

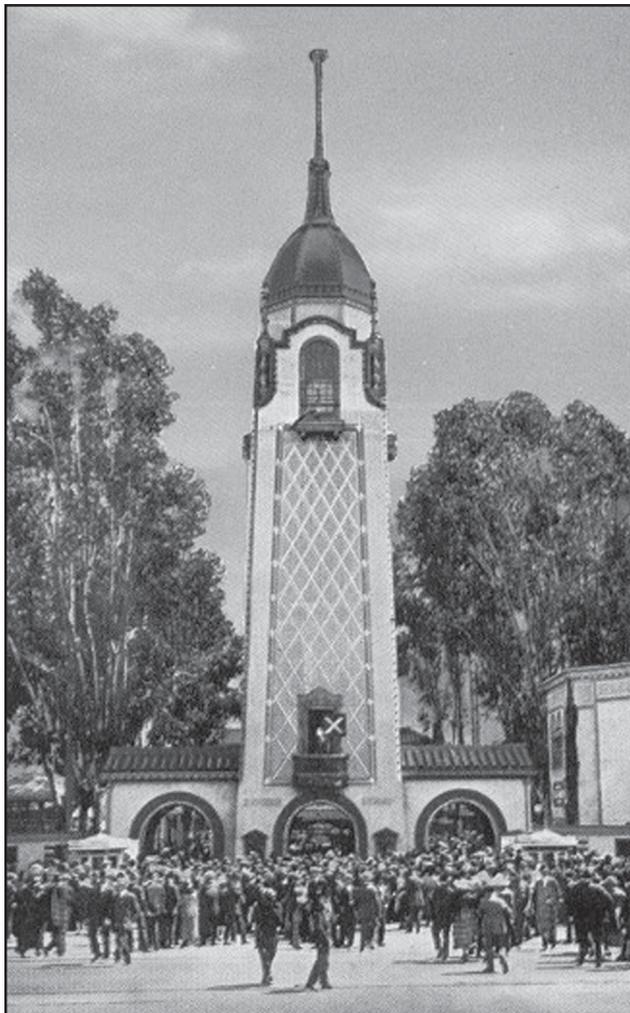
# The Alameda Museum

## Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XLV

Winter, 2006

Numbers 3&4



*Grand Opening of the Neptune Beach Exhibit, and more...*

## **2005 Directors**

Diane Coler-Dark - President	Judith Lynch - Vice President
Sharon Giovannoli - Recording Secretary	Ken Carvalho - Treasurer
Robbie Dileo - Corresponding Secretary	Chuck Millar
Nancy Anderson	Estelle Knowland
Gina Mariani	Ginger Schuler
Janice Cantu	Curator: George Gunn

## **Table of Contents**

<i>From the Curator's Desk</i>	3
<i>Onward &amp; Upward</i>	4
<i>Membership Luncheon Invitation</i>	5
<i>Meet Your Monuments (Historical Advisory Board Report)</i>	6
<i>The Latest Acquisition at the Meyers House</i>	7
<i>Neptune Beach - a New Museum Exhibit</i>	8
<i>Docents</i>	10
<i>Items for Sale</i>	10
<i>Robbie Dileo - 15 Years of Volunteering (and counting)</i>	11
<i>Alameda Museum Lecture Series</i>	12
<i>100 Years Ago in Alameda</i>	14
<i>Museum Event Schedule</i>	15
<i>Gift Membership Application</i>	15

### ***The Alameda Museum Quarterly Newsletter***

is published in the spring, summer, fall, and winter of each year by the  
Communications Staff of the Alameda Museum,  
2324 Alameda Avenue, Alameda, California 94501  
Telephone 510-521-1233  
Website: [www.alamedamuseum.org](http://www.alamedamuseum.org)

### **Museum Hours**

Wednesday - Friday	1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Saturday	11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday	1:30 pm - 4:00pm

### **Communications Staff**

Contributors - George Gunn, Diane Coler-Dark, Judith Lynch, Archie Waterbury  
Editor - Gordon Newell                      Proofreaders - Robbie Dileo, Tracy Manio



## From the Curator's Desk

On October 22nd, a catered reception was held for the opening of the Neptune Beach exhibit. An invitational event, it was attended by Mayor Beverly Johnson and 60 guests.

