of Alameda County (the Bank of Alvarado's new name).

By 1943 he was the Manager of the Central Bank Branch at Niles and was named as a director of the Oakland Chapter of the American Red Cross. This is the first time that the Oakland board had named more than one director from Washington Township. F. T. Dusterberry was also on the board from Washington Township.

Robert A. Blacow, who had been through three name changes of bank names in 35 years (Bank of Alameda County, Central Bank and First Western Bank), would retire January 1, 1954. Mr. Blacow started his banking career in Alvarado with the Bank of Alameda County. Blacow would continue to act as chairman of the advisory board of director's for First Western's three offices in Washington Township at Niles, Irvington and Alvarado.

Robert Blacow was married to Effa Blacow and they lived on the Centerville Road. They showed having no children.

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\* **CENTERVILLE BUSINESSES** \*  
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*Amaral & De Leon / American Thermophone / Anderson's Jewelry Store / The Bank of Centerville, FNB Centerville, Bank of Italy, Bank of America / F.E. Booth Packing Company / Frank Bothelo / Centerville Battery & A. Doering Service Station / Centerville Cleaning Co. / Centerville Electric / Centerville Garage / Centerville Nash / Centerville Water Co. / Central Garage / Clark Brothers / Coit's Hardware / J.V. Dean Butcher Shop / Dohner & Galbraith Ford Dealership / Manuel Ennis / Excelsior Bakery / Farrington's Garage / Rose Fonseca Service Station & Groceries / Foster & Naylor / M.A. Freitas Groceries / Dominic Garetto (Hotel Keepers) / H.P. Garin Packing House / George & George Garage & Auto Agent / Gordy's Barber Shop / Manuel J. Goularte, Bicycle Repair / A.J. Gronley, Wallpaper & Paints / Elmer a Harrison, Plumbing / Gregory Hotel / P.C. Hansen Lumber / Hell & La Grave Meats / Sid Holman, Chevrolet Dealership / Houck Enameling Plant / Dr. Stanley Innes, Chiropractor / Jason Joseph, Metal Mfg. / King & Madruga, Garage / T.R Laumeister, Restaurant / W.H. Lawlor, Blacksmith / Lincoln Restaurant / McElroy Cheim Lumber Co. / Moorehead Real Estate / K. Nakamura, Groceries / J.R. Nunes Shoe Shop / Manuel Nunes, Hardware, Paint, Well Boring / Oakland-Newark Stage Line / Pacific Gas & Electric / Pacific Telephone / Park's Groceries / Peerless Stage Line / Pelletier Soft Drink Parlor / Pepper Tree Inn / F. Ponti Bakery / Stephen M. Reich, service Station / Robinson Garage / Robinson Radio Shop / Rodrigues Beauty Shop / Ed. Rose's Garage / Manuel Rose's Shoe Store / San Leandro State Bank / Simas Poolroom / Soares Food Store / Southern Pacific RR / Standard Oil / G.E. Stinhliver, Paint / Templeman & Barron, Fuller Paints / Frank Vargas, Soft Drinks / Walton's Pharmacy / "Washington Press," Newspaper / Williams Brothers Packing House*

**Amaral & De Leon, Service Station:**

Gas and oil service station, also sold batteries.

### **American Thermophone:**

The American Thermophone Company gave notice in October 1924 that they would change the location of their business from Centerville to Oakland.

Definition of a thermophone: an electroacoustic transducer that forms sound waves by the expansion and contraction of the air adjacent to a conductor that varies in temperature according to the magnitude of the current passing through it; formerly used to calibrate microphones.

### **Anderson's Jewelry Store:**

Anderson's Jewelry Store was owned by Clyde Anderson in Centerville.

### **The Bank of Centerville - First National Bank of Centerville - Bank of Italy - Bank of America:**

The Bank of Centerville was founded in 1905 and remained independent until 1921 when it was purchased as a branch of A.P. Gianini's Bank of Italy. Prior to Bank Italy's purchase the Bank of Centerville changed its name to the First National Bank of Centerville.

The First National Bank of Centerville issued new bank notes, which were put into circulation on December 4, 1920. The notes were in \$5 denominations and bore the signatures of President John G. Mattos Jr., and Cashier Frank T. Dusterberry.

On June 22, 1921, The First National Bank of Centerville (formerly Bank of Centerville) was about to be accepted as a branch of the Bank of Italy. Authorization by the state banking authority has been posted.

On July 1, 1921, the Bank of Italy put out its Balance Sheet listing the old Bank of Centerville as a member bank of the Bank of Italy banks: The following persons from the old Bank of Centerville were listed on the Bank of Italy Balance Sheet as officers of the Bank of Italy:

#### **Advisory Board:**

Chairman:	John G. Mattos Jr.
Vice Chairman:	Joseph Dias
Board Members:	F.T. Dusterberry, M.F. Silva, F. Lemos, E.H. Stevenson, Emanuel George

#### **Officers of Bank of Italy Corp.:**

Vice President:	John G. Mattos, Jr.
Vice Chairman of the Advisory Board:	Joseph Dias
Branch Manager:	F.T. Dusterberry
Assistant Cashier:	Howard White, M.P. Mathiesen

The Bank of Italy took out an option on the corner of the Niles-Centerville Road and the San Jose Highway in January 1922 as the location for its Centerville Branch. The growth of the bank's business at Centerville made necessary a larger more commodious branch office.

H.B. White, Ass't Mgr. of the Centerville Branch of Bank of Italy, would assume duties of Ass't Manager of the Hayward Branch of the Bank of Italy in March 1922. F.T. Dusterberry was the manager of the Centerville Branch of Bank of Italy.

Bank of Italy became the Bank of America when A.P. Gianini, founder of the Bank of Italy, merged his two holding companies, Bancitaly Corp. and Transamerica Corp. into one entity, the Bank of America.

### **F.E. Booth Packing Company:**

The F.E. Booth cannery was built in 1917 on Baine Avenue, adjacent to the SP railroad tracks near downtown Centerville. In 1922 buyers for the local cherry crop arrived in Centerville to interview and sign up local growers. Preparations were made by the F.E. Booth Canning Co. for a long canning season beginning with the cherry harvest.

Besides canning various fruits grown locally, F.E. Booth also put up a lot of "tomato paste," which was used in canning fish. Booth had a large fish cannery in Monterey Calif. In November 1923 the Booth cannery was the last running cannery in the district, canning tomatoes until they were stopped by frost.

In March 1927 the F.E. Booth Co. celebrated the opening of the coming canning season and the completion of a large warehouse by holding a dance in the new building. The celebration was planned by the Chamber of Commerce. The new building was 140 wide and 160 feet long. The opening of the canning season that year would be marked by processing of spinach.

A quarter of a million cases of peaches and pears were packed by the F.E. Booth Co at Centerville during 1928. The pack represented a total of more than 6,000,000 cans of fruit.

### **Frank Botelho, Undertaker:**

Frank was Centerville's undertaker and he also had a side business as an auto sales agent. In 1918 Centerville purchased its first piece of fire-fighting equipment, a \$750 two-wheel chemical unit. This unit was first towed behind an automobile, however when the auto rounded a corner too sharply, the unit overturned and tore off the wheels. One of the firemen, Frank Botelho, who was also the town undertaker, offered the use of his hearse, which then not then in conventional use. The chemical unit was mounted on the hearse body, and lent a macabre note to fire calls for many months thereafter.

### **Centerville Battery & A. Doering Service:**

Richfield Gas and Richlube products could be obtained at: A. Deoring Service and Centerville Battery Co.

On October 15, 1925 a fire alarm was turned into the fire department from Doering's Lunch Parlor near the high school. The fire department responded in record time and was able to save the lunch parlor, however an oil truck, which was at the oil station was not so lucky. Both the oil truck and station were destroyed. The truck and the oil station both belonged to Mr. Doering.

In 1929 Centerville Battery began selling the new Steinite Radio at its store.

### **Centerville Cleaning Co.:**

The Centerville Cleaning Co has moved into the Francis building. in April 1922. Formerly it had been occupied by the beauty parlor.

### **Centerville Electric:**

Anthony Enos is the proprietor of Centerville Electric. Mr. Enos is an electrical contractor, but he also sells appliances and electric supplies.

### **Centerville Garage:**

E.L. King of the Centerville Garage added a tow truck to his business in October 1925.

### **Centerville Nash:**

You can buy a 1928 Nash "400" automobile for \$1,145 at Centerville Nash Co., Phone 117.

### **Centerville Water Co.:**

The Centerville Water Co. was founded by Manuel S. Pires shortly after the turn of the century. In July 1920 Manuel made an application for authority to increase its rates for water was to the Railroad Commission. Manuel S. Pires says that he has been compelled to sell and mortgage everything he owned to keep the business going. He says that from 1915 to 1918, when the revenues were collected by the Bank of Centerville, from which he had borrowed \$25,000, the accounts show an average monthly revenue of \$113.81 and disbursements of \$166.32. The disbursements, Pires said, did not include anything for the support of himself and his family.

The end finally came in February 1935 when Manuel decided to make his future home in the City of Oakland. Recently the State Railroad Commission ruled that pressure in the mains would have to be increased and that it would be necessary for Manuel to construct a steel tower 100 feet in height to provide the necessary pressure. Not being in the financial position to comply with the order, Pires was forced to turn his holdings over to a newly formed company, which had the capital to comply with the edict. Manuel had supplied water for Centerville for more than 30 years.

### **Central Garage:**

W.P. Beauchamp sold his interest in the Central Garage at Centerville in March 1920.

### **Clark Brothers:**

The Clark Brothers sold Fuller Paint at their store in October 1922. They also sold "Barreled Sunlight" paint.

### **Coit's Hardware:**

George A. Coit, proprietor

### **J.V. Dean Butcher Shop:**

Butcher shop.

### **Dohner & Galbraith Ford Dealership:**

In August 1927 a deal was closed to erect a new Ford dealership in Centerville by Dohner and Galbraith Ford Auto dealership of Hayward. The building would be 50 feet by 220 feet. The company will feature machinery and equipment for a complete repair shop that will make this one of the most up-to-date shops in this part of California, with equipment that has been ordered from Detroit.



Dohner and Galbraith, Ford Dealership, is now advertising the new Ford Fordor Sedan (Model A), which will be available soon in their showrooms in Hayward and Centerville.

C.W. Waterbury of Hayward moved to Centerville town in June 1928. Mr. Waterbury would be associated with the new Dohner and Galbraith Ford dealership here in Centerville.

### **Manuel Ennis:**

Manuel Ennis operated a service station in Centerville. Mr. Ennis would add the Simas Poolroom to his holdings, taking possession of the property on June 15, 1927.

### **Excelsior Bakery:**

The Excelsior Bakery moved into their shop in the Francis Building in August 1925. F. Ponti owned the Excelsior Bakery.

### **Farrington Garage:**

In March 1924 Mr. F. Farrington of Hollister leased the building of Mrs. F.F. Moore on Main Street. Mr. Farrington will start a new garage. By the end of the decade the business had become known as Farrington & Myers Service Station; they also had a service station in Niles.

### **Rose Fonseca:**

Rose Fonseca operated a service station, which also sold groceries, and confections.

### **Foster & Naylor:**

Foster and Naylor operated a service station and also sold batteries.

### **M.S. Francis Building:**

The Francis Building, which is a big addition to Main Street, was finished in August 1925 and M.S. Francis was ready to move in. Mr. Francis occupied one-half of the store with his groceria and the Excelsior Butcher Shop will occupy the other half.

### **M.A. Freitas:**

Mr. M.A. Freitas sells groceries.

### **Dominic Garetto:**

Mr. Dominic Garetto is a hotel keeper in Centerville, which hotel was not determined.

### **H.P. Garin Packing House:**

A spur track 1,000 feet long from the SP tracks to the porch of the new packing house was added at the beginning of September 1922. The packing house is expected to be completed and ready for shipping in 15 days.

The H.P. Garin Co., lessee of the local Centerville packinghouse, announced that vegetable packing and shipping would continue throughout the year at Centerville. Garin made the announcement before several hundred guests assembled for a dance and supper he had arranged in the local packing house to mark the close of the first season in November 1922. Garin said he had shipped 39 carloads of tomatoes during the season to various markets in the east, all bearing his own California label, and now that tomatoes have been cleaned up, he was preparing to begin on cauliflower, to be followed by lettuce, celery, and green peas.

Garin is one of the largest vegetable shippers in California, and operates packing houses in many towns and cities, he employs a large field force throughout the year. He opened the Centerville packing house last summer and maintained a heavy payroll throughout the shipping season, and said he expected to operate on a larger scale here with a 150 extension to his present plant.

In 1925 the Garin packing house in Centerville announced that they had shipped 137 carloads of cauliflower this season to the east this past season.

Employees of the H.P. Garin Produce Co. branch in Centerville started the packing of Washington Township grown tomatoes for shipment to Philadelphia, New York, and other eastern markets in August 1926, this according to Anthony Rogers, local packing house manager. The bulk of the tomato crop in the township this year was being supplied by Newark, Alvarado, and Centerville. Much of the acreage has been contracted for by Anthony E. Vargas of Alvarado for the Garin firm.

In May 1927 green peas were being shipped from Centerville to eastern points at the rate of two car loads a day. This year's pea harvest was expected to be one of heaviest harvests in several years, according to A.R. Rogers of the H.P. Garin warehouse in Centerville.

In February 1929 permission was granted by the H.P. Garin Co. to paint "Centerville" in large letters on the roof of its packing plant here to serve as a guide to aviators. This was done through the efforts of the Service Club of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce. In June 1929 the word "Centerville" was painted in large orange letters on top of the H.P. Garin Packing House near the S.P. train depot.

### **George & George:**

George and George operated a garage and were also an auto dealership.

### **Gordy's Barber Shop:**

In May 1929 it was noted that George Gordy was a proprietor of a local barber shop in Centerville.

### **Manuel J. Goularte:**

Manuel J. Goularte operated a bicycle repair shop in Centerville.

### **A.J. Gronley:**

A.J. Gronley offered paint and wallpaper at his store.

### **Elmer A. Harrison:**

Elmer A. Harrison operated a Centerville plumbing business.

### **Gregory Hotel:**

The remodeling and renovation of the Gregory Hotel was completed in March 1926, according to Mrs. Mary Gregory, proprietor. The building is one of the landmarks of Centerville that was founded many years ago and which has played a super-role in the early history of the State. Owing to the scarcity of living accommodations' in Centerville, local businessmen and residents are elated over the completion of the hostelry. The Gregory Hotel is to be reopened on March 15<sup>th</sup> by Mr. G.W. Matison.

The Gregory Hotel changed proprietors in July 1927 and is now under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Malaris, formerly of Livermore.

The Gregory Hotel changed hands again April with Mr. and Mrs. H. Kinsell of Oakland the new managers. The hotel had previously featured an Italian restaurant while the new owners will serve American meals.

### **P.C. Hansen Lumber Co.:**

P.C. Hansen was the founder and owner of the P.C. Hansen Co., which was also known as the P.C. Hansen Lumber Co. In 1912 Baine Avenue was ordered open as a street by the Board of Supervisors at the request of P.C. Hansen and others. Baine Avenue ran along beside the new SP railroad tracks from Main Street in downtown Centerville to the town of Newark. On this street the F.E. Booth Packing Co. would be built in 1917. In 1935 the P.C. Hansen Lumber Co. had yards located in Centerville, Irvington, Niles, and Alvarado. In 1937 the town of Decoto was added as an outlet.

### **Hellwig & La Grave Meats:**

George Hellwig and Vic La Grave of Alvarado have a branch office in Centerville.

### **Sid Holman:**

Sid advertised to buy a new Chevrolet from him Centerville in April 1923. But in July 1926 Sid Holman ran afoul of the law. Sid 32, was arrested and lodged in the San Leandro City Jail on July 29, 1926, on charges of embezzlement brought by the General Acceptance Corporation of Oakland and several customers who had purchased cars from him. Holman was held in jail in default of \$2,000 bail, and faced the possibility of further charges being brought against him as a result of his alleged fraudulent operations during the last year.

According to Deputy District Attorney James Walsh of Oakland, who investigated the case, Holman for the past year had been selling cars on the installment plan and then transferring the contracts to the General Acceptance Corporation. In case the purchaser fell behind a few days in his payments, it was charged, that Holman took possession of the machine without the knowledge of the acceptance corporation and resold it to another person.

