

# HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA

Vol. 8 - No. 5 May 1990

## DALY CITY'S UNSOLVED MYSTERY!

On August 16, 1942, the serenity of a Daly City Sunday was shattered by the wail of sirens, the roaring of police cars and fire engines, and the racing to the foot of San Bruno Mountain by hundreds of Daly City residents.

A U.S. Navy blimp was about to land on a Daly City street! Wandering in from the ocean, vagrant in the breezes, was the lighter-than-air ship L-8, a patrol blimp on a routine flight from its base of origin, Treasure Island.

It crashed with little damage on Bellevue Avenue, its door latched open. Everything in the gondola seemed in good order...with one great exception, **ITS CREW WAS MISSING!**

The mystery of the L-8 became Daly City's **UNSOLVED MYSTERY!** On Wednesday, May 16th, at 7:30 p.m., our next Guild meeting at Doelger Center, the background of the blimp and its crew, its flight, observation by other ships and planes, its chase inland by DC residents, will be chronicled by **Bunny and Ken Gillespie.**

Based on eye-witness accounts by many local residents, including Guild member **Frances Windhurst**, extensive research locally and nationally, the saga of L-8 will be told in narrated, illustrated manner, including several previously unpublished pictures.


Some of our eye-witnesses were discovered at Daly City gatherings. If any Guild members or friends are also eye-witnesses, please let us know so we can make such acknowledgment.

## PORTOLA PROGRAM A HIT

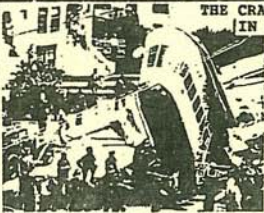
If **Don Gaspar de Portola** had been a fly on the wall of Doelger Center on the evening of March 21st last, he and his party would have exclaimed, "Carramba, what a great program!"

THE HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS ANOTHER

# HISTORY EVENING!



WEDNESDAY, May 16th, at 7-30 pm



THE CRASH OF THE L-8  
IN DALY CITY

## Daly City's UNSOLVED MYSTERY!

Produced and presented by  
Ken and Bunny Gillespie

Doelger Center Multi-Purpose Room  
101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City

### ADMISSION FREE!

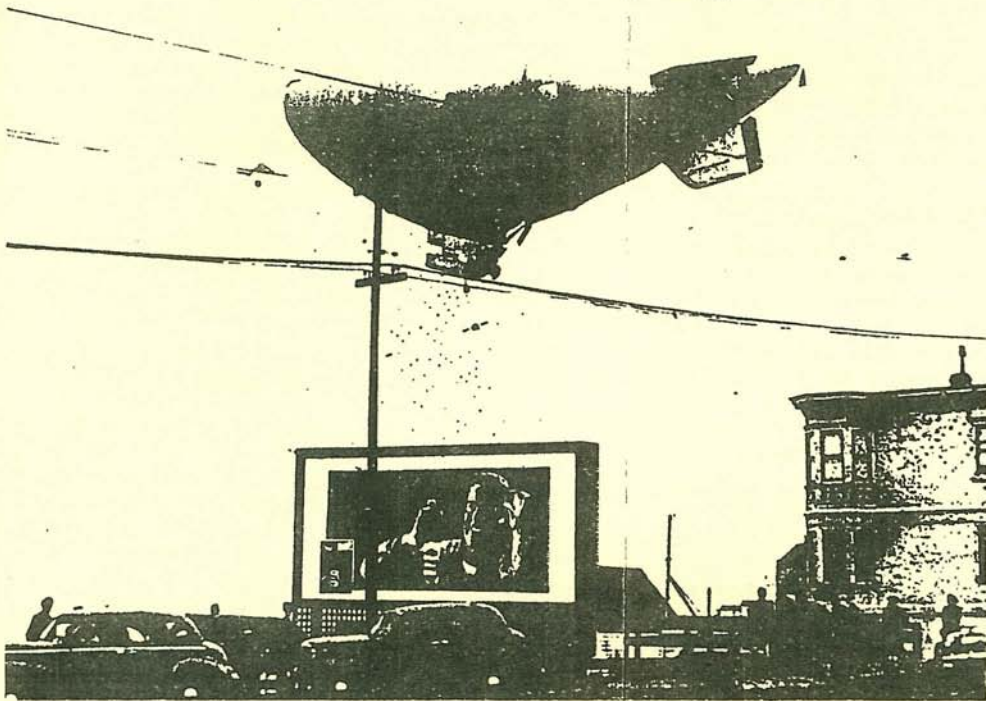
Donations Gratefully Accepted • Phone 991-8025 for Information

Since the good Don and his party were the subjects of Judge Jose Delarios, and the life and times of the famed explorer-governor were highlighted in splendid fashion, they would have been delighted by the story and the response of the Guild members and friends to the exposition.

