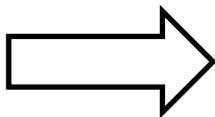




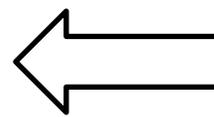
The Albany Historical Society

Volume 2, Number 3

April - June 2012



You're Invited
Sunday, March 18, 2011, 1:00pm – 3:00pm.
Our 3rd Storytelling Event
Albany Little League
Edith Stone Room, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany, CA



Albany Orientation Center for the Blind and J. Henry Kruse

In 1964 Albany became the recipient of two wonderful resources, the Orientation Center for the Blind (OCB) and J. Henry Kruse known to all as Henry. The OCB operated by the State of California is situated on a dead end street alongside Cerrito



Creek at Albany's northern border. Behind this serene setting is a hub of activity. OCB offers up to 36 visually impaired or blind adults an opportunity to transition to full self-sufficiency through its counseling, education and training services. The 6 to 9 month program includes; adjustment to blindness, communication, daily living skills, home management, orientation and mobility, occupational training, assistive technology, fitness and self-health care. Albany provides a unique opportunity for OCB residents with a combination of easy access to both residential and commercial training exposures. This live-in, dorm style community provides adults an opportunity to transition back into society with skills and tools through a myriad of classes and programs. The OCB has been enriching the lives not only those who benefit as residents but the City of Albany for 48 years. J. Henry Kruse was legally blind at birth, and then lost what little vision he had during high school. In 1947, Henry became the first blind student to

graduate from Drew University and in 1952 he became the first blind graduate of the Rutgers University School of Law. He accepted a position teaching business methods and law in 1960 at the OCB in Oakland and when the OCB opened in Albany he too moved to Albany. A strong advocate for the rights of the blind, he helped draft legislation and lobbied for passage of bills. A valuable contributor to the City he served on the Albany City council and twice was Mayor of Albany in 1985 and 1989. He was a former member of the Albany Library Board and worked tirelessly to see that the Albany library was built. Henry was a member of the Lions Club for more than 50 years and served as president of the Albany club. After retirement, Henry served on the Alameda County Para transit Commission to facilitate transportation for the physically challenged on BART and AC Transit. He spoke fluent Esperanto, was a member of E. Clampus Vitas, the society of Western U.S. history buffs and a puzzle winner on Will Shortz's KQED weekend edition contest. In 2002, suffering from short-term memory loss, Henry moved to a managed care facility. On June 15, 2004 at age 79 Henry died after a heart attack and Albany lost a true community treasure.



50 Years Ago

March 7, 1962

The annual AFS Pancake Breakfast honored scholarship recipients Judy Stocking (Chile) , Martha Geering (Indonesia) , and Svein Mortenson of Oslo, Norway, who was being hosted by the E R Arneson family at 1128 Masonic Avenue

Martha Jeans, who had been an agent in the office of Harry Dunne for the previous 8 years, opened her own realty office at 1258 Solano Avenue.

Elizabeth Anger was selected as the new Albany Librarian, replacing Kathleen Watkinson, who retired.

A five-room home at 1145 Portland was priced to sell at \$15,950

March 21, 1962

George Fosselius of 711 San Carlos Avenue, was named Head Drum Major for the Cal Marching Band

Bob Kanto and Norm Angell, Albany High basketball players, were named Diablo Valley - East Bay League "all conference" selections

April 4, 1962

Cook's at 1045 San Pablo Avenue was gutted by an early morning fire which injured fire fighter Harold Johansen. Brothers Emil, Andy, and Bill Serb, who had purchased the restaurant just the week before, had to delay plans for the grand opening of their seafood restaurant.

The weekly police blotter included calls for an escaped pet monkey and the theft of two transistor radios.

George Becker, owner of OK Barber Shop at 1205 Solano, was fatally stricken with a heart attack at his shop.

City Council candidate Arthur Longpre announced that he was "dead set against a rapid transit system splitting the city of Albany".

April 11, 1962

"Bargain Blast off Days" , a shop-in-Albany promotion, offered a new, blue Studebaker Lark as the grand prize.

City Council Member Paul Boyich announced that he had filed a lawsuit asking for \$100,000 in damages for defamation of character - against two Council candidates, and 2 of his fellow Council Members.

Safeway Stores announced plans to build a new store on Solano Avenue between Curtis and Neilson, replacing their smaller store at Solano and Santa Fe.

April 18, 1962

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new Senior Citizen Center.

A four-piece solid maple bedroom set was offered for \$350 by the Lexicon Store at 619 San Pablo

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

look for us on Facebook 

Copies of *Images of America Albany* are still available from the historical society for \$21.75. You may order at the address below.