The charges brought were based on the complaint of the corporation and Manuel Pereira of Mission San Jose, who said he paid Holman in full for a car, only to find that there was \$465 still due on it on a previous purchase by Ben Vierra. Complaints have been made, according to Walsh, by about ten other customers of Holman. A warrant has also been issued for Holman for passing a \$2,500 without funds to cover it.

### **Houck Enameling Plant:**

Henry and George Houck have opened an enameling plant in Centerville in November 1925 on their lot near Dr. McWhirter's residence.

### **Dr. Stanley Innes:**

Dr. Stanley Innes, a chiropractor formerly of San Jose, opened an office in the Botelho building in January 1926.

### **Jason Joseph:**

Jason Joseph is a manufacturer of metal products, specifically pipe casings.

### **King and Madruga:**

King and Madruga operate an auto garage in Centerville.

### **T.R. Laumeister:**

T.R. Laumeister operates a restaurant and sells confections.

### **W.H. Lawlor:**

W.H. Lawlor offers blacksmith services in Centerville.

### **Lincoln Restaurant:**

The Lincoln Restaurant had an addition added to their building in June 1925.

The Lincoln Restaurant in Centerville was ordered closed for one year for the sale liquor in March 1928. The judge ordered the abatement on the testimony of undercover agents who declared that they had made six "buys" of liquor in the place over a period of three months. The proceedings brought out the fact that the restaurant had never been raided and Major Marchesio, proprietor, never has been arrested for violation of the liquor laws. Judge Trabucco granted a plea by the proprietor and the owner, Mrs. Francisco Silveira of Centerville, that the place be permitted to remain open under a \$1,000 bond.

### **McElroy-Cheim Lumber Co., Branch of San Jose:**

The McElroy-Cheim Lumber Co. of San Jose operates a branch lumber yard in Centerville.

### **Moorehead Real Estate:**

In January 1827 a new frame building was being erected next door to the Post Office. It was reported that it would be occupied by the Moorehead Real Estate Co.

### **K. Nakamura:**

N. Nakamura is a retailer of groceries in Centerville.

### **J.R. Nunes Shoe Shop:**

In July 1920 Joseph R. Nunes announced that he had decided to retain his shoe shop and make his home permanently in Centerville.

### **Manuel Nunes:**

Manuel Nunes sold hardware, paint, and offered well-boring services.

### **Oakland-Newark Auto Stage Line:**

In December 1920 the Oakland-Newark Auto Stage Line applied to the Railroad Commission for authority to extend its service by the establishment of a route between Centerville, Alvarado, and Mt. Eden to Oakland by way of the country road from Mt. Eden to San Lorenzo and San Leandro Junction. It was proposed to make two round trips per day.

### **Pacific Gas & Electric:**

PG&E announced in October 1927 that they had filed for a franchise to distribute natural gas to Niles, Decoto, Centerville, Newark, Irvington, and Alvarado.

### **Pacific Telephone Co.:**

The phone company added five additional lengths of switchboard at their Hayward hub on B Street in October 1923. By means of this addition the facility will be able to accommodate local and lower Alameda county service until 1926, at which time five additional boards will have to be installed. Hayward is the center for an extensive toll service at Pleasanton, Alvarado, Decoto, Centerville, Sunol, Niles, Irvington, Mission San Jose, and Newark.

In November 1925 Mrs. Jean Molter, who has charge of the telephone exchange in Centerville, was quietly married to Mr. W.D. Lacombe of Niles. Mrs. Lacombe is the manager of the local Centerville telephone switchboard, which will double its capacity because recent growth in the town.

### **Park's Groceries:**

Floyd Park is the proprietor of a Centerville grocery store. In November 1928 Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Parks returned from their honeymoon and were making their home temporarily in Hayward. Mr. Parks is making the trip to his store in Centerville daily.

### **Peerless Stage Assoc.:**

The Peerless Stage Association operated an auto passenger service between Oakland and San Jose and in July 1920 asked the State Railroad Commission for authority to change the routing between the two cities, claiming that the recent completion of a new roadway has made better time and better service possible.

The more direct route, it is said, is via San Lorenzo, Centerville, Irvington, Warm Springs, and Milpitas. The company's stages are now routed from Oakland to San Jose via San Leandro, Hayward, Decoto, Niles, Centerville, Warm Springs, and Milpitas. This meant that the bus line would take Peralta Blvd. to Centerville and bypass Mission San Jose.

In October 1924 the Peerless Stage Company filed an application with the State Railroad Commission for permission to extend its franchise to Newark, and also to Sunol and Pleasanton via Niles Canyon.

In March 1926 the Peerless Stage Co. built a waiting room for their patrons next door to the Lincoln Restaurant.

### **Pelletier Soft Drink Parlor:**

Mr. Pelletier built a large soft drink parlor and refreshment stand in March 1926 in front of the Plummer Residence, which he recently purchased.

### **Pepper Tree Inn:**

The Pepper Tree Inn, known for having one of the largest pepper trees in the vicinity, suffered a hole in the roof in December 1926 when a large branch broke off the tree and came crashing down on the porch. The Pepper Tree Inn was just located at the back of the Centerville Post Office.

### **Stephen M Reich:**

Steven Reich operated a service station that also offered lunch and confections.

### **Robinson Garage:**

Mr. George W. Robinson built a large garage near the Plummer residence and moved in July 1926.

### **Robinson Radio Shop:**

The Robinson Radio Shop of Centerville is taking part in a slogan campaign in March 1929 in which the winner will receive a \$610 automatically tuned Zenith Console Radio.

### **Rodrigues Beauty Shop:**

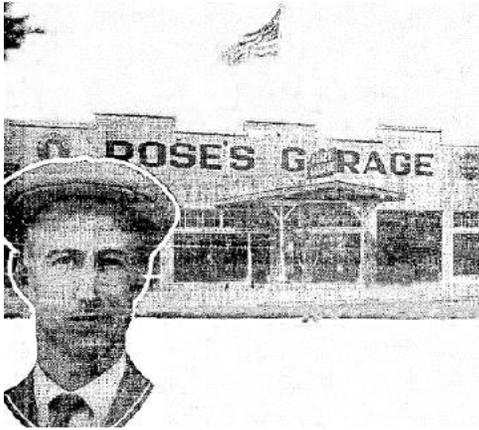
Mr. and Mrs. J. Rodrigues have purchased the barber shop of Mr. Alves in March 1925. Mrs. Rodrigues plans to use the barber shop as a beauty parlor.

### **Ed Rose's Garage:**

Ed Rose, owner of the Rose Garage in Niles, has purchased the Walton property in Centerville and plans to erect a \$35,000 building here. The building will be a two-story structure and the lower floor will be used a garage according to Rose's present plans.

Ed Rose, well-known Ford and Lincoln dealer in Niles has added to his organization with a huge garage and service station in Centerville, which he opened with a big barbecue.

The Rose Garage of Niles and Centerville has increased its sales force in October 1924 by making A.L. Juhl of Niles and Fred Rogers of Centerville members of the sales force.



Ed Rose and his Centerville Garage are shown on the left.

In March 1929 the Rose Garage in Centerville advertised that it will carry the new Bosch Radio brand.

### **Manuel Rose's Shoe Store:**

Manuel Rose, of the Rose Shoe Store, built an addition to his store in October 1926, which was considerably enlarged only a year ago. Mr. Rose sells and repairs shoes as well as selling men's furnishings.

### **San Leandro State Bank:**

On November 3, 1919, *The Corona Daily Independent* announced that the San Leandro State Bank was going to open a branch in Centerville. On February 7, 1920 it was announced that manager George Lester of the Centerville Branch of the San Leandro State Bank was getting married to Miss Helen Crysostomo of San Leandro. Miss Crysostomo had been a teacher in the San Leandro schools for several years.

On March 14, 1920 it was announced that the San Leandro State Bank at Centerville had recently reinforced its vault protection with a burglar-proof electrical alarm system, which prohibits the vault from being tampered with from any angle without a sufficient alarm being given. The bank, which is one of the most and up-to-date in its furnishings and appointments, is in charge of George Laurance, Cashier, and F.C. Lowrie clerk.

The State Bank (affiliated with the First National Bank in Hayward) Centerville Branch has seen Mr. John Oliveria, cashier, transferred to the new State Bank branch office in Newark in March 1925. Mr. Antone Oliveria will have the position of cashier in the Centerville Office.

### **Simas Poolroom:**

The Simas Poolroom was been sold to M. Ennis, who took charge of the property on June 15, 1927.

### **Soares Food Store:**

Soares Food Store No. 3 will open in Centerville on Saturday, April 20, 1929. Soares now has three stores: No. 1: 613 Watkins St., Hayward; No. 2: 126 Castro St., Hayward; and No. 3: The Old State Bank Bldg. in Centerville. John Gomes, formerly of Piggly Wiggly Stores, has been installed as manager of the Soares Food Store in Centerville. M.S. Soares is the proprietor.

**Southern Pacific Railroad:**

Mr. E. Dargitz is the SP Station agent.

**Standard Oil:**

On February 18, 1929, The Standard Oil Co. took over one of its leased gas stations in Centerville and cut the retail price of gasoline to 13¢ per gallon. A garage directly across the street, which had been selling gas at 16¢ per gallon, immediately met the reductions and further complicated the situation by cutting the price to 13¢ at its garage in Niles.

**G.E. Stinhilver:**

G.E. Stinhilver sold Fuller Paints at his store in October 1922.

**Templeman & Barron:**

Templeman and Barron offered Confection and billiards at their place of business.

**Frank Vargas:**

Frank Vargas offers soft drinks and beverages at his Centerville location.

**Walton’s Pharmacy:**

J.C. Walton is the proprietor of Walton’s Pharmacy. In November 1926 Mr. J.C. Walton sold his drug store to Mr. Sharman of Alameda. Mr. Sharman has had a drug store in Alameda but recently sold out. The Sharman’s are relatives of the Walton’s and are well-known in Centerville.

**Washington Press:**

The *Washington Press* has moved from its place on Main Street to the old Lincoln Restaurant on the Centerville-Niles Road in August 1925.

**Williams Brothers:**

In June 1928 the Williams Bros. were ready to occupy their new packing house built near the SP Depot in Centerville. On Aug 22, 1929, the Williams Bros. sent the first carload of tomatoes raised in Washington Township this season headed for the eastern markets.

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\* **WASHINGTON UNION HIGH SCHOOL** \*  
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*Building the New High School / Student School Activities / Sports*

As this decade started the high school in Centerville was still referred to “Union High School No. 2” in Centerville. In December 1921 the high school was first mentioned as Washington Township Union School. Finally in September 1922 I saw the first reference of Washington Union High School, and that became the normal name for the high school in Centerville. I could find no formal declaration of the name change.

## **Building of the new High School:**

As the new decade turned the people of Washington Township became more vociferous as to the condition of the old high school, which was only about twenty-seven years old but had apparently fallen into disrepair. The Chamber of Commerce met in October 1920 and dwelt on this subject at length and finally issued this conclusion as to their findings: "That the present structure and equipment are inadequate to meet the demands of the Board of Education and that the dilapidated and unsanitary condition of the building is a menace to health and a danger to life." It was resolved that the Chamber of Commerce go on record as favoring a new high school at the earliest possible date.

The town of Newark and the Newark Woodman of the World also called for a new high school in November 1920, calling the present school a "fire trap."

On the evening of January 27, 1923 every section of Washington Township was represented in a victory bond dance and entertainment held in Centerville in celebration of voting bonds to give Centerville the new township high school to be built at a cost of \$150,000.

The dedication of the new Washington Union High School took place at 3 o'clock. The grand officers of the Native Sons of the Golden West had charge of the program, which included: W.U.H.S Orchestra, with Miss Eva Costa, Eugene Silva, and W. Dutra. A prayer led by Rev. Z.T. Vincent, a flag salute by the Centerville Boy Scouts under the direction of G.W. Mathiesen, introductory remarks by F.V. Jones, chairman of the day; address of welcome, Fred F. Dusterberry, president of the board; address Mrs. J.E. Thane; presentation of the flags by Mr. Wm. J. Hayes, grand president of the NSGW; acceptance of the flags Miss Edith Gomes of the Washington Union High School; address Rev. Father Leal; address Mr. Dave Martin, county superintendent of schools; address Mr. Edward Lynch, grand president of the NSGW; two songs sung by Mrs. John Antrum Bunting.



A view of Washington Union High School in June 1959, this was the final graduating class where all of the students in Washington Township would attend this school. In June 1959 Washington Union High School served the cities of Newark, Fremont, Union City and that portion of the City of Hayward located in Washington Township. In September 1960 James Logan High School would open in Union City.

In June 1929 the building of a gymnasium for the school was undertaken. This was a momentous step forward as the school had suffered in athletics due to a practice court in inclement weather for sports such as basketball, as a matter of fact Washington High was forced to withdraw from the Alameda County Athletic League in basketball because of a lack of gymnasium.

## Student/School Activities:

Sunol pupils have had problem for many years as to where to send their students for a high school education. In March 1922 the residents of Sunol voted 45 for and 117 against joining the Livermore Union High School district. By this election result the students of Sunol may go to Livermore, Pleasanton, Centerville or any other high school handy to them. Then the Sunol School District decided to hold an election on September 29, 1922 to determine whether or not it will become part of the Washington Union High School district. This was at the same time that the bond election at Centerville for the new high school building was going to be held. The district attorney informed the board of the Washington Union High School, inasmuch as there is a question regarding the Sunol School District embracing the Sheridan School District, it is impossible to definitely determine the boundaries of the high school district and that an election must be held in Sunol to determine whether to join the Washington Union High School District. For this reason the vote on the new high school in Centerville was held up until after the voting being done in Sunol.

June 1922 saw a large class of students graduate from the high school according to Principal George Wright. Members of the graduating class were: Dorothy Caldwell, Clement Donovan, Ruth Faig, Donald Ford, Ted Harvey, Wm. Laudenschlager, Bertha Hoerle, Tillie Logan, Angeline Mello, Marge Laudenschlager, Moultrie Scribner, Lesda Sayles, Kathryn Silva, Claire Witherly, Kathryn Witherly, Frank Smith, Martha Stopp, Mary Sullivan, and Edwin Turner

June 1923 saw the first class manual to be published in five years at Washington High. It included pictures of the faculty, students, and sport teams with appropriate write-ups.

The start of the 1924 to 1925 school year was a time of great excitement as the school was looking for funds for the purchase of a moving picture machine. The medium was still relatively new and was looked forward to with great anticipation. The school held its annual picnic in May 1924 at Alum Rock Park in San Jose. Most of the students attended and enjoyed the swimming and hiking offered there. The girls of the student body served lunch. Then in October 1924 the Junior-Senior Dramatic Club of Washington High held its first meeting and elected officers. The first play will be given at the carnival, which will be held in the latter part of October. The officers were:

President:	George Richards
Vice-President:	Virgil Cherry
Secretary:	Adell Steinhoff
Treasurer:	Evelyn Day
Class Advisor:	Miss Applegate

Shown below are students at Washington High taking a course in art, and they are also adding to the art collection exhibited by the school in a permanent museum.

Few high schools of its class have better museums than Washington High. In addition to a large list of Indian relics, comprising weapons, utensils, and bones of two nearly complete Indian skeletons, there are many mementos of the recent World War, also flintlocks and muskets from the Civil War and firearms that date back to the Revolution.



Another cherished relic is a copy of the New York Herald, dated April 15, 1865, printed shortly after Abraham Lincoln was shot. This carries the last pen and ink sketch of Lincoln made during his life. It was sketched, it is said, by the staff artist the day prior to the shooting, and the cut had been for printing the next day.

The paper was donated by Mrs. Ethel Brooke-Sanford of Niles. The paper describes in detail Lincoln's assassination, tells of the pursuit and shooting of the slayer, the prayers said for Lincoln and the anguish felt throughout the nation and many personal touches, which it is felt will be kept fresh by the publication.