The exhibit was the culmination of three years of research by Chuck Millar, guest curator. He was ably assisted by Robbie Dileo, designer, and Judith Lynch, caption creator. The display is a pronounced success. The focal points being the ostrich carousel figure and the hand-painted roller coaster car.

We had an excellent home tour in September, not only artistically, but financially. Those who participated from the Board and membership are to be commended for its success. Nine lovely homes were shown, and they eloquently illustrated pride of ownership.

Thanks to offers made by Betty Sewell and Ann Bracci, the Museum held profitable estate sales. The sales have become a significant source of income to defray operating costs, etc. Diane Coler-Dark and I are always looking for items for silent auction prizes at our annual luncheon. Please think of us when you discover something at home you no longer want and think suitable for the auction. You can call Diane (523-5907) and she will be happy to accept them.

2005 has been a productive year for the museum: a significant new exhibit, the production of two great films (the 1939 World's Fair video and the Neptune Beach DVD), profitable estate sales (including the Garrett Mansion), increased revenue in the gift shop, increased attendance at the Meyers House, great publicity, a wonderful home tour, and many donations to the gift shop and to the Museum collection.

We are truly fortunate.

*George Gunn, Museum Curator*

### LUQUE'S

UPHOLSTERING  
Since 1925

510 521-2100

1532 Park Street, Alameda, CA 94501

### Ilse I. Harpe

THE CANING PLACE

CANE-RUSH-WICKER-DANISH CORD

CHAIR REPAIRING & REFINISHING

(510) 522-3010

(510) 522-3003 FAX

1910 Clement Street

Alameda, CA 94501

ilseharpe@comcast.net



## *Onward & Upward*

News and Updates

*from our* Museum President

The September Alameda Legacy Home Tour (ALHT) was the best in many years. Thanks in part to your new Quarterly editor **Gordon Newell** who got an article in the San Francisco Chronicle, ticket sales went off the chart. The Museum's proceeds, after being split with the AAPS, were a wee bit over \$10,000. The **Docents' Party**, after the event, consisted of an abundance of great food and wine, coordinated by **Tracy Manio** and **Connie Carvalho**. Think about volunteering in 2006. Docents' **Home Tour Tickets** are free, and your docent badge puts you in front of any line (plus you are wined and dined at the end of the day). Call me if you would like to have a fun time with good people and support the Museum. 523-5907.

The **Neptune Beach Exhibit** opened with style; what else would you expect from the Museum? It was a catered event with bubbly flowing for invited guests only, including **Museum Docents**, **Meyers House Guild** members, City officials, and press. We want to thank **Jim Strehlow**, grandson of the owner and operator of Neptune Beach, for his generous contribution to the event.

Cutting the ribbon was Jim Strehlow and **Estelle Knowland**, granddaughter of Joseph Knowland, who originally cut the ribbon to open Neptune Beach. Estelle just happens to be a member of your Museum Board of Directors. **Chuck Millar** recognized the symbolism and orchestrated the ribbon cutting. For those of you who do not know, Chuck is the innovator and tireless worker for over 2 years who researched and put this exhibit together. He and his sidekick **Robbie Dileo** spent umpteen hours on the staging and presentation. The Neptune Beach exhibit is the most successful and well-attended that the Museum has ever had. Since its opening for the public on October 23, Museum attendance is at an all-time high. Most gratifying is the fact that people stay and spend time going through the exhibit. When we say all Board members are working members, Chuck stands out as an exemplar of a "working member."

Thanks to all Museum members who responded to the nominations of election of Museum Board members. The slate of Nancy Anderson, Janice Cantu, Ken Carvalho, Diane Coler-Dark, Robbie Dileo, Sharon Giovannoli, Estelle Knowland, Judith Lynch, Chuck Millar, Gina Mariani, and Ginger Schuler were unanimously elected.

