



LOS MEGANOS

Newsletter of East Contra Costa Historical Society

Serving Bethel Island, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Oakley

Volume 24, Issue 3

October, 2024

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36th Annual Community BBQ a Huge Success!



Our Town Brentwood CA



Burl Jam - Traditional Country Music

Our Town Brentwood CA

Members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon visiting with one other, listening to toe-tapping music by Burl Jam, and viewing exhibits on the grounds, in the Byer/Nail House, Homer's Shed, and Resource Center.

The annual ECCHS Barbeque is the major fundraiser to keep our museum and grounds operating. It is made possible by dedication of many volunteers and generous donations by community members and organizations.

See full list of Thank You's on page 9.



Our Town Brentwood CA

A good time was had by all!



Our Town Brentwood CA

ECCHS is Out and About!

ECCHS has been busy sharing their love for local history at many festivals. Here are some places we have been:

La Gran Fiesta Brentwood



ECCHS shared pictures of Hispanic celebrations of the past at this event sponsored by Brentwood Chamber of Commerce to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.



Heart of Oakley Festival

Anyone from Oakley should certainly recognize this 'Thing-a-ma-jig'!

These 2 young history detectives revisited the table several times, each time bringing new friends!

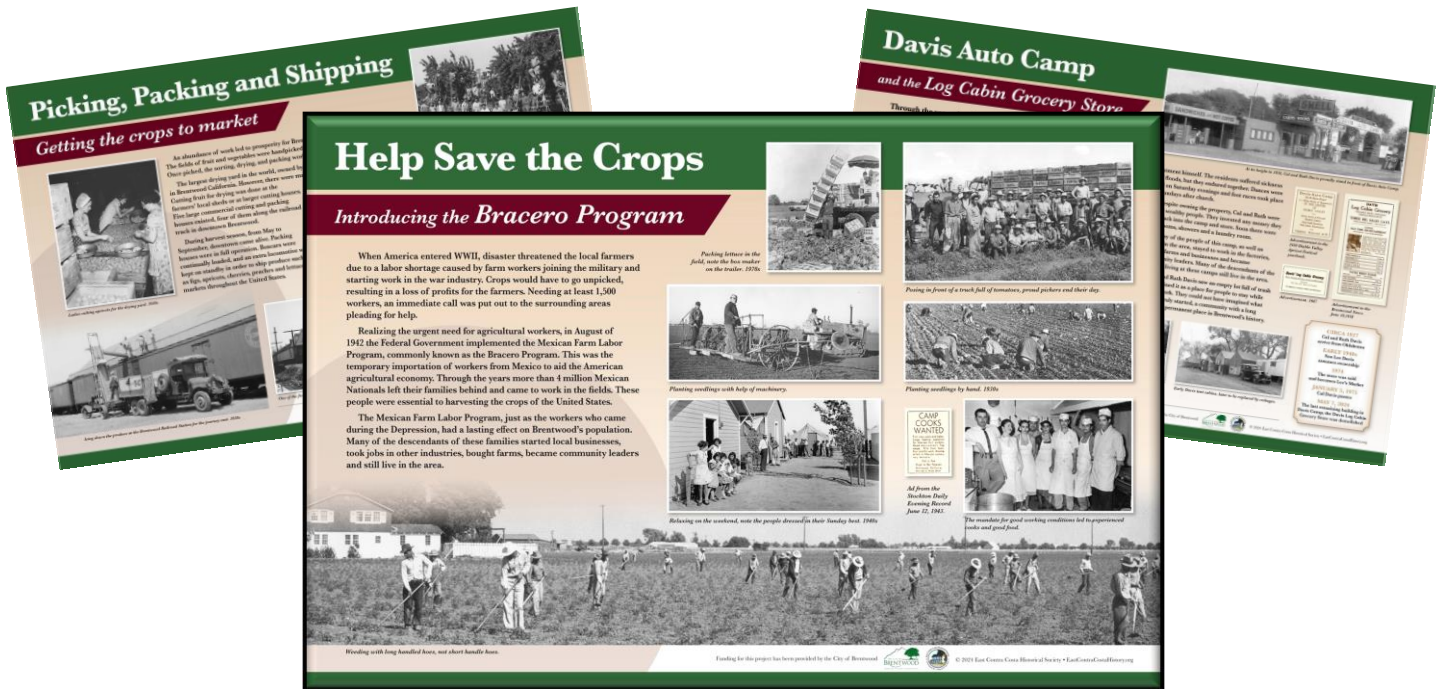
**See page 6 if you do not know what this is!

