



The Albany Historical Society

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SPOTLIGHT



Albany enjoys a long history of gifted local poets. One such lady, **Emily Pausch**, lived in Albany on Polk Street from 1930 until her passing from cancer in

1965. Born in Birmingham, England she attended school in Oxford, England and later the University of California, Berkeley. She and her husband Virgil raised their three daughters, Louise, Barbara and Adea in Albany; like their mother the girls went forward with various artistic careers. Family civic contributions included hosting Democratic Party meetings at their home and involvement in the Albany Methodist Church. Virgil Pausch continued to live in Albany until 1985. Mrs. Pausch was associated with the acclaimed Activists School in Berkeley, a longtime member of the Ina Coolbirth Circle and the California Writer's Club. Emily Pausch possessed a quiet and unpretentious craftsmanship reflecting deep love and respect for the English language. Her numerous awards, publications and accolades are truly a tribute to her literary artistic talents. Just prior to her passing Emily Pausch's book "The Ungathered River", a collection of 40 poems, was published. We are fortunate to have copies of the legacy of this talented Albany gem and able to preserve the memory of this remarkable Albany woman.

The Face In The Water

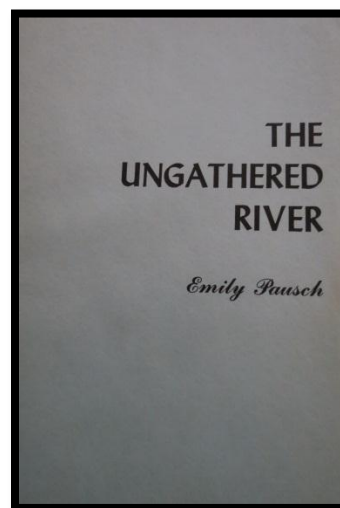
By Emily Pausch

In a country of many resemblances
The eye changes its images.
The face we see depends on the glass we
interview.

A shudder of water separates its quicksilver.
These scattered features
Are not the face they fall from.

The one in the water
Escapes in the long reeds of the rain,
Leaving faceless reflections.

Used with permission of Adea Pausch Jennings



75 Years Ago

July 2, 1937

In a spectacular collision, the car of Albany's Assistant Fire Chief was struck by a local woman driving West on Marin Avenue. Her car plunged into the porch of the Kraus family home at 1310 Marin Av, narrowly missing 14 year-old John Vorland, Jr. who had been mowing the front lawn. The lawnmower was a total loss, while the drivers were taken to Humboldt Hospital for treatment. (*Humboldt Hospital was located at the present site of the Albany Library & Community Center, for more information please see the hospital article on page 3.

July 9, 1937

The first accident on the newly-opened East Shore Highway in Albany occurred and the dubious honor of being the first arrested went to a Richmond man who was charged with failure to observe a boulevard stop sign. (He was later fined \$2) The drivers were taken to Humboldt Hospital for examination.

July 30, 1937

The Superintendent of Schools announced that the Federal Government had agreed to amend a previous grant, so that the third unit of Albany High School could be completed. A previous grant of \$28,602 was insufficient to complete the segment containing the principal's and counseling offices, a study room, and 6 classrooms, and had left the second floor unfinished. The District filed an application for another grant of \$28,350 for construction of the fourth and final unit.

August 13, 1937

C. M. MacGregor was granted building permits for 4 homes, to be built at 1150 and 1152 Garfield, 714 Talbot, and 617 Stannage.

Three residents of Fallon, Nevada were treated at Humboldt Hospital after their car was struck by a Southern Pacific train at the intersection of Solano and San Pablo.

50 Years Ago

July 3, 1962

Dr. W.D. Ramage retired from the USDA lab. He was one of the inventors of hydrofreezing, a process

used for preserving apples for commercial use in pies, and also participated in development of the process by which concentrated fruit juices could be stored as powders.

July 11, 1962

Maid of Albany Lorrene Baum was on hand for the opening festivities of the Alameda County Fair. Opal Staniek of 1076 Talbot was watering her flowers, and her husband was asleep, when a thief entered their home and stole \$23.10

(Mrs. Staniek was later the donor of the property @ Dartmouth and Talbot which is now the "Tot Lot" named in her memory)

A community meeting was planned to offer information about the proposed Rapid Transit route through Albany. A committee headed by Barry Runnion, Jr. was formed to draw attention to the possible tax loss expected from the planned demolition of 79 homes and 6 commercial units.