*(Museum News, continued)*

Museum bylaws were written to allow members, not just the Board, to nominate Board members, and this is a vital part of the bylaws, to avoid in the future problems of the past. Bylaws require an election every year at an expense to the museum. A bylaw review committee has been formed to consider changing nominations and elections to every two years, rather than yearly, allowing the Board to re-define standing committees and eliminating redundant verbage. If any member is interested in being part of this committee, we welcome your input. The goal is to reduce 24 pages of bylaws into a cohesive document that people can refer to. Anyone wanting to participate in this revision process should please call me at 523-5907.

In November, we had an Estate Sale, thanks to Gallagher & Lindsey's **Ann Bracci**, a Museum supporter who had the listing. You know **Robbie Dileo**'s mantra, "Trash into cash." The sale wasn't a high yielder (a profit of \$1000), but we did get some residual sales for the gift shop. The sale was manned by your Board for 2 days, with **Ross Dileo** as our pricer, wheeler-dealer of tools. It all adds to the coffers.

We thank Jim Korn for all of his dedication, editing the Museum Quarterly for the past 10 years. He will still volunteer as a docent, but he and his beautiful wife Paula want to be free to travel without adjusting their trips to the publication schedule.

Heads up! Send in your reservation for the Annual Membership Luncheon. Our Silent Auction is known for the best buys on all kinds of good stuff, new and old.

*Diane Coler-Dark, Museum President*

### ***Celebrate Spring with the Alameda Museum***

Our annual luncheon and installation of new Directors takes place Saturday, March 18, 2006, in the Masonic Hall above the Museum, 4th floor, 2312 Alameda Avenue. The no-host social hour and silent auction\* start at noon; a Southern baked chicken luncheon follows at 1:00 pm. These festivities are open to the public; bring your friends and neighbors and encourage them to join the Museum!

Please reply by mail by March 10 or call 523-5907 to have your tickets held at the door. Send your check for \$15 per person along with your name(s) and phone number to the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets at \$15 each \_\_\_\_\_\*\*  
Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* We need silent auction items. Please call 523-5907 for pick up.

\*\* Member docents: You will be complimentary guests of the Directors, who appreciate your efforts on behalf of the Museum. Please let us know if you will attend.

## Meet Your Monuments *content and photo by Judith Lynch*

The Historical Advisory Board (HAB), which includes Museum Board members Nancy Anderson and Judith Lynch, was founded to help us protect and celebrate the many historic resources on the Island. One function of the HAB is to designate structures of overarching historic and architectural importance as “**Monuments.**” Alameda has about two dozen, ranging from the Park Street Historic District to an Italianate house in the West End. In each issue of the Museum Quarterly we will report on one of our Monuments, this time the historic Alameda Theater.

### *Our Cinematic Xanadu - the Historic Alameda Theater:*

In the 1930s, before television was invented, elaborate theaters were built and nicknamed “Movie Palaces.” A grand example is here, the Alameda Theater on Central Avenue, and it is official city **Monument Number 2**. Its opening in 1932 was a gala party, where California Governor “Sunny Jim” Rolph told the crowd, “Here in Alameda, through foresight, faith, and confidence, you have the best in entertainment.” His speech was followed by the film *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*. The last movie was shown in the 1970s, after which the building housed a roller rink, a disco, and a gymnasium. It has suffered neglect, water damage, and careless remodeling, but it still has good bones.

The City of Alameda plans to restore the gorgeous Art Deco style building. The auditorium of the old theater will screen films, and its entrance will become the gateway to a new Cineplex on the corner of Central and Oak.



*A mermaid astride a hippocampus  
inside the Alameda Theater.*

The charm and delightful details of the old place still captivate. “I went there as a boy, and I thought it was the most palatial movie palace in the world,” said Robb Ratto, Executive Director of the Park Street Business Association (PSBA). “My ticket was the entrance to a whole new world, with plush carpets, gold leaf, and a lobby ceiling that never quit. It was right out of 1001 Arabian Nights!”