Resource Center Treasures

This past year ECCHS has had the honor of working with the City of Brentwood to memorialize the site where Davis Camp once stood at the corner of Brentwood Boulevard and Sunset Road. Three historical interpretive panels have been researched and created:

- Picking, Packing and Shipping: Getting the Crops to Market
- Davis Auto Camp and the Log Cabin Grocery Store
- Help Save the Crops: Introducing the Bracero Program

In recognition of national Hispanic Heritage month, we would like to share with you the panel about the importance role the Bracero Program has played in our local history.



Narrative of the panel:

When America entered WWII, disaster threatened the local farmers due to a labor shortage caused by farm workers joining the military and starting work in the war industry. Crops would have to go unpicked, resulting in a loss of profits for the farmers. Needing at least 1,500 workers, an immediate call was put out to the surrounding areas pleading for help.

Realizing the urgent need for agricultural workers, in August of 1942, the Federal Government implemented the Mexican Farm labor Program, commonly known as the Bracero Program. This was the temporary importation of workers from Mexico to aid the American agricultural economy. Through the years more than 4 million Mexican nationals left their families behind and came to work in the fields. These people were essential to harvesting the crops of the United States.

The Mexican Farm Labor Program, just as the workers who came during the Depression, had a lasting effect on Brentwood's population. Many of the descendants of these families started local businesses, took jobs in other industries, bought farms, became community leaders and still live in the area.



The three panels are in production and will be installed on the site next to Marsh Creek. Watch for an announcement by the City of Brentwood regarding dedication of these interpretive panels. ECCHS will also notify all members of this important date when it has been set.

Meet Your Ambassadors

East Contra Costa Historical Society serves the communities of Bethel Island, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, & Oakley.

Our Community Ambassadors are those 'connectors' who ensure ECCHS is actively involved in community events and that the community histories are well represented in ECCHS activities.



Lori Favaloro
Byron

Byron is a unique, special place! I'm thrilled to represent ECCHS to help connect Byron to the museum!



Maggie Northcut
Brentwood

I enjoy every minute of being an Ambassador! Meeting people, inviting them to our museum, and sharing our community history.



Pam Moore
Discovery Bay

I look forward with enthusiasm to delving into the Discovery Bay history and more importantly, helping Discovery Bay folks get to know their ECCHS.



Sharon Johnson
Knightsen

I love Knightsen and I love ECCHS! Finding ways to keep Knightsen history alive at the museum is a great honor.



Kim Ambrosino
Oakley

I'm excited to be an ECCHS Ambassador. It gives me the opportunity to bring awareness to our local museum and to share the wealth of knowledge accessible to our community



?????

Bethel Island

We are looking for an Ambassador to Bethel Island. If interested, please contact [Mary Black](mailto:Mary.Black@ecchs.org) 925-206-5087



Members' Night at the Museum

Thursday, November 7th

Gather at 5:00 Short Presentation at 6:00

Enjoy special exhibits, light refreshments
and your museum as the day turns into evening

Ron & Shirley Nunn will be recognized on this evening for their generous donation of land to the ECCHS Museum.



Four generations of the Nunn Family have been farming in East Contra Costa County since the 1880's.

Love of the land, the people, and of course, the Mountain has defined the Nunn Family's lifelong commitment to our community.

This donation of land will allow ECCHS to broaden the scope of museum displays and exhibits in order to capture and more completely represent the rich heritage of our area.

Invitations will be emailed to all members with an email address. Not have an email address? An invitation will be mailed to you.

If you have not received an invitation by October 25, contact Annette Holdiman 925-303-0126 or aholdiman4@gmail.com



Saturday, October 19
9:00 to 2:00 pm

Los Medanos College,
Brentwood Campus

Digs n' Rigs is a hands-on family event sponsored by Brentwood Rotary Club & Los Medanos Colleg

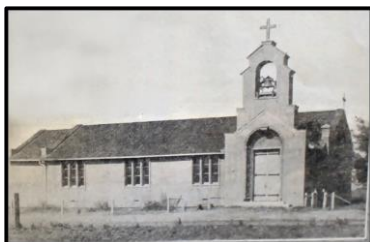
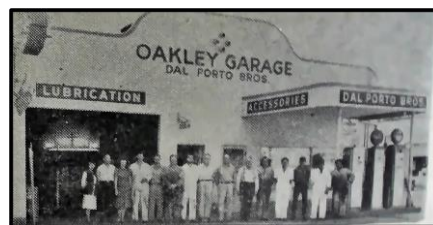
The Byron Fire Engine from the museum will be there!