Left to right: Margaret White, Edith Gomes, and Sibyl Bontelho. Lower: Jean Brewer, graduate, and one of the school museum's prized possessions, a newspaper of April 15, 1865, telling of the assassination of Lincoln

One section of the museum was devoted to the specimens of the best in the art line. Washington Union High has a fine art department, conducted under the guidance of Miss Thelma Thoming. She is a graduate of the University of California. It is the intention of the school to work on an art course with a four year's major, including crafts work and clay modeling.

Washington Union High School was organized in Centerville in January 1892, twenty four pupils being enrolled. During the first year school was held in the old Masonic Hall. The following year the building was started and additions made from to time.

From this small beginning the school has grown until it was necessary to erect a new building and this was done in 1924 at a total cost of \$200,000. The following members of the board of high school trustees have devoted a great deal of time to make this school one of the best: Fred F. Dusterberry, President; H.C. Brewer, J.C. Rogers, F.V. Jones, and R.S. Springer.

In accordance with the policies of the board, the course of study is organized to care for the industrial student as well as the college preparatory student. A strong business course was organized. Extra-curricular activities include the Girl's League, the Poster Club, Associated Students organization, English Clubs, dramatic clubs, and various physical education activities. A fine school paper is published every two weeks. The history of the school is recorded annually in the school annual.

Following is a list of the faculty members: D.F. Gatchel, Jean M. Applegate, Gertrude E. Hunt, John V. Goold, Grace E. Jackson, E. Sandholdt, Lorena M. Wright, Thelma L. Thoming, Hugh M. Kibby, Eula M. Wright, Viggo E. Solvason, E.B. Hodges is the school principal.

In March 1925 plans were made for additions to the Washington Township Union High School at Centerville for housing the machinery and equipment for the vocational training courses just being added to the curriculum. The new equipment will include courses in automobile and gas engineering, sheet metal work, with forging and the elements of foundry work. Mr. H.M. Kibby will be in charge of the new department.

Washington High had a girl's League and their officers for May 1925 are shown below.



Officers and committee heads of the Washington Union High School Girl's League: (left to right) Eva Costa, president; Constance Lucio, Alice Simas, Miss E. Marie Sandholdt, dean in charge, Sibyl Bontelho, Edna Destrella, and Mita Morris.

Washington High also had a fine dramatic club as shown by their performance of "Clarence" in June 1925:



"Oh heavens the water pipes have burst!" Climax in "Clarence" staged by the Washington Union High School drama club during commencement week. From left to right are: Eva Costa, Frances Foster, Margaret Starks, Edith Gomes, Richard White, Dorothy Ormsby, and Joe Brown. In back: William Maffey, Albert Silveria, and Eugene Silva. J.V. Goold, in the foreground, is telling one of the youthful actresses that she must speak a little louder. Prof. E.B. Hodges, principal, is telling that he must shake some "pep" into the sentences. "Oh heavens, etc."

Among the courses offered the pupils, in January 1926, whose ages range from 14 to 70 years of age, were:

Typing	Bookkeeping	Citizenship	Business English
Electricity	Sewing	Millinery	Mechanical Drawing
Art	Auto Mechanics	Interior Design	Elementary English
Cooking	Spanish	Shop work	Current Problems/History
Esperanto	Business Math	Current Problems/Literature	

Practically all nationalities were represented at the school

Americans	Portuguese	Spanish	English
Danish	Norwegians	German	Dutch
Mexicans	Filipinos	Scotch	Japanese
Austrians	Irish	Chinese	Italians
French	Swedish	Negro	

The faculty was composed of 15 teachers.

Twelve boys from Washington Union High Service Club were guests of the Sacramento Hi-Y during the State Older Boy's Conference held in Sacramento on February 14, 1926. The boys were: Anthony Escobar, Lawrence Pimentel, Fred Laudenslager, William Wyatt, Louis Ruschin, Ed Enos, Vernon Ichisaka, Manuel Nunes, James Call, Jesse Stephens, Addison Richmond, and James Bunker.

The WUHS students presented the play "The Love Pirates of Hawaii" on April 23, 1926. Those who took part in the play were:

Ellen Dusterberry	Carolyn Overacker	Margaret Sinclair	Sibyl Bothelo
Catherine Pop	Antoinette Bothelo	Anthony Escobar	Arthur Nunes
William Maffey	Wilbert Bettencourt	Raymond Joliff	John Brown
George Lucas	Addison Richmond	Hugh Steinhoff	Fred Muller
Irene Alameda	Jewell Anderson	Laura Garcia	Jeanette Potter
Billy Langdon	Alice Lucas	Dale Langdon	Inez Brown
Josephine Champion	Jeanette Potter	Dorothy Smith	Adel Steinhoff
Mildred Laudenslager	Phillip Souza	Laura Garcia	Margaret White
Mila Norris			

As the new 1926 semester started in September the Washington Union High School Trustees were F.F. Dusterberry, Joseph Rogers, H.C. Brewer, F.V. Jones, and R.S. Springer. A new teacher, R.J. Kinney of Eureka, was hired to replace A.E. Schaffer who resigned. Also Mrs. Josephine Morris of San Jose was hired to fill the vacancy of Mrs. G.E. Phillips who took a year's leave of absence. Those who were reappointed were:

E.B. Hodges	Miss E.M. Sanholt	H.M. Kibby	Mrs. Eula Wright
Miss L. Wright	Mrs. Grace Jackson	Miss Mabel Bernard	Miss Clara Weeks
V.E. Solvison	J.V. Goold	L.H. Pierce	

Mr. E.B. Hodges was the principal and Miss Marie Sandholdt was Vice Principal.

On September 19, 1926 new officers were elected for the Girls' League of Washington High for the 1926 - 1927 school year. Chosen were:

President:	Margaret Lowrie
Vice President:	Carolyn M. Overacker
Secretary:	Jeanett Porter
Treasurer:	Margaret White
Ways & Means Chair:	Clarabelle Logan
Program Committee:	Betty Houghton
Hospitality Committee:	Francis A. Mueller

The Alumni of Washington Union High School met at the Gregory Hotel to perfect an organization in October 1926. Mr. Allen G. Norris acted as toastmaster calling on the different classes represented for their class yells. The class of '98 was represented by Mrs. Garrett Norris, who was the oldest graduate present. More than forty sat down to the splendid dinner, which the Gregory Hotel provided. Mrs. Eva Silva gave a few solos, and members of the alumni sang school songs. It was a jolly get together meeting and a most pleasant reunion, so much so that it was decided to have a permanent organization and the following officers were elected:

President:	Allen G. Norris
Secretary:	Miss Estelle Hirsch
Constitution Chairman:	Marston Dassel

Short talks were given by Principal E.B. Hodges, principal; and F.V. Jones, secretary of the Board of Trustees.

The third meeting of the newly organized PTA of Washington Union High School met on October 20, 1926. Mrs. W.R. Robie of Alvarado was elected president. She selected committee-persons as follows:

Program Committee:	Mrs. F.V. Jones, Mrs. Eula Wright, Miss Marie Sandholdt
Ways and Means:	F.F. Dusterberry, Mrs. George Coit, Miss Bernard, Mrs. Garrett Norris, E.B. Hodges
Publicity:	Miss Tillie Logan, Mr. J.V. Goold
Membership:	Niles: Mrs. Haberecht, Mrs. Ralph Richmond Centerville: Mrs. R. Anderson, Mr. De Quadros Newark: M.D. Silva, Mrs. Wyatt Alvarado: J. Logan Decoto: Mrs. Searles Irvington: Mrs. La Vada

The Washington Union High School Drama Club presented the operetta, "The Gypsy Rover" in November 1926. The roles were portrayed by: Ray Joliff, Harriet Tyson, Billy Langdon, Maurice Silva, Carolyn Overacker, Ernest Pimentel, Jeanette Porter, Paul Gyax, and George Lucas. Jewell Anderson, Geraldine Flower, Anthony Bettencourt, and Hugh Steinhoff comprised the quartet that sang the choruses during the play. Antoinette Botelho and Ellen Dusterberry offered solos.

Excitement prevailed among the Washington Union High School boys on November 12, 1926 as the boys had built one of their largest bon fire stacks ever built, ready for the lighting and rally to be held on Saturday evening. It was well guarded, some of the students were reclining on the top of the large stack, on the lookout for the boys from a neighboring high school who "might" want to light it before the night of the rally. Guards were on all sides and getting a bit weary of their long watch, but ever on the alert. About midnight the "enemy" appeared. They were quickly caught and sent on their homeward way. This friendly rivalry between the two schools adds to the enthusiasm for the "Big Game," which is held every year between Hayward High and Washington High. The rally Saturday evening was a great success, the bonfire was the largest Washington High ever had, the crowd was a big one and the speeches by the boys, many graduates, teachers, and trustees added to the enthusiasm and on Saturday was the "Big Game." We did not win but it was splendid game, and a close clean game. Score Hayward 14, Washington 6, and the vanquished team give all credit to the victors who played fine and fast, but they also knew that they had been in a football game.

The task of weighing 20 tons of waste paper collected by the pupils of Washington Union High School was completed on April 19, 1927. The junior class was declared the winner of the competition. The paper will bring in money to purchase new folding chairs for the school auditorium.



In July 1927 new manual training building at Washington High was nearly completed, the work being done by Stanley Griffin of Irvington. When opened in the coming semester Mr. Homer M. Kibby will head the manual arts training program at Washington High. Shown here is Mr. Kibby in 1956, the year of his retirement from W.U.H.S. after 36 years of service. He is seated at the "old" linotype machine purchased from the *Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper.

Six students were accepted as new members of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) in October 1927, according to Ellen Dusterberry, president of Chapter No.3 in Centerville. The six are: Doris Destrella, Mary Caldeira, Mary Lucas, Elsie Sutter, Mildred Sayles, and Marjorie Martin.

Miss Ellen Dusterberry was awarded the bronze medal offered by an eastern watch manufacturer for the best essay on Abraham Lincoln. Miss Dusterberry's paper was selected as the best from more than forty essays written by members of the senior class of Washington Union High in February 1928.

Another exciting advance at the high school was taken in April 1928 when some of the boys of Washington High sent in an application for membership in the Airplane Model League of America of the East Bay. The Centerville club, with 47 members, was headed by Clement Rose, President. Other officers were: Joseph Rodrigues, Eugene Freitas, John Amarant, and Frank Garcia.

The Senior Dramatic Club of Washington High put on the play "Daddy Long-Legs" in May 1928, which was given under the direction of Miss Taylor. Those who took part are:

Lloyd Hygelund	Bob Amyx	Edward Enos	Morrison Green
John Andrade	Lester Nunes	Ellen Dusterberry	Carol Overacker
Margaret Sinclair	Margaret White	Elizabeth Costa	Florence Aust
Helen Andrade	Lena Rivers	Daisy Mendenhall	Hazel Hempelman
Marshall Green	Marie Escobar		

Also in May 1928 the girls of Hayward Union High and Washington Union High got together on Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> for a play day. Mixed groups played different games as it was a get-together good time affair. More than 125 girls found it was a pleasant day.

The Washington High School debating team took on the Hayward High debating team in January 1929. On the team for Washington were Robert Cook, Winifred Swanson, Helen Pike, Orville Blose, Florence Humphrey, and Dorothy Vandervoort.

Booth Tarkenton's famous comedy "Penrod" was staged at Washington Union High on February 15, 1929. The play was directed by Miss Laura Taylor. In the cast were:

George Coley	Elizabeth Shinn	Marie White	Geraldine Sullivan
George Robinson	Edward Wargin	Eugene Dusterberry	Mabel Fyffe
Gertrude Ellsworth	Morris Silva	Edward Witherly	Clarence Lucas
Mary Lucas	Lloyd Hygelund	Mary George	Alice Lemas
Sam Kerns			

In June 1929 Washington Union High was recognized as one of the fastest growing schools in the State of California. Within five years it was expected to have an enrollment of 1,000 pupils. About 160 new pupils are expected to enter at the beginning of this fall term. This will bring the total enrollment to over 500.

Principal E.B. Hodges had to forgo his vacation with his family in June 1929 as the new gymnasium was being built at Washington High and he felt he could not get away. Meanwhile more than 660 invitations were issued to the alumni of Washington Union High School asking them to attend an alumni dinner. Plans were made at this dinner for a memorial to the George Wright, who for 20 years was the principal of the high school.

A study started in 1929 found that it was more economical to purchase and operate its own busses than to let the transportation of pupils on contract. The Board of Trustees for Washington Union High School met in July 1929 to decide upon the types of bus to be purchased. The school is now operating several coaches for the transportation of pupils to and from the eight communities comprising the high school district.

The second annual recital of Washington High students will be put on by Oliver Campos and 32 of his students on November 15, 1929. Washington's interest in this recital is keenly due to the fact that pupils from Amador and San Jose high schools are also taking part and each one is planning to outdo the other. Two grand pianos will be used and several numbers are to be played by two and four pupils at once. Several song and dance specialties are also included in the program.

The following students will take part:

Bernice Weber	Geraldine Harlan	Billy Katzer	Edith Souza
Clarence Graham	Bonnie May	Eugene Fiehman	Abbie Harlan
Ida Mendonca	Edith Oliveira	Ida Sequeira	Anna Graham
Roy Secada	Claire Bettencourt	Emiline Oliveira	Mae Egan
Murl Harley	Eldora Perry	Harriet De Leon	Marjorie Perry
Myrtle Corey	Thelma Sylvia	Clarisse Hirsch	Rosaline Egan
Ruth Albertson	Agnes Raymond	Mae Alvarez	Margaret King
Janice Silva	Natalie Campos	James Graham	

### **Sports:**

Washington High continued play the in the A.C.A.L. League (Alameda County Athletic League) this decade. There was an ongoing shuffling of teams coming in and some leaving the league. Generally the league was composed of: Berkeley, Piedmont, Alameda, Hayward, Emeryville, and Washington Union High.

In December 1921 Washington Union High named it athletic managers for the coming term. They were:

Baseball Manager:	Lawrence Bettencourt
Track & Field Manager:	Arwin Ormsby
Football Manager:	Robert Sweeney
Football Captain:	Wayne Day

### **Football:**

The 1921 football season saw Washington go 3 - 1 - 2. The boys on the Centerville eleven were:

Center:	Bettencourt
Guards:	Harvey and Steinmetz
Tackles:	Goularte and Silver
Ends:	Sweeney and Smith
QB:	Ormsby
Half Backs:	Day and Scribner
Full Back	Hygelund

Centerville High School would travel to Livermore for a game of football in late October. Livermore, at 3 – 0, is undefeated so far this year. Centerville stands at 3 – 1 – 2. Washington came away victorious by a score of 14-13. Two weeks later the two would meet again at Centerville’s field. This time Washington got the better of Livermore again, this time by a score of 36 – 0.

The 1923 highlight in football for Washington High was when the team defeated McClymonds High of Oakland, 37 to 0 in a game played at Centerville. Bill Silva, halfback, and Wayne Day, fullback were the stars for Centerville.

Alameda High School shut out Centerville at Alameda’s home ground, 16 – 0. Alameda scored on two touchdowns and a 30 yard drop-kick field goal. Lining up for the Centerville Squad were:

Ends:	Souza and Silveria
Tackles:	John Brown and Searles
Guards:	Joe Brown and Keller
Center:	White
Half Backs:	Mueller and Pimentel
Fullback:	Laws; QB: Donovan.

During the game Manuel Souza was carried from the field unconscious and rushed to the emergency hospital.

Washington Union High School staged a surprise on September 19, 1925 when they held the San Rafael High School team to a 0 – 0 tie. Washington played its best football and showed the result of excellent coaching on the part of Coach Pierce and his assistant Sidney Snow, former St. Mary’s College star. Captain Pimentel at quarterback and H.C. Searles at halfback were the bright lights for Washington.

The following week Washington High defeated Roosevelt High of San Francisco for second time this season in a 6 – 0 victory. The following week Washington lost its game to Santa Cruz on their field 3 – 0. At the beginning of October Washington traveled to Hollister and played them to a 13- 13 tie with Escobar, Searles and Bettencourt starring for Washington High.

At the end of October 1925 Washington defeated Livermore 21 – 7. The following week Washington used its passing attack to overcome the Livermore Cowboys 21 – 7.

