



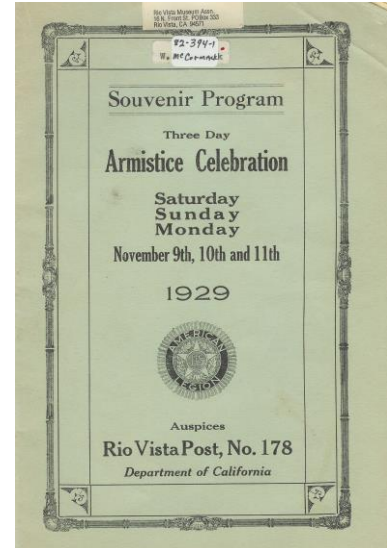
RIO VISTA MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

www.riovistamuseum.com

November 2022

November – A Time to Remember our Veterans

Over 100 years ago, in 1918, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the brutal hostilities of World War I were halted when an armistice was declared. The following year, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11 as Armistice Day. The name was later changed to Veterans Day to include veterans from other conflicts. It is one of the few holidays that is celebrated on its actual date of November 11 instead of the nearest Monday. Rio Vista has been celebrating this day and its veterans throughout the years.



In addition to parades and speeches on Veterans Day itself, Rio Vista has memorialized its veterans in other ways. Walking around town, from the Sacramento River to St. Joseph's Church, we find evidence of this honor and remembrance.



The Rio Vista Museum has also always honored our local veterans. We have a wonderful display of uniforms and memorabilia in our back room. We also have several books by and about veterans. While we have one notable book for sale, *Starvation Days*, we have other books available for perusal and research in our back room reading nook.

Starvation Days

One of the many items the Rio Vista Museum has is the World War II prisoner of war diary of George Nelson. George was taken prisoner by the Japanese in May 1942. While he was a prisoner, George worked in mines. He kept a diary of his experience. Here are a few of the entries from George's diary.

OCTOBER 24: Worked with Troynoski and Toney and we put out 14 cars. Rations are getting smaller and smaller it seems. No more yeast tablets for beriberi. News concerning Hitler.

NOVEMBER 2: Worked with Jockoline and Hall and put out 24 cars. Came in around 9:30 p.m. and ate chow. Everyone has some kind of beriberi or other.

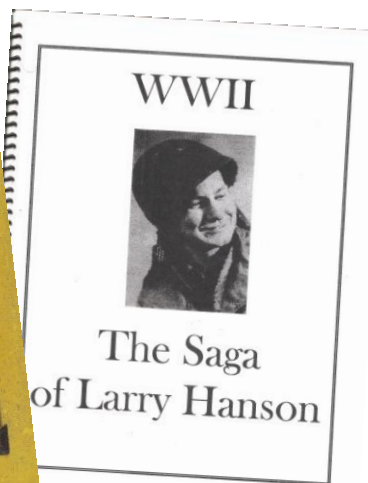
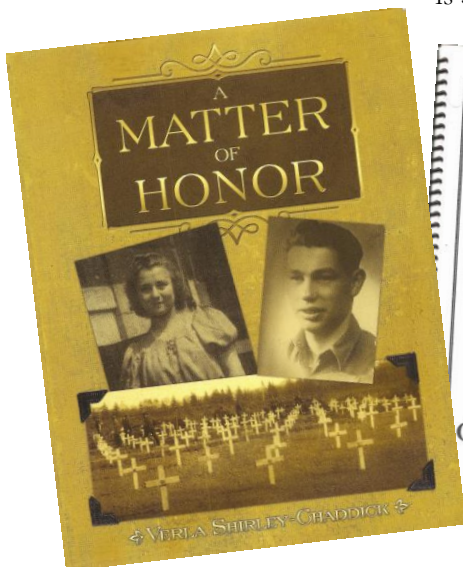
NOVEMBER 16: Legs and face all swelled up. More men turning in all the time. No medicine and food is more "scosh." Wonder what will happen? Still on quarters and never had wet beriberi before I got in this starvation camp. Eight stovepipe cigarettes for work and eight for commissary sale. Dr. Dublin diluted 4 cc Bevitin (B1) with sterile water and made total of 50 cc for 1-cc injection daily for approximately 50 days. Took first one today.