---

### *Other HAB business - our last remaining train station:*

The HAB also reviews the status of other historic properties. A pending case involves the last remaining station of the Southern Pacific coast Railroad, the Fifth Street Station at 500 Central Avenue. The tale of this property is remarkable - originally constructed in San Francisco, it was purchased by Martin Kanney (a fireman who stoked the boiler on the steamship *Newark*), and hauled here over the water (as documented in the March 17, 1886 edition of the *Alameda Argus*). Members of the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS) discovered that much of the building had been demolished, and the City Building Department brought the work to a halt, waiting for January review by the HAB.

## *The Latest Meyers House Acquisition - a Rare Miniature Sidelock Dresser*

---

Future visitors to Alameda's only house museum are in for a treat. A miniature Victorian chest-of-drawers was recently donated to the Alameda Museum, and it will have a permanent home in the second floor child's bedroom at the Meyers House. This dresser is American, from the 1880's, made of walnut, and is similar in style and period to many of the pieces of furniture already in the Meyers house (furniture that the Meyers family brought with them when they had the Colonial Revival house built in 1897).

Sidelock dressers were popular during the Victorian time period, featuring a vertical wooden panel along one side that opens on hinges, but can lock closed with a key. When locked, none of the drawers can be opened. This particular example also includes a mirror on top.

But what makes this piece so rare is the *size*. It was made for a child's bedroom, or it might have been a salesman's sample, which could easily be hauled from town to town on a salesman's wagon, along with miniature examples of other merchandise that could be ordered. "I have never seen a miniature sidelock dresser before," says Alameda Museum Curator George Gunn.



*Museum Curator George Gunn admires the recently-donated sidelock chest of drawers.*

The dresser was donated by Dolores Peterson, a former Alameda resident who lived in a Victorian home on Buena Vista Avenue, near Edison school. She now lives in Oregon, but decided that the dresser would be appreciated back in Alameda, where she originally purchased it.



The Meyers House and Garden, at 2021 Alameda Avenue, built in 1897, was owned by architect Henry Meyers, who designed many local structures, including the Posey Tube/portal entrance. The house is open for tours the fourth Saturday of each month. Admission is \$3 per person. For information, call 510-521-1247.

## *“Coney Island of the West” - A New Museum Exhibit*



There was a grand-opening celebration on October 22 for the highly-anticipated Neptune Beach exhibit, which opened to the public on Sunday, October 23. The exhibit was organized by Museum Board member Chuck Millar, and sponsored by the Perforce Software Foundation (<http://www.perforce.com>)

When Chuck joined the Museum Board, he wanted to create an exhibit on something from the early 20th century to complement the existing Victorian-era exhibits in the Museum, and as Chuck says, “Everybody loves Neptune Beach”. Neptune Beach was once referred to as the “Coney Island of the West,” and it was a popular destination for people from all over the Bay Area from the time it opened in 1917 until it closed in 1939, after ferry service to Alameda was stopped.

The exhibit includes many photographs, starting with the large tower that once marked the entrance to the park, organized on boards that discuss the park’s creation and focus on different aspects of the park, including the rides, the beach and swimming pools, the concessions, the old movie theater, and promotions that were used to attract people to the park. Some relics from the park are also on display, as well as the patent for the popsicle, which was invented at Neptune Beach.



*Jim Strehlow, grandson of Robert Strehlow, hands the scissors to Estelle Knowland.*

Robert Strehlow, the park’s builder, was also involved in the 1915 Panama-Pacific World’s Fair in San Francisco. Joseph R. Knowland, a prominent local businessman and political figure, presided over the original grand-opening of the park in 1917. To commemorate that great event in Alameda history, the grandchildren of those two men - Jim Strehlow and Museum Board member Estelle Knowland, performed the ribbon-cutting at the Museum’s new exhibit.



*The crowds browse the photos. To see everything usually requires more than one visit.*

cousin Archie Bowles had a piece of one of the “Green Dragon” roller coaster cars, which he loaned for the exhibit.