President's Letter – Joan Larson, AHS President

Our annual meeting in January was a special day with many folks telling their tales of Humboldt / Albany Hospital. Many thanks to Eldon Wolf for the wonderful photos of the Boy Scouts doing a disaster drill exercise. We elected the Board of Directors to serve for the 2012-2014 term; Marsha Skinner, Jack Rosano, Kim Denton and Doug Eaton. New to our Board, Doug is a life time Albany resident, who brings great talents and perspective.

At our March Board of Director's meeting the following were elected to one year officer positions; Joan Larson-President, Ruth Ganong-Vice President, Peggy McQuaid- Financial Officer, Marsha Skinner-Recording Secretary.

This spring we will be donating a plaque commemorating the Humboldt/ Albany Hospital site at the Council meeting on May 7, 2012. A ceremony acknowledging the plaque installation will be held at the Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Avenue, on June 3, 2012.

Did you know there once was a place called Albany Hospital?

If you can answer yes, The Albany Historical Society wants to hear from you!

The Society is looking for people who were born at the old Albany Hospital (or Humboldt Hospital as it was known in its early days), or if you have any information or memorabilia about the old building that was located at the corner of Marin and Masonic Avenues.

The Society is planning to honor the hospital with the placing of a plaque in the sidewalk. The dedication will be June 3 in the Edith Stone room at the Albany Community Center/Library, which currently sits on the old hospital site. Unfortunately, records have either been lost or memories of their whereabouts have dimmed with the passage of time.

Some people have memories of children not being allowed in the hospital and viewing their new brother or sister through a window while standing on the front lawn.

Others thought the hospital was owned by a group of Albany doctors before it was taken over by Alta Bates Hospital. Alta Bates operated it as a satellite campus before closing it down.

However, these are just memories and the Historical Society would love to hear from people who have pictures of the old building, worked there, are family members of any of the doctors who owned the hospital or practiced there, or are in any other way connected with the hospital.

You can help make the dedication a very memorable event by sharing your stories and experiences concerning the old hospital with the community through the Historical Society.

The Albany Historical Society can be contacted through its web page, www.albanycabhistory.org or by mail at 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 12th 6:30 - 7:30

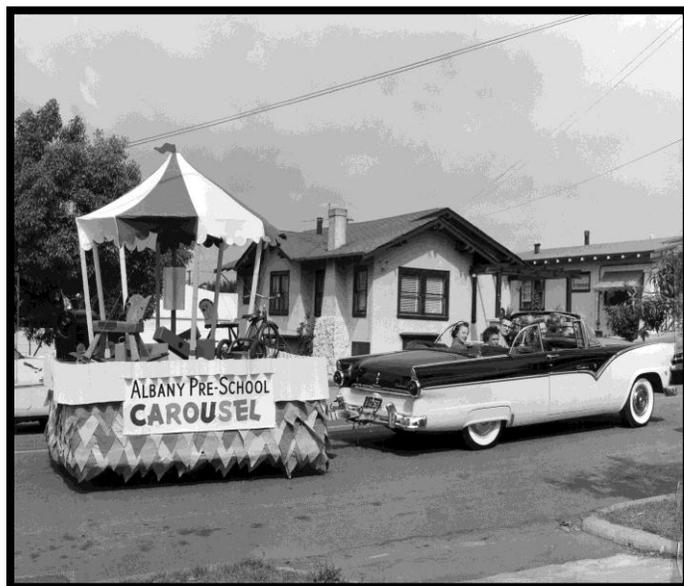
Albany Veterans' Memorial Hall
Berkeley & Albany troops celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Girl Scout meeting led by Juliette Low



Sunday, June 3, 2012 1:00 – 3:00

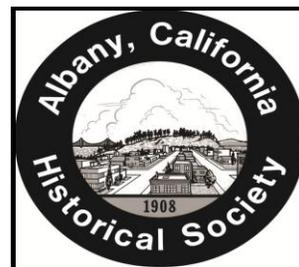
Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Ave.

A ceremony acknowledging the Humboldt/Albany Hospital site will be held. A plaque commemorating the hospital will be donated to the City of Albany at the May 7th City Council meeting. More information will be sent out closer to the event.



Sunday, March 18th 1:00 – 3:00

Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Ave.
“Stories of Little League Teams of the Past”. Join us to share your memories, photos, uniforms, and more at our 3rd storytelling event.



On Sunday, May 20th, from 1:00- 4:00, Albany Preschool will be celebrating its 75th year "Powered by Play". Alumni, families, volunteers, and friends of Albany Preschool are invited back to the school for an afternoon filled with fun, live music, food, a photo memory lane, silent auction, and activities for all ages. If you are an alumnus, parent, or if you know someone who attended APS, we'd love to hear from you. We're collecting stories, memories, and photos that can tell us more about our rich history as one of the area's oldest preschools. If you can provide some insight into our history please email aps75@albanypreschool.org or call Joy Knott at 510-647-8131.