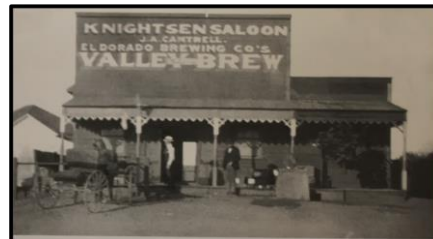
2025 ECCHS Calendars Are Here!



Do you recognize these buildings from yesteryear?
Do you know their history?
Do you know where they are today?



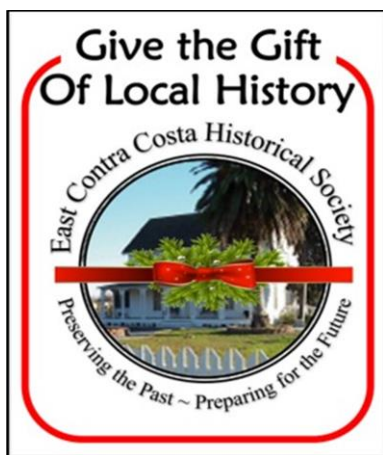
Explore the history of 12 locations in East Contra Costa County on the pages of this year's calendar!



\$15



Purchase at the Museum Resource Center [Order on ECCHS website](#), Call/text 925-206-5087



Looking for a unique holiday gift?

Inspire a love for local history!

2025 Calendar ~ featuring THEN & NOW local pictures

Books of Local History ~ Learn about where you live!

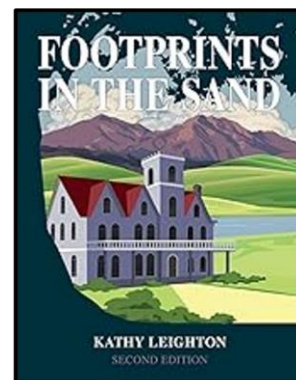
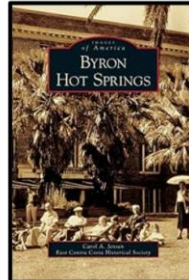
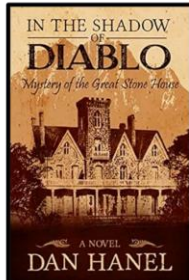
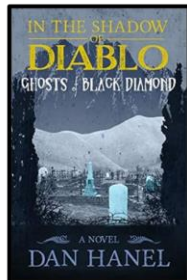
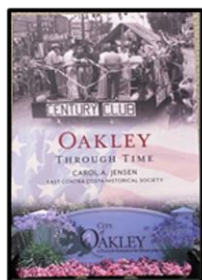
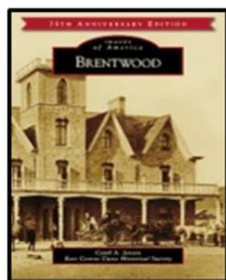
[Click here to see books](#)

A Year of ECCHS Membership ~ Engage interest all year with museum events, member dinners, newsletters

All gift items can be purchased on our website, or at the museum.

Call to set time to purchase at museum.

Contact Resource Center on website or call/text 925-813-1936



Support Those Who Support ECCHS

ECCHS values and appreciates our Business Members

We encourage all members to frequent these local businesses who support YOUR ECCHS



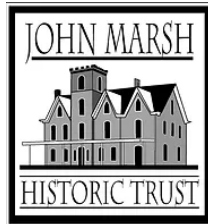
**Brentwood NAPA
Auto Parts**



380 W Country Club Dr. Suite G
Brentwood, CA 94513
925-754-OILS (925) 754-6457



1921 Apricot Way, Brentwood



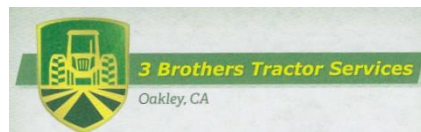
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Black Bear Diner



Patrick McCarren Real Estate
2510 Sand Creek Rd, Brentwood 925.899.5536



Ambrosino Brothers 925-665-9366.



Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL
Brentwood Funeral Home
839 First Street 925.634.2171



**Does your business already belong to ECCHS?
THANK YOU!**

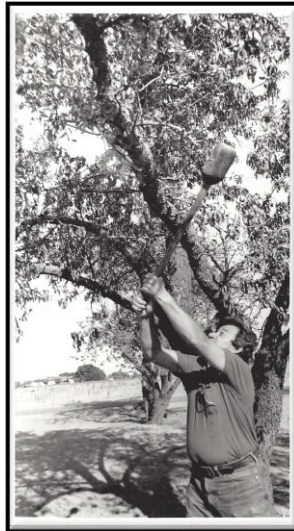
**Do you own a business that should belong to ECCHS?
JOIN TODAY!**

**Do you work for a business that should belong to ECCHS?
ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN!**

Contact: Shirley McCall membership@eastcontracostahistory.org or call 925-634-4049

From page 1:

It's an almond knocker!



