



West Sacramento Historical Society Newsletter

April/May/June, 2008

www.westsachistoricalsociety.org

Museum and Visitors Center is located at 324 Third Street, West Sacramento (old Broderick district), California 95605.
Open Thursday through Sunday 11 noon-3 p.m. Other hours by appointment, phone (916) 374-1849

Included in this Issue:

- ⇒ **2008 Calendar of events—see Back**
- ⇒ **Partnerships with local groups— see Page 2**
- ⇒ **President's message—page 3**
- ⇒ **Newest WSHS Members—see list on page 3**

PLAN TO ATTEND

Second Saturdays with WS Art Guild at the WSHS Museum

*Community Yard Sale at San Pedro Park
708 North Hobson (Bryte) 8 am to 3 pm
WSHS will have a booth, come and support this annual fundraising*

*Sunday, June 29, 2008
12 noon to 5pm
San Pedro Portuguese Picnic at San Pedro Park—pick up a discount dinner ticket at the WSHS Museum*

WS City Engineers Working With WSHS to place Lincoln Highway Markers!



Several years ago, the WSHS arranged for a Lincoln Highway marker to be placed near the Davis Causeway in recognition of America's First Coast-to-Coast Highway that connected NY Times Square to San Francisco. Three additional markers have been waiting for placement to be determined by the redoing of West Capitol Ave. WS City engineer Namat Hosseinion informed the historical society that in Phase I of their project, a LH marker will be placed in the landscaped area perpendicular to Garden Street this summer. In Phase II & III, the two additional markers will be placed, one at the median near Sycamore and the other at the intersection of Harbor and West Capitol. This plan was highly approved by the WSHS leadership. Go to www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org for more information about Lincoln Highway or watch Viewfinder "Street Signs" special on KVIE (TV6) Tuesday, April 9 at 7 pm.

"Our Journey"

A New WSHS Exhibit May to December, 2008

The Latino exhibit "Our Journey" is the second in a series of future exhibitions at the WSHS Museum highlighting the various cultures comprising West Sacramento. The first such exhibit focused on "The Sikhs of West Sacramento". The new display will explore and honor the richness of the Latino community by identifying Latino families, individuals, social organizations and businesses that help define our community.

"Why did Latinos' settle in West Sacramento? " Did they immigrate from Mexico and Central America or did they immigrate from other states during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression periods?" "How many generations of families remain here?"

These and other questions will be answered in this exhibit which opens in early May 2008. Watch for the special WSHS postcard with details of the opening reception and plan to attend.

Community Partnerships Established—a report by Jim Brewer, Interim Museum Director

After many meetings and discussions, WSHS is proud to announce a listing of several non-profit organizations that are now part of the WSHS Partnership. Special events and cooperative activities have and will continue to take place to serve the needs of both the organizations' memberships and the West Sacramento Community. Some of the groups already involved are:

- ◆ West Sacramento Art Guild is now sharing space at the WSHS Museum with a display of original art.
- ◆ West Sacramento Community Theater is planning to develop historical short plays.
- ◆ West Sacramento Senior Center assists with recycling fund-raising and sends a rep to planning meetings.
- ◆ Friends of The Library are working with WSHS to micro-film 14 years of past issues of News Ledger.
- ◆ City of the Dharma Realm Buddhist sisters recently provided a 2 hour tour of the old El Rancho Hotel which they own and are renovating with plans to open a public vegetarian restaurant soon.
- ◆ Yolo County Historical Society holds a joint meeting each February with WSHS and provides very interesting historical speakers and/or programs, see photo below of the presenters from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) who projects include finding/registering graves of UW Veterans.
- ◆ Soroptimist Club provided financial support for last year's Women' exhibit.
- ◆ San Pedro Association is providing free space at the May 3rd Community Yard Sale and discounted BBQ dinner tickets for the June 29th 86th Annual Portuguese Picnic at San Pedro Park.
- ◆ Western Railway Museum was supporter of the Sacramento Northern Electric Railroad exhibit.
- ◆ Yolo County Women's History Committee organizes a yearly luncheon on Women's History Day.
- ◆ Turner Library has an exhibit about local women who made history in the West Sacramento area.

Many of our WSHS members also belong to one or more of the above organizations, consider getting involved in the above!



WSHS Society Fire Apparatus Committee is restoring three fire trucks - shown below are the two that are running when they participated in the WS Neighbors Fair parade.



Make 2008 Your Year To VOLUNTEER!

Did you know that our society formed almost 15th years ago is run entirely by volunteers? Not one person has been paid to serve in any position and many have served in official offices since the beginning! The society **needs your help** keeping the museum open for 4 hours a day for 4 days a week—stop by and sign up to be a volunteer docent once or twice a month!

From the President:

Why does this organization spend so much volunteer effort to keep the museum open, develop thematic exhibitions to spotlight various ethnic cultures comprising West Sacramento or develop other historical displays? Why do we encourage historic preservation? Why do we collect, document, preserve and interpret the history surrounding East Yolo and West Sacramento? Why do we work with the local school district to teach elementary students the history of West Sacramento? Why do we spend countless volunteer hours developing newsletters, writing and submitting articles to the news media, developing and managing the web site, developing outreach educational programs, becoming active as docents, working on committees, becoming board members or struggling to keep three old fire engines from being scrap metal? **If we do not, then who will?** September 2008 will mark the 15th year of the West Sacramento Historical Society, fifteen-years of dedicated volunteers! Thank you to all of those who have volunteered over the years, this organization would not exist without you.