The ultimate artifact that Chuck hoped to display would be one of the Dentzel carousel animals, but after the park was closed, the carousel was moved into storage at Playland in San Francisco, where it was damaged in a fire, and the whereabouts of the animals were mostly unknown after that. Then someone contacted the Museum asking whether they would be interested in purchasing an ostrich from Neptune Beach. Her father had purchased it in the early 1970’s, and had restored it because it was fire-damaged. She was generous enough to loan the ostrich for the exhibit. The Museum is still researching the authenticity, and will try to raise money to purchase it if it really is an actual Neptune Beach artifact.

Most of the photos came from the museum’s collection and from old newspaper articles and ads in the Museum’s archive copies of the *Alameda Times-Star* (acquired with help from Bill Galli). Other photos and postcards were loaned from private collections, including some from Nancy Swanson, whose grandfather was the operator of the roller coaster (the “scenic railway”). In a stroke of luck, Nancy’s



*Judith Lynch, researcher and caption-writer, takes a break to flirt with the bartender.*



*Chuck Millar, exhibit organizer, poses with photo-wizard Robbie Dileo.*

Two people who put an enormous amount of time into the exhibit were Judith Lynch and Robbie Dileo. In addition to writing the entertaining and informative captions, Judith did quite a bit of research. And Robbie sorted through over 300 photographs, and spent many hours digitizing, editing, enlarging, and printing them.

of the Museum’s permanent collection. Souvenirs from the exhibit are available at the Museum gift shop, including a panoramic poster and a DVD documentary of Neptune Beach by Jeannette Copperwaite.

The exhibit will be on display through the Spring of 2006, at which point a scaled-down version will become part

## Docents Preserving the Past for the Future

Nancy Anderson	Sharon Giovannoli	Bob McPeak
Lou Baca	Cecily Gipson	Honora Murphy
Barbara Balderson	George Gunn	Frank Nelson
Marge Blaha	Leslie Hawksbee	Trish Nelson
Katherine Cavanaugh	Debra Hilding	Darlene Pottsgeiser
Diane Coler-Dark	Lois Hoffman	Marjory Quant
Charles Daly	Julie Kennedy	Virginia Rivera
Robbie Dileo	Estelle Knowland	Betty Saunders
Ross Dileo	Jim Korn	Betty Sewell
Anna Dugan	Flora Larson	Lois Singley
Joan Dykema	Barbara Lewis	Diane Solo
Carrie Erickson	Gayle Macaitis	Wanda Thatcher
June Feder	Carla McGrogan	Ellen Tilden
Donnie Fehn	Jim McGrogan	Clara Tweelinckx
Jeanne Gallagher	Joanne McKay	Joe Young
Barbara Gibson		

The Museum is grateful to the many docents who generously volunteer their time. We are in need of a ***Docent Chairperson***, to contact docents and encourage new recruits. Most duties can be done from home over the telephone, and training is available. If you are interested, please contact Diane Coler-Dark at 523-5907.

---

### Museum Gift Shop

Be sure to visit the Museum gift shop for an ever-changing selection of collectible items. The new book on Alameda (part of the ***Postcard History Series***) by Greta Dutcher and Stephen Rowland is available at the Museum, and you can also pick up a souvenir ***panoramic poster of Neptune Beach*** and the ***Neptune Beach DVD***.

The Museum, a non-profit organization, is available to manage ***estate sales***, with the proceeds benefiting the Alameda Museum Improvement Fund. For details, contact Diane Coler-Dark at 510-523-5907

---

#### *ANTIQUe ITEMS FOR SALE:*

2'8" X 6'8" 4-Panel Victorian Doors (left hand) - 3 at \$50 each  
2'8" X 6'8" 4-Panel Victorian Door (right hand) - \$50

1 pink toilet circa 1940's with matching sink - \$100

*Please call Ken at 510-522-5891*

 License No. B380376	<b>Ken Carvalho</b> <i>Chief Estimator</i>
	768 Stewart Court Alameda, CA 94501 Telephone 510-523-1925 x206 Facsimile 510-523-2085 Mobile 510-381-3527 Email <a href="mailto:kenc@buestad.com">kenc@buestad.com</a> Web <a href="http://www.buestad.com">www.buestad.com</a>

## *Robbie Dileo - an amazing 15 years, and still going...*



The Alameda Museum is an organization that depends on its volunteers. One of the most dedicated of those volunteers is Board member Robbie Dileo. In addition to working on the Neptune Beach exhibit, she has held several key positions in the Museum, including Vice-President, President, and Secretary, as well as Chair of docents.

