

Lodi Family

By: John Edmonds

They came, eventually, to San Mateo County in 1890. The Cesar Lodi Family moved from their native Bologna, Italy and arrived in California in 1884. They settled first in Pacheco where a substantial number of others from Bologna had settled earlier. Cesar Lodi was married to Catherine and the couple had one son, Andrew, who died at 4 months and 17 days. He is buried in plot 67 in Union Cemetery. Catherine passed away and Cesar took a second wife, Theresa, with whom seven children were born. Virginia was the first but she died at 4 years of age and was buried in plot 67 in Union Cemetery. Theresa died at age 33 and joined Virginia and Andrew in Union Cemetery.

Cesar and Theresa came to San Mateo County and settled in West Union, a lumber town that was spread from the north city limits of Woodside up to Today's Edgewood Road. Edgewood Road was originally known as Whipple's Mill Road and it made a good northern border for the Town of West Union.

The Lodis purchased 520 acres of land and Cesar went to work for G. B. Cevasco on the vineyards on the hill. G. B. Cevasco published a weekly Italian newspaper in San Francisco, *La Voce del Popolo* (Voice of the People). A number of Italian families moved down the Peninsula to establish residence in West Union and Redwood City.



Chief Joseph Lodi

In 1910 the Spring Valley Water Company ordered all ranches in the old town to close up a move. Most of the people tore down their buildings, placed

them on wagons, hauled them to Redwood City, and put them back up just as the people of Searsville had done a decade before.

The member of the Lodi family that most people living today will remember is Fire Chief Joseph Lodi. Joseph Lodi worked in construction before joining the fire department. He ended his career in the fire service in 1970 and his record in that service was outstanding. He retired after serving a number of years as fire chief.