Since the last newsletter, progress remains slow on the Lisbon Avenue firehouse in Bryte. However, the bright side is that it appears the project will be going to city council sometime in April. If approved, this site will become our base of operations, collections, research and fire apparatus storage and maintenance. If you are interesting in helping with this move and operations, please contact me at 372-7438.

We will again participate in the Community Yard Sale at the San Pedro Park. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, May 3, 2008. As of now, the types of sales to be made have not been determined. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cecilia at 372-7438. Profits from past fund raising has been used for the three fire trucks.

After months of fundraising, through the support of the West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce and the City of West Sacramento, we are getting closer to purchasing and installing the State Historic Landmark plaque commemorating the salmon cannery. The designated marker is No. 1040. This bronze plaque will be the first state historic landmark in West Sacramento. The site selected will be on the River Walk near the north corner of the ziggurat building. More details will available in the next newsletter.

Thank you for being a member of the West Sacramento Historical Society.

NEWEST WSHS MEMBERS ARE (in alpha order): Buena Vista Rancheria, Jesus & Carole Garcia, Harlow's Westside Motorcycles, Joanne Kilgos, Morris Kosakura, Jeff Loftus, George Roehr, Barbara Smith, Diane & Darrell Smith, Kathleen Stinton, Susan Solomon and Jennifer Vasquez.



In Memorial—Bill Fister, a Bryte old-timer

Submitted by Mickey Fausett

The first time I met Bill was in 2005 when he showed up at the museum with Norm Miller, another old-timer from Bryte. Bill had been living in North Carolina for several years, but tried to get back to Bryte at least once a year. One other time Bill showed up at the museum with Joe Guerrero, another former Bryte resident. Joe lives in North Dakota and they would coordinate their vacations to come out here. Bill, on occasion, would call Lana Paulhamus, retired Museum Director, just to "check in". On one of Bill's visits, we taped a video of him and Norm Miller reminiscing.

Bill was a musician, playing in his father's band and later his own, using many of the music arrangements and scores written by his father. There is a picture of his band in the James Marshall 1955 Yearbook playing for a dance at the school. Bill's band, included Sonny and Babe Gonsalves, played for many years at the San Pedro Annual Festival Saturdays' evening dances. In his spare time, Bill was also a Scoutmaster for Bryte's Boy Scout Troop. Whenever I see the bright yellow house on the corner of Carrie Street and Bryte Avenue, I'll remember Bill. My mother, Joanne told me the cutest story about him putting a mudpack on a bee sting when they were little kids. Two weeks ago I made a call to Bill requesting some of his old News Ledger newspapers. I talked to his wife who said he passed away during heart surgery two days before on March 11, 2008.

**WEST SACRAMENTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM AND VISITORS CENTER**

WWW.WESTSACHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

Located at 324 Third Street (old Broderick district)
West Sacramento, California 95605 Open Thursdays
through Sundays 11 am to 3 pm Phone 916 374 1849

Mailing Address: Box 1202
West Sacramento, California 95691

The WSHS Board revised the annual membership dues policy to read that all memberships will be renewed annually starting in January, 2008. If you have joined or renewed in the last three months (since October 2007) your next renewal date will be January, 2009. All other memberships must be renewed as soon as possible. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, 10% discount in the museum's gift shop as well as personal invitations to special events.

Categories:

Individual - \$17.50 Couple - \$22.50

Senior(65+)- \$11.50 Couple - \$16.50

Business - \$50.00 Corporation - \$100.00

Mail a check with your current address including email to WSHS, P.O. Box 1202, West Sacramento, California 95691.

OR pay online with Visa, MasterCard or American Express at www.westsachhistoricalsociety.org

2007 WSHS Board/Officers & Committee Chairs

President - Thom Lewis phone 372-7438
(thoml4@earthlink.net)

1st Vice President - Mickey Fausett phone
372-5036 (mickeySAC@aol.com)

**2nd Vice President & Interim Museum
Director** - Jim Brewer phone 617-
2288 (jbrewer@webserviceswest.com)

Treasurer - Interim Mickey Fausett

Secretary - Sharon Freitas, phone 421 5768
(safreitas@aol.com)

Member-at-Large - Martha Mills phone 373
1892 (marthamills@charter.net)

Past President - Mark Johannessen
(mfjlaw@gmail.com) phone 371-0661

Historical Society Chair - Jeri Hughes-
Wingfield (jeriwingfield@sbcglobal.net)
phone 371-7678

Newsletter - Sharon A. Freitas phone
421-5768 (safreitas@aol.com)

April/May/June, 2008 events:

- ◆ April 8 (Tuesday) Executive Board meeting,
5:30 pm at WSHS Museum
- ◆ April 12 (Saturday) Art Guild at WSHS Museum
- ◆ May 3 (Saturday) Community Yard Sale at San Pedro
Park 8 am to 3 pm, WSHS will sponsor booth, need
buyers and sellers! Call 421-5768 for details!
- ◆ May 10 (Saturday) Art Guild at WSHS Museum
- ◆ May 13 (Tuesday) Executive Board Meeting
5:30 pm at WSHS Museum
- ◆ May ? - Tentative Opening of new exhibit
"Our Journey" a Latino story! Watch for a WSHS
postcard with details.
- ◆ June 10 (Tuesday) Executive Board Meeting
5:30 pm at Museum
- ◆ June 14 (Saturday) Art Guild at WSHS Museum
- ◆ June 29 (Sunday) San Pedro Festa at San Pedro Park,
Bryte—noon to 4 pm—Service, dinner, silent auction,
raffle and historical display! Pick up discount dinner
ticket from WSHS Museum San Pedro display!

Check the WSHS website for changes, updates and/or
additional events scheduled.

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