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VALLEJO MUSEUM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RELEASES HISTORY BOOK

VALLEJO – Jim Kern, Executive Director of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, has written a book on the history of Vallejo.

“Images of America: Vallejo” (Arcadia Publishing) will be officially released August 23. The book costs \$20 - \$18 for museum members.

“I decided to do the book for several reasons,” Kern said. “First and foremost because there is a real need for it. We are constantly getting inquiries for a book about Vallejo and even though there are several excellent books about Mare Island, there hasn’t been anything available about the city itself. So the book doesn’t include a lot about Mare Island, except when it is crucial to telling the story.”

The book is mainly a collection of photos showing the City of Vallejo from its earliest days through present-day Vallejo.

“The photos came mostly from the Museum collection,” Kern said, “with others from the Vallejo Times-Herald archives and some official US Navy photos.”

Although the book is primarily pictorial, “I tried to include as much text as I could to really tell the full story of Vallejo’s history,” Kern added. The chapters alternate between chronological blocks of about 50 years with thematic chapters such as “Vallejoans at Work” “Vallejoans at Play” “School Days” and “Getting Around Town.”

While Kern enjoyed writing the book and filling a need for Vallejoans and others, there were other motivating factors as well.

“Writing the book was a labor of love but we also hope it will bring some much needed income to the Museum,” Kern said. “The actual writing only took a few months, but in essence the research began the first day I started working at the Museum. And of course, a lot of it is based on research and writing done by many other people over the years, like Tom Lucy, Ernie Wichels, Sue Lemmon and others.”

For more information about the book or the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, please call 643-0077.