In the “Big Game” of the year (1925) Hayward met Washington before a crowd estimated at 2,000 fans. This was the big game of the year for both schools and was preceded by a week of frenzied activity before the game was finally played. It was a fight to the finish between the two husky teams with splendid records for the season, and so evenly matched that most of the struggling was done far from the goal lines. In the end Hayward prevailed by a score of 7 – 0.

Washington High suffered through some tough games in 1926, losing to Roosevelt high 12 – 0. They were then defeated by their Alumni Squad 13 – 6. In their final game of 1926 they were defeated by their arch-rivals Hayward 14 – 6, which gave Washington’s rival the championship of the Class B teams of A.C.A.L.

On a positive note, Larry Bettencourt, Washington High alum now playing center for St. Mary’s College, earned a spot on three All-American teams. Lawrence Bettencourt, who graduated from Washington High who played football and graduated in 1924, is proving to be a great football player at St. Mary’s College.

There were scant results of games played in 1927 but Larry Bettencourt, former Washington High standout, earned consensus All-American award in football as the top center in America playing for St. Mary’s College.

The upcoming ACAL season of football will open October 19, 1928. There would be five teams in the league, the Berkeley Yellow Jackets, Washington High, the Alameda Hornets, Piedmont, and the Hayward Farmers. Washington High will open the season with a game against Alameda. According to the *Oakland Tribune* the opening game of Alameda would pit two of extremes in the league this year. Alameda is touted as a threat for the league honors through its powerful offensive and stellar individual players, while Washington they said is a team of little merit.

The day before the start of the season the influenza bug hit Washington High and the school was down for three weeks. Washington was scheduled to resume play on Nov. 9, 1928 in Berkeley on the Yellow Jackets field. Centerville had not practiced since the influenza bug hit the school three weeks ago.

ACAL Standings as of Nov 9<sup>th</sup>:

Piedmont	3 – 1
Hayward	2 – 1
Berkeley	2 – 1
Alameda	1 – 2
Washington	0 – 3

Washington High lost to Berkeley on November 9<sup>th</sup> by a score of 25 – 0. Washington’s two other losses were forfeits because of the flu epidemic.

In the annual grudge match of 1928 with Hayward Union High, the Washington Union High football team suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of their heated rival by a score of 39 – 0. The game was played at the Centerville field in “ankle-deep mud.” Hayward’s third and fourth string teams played the fourth quarter.

Washington High had a dismal season with the likes of being trounced by Piedmont 58 – 0. One week later Centerville was swamped by Berkeley 44 – 0. Centerville and Hayward highs get ready for their annual “Big Game.” Neither has to worry about titles being on the line as neither has won a league game this year. But Washington won one point in the standings by playing a surprise 0 – 0 tie with Alameda. Thus Hayward sits in the cellar alone with no league wins or ties. The “Big Game” was played at Hayward this year and Hayward defeated Centerville.

Final A.C.A.L. Standing; Nov. 12, 1929:

SCHOOL:	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	POINTS
Piedmont	3	0	1	7

Berkeley	3	0	1	7
Alameda	1	2	1	3
Hayward	1	3	0	2
Washington	0	0	1	1

Baseball:

Only three games were reported in 1923, in March San Jose High School visited Centerville and came away with a 6 – 3 win over Washington High. The following game was played against White’s Prep School with Washington coming away with a 17 to 1 win. This was followed up at the end of March with Washington getting the better of San Jose by the score of 4 – 1 in the rematch of a game played several weeks before

In 1924 it was noted that Washington beat San Jose, Alameda, and Redwood City in baseball games.

In the 1925 “Big Game” Hayward High scored a decisive victory over their arch-rival Washington High in their annual baseball game. The score was 8 – 2. Noted performers for Washington were Powers, Muller, and Pimental.

In the 1928 “Big Game” Hayward Union High and Washington Union High met for a game on the Centerville diamond. Hayward felt confident late in the game with a 7 – 4 lead. But Washington scored four times in the late innings to save and 8 – 7 win.

A.C.A.L. Standings after 6 games;

Alameda	6 – 0
Berkeley	4 – 2
Centerville	1 – 5
Hayward	1 – 5

1929 saw Washington High go undefeated in two games this year after defeating Emeryville 5 – 0 and then dispatching Hayward 27 – 5. But in April Washington High received s shellacking at Berkeley by the score of 22 – 0.

Washington High got back on the winning tack by defeated Emeryville at their home field, 11 – 5. Then at the end of April, Washington again met the Yellow Jackets of Berkeley in a make-up game that was shortened by rain earlier in the year. Thus Berkeley took the A.C.A.L. title and foes on to play in the championship series for California.

In their final baseball game played at the beginning of May Washington travelled to San Jose to meet St. Joseph’s. The Centerville boys came away with a 16 – 4 win. Coach Jess Regli’s Centerville nine were runners up for the ACAL crown this year.

Track & Field:

In a track meet held in Hayward between Hayward, Livermore, and Centerville high schools on April 24, 1921, the team from Centerville came out on top. Centerville scored 111 points, Hayward had 42 points, and Livermore garnered 39 points.

Centerville High came to Hayward for Annual Big Track Meet in May 1925. Washington High and Hayward High are traditional rivals and regardless of the sport, any athletic contest between the two is highly charged. Today Washington High walked away with a fifteen point decision.

In the 1927 track meet between Hayward High and Washington High ended up with Hayward taking the meet 98 to 56.

The highlight of the 1928 Track & Field competition was the javelin throw of Tony Duarte, which measured 181 feet and 9 inches that set a new record at the track meet in Hollister. Tony broke the state record by 9 feet 3 inches and made Washington Union High School a formidable contender in the state meet to be held in Los Angeles this summer.

In the 1929 track meet with arch-rival Hayward saw a double win for Hayward, the Hayward varsity defeating Washington 72 to 50, and the Hayward "B" team defeating Washington's "B's" 63½ to 41½.

In April 1929 the first class "B" track and field meet in which all the "B" teams in ACAL were present ended with Berkeley High's team in first place with 39½ points. Alameda and Piedmont were second and third with Hayward fourth with 14 points. Washington High could only muster up two points.

#### Basketball:

The earliest reporting on baseball was in 1926. This did not appear to be Washington High's strong suit. In February 1926 Washington played Hayward High, each school fielding three complete teams, an "A" squad; which was the varsity, and a "B" and "C" team. Washington was swamped in all three contests. The varsity game ended in a 46 – 9 win for Hayward, Hayward's class "B" downed Washington 20 – 2; and the class "C" was also won by Hayward by a score of 10- 2.

The January 26, 1929, ACAL League standings in basketball after four games are shown in the table below. The basketball conference has six team instead of the five as in football. Emeryville has been added to the five team league. On a game played on January 25<sup>th</sup> Washington High was swamped by Alameda by a score of 40 – 3. The three points made by Washington were all by free throws. The standings as of January 26<sup>th</sup>:

Berkeley	4 – 0
Piedmont	3 – 1
Alameda	3 – 1
Hayward	2 – 2
Emeryville	0 – 4
Washington	0 - 4

Then on January 31, 1929, Coach Regli announced that the Washington High Centerville squad will withdraw from the ACAL in basketball as they have not won a game in the first half of the schedule. Washington's would resume league play when the track and baseball season begin. Washington High scored only 24 points in the five games they played, the high scorers for Washington in the five games were Wright and Cull, who each scored a total of 9 points for the 5 games. The five team members that did score points were: Wright, Cull, Ichisaka, Fields, and Hirota. The team scored 5 field goals and 14 free throws in the five games. Three days later Washington High said it would substitute track and baseball for basketball, which the school had dropped due to the lack of a gymnasium. In baseball Washington has an experienced battery in Fields, a pitcher, and Perry as catcher. Other candidates as pitchers are Overacker, Hirota, and Swanson.

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\* **SOCIAL AND CIVIC CLUBS** \*

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*Boy Scouts / Camp Fire Girls / Catholic Ladies Society / Centerville Athletic Club / Centerville Bridge Club / Centerville School PTA / Centerville Service Club / Chamber of Commerce / Chevrolet Gun Club / Country Club of Washington Township / Dora Overacker Club / Druids, U.A.O.D. No. 106 / Fire Department / Holy Ghost / Knight of Columbus / Knight of Pythias / Ladies Aid Society / Library / Men's Club of Washington Township / Mother's Club / Natives Daughters of the Golden West / Native Sons of the Golden West / Mason's Lodge, #167 F&AM / Order of the Eastern star / Owl Whist Club / Post Office / Red Cross / St. James Episcopal Church / Sweet Sixteen Club / Union Sanitary District / United Artisans #91 / U.P.E.C. / U.P.P.E.C. / Washington Township Republican Club / Woodmen of the World /*

**Boy Scouts:**

Centerville will form a Boy Scout Troop after a meeting was held in the local justice's court on November 8, 1923. More than two dozen interested townsmen attended the meeting. A committee was formed comprised of: Fred F. Dusterberry, chairman; Fred Rogers, Arnold Gronley, G.W. Wright and Sid Holman. G.W. Mathiesen was chosen scoutmaster and Arwin Ormsby, assistant.

The first regular monthly session of the Court of Honor, Boy Scouts of America, Washington Township District, was held in the Court Room of Judge B.C. Mickle in Centerville on February 17, 1925, Mr. E.B. Hodges presiding. Receiving merit badges from Centerville were: Oliver Gordy, Mervyn Blacow, Lloyd Hygelund, and Ray Joliff. Leaders attending from Centerville were: George Mathiesen, Scoutmaster; G.E. Stinhilver, Fred Blacow, Fred Dusterberry, and A. Gronley.

On April 17, 1925, Mr. Sydney Snow the Centerville resident who is widely known as a travelled explorer, entertained the Boy Scouts with pictures filmed of the Monterey National Forest.

Raymond Joliff, Troop No. 1 of Centerville earned his Boy Scout badge in electricity and masonry in May 1925. Raymond also received a life rank, which is next to the highest rank in Scouting.

In August 1925 Boy Scouts leaders met for a business meeting. The Boy Scout leaders were: Fred Dusterberry, George Mathiesen, A. Gronley, J.C. Mowry, G.E. Stinhilver, T. Silva, and Wm Joliffe.

Ray Joliff represented Washington Union High School at the Boy Scout conference held in Pasadena in November 1925. Ray is an Eagle Scout.

The Boy Scout committee in February 1926 was composed of: George Mathiesen, Scout Master; Fred Dusterberry, Chairman; G.E. Stinhilver, A. Gronley, Thomas Silver, J.C. Mowry, Fred Blacow, and Fred Rogers. Then in April 1926 the Boy Scouts were separated into three patrols under the leadership of George Robinson, John Duarte, and Tom Silva Jr.

January 1927 saw these Boy Scouts leaders elected officers for the coming year:

Scoutmaster: Judge Allen Norris  
Committee Chairman: Fred W. Blacow  
Secretary: A. Gronley

Treasurer: G. Stinhilver  
Executive Committee: George W. Mathiesen, Thomas Silva, Fred Rogers,  
Fred F. Dusterberry

### **Camp Fire Girls:**

Miss Mary Dias and her Camp Fire girls went on a fine hike in March 1925. Members are: Marjorie Martin, Florinda Furtado, Edith Oliveria, Laura Peixotto, Evelyn Moore, Alma Ferraries, and Ida McBride.

### **Catholic Ladies Society:**

The Catholic Ladies annual charity bazaar with a grand ball was set for Oct 28, 1922.

### **Centerville Athletic Club:**

Centerville has organized a new athletic club to be known as the Centerville Athletic Club in November 1926. Dr. Bu Bois Eaton was chosen as president of the new organization.

The Centerville Athletic Club made plans to install a concrete tennis court in back of their building at meeting held in April 1927.

The Centerville Athletic Club will open the 1929 volleyball season with a game scheduled against the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. of Oakland.

### **Centerville Bridge Club:**

A bridge club was formed in Centerville in October 1927 and the first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. C.E. Anderson.

### **Centerville Grammar School PTA:**

The Centerville PTA met at the Centerville School in February 1925. Mrs. W.I. McWhirter and Mrs. George Coit were both officers of the Centerville PTA in July 1925.

PTA officers in March 1926 were: PTA president, Mrs. W.L. McWhirter, Mrs. George Coit, Mrs. Frank Dusterberry and Mrs. Leo Moore. In April 1926 new officers installed were:

President:	Mrs. Fred Rogers
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Mrs. Joseph Dias
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Mrs. Eugene Stevenson
Financial Secretary:	Mrs. George Mathiesen
Recording Secretary:	Mrs. C. Anderson
Treasurer:	Mrs. Frank Caldeira
Historian:	Mrs. Garrett Norris
Parliamentarian:	Mrs. G. Gatchell

In September 1927 the Centerville School PTA started looking for ways to finance the school cafeteria. The school lunch program has been in effect for two years and already it serves more lunches than any other school in southern Alameda County. A plate of hot vegetables and a sandwich is served for 10¢ according to Mrs. F. Rogers, president of the Centerville PTA.

## **Centerville Service Club:**

The Centerville Service Club had an interesting meeting presided over by President Frank T. Dusterberry in March 1929. The chairman of the day was Mr. Joseph Dias, Principal of the Centerville School and the speaker was Mr. R.G. Anderson of the San Jose Secretarial School. His subject was the history of stenography and he had one of the school's pupil. Miss Louise English gave a demonstration of expert typing arraigning a speed of 212 words a minute.

## **Chamber of Commerce:**

In October 1921 the Centerville Chamber of Commerce asked the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for better lighting for the town of Centerville. Lights of 250 to 300 candlepower are needed along the main street and at the junction of the new Newark highway (Thornton Avenue) and the main highway line (Main Street). The increase in traffic at night through Centerville as the result of the construction has caused dangerous situation.

The Centerville Chamber of Commerce made a plan to reorganize in February 1922. George L. Lawrence, secretary of the civic body made the announcement. He said the plan includes a change the member fee structure and a drive to increase the membership.

A dance to be held in Centerville in August 1922 will hopefully raise some cash to be added to amount already available in the hopes of building a packing house in Centerville to ship fresh cut produce to the East. J.A. Coney, President of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce was in back the effort.

At the same time the dance was being planned to raise money for a packing shed to be built near the train depot the Centerville Chamber of Commerce took up the question of a sanitary system. Then three days later the Newark Chamber of Commerce took up the same question. The consensus was that it is likely that they two towns will co-operate in this project when the right time comes.

The Chamber of Commerce took up two problems in October 1922 that are acting as block to increased growth in the town of Centerville. The first is shortage of homes available for citizens wanting to reside in our town, and the other is a lack of a sanitary system.

The Centerville Chamber of Commerce again took up the question of a sewer system for Centerville and Newark in October 1922, but the members decided to put the question over until the next meeting.

In February 1924 the Centerville Chamber of Commerce elected the following new Officers:

President:	J.A. Coney
Vice President:	S.P. Westraberry
Treasurer:	F.T. Hawes
Secretary:	M.P. Mathiesen
Advisory Board:	
	W.W. Walton, M. Oliveira, M. Bernardo, J. Bettencourt

In July 1927 the Centerville Chamber of Commerce paid its respects to Centerville's most famous native daughter. A cablegram was sent to Miss Helen Wills

congratulating her upon her victory in the championship tournament held in England. The suggestion was made by Fred Dusterberry. Miss Wills was born in Centerville and moved to Berkeley with her parents when she was six years old.

### **Chevrolet Gun Club:**

The Chevrolet Gun Club was formed in April 1922 as the latest hunter's organization in Centerville. Its membership is made up of the employees of Sid Holman's Chevrolet Dealership.

### **Country Club of Washington Township:**

The Country Club held a meeting on September 6, 1921 and after the meeting and festivities there was a burning of the mortgage on the clubhouse.

Their big annual gala meeting held in September 1923 was attended by the prominent members of the California Federation of Women's Club from Oakland.

The club's meeting on April 1, 1924 was the awarding of prizes for the best essays submitted by the high school students about the dangers of narcotics.

The September 1925 meeting saw the following officers elected to lead the club.

