



## Exploring Rio Vista's Past Toland School 1903 Program

by Phil Pezzaglia

In a time before automobiles, and during an era when the only means of transportation to get to the local school house was by horse, horse and buggy, or walking, a few school houses were erected in the Rio Vista-Montezuma Hills area.

A public schoolhouse in Rio Vista was the designated learning center for the children living in town. However, many families lived outside of town on various ranches, and additional schoolhouses were constructed in central locations to accommodate these children.

The children of the families that lived in the Canright District attended classes at the Canright School, which was organized in the 1870s. These were families with familiar names such as Canright, Brann, Crowell, McCormack, Fraser, Cook, Hamilton, and Watson.

The children of the families that lived in the Toland District of Montezuma Hills—families such as Allender, Anderson, Dozier, Machado, and Mayhood—attended Toland School. Toland School was located on the north side of Montezuma Hills Road, approximately 3.3 miles from St. Joseph's Cut.

*continued on page 2*



*Toland Schoolhouse – Montezuma Hills*

Recently I was shown a small hand-written program from a 1903 event at the Toland Schoolhouse. The hand-written program, more than a hundred years old, was of simple construction, containing just a few pieces of paper cut in a diamond shape and held together with a ribbon. The cover read “Toland School – Nov. 6, 1903.”

Since there are descendants of the children that participated in the program still living in the area, I thought that it would be of interest to print the course of events as listed in the said program.

### Toland School — Nov. 6, 1903

Welcome... Anita Jose  
Sleighting Song... School (all of the children)  
Recitation... Albert Anderson “What Boys Are Good For”  
Recitation... Bessie Mayhood “His Mother Song”  
Dialogue... The Census Taker  
    (Bessie Mayhood, Rosie Machado, Jessie Anderson,  
    Ernest Mayhood, Ivy Anderson)  
Recitation... Ester Anderson “No Telephone In Heaven”  
Recitation... Russel Mayhood “Dried Apple Pies”  
Thanksgiving Song... School (all of the children)  
Recitation... Rosie Machado “The Housekeepers Soliloquy”  
Flag Exercise... Six Boys  
    “Our Country’s Wealth”... Six Girls  
Recitation... Manuel Machado “The Boy About The Place”  
Song... “Anoni”... Three Girls  
    “Making Butter”... Five Girls  
Dialogue... The Changed Housewife  
    Rosie & Manuel Machado, Theo & Warren Dozier  
    (In 2 scenes) Clarence Anderson  
Recitation... Ivy Anderson “The Tramp’s Old Homestead”  
Recitation... “Little Willie” Errol Jose  
Tableaux (2 scenes) “In School Days”  
Recitation... Arthur Anderson “No More Spanking”  
Dutch Flirtation Dull... Eight Girls  
Recitation... Ernest Mayhood “Phil’s Complaint”  
Recitation... Theo Dozier “Which Shall It Be”  
Song... School  
    “Those Evening Bells”

## Museum Artifacts

When you walk into the Rio Vista Museum, one of the first things you notice to your right is an old-fashioned school desk, complete with inkwell. As you continue scanning the walls and display cases, you see many school-related items: pictures, diplomas, class rings, trophies, and high school football team pictures, to name just a few. This area is a perennial favorite of visitors, whether they are from the local area or from far away. We all have school memories. If you haven’t looked at these items lately, stop by and reminisce. Maybe you can even spot a picture of a relative.



*Left: Toland School, details unknown. Picture believed to be from before 1900. Right: Items on display include early pictures from Canright School (1914), Rio Vista Public School (1884), Rio Vista Grammar (1911 and 1913), Rio Vista Primary, and others.*

## Aviation Historian David Trojan Entertains and Informs

This year's annual membership meeting was well-attended as many people were attracted by the prospect of learning more about a World War II fighter plane that crashed in the Montezuma Hills more than 70 years ago.

Aviation historian David Trojan shared information about the 1943 crash of a P-39 Airacobra and his ultimately successful search for the crash site. Long-time local resident and museum supporter Irwin Anderson assisted Mr. Trojan in finding the site. Mr. Anderson had been an eye-witness to the crash. At the time of the crash, the Rio Vista Fire Department responded to the emergency and transported the pilot to Rio Vista.

Mr. Trojan also spoke about other crash sites in Solano County, including those of a 1932 Airmail plane and a 1944 bomber. He told about General Travis's crash at the Fairfield Air Base that was later renamed in memory of the general.

The program was very well received.



*In addition to enjoying the historical program, the museum membership welcomed a new slate of officers.*

**The museum will be open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30. It will open immediately following the ceremony at the foot of Main Street.**



*David Trojan presented a shadow box display of artifacts to outgoing president and curator, Phil Pezzaglia.*

## Ring-in-Spring Craft Fair

Mark your calendars for this one-day craft fair. Saturday, April 30, the museum will be transformed into a boutique of unique, hand-crafted items. Shop with local vendors—your friends and neighbors—for Mother's Day and graduation gifts while supporting the museum.

We will also be featuring a bake sale, so think about what yummy baked goodies you can contribute.

We look forward to seeing you April 30, at the inaugural Ring-in-Spring Craft Fair!

### MUSEUM DIRECTORS

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