



NEWS RELEASE
February 1, 2010

**Historical Photo Essay of African Americans of the Central Coast
on Display at the Santa Maria Public Library**

The Santa Maria Public Library is pleased to host a historical photo essay focusing on those members of the Central Coast community who are of African American heritage (1884-1970s). This exhibit is a part of the Library's celebration of African American Heritage month. The photographs will be on display in the Shepard Hall Gallery during normal Library operating hours from February 2 through February 24, 2010.

This exhibit is the second of four historical, black and white photo essays, each composed of approximately 125 photographs that will be on display at the Library through May of 2010. They depict aspects of California Central Coast life from the later 1800s up to the 1970s for members of the following heritages: Native American, African Americans, Hispanic, and Asian Pacific Americans.

These exhibits strive to recognize groups of people whom, without recognition or great material rewards, helped to build the social and economic prosperity of the Central Coast.

The Library would like to thank the System Advisory Board of the Black Gold Cooperative Library System for the opportunity the display these essays and increase public awareness to the important contributions of these four groups to the Central Coast.

The Library's hours are 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays. The Library is closed on Sundays.

Questions may be directed to Cultural Events Coordinator Deborah Hildinger at the Santa Maria Public Library, 925-0951 ext 117.

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