President:	Mrs. August May	Alvarado
Vice President:	Mrs. Roland Bendel	Niles
Secretary:	Mrs. Walter Robie	Alvarado
Treasurer:	Mrs. Robert Anderson	Centerville
Financial Secretary:	Mrs. S. Frank Brown	Newark
Directors:	Mrs. C.E. Martenstein	Niles
	Mrs. Howard Chadbourne	Centerville
	Mrs. Garrett Norris	Centerville

The Country Club meeting on December 1, 1925 was hosted by the Mesdames Carrie Emerson, Howard Chadbourne, J.C. Mowry, and Fleda O. Bunting, and was largely attended. Miss Ruth Hall Crandall of Radio Station KGO sang several songs. Also on the bill was Harry Salz who gave several instrumental numbers. Mr. Salz is a musician of some note having spent many years studying music in Germany.

The April 1926 meeting saw the following officers elected to lead the club.

President:	Mrs. Roland Bendel	Niles
Vice President:	Mrs. H.R. Hunt	Niles
Secretary:	Mrs. E.B. Houges	Niles
Financial Secretary:	Mrs. F.S. Brown	Newark
Treasurer:	Mrs. Robert Anderson	Centerville
Director:	Mrs. Robert Blacow	Centerville

The Dramatic section of the WTCC performed the play "Much Too Sudden" in June 1927. All of the members in the play were members of the country club: Mrs. S. Frank Brown, Mrs. Frank T Dusterberry, Mrs. R. Pond, Mrs. L.S. Anderson, Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. A.B. Haley, and Mrs. Walter Robie.

The May 1928 meeting, with Mrs. R. Bendel presiding, saw the following officers elected to lead the club.

President	Mrs. Walter Robie
Vice President:	Mrs. Franklin Brown

Secretary: Mrs. August May  
 Treasurer: Mrs. W.L. McWhirter  
 Fin. Secretary: Mrs. Frank Dusterberry  
 Directors: Mrs. Mary Cushing and Mrs. Edward Ellsworth

The June 1929 meeting saw the following officers elected:

President: Mrs. Walter Robie  
 Vice President: Mrs. Frank Brown  
 Secretary: Mrs. August May  
 Financial Secretary: Mrs. Frank T. Dusterberry  
 Directresses: Mrs. D.C. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Earl Townsend

Participants in WTCC events this decade:

Mrs. F.O. Bunting	Miss Mary Broun	Mrs. F.V. Jones
Mrs. Joe Shinn	Mrs. Fannie Robie	Mrs. DuBois Eaton
Mrs. Nunes	Mrs. August May	Mrs. John M. Adams
Mrs. George Donovan	Mrs. Roland Bendel	Miss Flora McKeown
Mrs. E.B. Hodges	Mrs. Carrie Emerson	Mrs. Josephine Brown
Mrs. J.C. Mowry	Mrs. Clarence Graham	Mrs. Sid Holman
Mrs. Emily Mayhew	Mrs. R.S. Springer	Mrs. Elizabeth Dusterberry
Mrs. Richard Hunt	Mrs. J.E. Thane	Mrs. H. Chadbourne
Mrs. Dora Anderson	Mrs. Barton Brown	Mrs. Garrett Norris
Mrs. E.A. Ellsworth	Mrs. C. Martenstein	Mrs. D.F. Gatchell
Mrs. Joseph D. Norris	Mrs. Theodore Oakes	Mrs. John L. Olsen
Mrs. Clarence Crane	Miss Lena Shinnick	Mrs. R. Pond
Mrs. L.S. Anderson	Mrs. Burnell	Mrs. A.B. Haley
Mrs. William Patterson	Miss Mary I. Brown	Mrs. Frank Zwissig
Mrs. George Coit	Mrs. A.F. Johnson	Mrs. H.C. Searles
Mrs. D.C. Fitzgerald	Mrs. Earl Townsend	Mrs. Ethel Anderson
Mrs. R.T. Anderson	Mrs. E.C. Roper	Mrs. J.H. Ralph

### **Dora Overacker Club (The D.O. Club):**

Holly Fitting is to be host to the D.O. Club on February 14, 1925, at the Memorial Hall. Mrs. Evangeline Mueller and Mrs. Walter Rogers entertained the St. James Guild.

The D.O. Society met with Mr. and Mrs. John Fitting in March 1925. New officers were elected.

President: Miss Ellen Dusterberry  
 Vice President: Miss Jewel Anderson  
 Secretary: Miss Lavon Molter  
 Treasurer: George Robinson

On December 1, 1925, The D.O. (Dora Overacker Society) met with hostesses Miss Vera Holman and Miss Jewell Anderson. The last meeting was hosted by Miss Ellen Dusterberry.

In October 1926 the Dora Overacker Club broke off into senior and junior members. The junior members held their first meeting of the D.O. Club and elected the following officers:

President: Eugene Dusterberry  
 Vice President: George Robinson

Treasurer: Holly Fitting  
Secretary: Ruth Mau

### **Druids: Victory Circle, No. 106, (U.A.O.D.):**

A business and social meeting of the Druids Victory Circle was held August 1922 in Anderson Hall. Miss Adeline Rogers, president of the circle, conducted the meeting.



The Centerville Chamber of Commerce officials have congratulated the Druid Drill Team for the advertising given their home town when the Centerville Druids successfully challenged the San Jose lodge team for the state trophy, which the latter had held for a number of years. Above are, upper left are directors of the Chamber of commerce, left to right the group is: J.A. Coney, president, George Robinson, Miles Smith, Fred Rogers, E.E. Anderson, F.T. Dusterberry, M.S. Simas, J.W. Fitting, and F. Bothelo; and upper right is M.P. Mathiesen, secretary of the chamber. In the lower right is F.T. Hawes, treasurer of the chamber, who is now serving his

twenty-third year as Postmaster for Centerville, and he was also the first president of the Centerville NSGW. On the lower left holding the trophy is Miss Adeline Rogers, secretary of Victory Circle, No. 106, Women Druids.

A very beautiful silver cup is on display in the window of Anderson's Jewelry store. It was won by the Centerville Grove of Druids team from the Garden City Grove of San Jose in February 1925. The local lodge is very proud to have their organization hold this state trophy.

Another feather in the cap of the Centerville Druids was achieved when the Druid Lodges of California elected M.J. Bernardo of Centerville as grand guardian. Also attending the State convention was Stanley Ramos and A. R. Rogers.

Victory Circle, No. 106, the Centerville Druids held a large whist party in February 1926. Members and friends from every community in Washington Township were present. Honors were awarded to the following Centerville people: Miss Mae Amaral, Miss Adeline Rogers, Mrs. Annie Marshall, John Furtado, and George Bettencourt.

The Centerville Druids elected the following new officers in October 1926:

Arch Druidess:	Mary Bernardo
1 <sup>st</sup> Bard:	Mary Souza
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bard:	Lydia Francis
Recording Secretary:	Elsie Madruga
Financial Secretary:	Adeline Rogers
Treasurer:	Clara Bem
Conductor:	Madeline Furtado

Conductress: Susie Vieux  
 Inside Guardian: Marie Nunes  
 Outside Guardian: Rachel Francis  
 Trustees: M.S. Simas and Rita Oliveira  
 Organist: Eva Costa  
 Chaplain: Emma Dias



Once each year the Centerville Druids host a whist party for charity. Adeline Rogers Santos, Postmistress, is chairman of the arrangement committee. The whist party was held in October 1928. She was backed by her committee in promising and outstanding affair.

Preparations are almost complete to make the annual whist party of the Druids Lodge one of the events of the social season. The Druids in this district give but one whist party each year and they are looking forward to making sure that the 1928 party will outdo all others. On the committee with Adeline are: Lydia J. Francis, Elsie Madruga, Ida M. Rogers, Alice P. King, A.E. Francis, Mrs. J.J. Bernardo, Manuel J. Bernardo, and M.S. Simas.

## **Fire Department:**

In 1918 Centerville purchased its first piece of fire-fighting equipment, a \$750 two-wheel chemical unit. This unit was first towed behind an automobile, however when the auto rounded a corner too sharply, the unit overturned and tore off the wheels. One of the firemen, Frank Botelho, who was also the town undertaker, offered the use of his hearse, which then had not been in conventional use. The chemical unit was mounted on the hearse body, and lent a macabre note to fire calls for many months thereafter.

Over 100 people attended a benefit movie show given here in March 1923 for the benefit of the Centerville Volunteer Fire Department, according to M.P. Mathiesen. The money realized from the affair went to a fund being raised for the department to provide general equipment.

In April 1925 the new fire house was built next to the Town Hall. Four months later the firemen built a steel tower behind the fire house on which to install the new siren to alert the volunteer firemen of an ongoing emergency.

The Centerville Volunteer Fire Department November 1925:

Fire Chief:	Fred Rogers		
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant:	M.P. Mathiesen		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant:	George Mathiesen		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Assistant:	Frank Madruga		
Secretary:	Allen S. Norris		
Enginemen:	Ed King	Ernest Rose	Leo Moore
	Tony Rose	Joe Pacheco	T. Coit
	Wm Nesmith	J. Bernardo	F.F. Moore
	A. Gronley	H.R. Mann	J.P. Rose
	A.E. Rogers		

To provide comfortable quarters for the weekly meeting of the Centerville Fire Dept. an extra room was added to the fire hall in August 1928. In addition to the regular meetings of the department the new quarters may be used as a clubroom and for small social gatherings.

Two paid firemen were to be placed on duty by the Centerville Fire Dept. in July 1929 so that equipment may be kept in good condition and no time will be lost in responding to alarms. The Fire Commissioners reached this agreement on July 17, 1929. Sleeping quarters were fitted out at the fire house, a telephone was installed, and a number of minor improvements were made. One of the firemen will be on duty during the day and the other on duty during the evening, according to Fred Rogers, Fire Chief.

### **Holy Ghost:**

Miss Madelyn Furtado will be the Queen of the Holy Ghost celebration held in May 1925. Miss Furtado will have as maids of honor, the Misses Elizabeth Perry and Miss Sibyl Bothelo. There will be a parade, which will terminate at the church, where Miss Furtado will be crowned. The usual barbecue and auction will also be held.

Miss Sibyl Bothelo was the May 1926 Queen of the Holy Ghost in Centerville. Her assistants were Miss Isabel Ferry and Miss Helen Amaral.

Miss Roumilda Rose was the May 1929 Queen of the Holy Ghost in Centerville. Miss Helen Correia and Miss Margaret King are to be maids of honor. The pages will be Harriett De Leon and June Telles.

### **Knights of Columbus:**

Sixty residents of Washington Township were initiated into the Knights of Columbus at a ceremony held in San Jose in May 1828. Centerville is to be the headquarters of the lodge and meetings will be held in the Parish Hall. Officers elected were:

Grand Knight:	George A. Coit
Deputy Grand Knight:	Ben Murphy
Chancellor:	Allen G. Norris
Warden:	Manuel D. Lewis
Treasurer:	L. Trincherro
Recording Secretary:	John Vasconcellos
Financial Secretary:	George S. Roderick
Advocate:	Thomas Power
Trustees:	Dan Fitzgerald, A.D. Lewis, and Fulton Cesari
Inside Guard:	John Hunter
Outside Guard:	William J. Furtado

The Centerville Knights of Columbus met and elected new officers in September 1929. They are:

Grand Knight:	Judge Allen G. Norris
Deputy Grand Knight:	M.W. Lewis
Chancellor:	J.B. Vasconcellos
Warden:	J. Collins
Recording Secretary:	Ernest Pimentel
Outside Guard:	Angie Ferraris
Inside Guard:	M.R. Goularte
Trustees:	A. Azevedo, P.D. Brown, and Garrett Norris

Later in 1929 a men's choir was added to the local Knights of Columbus, which will sing during the Lenten services of the Holy Ghost Church.

### **Knights of Pythias, No. 170:**

The Knights of Pythias began the decade with M.P. Mathiesen as Chancellor Commander of the organization. In an election held in December 1921 the following officers of the organization were elected:

Chancellor Commander:	Fred Rogers
Vice Chancellor:	Walter Rogers
Prelate:	A.O. Nunes
Keeper of Records & Seals:	J.E. Norris
Master of Finance:	F.T. Hawes
Master of the Exchequer:	F.T. Dusterberry
Master of Work:	M.P. Mathiesen
Master of Arms:	E.J. De Luce
Trustee:	A.F. Eggers
Inner Guard:	A. Collingwood
Outer Guard:	E.G. Rose

In June 1925 F.T. Dusterberry was appointed deputy chancellor for Southern Alameda County for the Knights of Pythias.

### **Ladies Aid Society, Presbyterian Church:**

"Preachers' Proverbs," will be the text of the sermon to be delivered by Pastor McElhenney of the Centerville Presbyterian Church in November 1921.

Hostesses of the Ladies Aid Society this decade:

Mrs. G.R. Cockefair	Mrs. George Lowrie	Mrs. Rob't Drinkwater
Mrs. Nunes	Mrs. C.E. Anderson	Miss Margery Fair
Mrs. J.S. Bell	Mrs. D.F. Gatchell	Mrs. L. Christensen
Mrs. Evangeline Mueller	Mrs. Walter Rogers	Mrs. Hun

### **Library:**

In July 1925 it was noted that Miss Mamie Norris was acting as assistant librarian while Miss Arwina Ormsby, the regular librarian, is on vacation.

### **Men's Club of Washington Township:**

Members of the Men's Club of Washington Township were the guests of the Country Club of Washington Township on December 13, 1925. Women helped prepare and serve dinner for the men from WTCC were:

Mrs. C. Emerson	Mrs. August May	Mrs. J. Scribner	Mrs. M. Bodeutch
Mrs. E. Du Bois	Mrs. E.A. Richmond	Mrs. G. Hellwig	Mrs. J. Mowry
Mrs. H. Chadbourne	Mrs. M. Mathiesen	Mrs. C. Oaks	Mrs. G. Norris
Mrs. R. Stewart	Mrs. Henry May	Mrs. E. Hamby	Mrs. R. Fitzgerald
Mrs. M. Springer	Mrs. H. Searles	Mrs. L. Olsen	Mrs. D. Dusterberry
Mrs. V. Jones	Mrs. D. Anderson	Mrs. W. Walton	Mrs. W. Robie
Miss N. McKeown	Miss. E. Dusterberry		

A dinner given by the Men's Club of Washington Township in October 1926 at the Country Club House was attended by nearly one hundred men. The following officers elected for the coming year:

President:	Charles James	Niles
Vice President:	Justus Overacker	Mission San Jose
Secretary:	Milton Wilder	Niles
Treasurer:	C. Christianson	Irvington

### **Mother's Club:**

The officers of the Centerville Mother's Club held a special meeting in the grammar school in September 1924 and made further arrangements for the newly founded organization.

### **Native Daughters of the Golden West, No. 238:**

Betsy Ross Parlor, Native Daughters of the Golden West, No. 238, held their first installation of officers in July 1926. Chosen were:

President:	Leah Nunes
1st Vice President:	Irma Moore
2nd Vice President:	Alice Sarmiento
3rd Vice President:	Lucy Day
Financial Secretary:	Mathilda Enos
Recording Secretary:	Evelyn Day
Treasurer:	Addie Dias
Marshal:	Alice Simas
Outside Sentinel:	Marie Nunes
Inside Sentinel:	Olive Stoneroad
Organist:	Louis Clark
Trustees:	Mae Alameda, Anna Rose, Della De Leon

The NDGW will held a whist party at the Parish Hall in August 1926. Committee leaders were Mrs. George Stoneroad, Mrs. A. Amaral, and Mrs. Irma Moore.

In November 1926 NDGW members who motored to Oakland were: Miss Alice Sarmiento, Miss Marie Silveira, and Mrs. Mathilda Enos.

### **Native Sons of the Golden West, No. 160:**

The NSGW installed new officers in January 1923. They were:

Past President:	George E. Stoneroad
President:	Lloyd A. Wales
1st Vice President:	C.P. Cockefair
2nd Vice President:	Fred Dusterberry
3rd Vice President:	George Wales
Marshal:	G.I. Norris
Inside Sentinel:	J.C. Mowry
Outside Sentinel:	F.J. Ingraham
Recording Secretary:	F.T. Hawes
Financial Secretary:	M.P. Mathiesen
Treasurer:	J.S. Norris
Trustees:	J.C. Mowry, F.T. Hawes, and L.H. Eggers

The NSGW installed new officers in January 1925. They were:

Past President:	Charles Cockefair
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President:	George Wales
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Frank T. Dusterberry
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	George Houck
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President:	W. Norris
Marshal:	G.I. Norris
Recording Secretary:	J.C. Mowry
Financial Secretary:	M.F. Mathiesen
Treasurer:	J.D. Norris
Trustee:	F.T. Hawes
Inside Sentinel:	Earl Ingraham

Judge Allen G Norris and J.D. Norris returned from Redding where they attended the Grand Parlor of the NSGW in June 1928.