Formerly from Oakland, Robbie first discovered her love of Victorian homes when she married Ross Dileo in 1987. Giving up an accounting position in San Francisco, she spent the next three years getting the main floor and basement finished in their 1885 Eastlake home. After her son Andrew was born, Robbie saw some information in the local newspaper about the Alameda Museum's move to its new (current) location, and she thought this would be a good way to meet some new friends in Alameda. "Silly me," muses Robbie, "I figured on using my construction skills, and instead found myself on the Board as a Director with membership responsibility in 1991/92."

Robbie's take-charge attitude resulted in getting the Museum doors opened with a design that she and George Gunn developed, with board support, and some much-appreciated labor by Bill Galli. Robbie was also involved in the opening of the Meyers House. Ever since her home was featured in the 1992 home tour, Robbie has been a driving force to make the tour successful year after year. Among many other tasks, she created a website for the Alameda Legacy Home Tour. She helped produce the first museum video - *Alameda-An Island City*, and has been instrumental in bringing income to the museum through the gift shop and estate sales.

Reflecting on the past 15 years, Robbie adds, "My museum life has brought me wonderful friendships, causing me to learn about computers, websites, advertising, digital photographs, and estate/garage sales." These experiences have translated into her business life as **damsel\_d consulting** (damsel\_d@pacbell.net), available for accounting, home renovation, home inventory evaluations, and general business help for short duration projects.

Robbie feels that Alameda history has drawn her into the community, and she feels lucky to be here. She encourages others to find the same satisfaction by becoming museum members to "preserve the past for the future." When asked what future museum project tantalizes her most, Robbie's enthusiastic reply is, "BRING ON THE CARNEGIE as the future home of the Alameda Museum. It needs my talents, and I am going to get too old to do the work if it takes another 10 years."

## **Alameda Museum Lecture Series - Stellar Lineup for 2006**

*by Judith Lynch*

We are thrilled to announce yet another year of fascinating talks on Alameda history, culture, transportation, and architecture. The last lecture of 2005 was a sellout: Western Railroad Museum trolley operator Bruce Singer and Alameda ferry fan and author-photo archivist Grant Ute collaborated to show how transportation influenced the development of Alameda. The two gents unearthed so many images and such a glut of information that they turned the material into two talks. "Ride the Red Cars," their second effort, is the first of our 2006 lectures.

**Lecture #1 - Ride the Red Cars** - February 23, 2006, by Bruce Singer and Grant Ute

Lincoln and Encinal-Central Avenues share an intriguing history. Both thoroughfares are extra wide, and both are marked every few blocks by signs heralding various "stations." The streets were broad to accommodate railroad tracks down the middle, and train stations used to be located where the signs stand today. Both lines ran to the West End, where they connected to boats that steamed to the San Francisco Ferry Building in under 30 minutes. So you could walk out of your Alameda house to a nearby station, catch a train, then board a ferry and be at your downtown office in less than an hour. Imagine if we still had that system today!



*One of the 'red trains' on Park Street in 1909.  
Source: Historic Commercial Buildings of Alameda*

The early train tracks helped spur the residential and commercial development of Alameda. Along their routes, major builders and architects, including Joseph Leonard and Marcuse & Rimmel, built entire tracts of Victorian homes. Clusters of stores and other commercial uses grew up around the stations. Many San Franciscans moved here, enticed by the felicitous climate and the ease of commuting, thus expanding the population on the Island.

Bruce Singer grew up in Southern California in the days of Pacific Electric interurban railway system. He finally earned his motorman uniform, volunteering for the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association, after a temporary 50-year stint as a lawyer.