Local farmer John Papini uses an almond knocker to harvest almonds.

Circa 1960's

Tree knockers were used to strike the branches of almond trees, which would cause the almonds to fall onto tarps laid beneath the trees.

The tree knocker was phased out during the mechanization boom in the 1950's. Today trees are shaken by a mechanical shaker and almonds are swept up by machine.



James O'Hara settled in the Oakley region in 1887. He cleared and cultivated land and planted 80 acres of almonds, later adding 160 acres of nut and fruit trees. He organized the Almond Growers Association of East Contra Costa County in 1889.

Breakers Update

Our team of Breakers are busily preparing the museum for winter weather and continually looking for better ways to make our grounds usable, as well as continuing to give new life to treasures from the past.

In preparation for winter rains the window and door frames of the resource center are being repainted.



As more and more events are being held at the museum, a newly assembled large rolling chair rack will greatly simplify moving chairs for set up and take down.



Our beautiful visible gas pump is nearing completion.



Restoration is about to begin on the pilot house from the Victory I ferry that used to ferry people and their cars between the roads of Antioch and Sherman Island before the first Antioch Bridge was built in 1926.

This treasure from the past was donated to ECCHS by Chris Lauritzen, III and his sister Margaret when Lauritzen Yacht Harbor was sold last year.

A recently donated 20' x 35' pole barn will soon be erected to house the restoration process out of the weather.

Christmas on the Farm

Sunday, December 8th 11:00-dusk

An afternoon of old-fashioned fun for the whole family!

FREE
ADMISSION

Activity Tickets
Available for
Purchase

Old-fashioned Games

Music

Local Food & Craft Vendors

Create Christmas Crafts

Home Décor

Old-fashioned ornaments

Christmas Cookie Decorating

Christmas Stories

Family Photo Opps

Hand cut Silhouettes



The windmill will be lit at dusk and remain lighted through January.

ECCHS Welcomes New Members

Leslie Frank Criteria
Bonnie Griffith
Charles & Mary Haupt
Adam & Kandi Mariani & Family

Suzanne Houston
Greg & Jaime Spohn
Melissa Van Ruiten

Welcome aboard!

**We hope you will be an active participant
in ECCHS events and activities**

Thank You

Mike Stewart
for his labor & tools
used to construct Pop-Up canopy weights

Autumn Wright
for input of information into our Past Perfect system

Our Museum Collection is Growing!

ECCHS depends upon the donation of photos, documents & artifacts to build collections and displays.

As our permanent displays have become established, the museum is starting to develop rotating displays on specific topics of interest.

These will be displayed for shorter periods of time and bring fresh displays for museum guests.



We are looking for
Cameras

If you have anything to help us together a display on this treasure part of Brentwood history, contact our House Display Team



Thank you to these Donors June-September

Lauretta Aldridge	Antique steamer trunk
Lin & Dan Celoni	1930 Apricot Festival Yearbook, John Marsh book
Robert Damico	Radiator water bag, Grape machete, insecticide duster
Doreen Forlow	1940s desk phone, National Geographics
John Gallacher	Antique Columbia family scale, 1907 Hand drill Miwok fishing spear
Traci Gibbons	1981 Byron train wreck news article, Photos Hal Schell
Al Herrera	Byron Hot Springs/Holey Road street sign
Art Honegger	City of Oakley photos & history
Carol Jensen	1876 Homestead deed, 1898 Promissory note 1901 Hibernia Savings & Loan statement
R. Paul Krey	Beasley Electric yardstick
Charlene Margesson	Wooden butter mold
Robin McClellan	1930 Kodak box camera
Phil Pezzella	U.S. Air Force flight jacket
Teresa Saenz	WWII U.S. Army nurse's cape
Soroptimist of the Delta	Club banner
Gloria Spinelli	WWII U.S. Navy pea coat
Cindy Tumin	City of Oakley maps & history
Chris Warner	WWII ammo box & coin chain

A small but interesting collection of old cameras has made their way to the museum through the years. We are looking to expand this collection to create an interesting display of the development of the camera from early daguerreotype cameras to the 'picture box' using film to the digital photos taken by phones today.

