



Important reminders: here we go into winter hibernation, but *Almond Festival* and *Black History Day* will be here before you know it--both in February!

Beginning on September 4, 1915, the greater Capay Valley began celebrating itself with the Almond Festival. On and off from time to time, it came back with a bang in 1965. After one 22-year hiatus, beginning during WWII in 1943, the Esparto District Chamber of Commerce voted to "reactivate" the celebration in 1964, but due to severe weather conditions, postponed the grand rebirth until February 1965--its 50th Birthday! Originally a fall festival,

**INVITATION**

The Esparto District Chamber of Commerce cordially invites you and your family to attend the first revival of the old Capay Almond Festival held over 40 years ago. In those days families and friends of the valley come from miles around to enjoy the beautiful scenery and the scent of almond blossoms in the air. At no time of the year are the hills greener or the trees as pink as they are right now during almond season. Everyone in the Capay valley is proud of their land and the product it produces, they are proud of the fertile green valley bordered on either side with majestic green hills, it is because of this pride that they extend this invitation to you to join them this coming Sunday, February 21st.



celebrating harvest, the chamber decided that the spring blossoms were the real draw for the valley, so the festival was moved to late February. In later years it was moved again to mid-March, due to a series of heavy rain years and late blossoms. BUT it has moved back to FEBRUARY!! Don't miss the festivities from Madison to Rumsey!



Picture to left is of the historic Almond Growers' Exchange shed in

Rumsey--see it while dancing and dining at the Rumsey end of the valley at Rumsey Hall! Picture to right is of the 1915 Parade in Esparto--courtesy of John Gallardo, historian and EHS graduate.



**FEBRUARY 24, 2013 this year--Don't miss it!!**

See volume 6 of this journal for the full history or go to our website: [greatercapayvalley.org](http://greatercapayvalley.org)

**AND DON'T FORGET BLACK HISTORY DAY IN CAPAY VALLEY!** Guinda celebrates its unique Black/African American History--as well as that of the national Black History Month in February--on the second Saturday each February. The 12th annual celebration is this February 2013 at Guinda Grange Hall. The brainchild of local musician Clarence Van Hook and local Black Historian Bill Petty, it draws people from all over the country. Before statehood and even after, since California was a free state, there are enclaves throughout with sizable early pioneers of African descent. One such area is the Guinda area in the Capay Valley. Bill Petty explains that the Guinda area has a rich history of being well integrated from the beginning of early settlements. Many of the blacks settling in the area were never slaves, while others were freed after settling in the area. Come learn about this unique history, listen to the music led by musician Clarence Van Hook, and enjoy the booths and presentation--and the great food! Pot Luck--while it is not necessary, you are welcome bring something to share!

**For more information, check out volume 1 of this journal and our website at [greatercapayvalley.org](http://greatercapayvalley.org)--be sure and watch the videos!**