Grant Ute is a first-generation Alamedan whose grandfather was fired and blacklisted as one of the leaders of a 1900 strike against the San Francisco Market Street Railway. Since retirement, he helped found the Friends of the San Francisco Railway Archive, and he is a coauthor of *The San Francisco Market Street Railway* (Arcadia Publishing, 2004).

**Lecture #2 - (Somewhat) Ancient Images Unearthed - March 30, by George Gunn**

According to longtime Curator George Gunn, for many years the Alameda Museum (née Historical Society) was squeezed into cramped quarters in the basement of the Carnegie Library. “The space was so minute that people were inclined to donate small items such as pictures,” he said. “Thus we have more than 4,000 images of old time Alameda, our people, our streets, our buildings, our parks, and even our indiscretions!” He has combed through thousands of negatives to prepare “The Museum Archives Revealed,” the best images from the all the bins, boxes, and trunks that contain the photo archives.

Musing on his devotion to both the Museum and the Island, George said, “I have been Curator since 1971; soon my reign will rival that of Queen Victoria, who sat on the throne for 64 years. You know the Queen assumes the body for two hours each April when she attends the ‘Kids & Queen Victoria’ show in our gallery. She looks wonderful, and I only hope that I can eventually look as good in lavender. One benefit from a lengthy tenure: I have outlasted or outlived even my most determined adversaries. My fondest wish now is that we score a permanent home, where both the Museum and our Cultural Center/Art Gallery can expand our services to the people of Alameda.”

Additional Alameda Museum Lectures in 2006:

**April 27: Melisa Gadreau and Chris Verplanck**, architectural historians from Page & Turnbull, will make a PowerPoint presentation about the former Naval Air Station, “Alameda Point: History in Action.”

**May 18: Colette Collester** again takes us to France when she focuses on the artist Claude Monet “The Anxious Observer of the Difference of Minutes.”

**June 29: Glassmaster Ken Matthias** presents new images of historical glass on the Island, “Glass Act Redux.”

**July 27: Local author and historian Woody Minor** presents “Joseph Leonard: Architect,” a slide celebration of Minor’s book *Leonardville Heritage Area*.

**August 31: Paul Roberts** returns with an investigation into the work of the Newsom Brothers, prominent Bay Area architects who designed the magnificent Carson Mansion in Eureka.

**September 28: Architect Richard Rutter** presents “Steamboating on San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento Delta from 1850 through 1950.”

*All lectures take place at the Alameda Museum at 7:00 p.m., admission is free for Museum members, \$5 for others. For information leave a message at 510.748.0796.*

## 100 YEARS AGO IN ALAMEDA

*As Seen in the Daily Encinal of 1905, researched by Archie Waterbury*

Another circus has come to town - Barnum and Bailey, truly the "Greatest Show on Earth," a spectacle that dwarfed all of its predecessors (1,300 employees, 30 elephants). There was no parade, but a crowd gathered to watch the cars unload in the early morning. Tents were pitched on the Waymire Grounds at Buena Vista and Walnut. A free show was given in the afternoon, and the Board of Education, having learned its lesson the previous year, closed all the schools at noon. The "dazzling" evening show, in the 14,000-capacity "Big Top," attracted 9,000 paying customers, according to the *Encinal*.

"The life-saving kite, invention of Dr. F.W. Riehl of 1521 St. Charles Street, which many people claimed unfeasible and impractical, proved the means of saving 17 lives when a British steamship went ashore off the South Carolina coast."

"Webster Street, that across the marsh roadway, is at last to receive its baptism of petroleum. Oil for the troubled roadway has been needed for some time," said the *Encinal*. Street Superintendent V.M. Frodden has given the contract for the oiling to Cotton Bros. Previously, the fluid was bought and laid by the city.

Cotton Bros. are also constructing a big bulkhead on the estuary just west of the Webster Street Bridge, preliminary to the establishment of a large lumber mill on the site. "Before ten months are past," said the *Encinal*, "it may be confidently asserted that many enterprises will be underway on the Alameda waterfront. The city owns nearly 1,000 feet of waterfront, thanks to the foresight of former City Attorney E.K. Taylor, who secured it for the city in a deal with the railroad, and it is believed that within a short space of time this holding will be worth fully \$200,000."