A plan to consolidate the three Native Sons parlors in Washington Township, Alvarado, Niles, and Centerville was presented in December 1928. The idea was solidly rejected by the Alvarado Wisteria Parlor. The parlor in Alvarado was organized 40 years ago and nearly all of the present members are charter members.

### **Masonic Lodge, Alameda Lodge #167 F&AM:**

The Mason's Lodge of Centerville held an installation meeting on December 17, 1921. Those who were installed were:

Worshipful Master:	George P. Hellwig
Senior Warden:	H.B. White
Junior Warden:	A. Gronley
Treasurer:	L.H. Eggers
Secretary:	R.O. Moyer

Newly installed officers of the Alameda Lodge of Masons in Centerville who were installed in January 1926 were:

Worshipful Master:	Henry M. Springer
Senior Warden:	Michael Justus Overacker
Junior Warden:	Paul Verne Wilson
Treasurer:	Louis H. Eggers
Secretary:	Elmer E. Carroll
Chaplain:	Harry C. Searles
Senior Deacon:	W.J. La Plante
Jr. Deacon:	Ernest Martin
Marshal:	R.V. Richmond
Sr. Steward:	E.W. Richmond
Jr. Steward:	H.M. Kibby
Tiler:	G.E. Stinhilver

### **Order of the Eastern Star, Orient Chapter:**

Installation of officers for the coming term will be held at the special meeting of the Orient Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, on January 6, 1923. Officers who formally take their places were:

Patron:	Benjamin Mickle
Matron:	Mrs. Mary C. Mickle
Assoc. Matron:	Mrs. Lizzie Ralph
Conductress:	Mrs. Mary Jane Stewart
Assoc. Conductress:	Mrs. Dora Richmond

Secretary: Mrs. Anna Hansen  
Treasurer: Fern Mitte  
Sentinel: Louis Eggers

Orient Chapter of the Eastern Star elected new officers in November 1925. Those seated were:

Matron: Mrs. Dora Richmond  
Assoc. Matron: Mrs. Rose Springer  
Conductress: Mrs. Paul Wilson  
Secretary: Mrs. Fern Mittee

Orient Chapter of OES elected the following officers in December 1926:

Worthy Matron: Rose Springer  
Patron: H.M. Springer  
Associate Matron: Grace Martin  
Conductress: Mrs. H.M. Kibby  
Assoc. Conductress: Ruth Hellwig  
Marshal: Dora Richmond  
Chaplain: M. Scribner  
Star Points: Mabel Drew, B. Logan, Pat Law, A. Boyd, Mary Merrick  
Organist: M. Laudenslager

The 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Orient Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star, was celebrated with a banquet at the Masonic Hall on March 15, 1928. Ralph V. Richmond, of Niles, Past Worthy Patron, and Mrs. John Ralph, Past Worthy Matron presided.

### **Owl Whist Club:**

Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Norris entertained the Owl Whist Club in July 1926.

Mr. & Mrs. George Emerson entertained the Owl Whist Club at their house in December 1926.

### **Post Office:**

Frank T. Hawes who had been the Post Master for the town of Centerville since October 6, 1902, passed away on February 25, 1925. Adeline (Lida) Santos was the Assistant Post Master. On June 26, 1926 Miss Adeline Santos was named as the Postmistress for the town of Centerville. Miss Pauline Francis served as the assistant Postmistress in June 1926.

### **Red Cross:**

The Red Cross drive started in November 1921 under Mrs. Fleda Bunting. Mrs. Bunting is also in charge of the Red Cross tuberculosis drive.

Mrs. Fleda Bunting has resigned as chairman of the WT Red Cross in November 1925 as she will be leaving soon on a trip around the world. Mrs. Joseph Mowry will replace her. Mrs. Joseph Mowry, who was in charge of the Red Cross drive in the absence of Mrs. Bunting, reported that she collected \$114.

The new Red Cross chairman, installed in April 1926, was Mrs. Carrie Emerson. Her committee persons were:

Transportation: Mrs. Walter Robie, Miss Millie Nauert, Mrs. August May

Ice Cream & Coffee:	Mrs. Carrie Emerson
Rolls:	Mrs. George Hellwig
Cakes:	Mrs. F.M. Drew
Salad:	Mrs. Frank Dusterberry
Jellies & Relishes:	Mrs. Henry May
Home Made Candy:	Mrs. Fred Dusterberry

### **St. James Episcopal Church:**

*St. James Guild / St. James Men's Club / St. James Helper's Club*

The Reverend Ernest H. Price was the pastor of this church, affectionately calling it: "St. James Church, The little church on the highway. The Rev. Ernest H. Price, Vicar.

Owing to ill health, the Reverend Ernest Price resigned as rector of St. James Episcopal Church in January 1924. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Chadbourne gave a reception in their honor. The Rev. and Mrs. Price would make their home in Berkeley.

The Reverend Mr. Atwood of Pittsburg arrived in October 1925 to take up the work of the St. James Episcopal Church.

### **St. James Guild:**

Over the decade the St. James Guild met with the following people:

Mrs. J.A. Bunting	Mrs. Mary Smith	Mrs. C. Leachman	Mrs. Gregory
Mrs. J. Chadbourne	Mrs. J. Mowry	Mrs. Dora Anderson	Mrs. P.C. Hansen
Mrs. Wm. Patterson	Mrs. Eric Bergstrom	Mrs. B. Witherly	Mrs. Mary Allen
Miss Ethel Anderson	Mrs. L.S. Anderson	Mrs. J.W. Fitting	Mrs. Viola Ames
Mrs. Breuner	Mrs. Henry Salz	Mrs. E. Chadbourne	Mrs. Reynolds
Mrs. F. Dusterberry	Miss Annie Weston	Mrs. J. Blacow	Miss Lou Emerson
Mrs. D. Fitzgerald	Mrs. G. Mathiesen	Mrs. Wyatt	Mrs. E. Adams
Mrs. L. Sharman	Mrs. Ormsby	Mrs. H. Chadbourne	

### **St. James Men's Club:**

Some members whose names were found to support this organization during the decade were:

J.C. Mowry	Walter Rogers	D.A. Fitzgerald	Floyd Parks
George Mathiesen			

### **St. James Helper's Club:**

The St. James Helper's Club of Nilas, a new organization founded in May 1925, was a branch of St. James Guild. Mrs. Fleda Bunting acted as hostess for the new club. Other women from Centerville who participated in the organization early on were Mrs. Carrie Emerson and Mrs. Joseph Mowry.

### **Sweet Sixteen Club:**

Persons participating in the club this decade were:

Miss Miranda Norris	Miss Mamie Norris	Mrs. Joseph Mowry
Mrs. F. Vernon Jones	Mrs. Viola Ames	Mrs. L. Christensen
Mrs. Fred Dusterberry	Mrs. Hygelund	Mrs. Mac Bodeutch
Mrs. Robert Anderson	Mrs. Ella Mathiesen	Mrs. Mabel Fitzgerald
Mrs. George Mathiesen	Mrs. Fleda Bunting	Miss Bess Dusterberry
Mrs. C. Anderson	Miss M. Little	Miss Elizabeth Dusterberry
Miss J. McCormack		

### **Union Sanitary District:**

November 1922 found Irvington, Centerville, Newark, and Niles all busy working on organizing three sanitary districts. The Centerville Chamber of Commerce met with George Posey, country surveyor, and members of the Newark Chamber of Commerce to discuss the project more fully than had heretofore been done. Posey presented data concerning the size and probable cost and outlined the necessary plan of procedure for a joint sewer system for Newark and Centerville.

The following month officials were chosen for the sewer bond election of the Union Sanitary District, which was to be held January 12, 1923. Ballot officials in Centerville were: J.D. Norris, Inspector; L.H. Eggers and Helen C. Rodgers judges.

Every section of Washington Township was represented at the victory bond dance and entertainment held here January 27, 1923 in celebration of voting bonds to give Centerville a new sewer system costing \$75,000. For the last eight years the people of Centerville, with F.T. Hawes as their leader, have battled for the sewer system. Hawes spoke to a crowd that included George A. Coit, president of the sanitary board, A.T. Biddle, secretary of the high school district, and Mr. McGee, who represented the F.E. Booth Packing Co. of Centerville. Hawes stated that he expected the new sewer system to be completed eight months.

A notice of contract to be put out for bids by the Union Sanitary District of Centerville-Newark was published in September 1923. The bids were scheduled to be opened on September 19<sup>th</sup> at which time the contract would be offered to the lowest bidder. Each bid had to be accompanied by a check for at least ten per cent of the amount of the bid or proposal, certified by some responsible bank and made payable to Joseph C. Mowry, secretary of the Sanitary Board.

Then in March 1926 the Union Sanitary District again went to the voters for approval of a new bond measure, this time for \$40,000 for improvements to the district. The measure was overwhelmingly carried by the voters of Newark, but was soundly defeated in Centerville by a count of 119 to 37. The total vote was 145 for the bonds, as compared to 134 opposed. Two-thirds vote was required for adoption.

At the same time elections were held for sanitary district officers and the following were chosen. M.J. Bernardo of Centerville and J.C. Shinn of Niles, were reelected to the board of commissioners, the governing body of the district, while J.D. Norris was elected district assessor. Other members of the board are George A. Coit, president, and Louis Ruschin and M.D. Silva, both of Newark.

In November 1927 an ordinance making sewer connections compulsory in the Centerville and Newark districts was passed by the sanitary board. The meeting was presided over by George A. Coit, president of the board.

### **United Artisans No. 91, Central Assembly:**

The assembly was honored in November 1921 by receiving a visit from the Supreme Master from Portland Oregon.

The Centerville Assembly of the UA gave a dance at Anderson's Hall on February 15, 1929.

### **U.P.E.C.:**

U.P.E.C. state convention held in Merced in October 1926 saw John G. Mattos Jr. again elected to state office as Treasurer.

U.P.E.C. installed new officers for the coming year on August 1928, they were:

Past President:	Isbael Cunha
President:	Isabel Pimentel
Vice President:	Nina Jasper
Secretary:	Mary Caldeira
Treasurer:	Mary Rodrigues
Emcee:	Isabel Silveira
Marshal:	Anna Perry
Guard:	Mary L. George
Directors:	Marian Jasper, Anna Dias, A.G. Dias
Pianist:	Alfretta Clark

### **U.P.P.E.C.:**

The drill team of the U.P.P.E.C. gave a valentine dance on February 14, 1925 at the Parish Hall. Proceeds went for new uniforms for the drill team.

The ladies drill team of Centerville U.P.P.E.C. took top honors in the ladies drill team at the Hayward Fiesta-Rodeo Week in June 1927.

### **Washington Township Republican Club:**

The women of Washington Township went into action in Centerville on October 16, 1928 in behalf of the Republican presidential ticket at the home of Mrs. Fleda O. Bunting. Mrs. F.V. Jones was chairman of the Washington Township group of the women's Hoover Club will co-host. Others named as hosts and hostesses were: Mrs. J.E. Townsend, Mrs. J.D. Bernard, Mrs. W.B. Kirk, Mrs. E.A. Ellsworth, Mrs. Ralph W. Emerson, Mrs. A.A. Amaral, Mrs. Roland Bendel, Miss Mary I. Brown, Miss Floribel Brown, Mrs. Walter Wyatt, Mrs. Arthur T. Biddle, Mrs. R.L. Pond, Mrs. M.E. Munger, Mrs. August May, Mrs. W.S. Robie, and Mrs. J.M. Adams.

### **Woodmen of the World, Maple Camp:**

The Woodmen initiated eight new members in November 1921. In April 1922 the camp reported that M.N. Silva was the Council Commander and M.J. De Luce was captain of the degree team.

In December 1925 it was announced that M.W. Lewis had been elected Council Commander by the Centerville Maple Camp. Assisting Lewis will be: Joseph Martin, T. Rose, and Fred Lewis.

The Dramatic Club of the Woodmen of the World presented a three act farce at the Centerville Parish Hall in October 1927. The W.O.W. orchestra furnished the music for the production and the dance.

At their April 1929 meeting it was announced that the Camp was entertained by Capt. T. Jones Jr., noted magician.

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\* **CENTERVILLE FARMING** \*  
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The Fruit Growers of California, Inc., officially opened its campaign to sign up the apricot, cherry, peach, and plum growers of Alameda County at a meeting held in Mt. Eden in March 1920. The association plans to sign as many growers as possible in this county, but has an understanding with those that it does sign up that no business will be done unless the association is able to sign up 75 percent of the county's acreage. If the campaign in Alameda County is successful it is said that the association will have absolute control over the green apricot market of the world, just as the Prune and Apricot Growers have control of the dried apricot market of the world.

In 1922 the growers in the Centerville area packed green tomatoes for shipment to eastern markets. The venture was an unqualified success and local farmers vow to do the same this year. So successful was the green tomato packing industry last season that the farmers said they will not allow their success to lapse this year and would build a packing house and do the work themselves. This packing house was built in 1922 and was located near the SP depot and train tracks. The packing house was leased by H.P. Garin, one of the largest packers and shippers of fruit and vegetables in California having several packing houses about the State.

M.J. Bernardo of Centerville says that he has half a million tomato plants for local farmers for the 1922 planting season. Bernardo is one of several ranchers who have been sprouting the plants in anticipation of a record breaking demand. Half a million plants would require 500 acres of land for transplanting. It has been estimated that between 4,500 and 6,000 acres of land in Washington Township will be transplanted to tomatoes this season.

The largest well in Washington Township for private use was installed at the ranch of H.F. Chadbourne in June 1922, and farmers in all section of lower Alameda County are waiting to learn the results of Chadbourne's irrigation plan. The well, which is being drilled to a depth of 185 feet, will have a flow of 18 inches in diameter. A peculiar geological formation has made a gravel stratum at the 185 foot depth at the Chadbourne ranch, causing a small subterranean reservoir it is said.

Southern Alameda County apricot growers met at Centerville in July 1923 and organized the Alameda County Grower's Union at Centerville. The growers are principally from comprised of growers in the Washington Township area of Southern Alameda County. Besides township farmers the meeting was attended by representatives from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, American Fruit Packers Assoc., and the Co-Operative Cannery.

Rain and cold weather ended the tomato packing season in the township in October 1924, except for Niles, where a few carloads are still to be packed. Centerville tomatoes were picked green as they attain a very large size before ripening, and were packed and shipped in a green state, being allowed to ripen in transit. Tests of Centerville tomatoes show that they are in a class by themselves giving them great preserving and pickling possibilities.

Centerville beat all other west coast shippers with the early shipment of fresh spinach in March 1925. Centerville spinach had the eastern market all to itself for two weeks before other Alameda County packers had produce available. This is important because the early spinach has the eastern market all to itself and commands a high price.

Great trays of golden yellow fruit are being piled in nearby fields in June 1925, as many thousands of tons of apricots are cut into halves and then quarters for drying. Later great streams of gold coin will return from eastern states, which are looking to California to fill their depleted bins. Germany and Switzerland also use great quantities of Alameda County dried apricots, the American exporters that handle the fruits from this section having established a heavy trade before the war, which has been renewed during the last three years.



Ethel Perry holding a box of cots.

A group of sorters at the Centerville drier:  
From the left: Anna Silva, Rose Pimentel, Victoria Priego, Ethel Perry, Violet Medeiros, and Adeline Silva

It was estimated that 5,000 workers are employed in the fruit and vegetable canning and drying industry in Alameda County. A warm, non-scorching sun, the absence of rainfall during the drying months, an abundance of flat level fields where the fruit can be worked, and an army of women and girls, highly skilled in cutting and handling cots, which have combined to make the Centerville area a center of the dried apricot traffic.