July 18, 1962

Jerry DuMont announced plans for a \$200,000 shopping center at the corner of Clay and San Pablo. The L-shaped building was to house a dance studio, restaurant, and cocktail lounge.

Albany's mayor and members of the City Council joined Barry Runnion and El Cerrito's mayor in opposition to the planned rapid transit route through Albany and El Cerrito. Transit officials said that moving the proposed route nearer the freeway would add 34 seconds to each trip, and likely result in a drop in patronage.

Prominent politicians and numerous local residents took sides in a stormy final hearing over the re-zoning from single family residential to commercial of the parcel on Solano Avenue between Curtis and Neilson. Passing with a 3-2 vote, this decision paved the way for construction of the present Safeway store.

August 8, 1962

Plans moved forward for a rapid transit bond campaign. A campaign chair was named for the \$792 Million measure, while the local citizens committee opposed to the project gathered signatures and support.

August 22, 1962

A mass immunization clinic was scheduled for the Albany High auditorium by the K O Polio campaign.

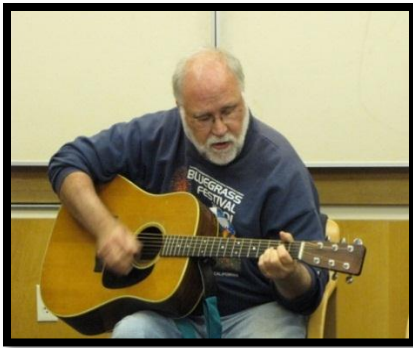
Presidents Message: from Joan Larson

We continue to receive wonderful contributions adding to our growing collection of Albany Historical photos, artifacts and memories. Thank you to our generous donors: Bill Lewis and Gene Hellwig (Albany Little League photos, and memorabilia), Ruth Eaton (photos, poem and Ray Harford insurance sign from the 1930's), Paul Shure (wooden sign with C. M. MacGregor home sales advertisement), Floyd William (Bill) Miner (1936 Humboldt Hospital Birth Certificate) and Adea Jennings (books, articles and photos) of her mother Emily

Pausch (see *SPOTLIGHT* article).

Our Albany Little League Story Telling Day provided more information for our

archives and we are grateful to all who participated, extra thanks to Rex Higginbotham and his guitar playing leading us in a round of *Take Me Out To the Ball Game*.



We thank the many folks who attended the Humboldt/Albany Hospital Ceremony for sharing their experiences and memorabilia. The plaque will be installed soon and we will display a special exhibit in the Library in August.

The Albany Historical Society sincerest gratitude goes to Ronnie Davis for providing us with space for meetings, storage and events. We are grateful to Ronnie and congratulate her on her 35 years of service to Albany.

Clockwise photos, Ray Gonzalves, John Mullarkey, Gene Hellwig, and Rex Higginbotham share memories of Little League



Albany Hospital Plaque Dedication

Several dozen people gathered in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Library on Sunday, June 3, 2012, to celebrate and remember Albany Hospital. Many of the participants reminisced about their children or their siblings being born at the hospital. Children were not allowed into the maternity ward so newborn infants were often held up in the window so siblings could see their new brother or sister.

Charles Haller, (*in photo below*) the nephew of Nurse



Mary Ann Le Match, spoke of the early days of the hospital. Nurse LeMatch purchased the hospital in the early 1930s and changed the name from Humboldt Hospital to Albany Hospital. During the war, Albany Hospital expanded the maternity

ward to meet the increased demand.

Cassie Borgnino Dusterdick spoke of the work of her late father, Dr. Carl Borgnino. He along with other local doctors purchased and ran the hospital providing outstanding medical care to their patients. They built a reputation of excellence at Albany Hospital.

Follow all of the activities of the Albany Historical Society on our web site, www.albanycahistory.org and

look for us on Facebook 

One participant proudly announced she was born at Albany Hospital exactly 71 years ago today and shared with the audience her baby book.

Ray Gonzalves reminded the gathering how the Albany Fire Department held Civil Defense Drills at the hospital and taught nurses how to use fire extinguishers.

The Albany Hospital plaque, which was given to the City Council on May 19, will be installed in front of the Albany Community Center in the next few weeks. The Albany Historical Society is grateful to those who participated on Sunday and shared their stories.



Adele Bachman remembering the births of her children at Albany Hospital

Copies of *Images of America Albany* are still available from the historical society for \$21.75. Call Peggy McQuaid 526 – 7855 to order a book or for Albany Historical Society membership information.