In looking at our collection, we remembered the flash bulbs that burned your hand when you removed them to replace a new one. The little cube flash with four sides that flipped for the next photo. Or the early moving picture cameras without sound. All good memories.

We do not know what image capturing devices will look like in the future but we would like to preserve the past for future generations to see and understand.

If you have a camera from years past that you were thinking of tossing, or have in a closet and just don't know what to do with it, consider a donation to the Museum. We are interested in accepting donations of cameras from the 1800s to about 2000.

Hundreds of photos in ECCHS collection provide the basis for displays and historical accounts such as those in the museum and the Davis Camp & Bracero Program interpretive panels developed for community display. Today, most people take their photo memories on a phone and store them in a cloud somewhere. But printed photos and videos are invaluable to preservation of the past. Memories fade, but photos capture a moment in time that can call those memories to mind.

BBQ Thank You's

The Annual BBQ is the major fundraiser for the museum. This event could not happen without the tireless effort and time donated by our many ECCHS & community members. Their efforts are appreciated more than words can express.

ECCHS owes a huge debt of gratitude to the following individuals and businesses for their donations to offset the costs of the barbeque:

Ron & Shirley Nunn	G & S Farms
Brentwood Rotary Club	Nunn Better Farms
Smith Family Farms	Brentwood Café
Bill Brandt Ford	Brentwood Fine Meats
Delta Pure Water	Bloomfield Vineyards
COSTCO	Oakley Grocery Outlet
Robert Fletcher III	The Press
Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery	

Thank you for the many community donations to raffle baskets:

Zephyr Grill & Bar	McCauley Olive Groves	Locanda Capri
Brentwood Auto parts	Gursky Ranch	Blackhawk Museum
Kinder's Meats	Mountain Mike's Pizza	Straw Hat Pizza
Orwood Resort	Good Scents Florist	Danny Raymond
Trader Joe's	Brentwood Fine Meats	BJs Restaurant
Delta Black Bear Diner	Kathy Bushman	Brentwood Auto Spa
Discovery Bay Safeway	Home Goods	Bowlero-Harvest Bowl
Bob & Barbara Byer	Lindy McCall	Sticky chicken & Ribs
Joe & Marilyn Senn	Safeway, Brentwood 2 nd St	

ECCHS thanks these groups and individuals who Contributed their time and talent to making the event a success:



Oakley 4-H	Brentwood Lions Club
Stanley Pereira	Brentwood Rotary Club
Liberty	Sons of American Legion
Interact Club	Burl Jam <i>toe-tappin' music</i>
	Liberty HS Pink Ladies
	<i>National Anthem</i>
	Knightsen School District
	Boy Scout Troop 2020
	Lauralye Casipit
	<i>Dutch Oven demonstration</i>

Thank you to our BBQ Chairpersons:

Special Thank You to Chairperson, Joe Trebino

BBQ Serving Line	Lindy McCall
BBQ TakeAway	Melissa Cakebread
Ticket Sales	Shirley McCall
Raffles	Marylin Senn

Thank You to Breakers for grounds preparation and bbq set up.

Memorial Donations



A gift to East Contra Costa Historical Society is a special way to remember or honor friends and loved ones.

The person's name will be honored on a plaque displayed on the Rose Garden Memorial Board.

June – September, 2022

Honoring	From
Rich Ambrosino	Mark & Sharon Johnson Keith & Marylin Lamport Shirley McCall RoseAnne Yanes

Buy-A-Brick

Engraved bricks border the sidewalk of the museum. Bricks can honor family members, pets, organizations.

\$100 per brick

Contact [Kathy Bushman](#)

530-519-2404

or [Shirley McCall](#)

925-634-4049

Brick Purchase Forms available on ECCHS website



Thank You to our Brick Donors

Kim Ambrosino & Sons for Rich Ambrosino

Steve & Sherri Ayers for Isabel Rivera

Craig & Carol Bronzan

Holger & Eleanor Osborne

Amy Rodriguez for Bill & Alta Ackerman

November Member Dinner

Sunday, November 17

San Joaquin Yacht Club – Bethel Island

1:30 – Gathering/Socializing

2:30 – Dinner served

3:00 – Sharon Ellingson & Frank Davis will speak on
Davis Camp



Enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner
with all the Trimmings!

\$35/Dinner

Reservation Letters were mailed to members mid-October.
Reservations due Monday, November 11th

Thank you for being an EMAIL subscriber!

*Money saved on printing and mailing costs
will be used on museum projects!*