NOVEMBER 19: More men sick every day. Nothing is being done yet sick lined up this morning at 8:00 and 10:00 o'clock. Some volunteered for light duty. Rest the same so far.

NOVEMBER 28: Another birthday in prison and weighing lower than when I came in the Corps at 19. Weight about 64 kilos. I wonder how much longer? Open butter can – Army ration for birthday dinner. Still taking my own Bevitin. Swelling went down after first week. Squash and something else came in. Had small piece of meat for breakfast with gravy and Chinese cabbage side dish. 1/2 apple per man. (Butter and bread for birthday supper.) Sure was good.

DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve. If only I was home, but I'll appreciate it when I do get there – like I never did before – I guess. Received sealed Red Cross Box No. 10 with tears in our eyes while "Silent Night" was played on accordion – also a few stateside records. About 1/2 bar soap issued per man. Ate bento ration at 10:00 p.m. with sweet spuds, butter, chili pepper and maize around barracks stove. Had severe case of cramps. Sweet spuds today and bread.

George Nelson's diary, entitled *Starvation Days – A Prisoner of War Diary*, is available at the Rio Vista Museum. The cost is \$16, tax included.



FOREIGN WARS JESSE-GOMEZ POST NO. 7245, RIO VISTA DRILL TEAM
The Veteran of Foreign Wars Jesse-Gomez Post No. 7245, Rio Vista, was organized in May 1946 with the charter membership closing on October 2, 1960. All veterans of World War I, II and Korea were eligible for membership.
Standing left to right: Tony Brown, Bill Robinson, Lewis Santos, Franklin DeWitt, John Macedo, Sam Martorello, Osborne VanWay, Joe Robinson and Gabe Lopez.
Kneeling: Arthur Azevedo, Basil Stevenson, Gerald Machado, Gilbert Azevedo, Vincent Azevedo, Paul Lamothe, Joseph (Puggy) Frietas and Frank Kidwell.

Nursery School Graduation Picture, June 1967



This is the graduation of Mrs. Bea Nunes and Mrs. Millie Brown's (known to the students as Mrs. Bea and Mrs. Millie) nursery school. All of these little gals and guys turned 60 this year.

Do you have photos like this one? The Rio Vista Museum would like to have copies. We are currently looking for pictures that show people participating in Rio Vista's past. For example, we recently received pictures from an opening day Little League parade held in the late '50s or early '60s. This got us to thinking that we would like more pictures like this. What kind of pictures are we looking for? Sporting activities (Little League, Rio Vista Sharks), youth groups (4-H, Cub Scouts), service club or church events (the Soroptimist Christmas Brunch, the Congregational Church Harvest Festival), Rio Vista during the holidays – anything that shows the life of Rio Vista.

We would be happy to have the original photos. However, we could also borrow the photos in order to scan them. If you have photos you would like to share, you can contact us at pshamilton51@yahoo.com. You can also call our president Peter Hamilton at 374-2145.

Cookies and treats needed for the Christmas Faire Bake Sale



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WANTED! VOLUNTEERS

The museum needs volunteers for several jobs.

- Clip newspaper articles from local papers to be filed in the museum's archives
- Scan items such as photos, newspaper clippings, etc.
- File and update the museum's operational files

Let us know if you would like to help us with any of these ongoing tasks.

THANK YOU!

*Come to this year's Christmas Faire,
December 3rd and 4th!*

HALLOWEEN at the Museum



*Christmas past, one of the Clarence Frederickson photographs
from the early 20th century.*



Rio Vista Museum
16 N. Front Street
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