The City Trustees have set a tax rate for the coming year at \$1.28, a ten-cent reduction from the previous year. The new rate is expected to raise \$162,250 for municipal purposes.

The Alameda Business College, which has achieved a signal success since its founding three years ago, is changing hands. Mrs. L.I. Hartford has sold the school to the Messrs. Dixon and Bridges, who are also proprietors of the Dixon College in Oakland.

The Union Bank & Trust Co., is opening a new bank at the northeast corner of Santa Clara and Park Street. C.F. Seeger will be the cashier, and a number of well-known Alamedans will serve on the advisory board. "The institution promises to prove a financial success."

The Board of Education was finding difficulties in enforcing the new California state law on Compulsory Education, which states that parents may be arrested if their children are not in public schools, unless they can furnish satisfactory credentials showing that the children are receiving an education. The young son of one parent who stated that the boy was being home-educated was found to be working at a stable in Hayward.

FASSIO's  
BOOKKEEPING & TAX SERVICES  
2002 Encinal Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501  
510-523-3800

J. D. Harpe  
Furniture Finishers, Inc.

Antiques to Toners

(510) 522-3010 1910 Clement Street  
(510) 522-3003 FAX Alameda, CA 94501  
jackharpe@comcast.net

## **Alameda Museum Event Schedule**

Ongoing - Neptune Beach Exhibit

February 23 and March 30, 2006 - Alameda Museum Lecture Series (pages 12&13)

March 18, 2006 - Annual Membership Luncheon (see page 5)

The Board of Directors meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 6:00pm.

*Sneak Peek:* Enjoy the 9th annual Kids & Queen Victoria Saturday April 8 from 1-3 p.m. in the Museum Gallery. View the work of hundreds of Alameda students who have been studying the history, culture, and architecture of their hometown. Queen Victoria herself will be introduced by Alameda Mayor Beverly Johnson. Elementary school children will serenade the gathering with "God Save the Queen" and a special rendition of "The Alameda Anthem." For information, leave a message at 748.0796.

### **Alameda Museum Annual Dues Schedule**

Regular Adult	\$30	Senior (over 65)	\$18
Associate Adult*	\$20	Lifetime	\$500 (only one payment, ever!)
Docent or Volunteer	\$15	Business (non-voting)	\$250

*\*An Associate Adult is any person who resides in the same household as a Regular Adult member; includes voting privileges.*

---

**Special Offer** - If you give a gift membership, your friend or loved one will receive **TWO** additional bonus gifts: a pass to visit the Meyers House & Gardens, and a copy of *Victoria's Legacy*, featuring historic neighborhood walking tours throughout the Bay Area - six in Alameda. Four issues of the *Museum Quarterly* and admission to all lectures are also free with their membership.

YES! I want to send a gift membership to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

2006 Dues Category \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Voluntary Contribution \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total (check payable to Alameda Museum) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

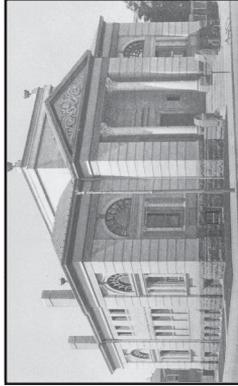
*Please indicate whether you would like the gifts sent to the recipient or yourself.*

### ***East Gallery Displays:***

January and February, 2006 - Art show - mixed media, San Lorenzo Art Group

March, 2006 - Combined Alameda High Schools Art Exhibit - mixed media

April, 2006 - Judith Lynch - Kids & Queen Victoria



## ***Alameda Museum***

2324 Alameda Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501

*Telephone:* 510-521-1233

### ***Museum Hours:***

Wed. - Fri., Sunday: 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
Saturday: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Website:*

[www.AlamedaMuseum.org](http://www.AlamedaMuseum.org)

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 80  
Alameda, California