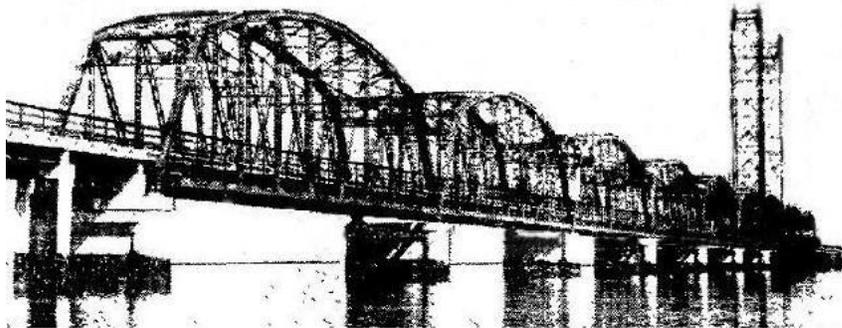
Local apricot growers have threatened to boycott the canneries because the price offered in July 1929 was too low. The growers demand \$85 per ton of 14 to the pound apricots. Unless they get their price the farmers vowed to dry their crop this year instead of bringing them to the cannery. To reinforce their demand they have made arrangements with the prune driers in the area to borrow their drying trays to meet the increased need.

The first carload of tomatoes raised in Washington Township this season left Centerville in August 1929 headed for the eastern markets. The shipment was made by the Williams Brothers, which is now the second packing house located in Centerville.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **DUMBARTON BRIDGE** \*  
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The Alameda County Bridge-the-Bay Association met in Centerville in July 1922 to discuss the progress that has been made. The affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Washington and Eden Townships met with the association. The first approximate cost of constructing a bridge at an available point 400 feet north of the Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge at Dumbarton Point is expected to cost \$1,586,000.

The Dumbarton Bridge Association met with the Livermore Chamber of Commerce In November 1923. J.L. Harrington, engineer for construction firm, described the bridge to the assembly. He also told how his firm has obtained permits from the War Department and the State Highway Commission. Attending the meeting from Centerville was F.T. Dusterberry.



In November 1924 news was received that the financing of the Dumbarton Bridge was assured and that its construction loomed for early spring, was made by F.T. Dusterberry, who entertained officials of the bridge company at his home. The Dumbarton automobile bridge has been talked about for the last three years. It will be parallel to the railroad bridge across the lower end of San Francisco Bay, and will take thousands of autoists who formerly were compelled to motor around the lower end of the Bay. Newark will be the closest town to the bridge, which will connect with the San Mateo shore directly opposite Newark.

Steel was delivered for the construction of the new Dumbarton Bridge in June 1925. Tolls for the new bridge have been authorized: Each person 5¢, each motorcycle 15¢, each tri-car 20¢, two passenger automobiles 20¢, five passenger automobiles 30¢, seven-passenger automobiles 35¢.

Completed at a cost of \$2,000,000 and requiring two years to build, the Dumbarton Bridge was opened to automobile traffic on January 15, 1927. The bridge is located west of the town of Newark in Washington Township. Oaklanders can reach Newark either a paved road or over the dirt road from Alvarado (Marsh Road, today's Union City Blvd.), leaving the highway at the Curve In in the center of the town of Alvarado instead of proceeding onto the Alvarado - Centerville Road.

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**\* CENTERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL \***  
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Six senior cadets from the State Teacher's College were employed in Centerville in July 1922 to assist as instructors in the school. The cadets were under the directions

of the State supervisor who will watch their work carefully, thus determining their ability as instructors.

The principals of Alvarado, Decoto, Niles, Centerville, Newark, and Irvington Grammar Schools met in Sept. 1922 and for the first time formed the Washington Township Grammar School Athletic Association. The season will open on September 29<sup>th</sup>, when the six teams will meet in three games. The series will last until each team in the organization has met all the other nines. During the winter months basketball and volleyball will be played, both boys and girls are to take part in the games.

The "Centerville Grammar School Press" is making plans for the publishing of its first edition in October 1922. The paper will be put out by the pupils and teachers of the school and is said, by those sponsoring the move, to be the first paper of its kind in this vicinity.

In January 1925 the Centerville Grammar School started night classes in elementary subjects and Americanization.

Centerville Grammar School's new cafeteria was dedicated on February 25, 1925 in a dinner given by the executive board of the PTA. Joseph Dias, Principal, and Miss Aurora Bettencourt, Vice Principal were in attendance. Also present were M. Oliveira, member of the board, and Mrs. W.L. McWhirter, president of the PTA.

A new radio donated by the Japanese residents of the Centerville School District was installed in January 1926. From now on the pupils of the Centerville School will be able to enjoy instructive programs broadcast by the stations on the coast.

Twenty-two new students have registered for their first school term at Centerville Grammar School in September 1925, according to Principal Joseph Dias. The new pupils are:

Mary Maciel	Robert Coit	Howard Stinilver	James George
Clyde Anderson	Philip Faria	Harumi Hayashi	Edna King
August Duarte	Teleya Himuro	Esao Inonye	Joe Correia
Stanley Rogers	Jack Fitting	Lena Martinez	Frank Muther
Alice Vargas	Camello Damico	Teresa Bernard	Robert Mattos
Humeo Hayashi	Maxine Buck		

Centerville Grammar School Trustees: F.T. Dusterberry, John G. Mattos Jr., and Manuel Oliveira announced teaching changes in the school for 1926. Tom Scales and Miss Genevieve Ragglo have been elected to replace Miss Lucille Norris and Miss Louise Steinewand who have resigned. Joseph Dias, who has been principal of the Centerville school the last 22½ years, was chosen unanimously for another term. Miss Julia A. McCabe and Miss Mary S. Dias, present members of the faculty have been elected to serve another year.

Following is a list of Centerville Grammar School children who have signed up for the Better Homes and Gardens in March 1926, which is being fostered by the WTCC.

Joe Quadros	Lawrence Gronley	Judith Gronley	Robert Salz
Nadine Holman	Claremont Oliveira	George Robinson	LaVon Molter
Frances Anderson	Jack Stevenson	Oliva Silva	Manuel Lemos
Elmer Peixotto	Harold Faria	Raymond Bernard	Arthur Duarte

Anna Duarte  
Clarence Oliveira  
Ernest Martin  
Lawrence Furtado

Clement Rose  
Robert Mattos  
Carmell Cognini  
Tatto Ushiyama

Arline Oliveira  
Clarence Correia  
Holly Fitting

Billy Rego  
Louis Joseph  
Eddie Mattos



Students, left to right: August Duarte, Robert Coit, Mabel Lewis, and Bernice Bernardo. The teacher (standing) is Mary Diaz. The principal, Joseph Dias, is shown below.

Frank Dusterberry, resigned as a trustee of the Centerville Grammar School in February 1928. Frank had been a member of the board since 1895.

Centerville Grammar School had nearly 400 pupils start school in September 1928, an increase of nearly 100 over last years' figure.

The school bond issue for the Centerville Grammar School passed 79 – 0 in April 1929. The bond will be used for repairs and additions and will be completed during the summer vacation.

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**\* NOTEWORTHY EVENTS \***

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**January 1, 1920:**  
**Centerville Prize Fights:**

The Jack Dempsey – Georges Carpentier fight took place in New Jersey on July 2, 1921. Jack Dempsey was the world's heavyweight champ at 188 pounds and Georges Carpentier was the light-heavyweight champ at 168. George Carpentier was

a French war hero and was portrayed as a dashing handsome man and because of this the fight drew a fair sized following of women to the fight.

This fight was the first fight to surpass the million dollar gate in receipts. The pre-fight hysteria did not escape the people of Centerville as seen in this newspaper article from the *Oakland Tribune* of January 15, 1920:

"Centerville has not yet bid for the Dempsey-Carpentier bout, but Joe Mowry and other well-known citizens of the Alameda County town are getting into condition and may startle the world by offering a box of tomatoes, box included, for the big battle.

As a starter Mowry and his associates will stage a flock of scraps at Centerville on the evening of January 16<sup>th</sup> with the "Prides" of all the surrounding burgs on the card. The "motif" for the quarrels is the Ladies Town Hall Association, which would acquire funds to rebuild the municipal edifice. Matchmaker Mowry is not quite sure of the names of the gladiators who will battle in the main event, but is quite certain that Kid something or other will meet Young somebody.

The matchmaker had a lot of the battles in his pocket when he started from home this morning, but he lost it in the fog. As near as he can remember the card will stack up something like this: Lefty McClure vs. Howard Johnson, Kid Quiver vs. Scotty Nunes, Joe Alameda v. Henry Marshall, Biaggi Dundee vs. Jimmy Sandow, Benny Ortega vs. Tony Miller

Centerville, Newark, Hayward, San Jose, Irvington, Livermore and other burgs are represented on the bill of fare and Mowry says there is "intense rivalry" among the various scrappers. Anyhow it ought to be worth the trip to see Kid Quiver quiver. Maybe he has swiped Jimmy Duffy's shimmying motions. Can't ever tell about these Newark fighters. It's an easy hour's ride to Centerville from Twelfth & Broadway."

Joe Mowry, matchmaker for the Centerville Athletic Club has arranged a good card for March 19, 1920. Here is the lineup:

Tony Costa vs. Young Alavera, Kid Benson vs. Young O'Dell, Frank Miller vs. Kid Herold, Johnny Carter vs. Jim Corbett, Kid Musky vs. Young Coats, Jimmy Regal vs. Young Pearce, Kid Redifer vs. Young Mitchell

### **February 1920:**

#### **George Lester:**

Manager George Lester of the Centerville Branch of the San Leandro State Bank married Miss Helen Crysostomo of San Leandro in February 1920. Miss Crysostomo has been a teacher in the San Leandro schools for several years.

### **July 1920:**

#### **Chicken Pie Census:**

Centerville's chicken pie census will be in full swing in July 1920. Centerville folk have paused from their multitudinal pursuits to cogitate deeply on the chicken pie question. For they have heard that the annual chicken pie spread, which has been a rising star to which all the country round has been accustomed to hitch its wagon of gustatory ambitions is to be no more.

The chicken pie spread has been served regularly at the annual barrel festival of St. James Guild of Centerville. So deeply has the Centerville dish climbed its way to the throne of the chicken goddess that a council has been held and it has been decided to refer the subject to the people of the district at large.

So on Monday Mrs. L. Sturdevant will head the census takers in the effort to solve the momentous question: "Will, or will not Centerville have chicken pie this year?"

The chicken pie question was settled when the census votes were counted. On July 31<sup>st</sup> it was announced that chicken pie will be served at the annual St. James barrel festival.

This year it was announced that the chicken pie feed, which is an annual event, would be left out of the festival program and there was so much protest that it was decided to get a straw vote of Centerville residents to decide the question. The feed will be held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**December 1920:**  
**Eggers Sisters:**

The Eggers ranch near Centerville has been sold by the Eggers sisters in December 1920. Matilda, Alice, and Helen Eggers sold to M.W. Gray, local township farmer. The sisters will move to Oakland.

**June 2, 1921:**  
**Watch Your Tong:**

Wong Wah of the Jung Ying tong and Sing Sam Chow of the Suey Don tong are in the county jail on charges of assault with a deadly weapon made by each against the other in the course of a wild Oriental melee of monosyllable verbiage, which broke loose in Centerville on June 2, 1921 in the courtroom of Justice of the Peace Ralph Richmond when Chinese from many parts of the state thronged the courtroom.

The case on trial was that of Ham Chuck, Lee Shae Lum, Sing Sam Choy, Sang Gee, and Chang Chung Sam, all of the Suey Don tong, who were being tried on charges of assault to commit murder in connection with a fire on April 15, 1921 on the F.J. Lowrie ranch. The defendants were released.

At the outset the courtroom was flooded with Chinese, and fearing a disturbance, Judge Richmond ordered all present to surrender firearms or leave the courtroom. A rush call to Oakland brought Deputy Sheriff Jack Collier and Beret Brown here in a high powered automobile.

Members of the Jung Ying tong were present with John Doe warrants to effect the re-arrest of the defendants should they be released in the present hearing. These warrants charged something of all of the important sections of the penal code.

When the Chinese defendants were released a rush was made to serve those warrants, but the deputy sheriff interfered and would allow no arrests to be made save where positive identifications could be made.

Wong Wah identified Sign Sam Chow as a man who committed an assault on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Suisun, so Sing Sam Chow, not to be outdone, promptly accused his accuser of an assault in Bakersfield, and so they were both arrested.

According to Deputy Sheriff Joe Soares it then appeared as if every accuser would be accused of some crime by the man he had arrested and that if the process was kept up all of the hundred Chinese present would have accused and be accused by some other one of them of a felonious crime.

Throughout the whole affair there was a great waving of fists and an excited jabbering in which a goodly number of the various Chinese deities were called upon to cast a plague upon the other Chinese present.

It was afterward explained by Soares that one of the way the Chinese tongs embarrass a rival tong is to prefer charges against its members even though they are often groundless, and have members of them thrown in jail. In his opinion that is the explanation of the many and vigorous accusations of "robber," "murderer," "thief," etc., that were flung yesterday.

#### **July 1, 1921:**

##### **Japanese Aliens:**

Japanese aliens will be registered at the Centerville Post Office on July 15, 1921. Japanese must register under the alien poll tax statute. On September 12, 1921 this California law imposing an annual poll tax of \$10 each on all alien male residents of the state between the ages of 21 and 60. Later the California State Supreme Court would rule that the law passed in November 1920 in California was unconstitutional as to the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment.

#### **September 1921:**

##### **Speeders Beware:**

With the opening to traffic of the new concrete Newark highway in September 1921 Constable Thomas Silva was polishing up his star, timing his stop-watch, and otherwise gearing up for the busy season of speed fiends. Constable Silva declared today that speeding over the new highway (Thornton Ave.) into Centerville would be under the ban and that arrests will follow any infraction of the traffic laws.

In his determination to enforce the law and prevent accidents due to carelessness in Centerville, Constable Silva is backed by Justice of the Peace John G. Mattos Jr., who said today that he would deal harshly with drivers caught yielding to the lure for speeding, which the new highway will present. The highway will be opened to traffic before the end of the month.

#### **September 7, 1921:**

##### **Thomas C. Huxley:**

Funeral services were held on September 7, 1921 for Thomas C Huxley, a Centerville pioneer. He was an attorney that established his office in Centerville in 1875, he later moved it to Oakland.

#### **November 15, 1921:**

##### **Marian C. Mowry:**

Marian C. Mowry died of a stroke on November 15, 1921. Services were held at St. James Church in Centerville. Mowry was born in San Francisco but lived the last of his years in Centerville. He was a member of the NSGW and the Society of Junior Pioneers.

#### **November 26, 1921:**

##### **Peter Mathiesen:**

Peter Mathiesen died on November 26, 1921. Peter was married to Mary K. Mathiesen and was the father of Melford P. and Georgia W. Mathiesen and Mrs. Mabel Fitzgerald. A native of Denmark, he was 60 years old.

#### **November 30, 1921**

##### **Adolphus Decoto:**

Adolphus Decoto died in Centerville on November 30, 1921. A long time Centerville resident he was born in Canada and came to Washington Township in the late 1860's with brothers Ezra and John Decoto. The town of Decoto is named after the Decoto brothers.

#### **1922:**

##### **Bus Line:**

Efforts were being made by the Newark Chamber of Commerce to obtain auto stage service for Newark from Centerville in 1922. With Newark becoming more of an industrial center each day, and with hundreds more residents expected to pour into the town before the close of the summer months, the need for rapid and frequent transportation service has become one of the vital problems facing the Chamber of Commerce. With the likes of the James Graham Manufacturing Co. (Wedgewood Stoves) in Newark, which draws a large amount of employees of Centerville and surrounding areas, a branch line from Centerville to Newark is desperately needed.

#### **1922:**

##### **V.N. Cramer:**

V.N. Cramer, Irvington businessman, began erecting a modern business block on land adjacent to the Centerville bank building in 1922. The building is one of the first of the several business blocks which will be erected here in the next three months.

#### **September 17, 1922:**

##### **Barney Oldfield:**

For the first time in his career, Barney Oldfield, auto racer, wrecked a car while on a pleasure trip and also was caught without spare tires when his machine went into a ditch while attempting to make a turn near Centerville on September 17, 1922. The former pilot was uninjured but was forced to remain in Centerville for a large part of the day for repairs. He was on the way to attend the races at Kansas City.

#### **October 1922:**

##### **Speeder Snared:**

Justice of the Peace John G. Mattos Jr. fined L. Baravero \$90 for doing 57 MPH through Centerville in October 1922. This is the largest fine ever imposed by Judge Mattos who gave Baravero a choice of \$90 or ten days in jail.

#### **December 1922:**

##### **December Rainfall:**

Heavy rains in December 1922 in the hills carried volumes of water down into the marsh lands, deluging the Southern Pacific tracks so that early morning trains were re-routed over the old narrow gauge road from Newark to Centerville to Niles, thus cutting out the Alvarado section, as well as one train to Hayward.

#### **April 1923:**

##### **Hetch Hetchy Pipeline:**

Surveyors were in the Washington Township area plotting the plan for the Hetch Hetchy pipeline in April 1923, which will cross the Bay at Dumbarton Point. The main

will be made of 60 inch steel piping and when finished will probably be leased to the Spring Valley Water Co. for a term of years, or until such time when the line is finished to the Hetch Hetchy Dam. The installing of the water main, along with the installing of sewer mains for the towns of Irvington, Niles, Centerville, and Newark should make southern Alameda County one of the busiest sections in California during the year.

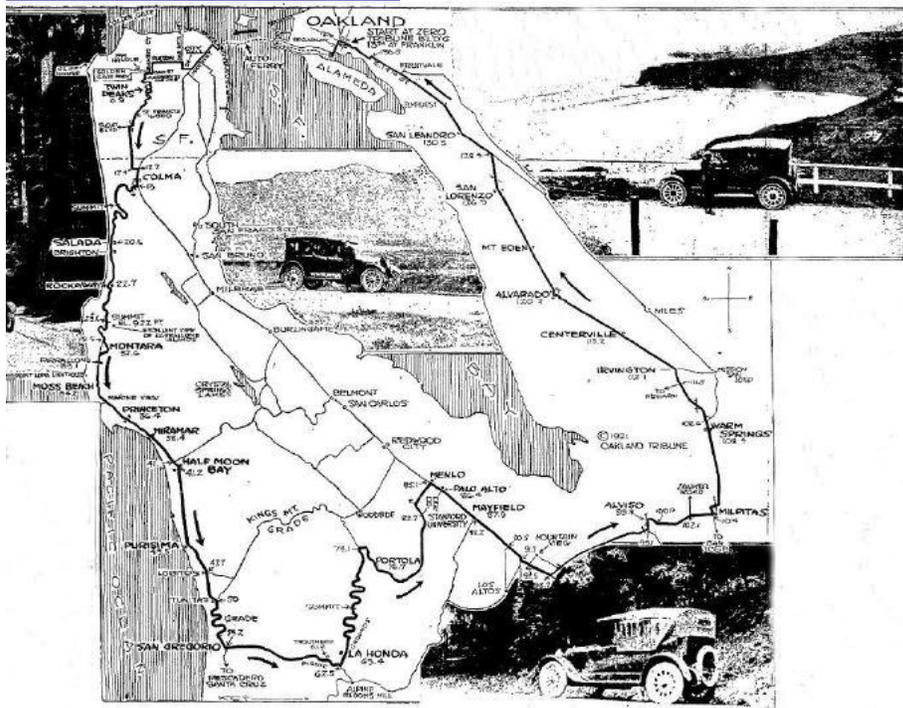
**April 1923:  
Miss Virginia Ormsby:**

Miss Virginia Ormsby, daughter of Dr. E.A. Ormsby announced her engagement to Sydney A. Snow in April 1923. Sydney Snow is the eldest son of African explorer H.A. Snow of Newark. Mr. and Mrs. Edward King have returned from their honeymoon in July 1926 and are living in the Costa house. Mr. King is one of the proprietors of the Centerville Garage.

**February 1924:  
Road Repair:**

February 1924 county tools were being used to put the streets of Centerville in good condition before another rain. The last rain left the streets in a dangerous condition for both pedestrians and for motorists due to the unsettled state of the sewer trenches.

**April 1924:  
Road Trip Around the Bay:**



A Tribune reporter took around the Bay in April 1924. Starting in San Francisco in a 1924 REO (REO stood for Ransom E. Olds, which later became the Oldsmobile brand). He started from ferry at First and Broadway and traveled down the coast from San Francisco to San Gregorio, through the La Honda redwoods, into Menlo Park, down to Mountain View, across through Alviso to Milpitas, and back to Oakland

via Warm Springs, Irvington, Centerville, Alvarado, Mr. Eden, San Lorenzo, San Leandro, and Fruitvale.

With improved roadways becoming more prevalent articles like this one helped promote the sights about the bay before television. Even the radio was in its infancy. Articles like this informed people in Half Moon Bay about the whereabouts of far off places like Centerville or Alvarado.

**October 1925:  
Detective Agency:**

A detective organization for the protection of business interests of Washington Township was formed in October 1925. The first step has been completed and nine patrolmen in five of the principal business centers are now on duty. The patrolmen are under the supervision of the California Patrol Center. The present force is placed as follows:

Mt. Eden	1 man
Alvarado	3 men
Irvington	1 man
Centerville	2 men
Niles	2 men

**February 25, 1926:  
Frank T. Hawes:**

Frank T. Hawes, who for twenty-three years had been Post Master for the town of Centerville passed away February 25, 1926 at the home of his son-in-law in Oakland. Hawes was engaged in the mercantile and real estate business during most of his residence in Centerville. But a lingering illness had finally forced him to forego his duties. In appreciation of the diligent work of his assistant, Miss Adeline Rogers, Hawes recommended her for the position in presenting his resignation, subsequently she was appointed acting postmistress, and later was appointed Postmistress of Centerville. Frank Hawes was a native of California. Surviving him is one son, Benjamin F. Hawes, and a daughter, Mrs. Ashley.

**June 1926:  
Decoto Road Improvement:**

Improvement in the Decoto Road from Hayward to Niles west to the Alvarado Centerville Road was scheduled to begin in June 1926. The Decoto Road will be graded, paved, and drainage will be added.

**October 15, 1926:  
Joseph Mowry:**

Mr. Joseph C. Mowry, retired deputy county auditor of long service, passed away at the family home in Centerville on October 15, 1926 after a lingering illness. He had been in the county auditor's office for more than 20 years until ill health forced him to retire three weeks ago. He was the son of a pioneer who settled in the neighboring community of Mowry's Landing years ago. Mr. Mowry was born in Centerville sixty-seven years ago. He was interested in everything pertaining to the good of the community. He was reelected secretary of the Union Sanitary District without opposition. The people from all the country side were present at the funeral, and the universal mourning over his passing was a loving tribute to the esteem in which he was held. The Rev. Mr. Atwood, rector of the Episcopal Church read the burial service. The ceremonies at the grave were conducted by the Alameda Lodge, F & AM

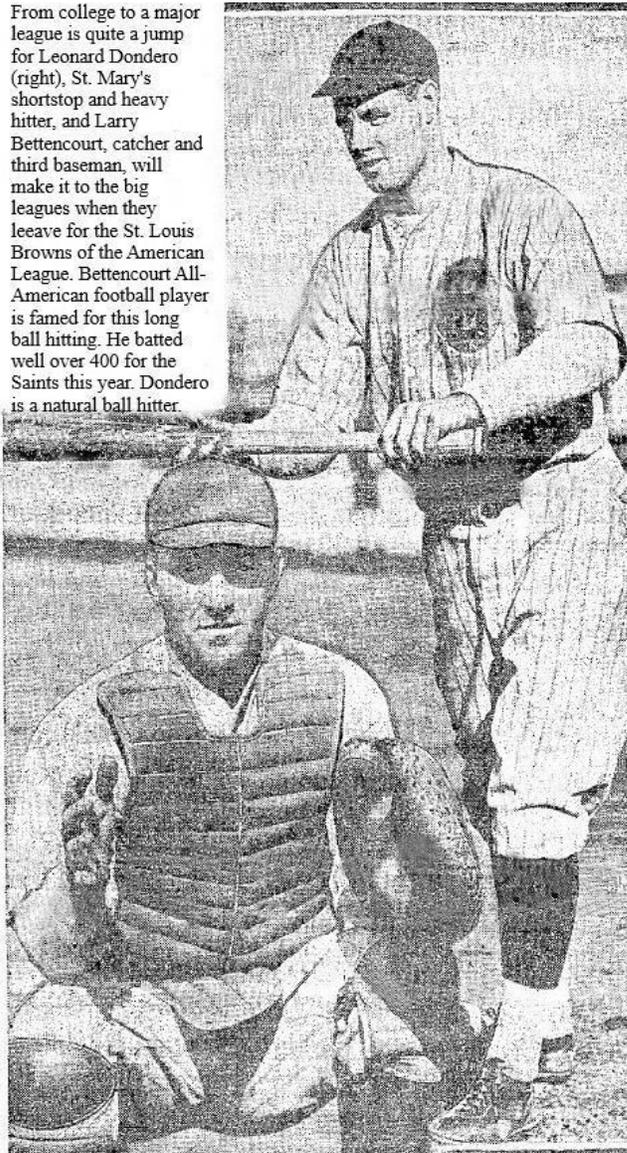
of Centerville of which Mr. Mowry was a member. Joseph left a wife, Elizabeth Mowry and a sister, Mrs. Abbie A. Graybill.

**November 1926:  
Local Elections:**

Both constables from Washington Township will come from Centerville. The two top vote getters in the election of November 1926 were seated as constables. Thomas Silva retains his position while Manuel V. Bernardo took second place and will replace Jack Ramsell of Irvington. In the race for Justice of the Peace in Centerville Allen G. Norris will replace Benjamin C. Mickle.

**1927:  
Local Athletes Make Good:**

From college to a major league is quite a jump for Leonard Dondero (right), St. Mary's shortstop and heavy hitter, and Larry Bettencourt, catcher and third baseman, will make it to the big leagues when they leave for the St. Louis Browns of the American League. Bettencourt All-American football player is famed for this long ball hitting. He batted well over 400 for the Saints this year. Dondero is a natural ball hitter.



Larry Bettencourt and Leonard Dondero, two Washington Township lads who both attended Washington Union High School in Centerville made quite a name for themselves in the pro sport world. Two star athletes, one and All-American, will soon be leaving to embark upon their professional careers. Larry Bettencourt, All-American football center of 1927, and star catcher and third baseman for St. Mary's College will be one of the athletes while Leonard "Buck" Dondero, third baseman and shortstop of the same team is the other. Both players have been signed by the St. Louis Browns of the American League. Larry was given a \$6,000 signing bonus and a contract which will keep him with the Browns for the rest of the season with a neat salary. Bettencourt led the Saints in batting during the recent college conference season, when he hit for an average of .560. Dondero also batted over .500 and lead his team in home runs. Both players hail from Centerville where they attended school together. Each played on the Washington Union High School nine and later entered St. Mary's. It is said the Browns outbid both the St. Louis Cardinals and the Pittsburg Pirates for the services of Bettencourt, the latter team releasing the Saint star from

an agreement giving them first call knowing he had little chance of beating out "Pie" Traynor.

**June 21, 1927:**  
**Centerville Beauty Queen:**



Teas, luncheons, dinners, dances, and theater parties, these are just a few of the things Eastbay girls will be doing in the beauty contest held in San Francisco. The "Week of Beauty," which begins on July 28, 1927, will culminate with a candidate will be picked for the Miss California pageant. One of the first contestants was Miss Gertrude Smith who is Miss Centerville (pictured to the left). Members of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce contributed \$50 to a fund for purchasing new clothes for Miss Smith.

**September 1927:**  
**Duffy Lewis & Velma Francis:**

The engagement of Miss Velma Francis and traffic officer Joseph "Duffy" Lewis was announced in September 1927.

**September 1927:**  
**Miss Gwenevere Reid:**

Miss Gwenevere Reid took over as the Washington Township Health Nurse in September 1927 to replace Miss Lena Shinnick, who will be on a leave of absence for one year as she visits her brother in Hawaii.

**1920 to 1928:**  
**Public Health:**

The Washington Township Health Center received \$200 from the Alameda County Health Center for local expenses in December 1920. This will cover gasoline and other traveling expenses of the local health nurse, Miss Ada Jenson.

Miss Ada Jenson, public health nurse for Washington Township, has had 2,000 slips printed for distribution among the twelve schools of her territory. These slips will be distributed in February 1924 in order to get the parent's signature for giving the toxin, anti-toxin treatment for the prevention of diphtheria. The toxin anti-toxin is to be given in three treatments a week. Diphtheria is a serious disease that takes the lives of the young. In Alvarado Fred Wiegman lost all four of his children to diphtheria in the 1890's. The first treatment was given to 97 children in the Niles Grammar School on February 27, 1924. At the end of March Dr. McWhirter, assisted by Miss Ada Jenson, Mrs. Fred F. Dusterberry and Mrs. G. Norris gave the children of Centerville the third treatment of toxin anti-toxin for diphtheria.

Miss Ada Jenson, Public Health Officer for the Washington Township schools tendered her resignation in June 1924. She had been employed for four years. Her replacement, Miss Annie Scott, stayed until April 1925 when she left for a new assignment in San Francisco.

In June 1925 Miss Lena M. Shinnick was as the Washington Township Public Health Nurse. In September 1927 Miss Shinnick took a hiatus to visit her brother in Honolulu.

In May 1928 Miss Shinnick sailed from Honolulu for San Francisco and would resume her duties as Washington Township Public Nurse on June 1, 1928. Miss Gwenevere Reid replaced Miss Shinnick while she was on her hiatus.

**February 1928:  
Madruga & King:**

Frank Madruga and Ed King were made official brake inspectors of the district in February 1928. White marks were made in the street in front of their garage and tests were given to those requesting them. Compulsory tests will begin as soon as a traffic officer is assigned to the job.

**December 1928:  
Clothes Line Thief:**

In December 1928 Manuel J. Bernardo, Centerville Constable, is warning residents of a clothes line thief, which has been working the area recently. Bernardo is warning housewives not to leave clothing on the lines over night.

**1929:  
Pavement Tax District:**

More than 50% of the abutting property owners on Main Street were signed up for the formation of a paving district in 1929. This would provide strips of concrete pavement on either side of the county road to connect it with the curbs throughout the business district, widening of the pavement so the mud nuisance could be eliminated has been the objective of the Chamber of Commerce.

**February 15, 1929:  
Is Centerville Hick?**

Justice of the Peace Allen G. Norris hurled a figurative bomb into the midst of the weekly Chamber of Commerce luncheon held on February 15, 1929. When the smoke had cleared away his gasping audience realized that a member of the younger generation had had the nerve to brand "Centerville" as a "hick" name, and to urge action to change it to something more appropriate to the progressive spirit of the community.

Judge Norris pointed out that while the town might be the geographical center of Washington Township that this meant nothing to the head of an industry seeking a location. He explained that they "hicks" in humorous stories, numerous vaudeville skits, and motion picture comedies invariably come from "Centerville." No manufacturer, he insisted, would care to brand his goods or place such a home address on his stationary as would competitors an opportunity to ridicule him.

The Eastbay, the judge asserted, is growing rapidly and every community will be forced to grow with it but he insisted that Centerville was laboring under a handicap until a more progressive name is adopted.

In response the Chamber made Judge Norris chairman of a committee by President Frank Dusterberry to look into the matter and suggest further action. Judge Norris has a ballot printed in the local township newspaper asking if the people of Centerville wish to rename their town. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> the Chamber announced that thus far voting had been almost 2 to 1 against changing the name.

**April 1, 1929:  
Benjamin Mickle:**

Judge Benjamin Mickle, former Justice of the Peace, succumbed on April 1, 1929 after a long illness.

**April 1, 1929:**

**Thomas E. Chadbourne:**

Thomas Edgar Chadbourne passed away in Centerville on April 1, 1929. He was prominent member of the community and a member of the Durant F &AM Lodge. He was a native of California aged 59 years. Mr. Chadbourne is survived by his wife Elva Etta Chadbourne.

**May 16, 1929:**

**Mrs. Mary Allen:**

Mrs. Mary Allen, prominent in civic, church, and social affairs in Washington Township for the last 40 years, died at her home in Centerville on May 16, 1929. She was a native of Ohio and came to Centerville about 40 years ago with her husband, the late Dr. Cyrus Allen. She is survived by one son Robert. She was a member of the Orient Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was a member of St. James Episcopal Church.