It was a masterful presentation, and 140 attendees were rapt in their attention to the meticulously researched program.

The evening wasn't without its sober reflection, however, since four friends had died recently, **George Gaggero, Capt. Jack Elliott, Lov Giusti,** and former mayor of Daly City **Frank Pacelli.** The evening was dedicated to their memories.

Dignitaries in the audience included **Betty Schultz** of the High School Board, the **Vireno** sisters (long-time Daly City residents), Mayor **Ted Kirschner** and **Lydia Kirschner** of Colma, **Gilbert Doyle**, new appointee to the History,



The Navy blimp L-8, seen drifting aimlessly over the top of the hill in Daly City, August 1942.

Arts & Science Commission, Bianca Caserza of the Library Board. Regrets were received from Councilwoman Jane Powell and Councilman Al Teglia, marking the first time in six years that one or the other was not present at a Guild meeting.

Handmade tote bags, fashioned and donated by LeRoy and Aida Larsen, were raffled for the good of the Treasury, as was a chrysanthemum plant.

### NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS

On the agenda for the May 16th Meeting will be the report of the Nominating Committee, chaired by Jane Powell. To be elected are the officers of the Guild, the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and four directors.

If you have any nominations in mind, please contact Jane Powell at 992-2757. Nominations from the floor (if any), and election will also take place, plus

installation as a group immediately following the election.

### SERRAMONTE LIBE REOPENS

After a closure of six months, due to the October 17th earthquake, the Serramonte Library was re-opened on April 22nd, with a spanking new appearance, new carpeting and decor throughout. Guild member Bob McClay, who was the artist for our Guild letterhead, contributed two beautiful painting panels, depicting eight local scenes, and personally painted decorative motif emphasis to the standing columns in the Library. The area downstairs where the Cataloguing Crew works on Tuesday afternoons has been opened measurably, and there are great hopes now for the use of part of the History Collection location for display of some of our artifacts and photographs!

Much appreciation, and an early set of sincere good wishes go to John

Sullivan, City Librarian, who will be retiring in the very near future. Moving to Port Townsend, Washington, John has been the epitome of cooperation and friendship...making Guild activities an object of sincere interest. We will miss his hearty greetings, genuine interest and enthusiasm!

### COLMA OFFICIALS ELECTED

Congratulations are extended to Guild member **Charles Gerrans**, Councilman of Colma, who has been elected as Mayor of Colma, his third term as chief executive. Mayor **Gerrans** replaces **Ted Kirschner** (who has never missed a Guild meeting!). Guild member **Dennis Fiscaro** was elected vice-mayor. We wish the new administration every success!

### HISTORY BUFFS AT DUEL SITE

On Sunday, July 16th, the **History Buffs of San Mateo County**, the outing arm of the **San Mateo County Historical Association**, will hold their summer meeting at the **Broderick-Terry Dueling Site**, at 2:00 p.m.

A highlight of the gathering will be a re-enactment of the duel, accompanied by a short narrative of the circumstances surrounding its causes, by **Robert Chandler**, history officer of Wells Fargo Bank, who was our speaker on the subject at our Guild meeting in May of 1989. One of the markers at the Dueling Site had been broken off by vandals, but has since been repaired. The Dueling Site is right at the County Line, accessible from El Portal Drive, off Cliffside Drive in Westlake. Light refreshments will be served. **Y'all come now!**

### GOODIE SIGN-UPS

The following generous members are reminded of their sign-up for **GOODIES** (4 dozen of something yummy!) for the upcoming **May 16th Meeting**:

**Irene Krueger**  
**Anita Stagnaro**  
**Joanne LeMay**  
**Aida Larsen**  
**Marian Rocchetta**

Hospitality chief **Mary Hutchings** will be phoning you as a reminder, too. Many, many thanks for your volunteering!

### SAN MATEO R.R. 'S IN SEPT.

Looking forward to our September 19th program at Doelger Center, we will be privileged to hear the story of **San Mateo County Railroads**, presented by **Arthur Lloyd**, eminent railroad historian and local representative for Amtrak.

This will be an intriguing evening, since **Mr. Lloyd** is without parallel in his knowledge of railroading. You might have heard him recently on KGO Radio's **California Weekend**, where he was quoting current schedules right out of the blue.

### GUILD POTPOURRI

Guild paid membership continues to expand. As of this writing (end of April, 1990) Membership Chairperson **Roz Babow** reports **217 members!** This is an all-time high, and indicates that the Guild, with good, solid programming and very modest membership rates, is a very attractive organization to join!

Suitable as gifts, and available at each Guild meeting are **Daly City Stationery Sets** (\$2.50 for six), and **"The Great Daly City Historical Trivia Book"** (\$5.00).

The stationery was created by artist **Bob McClay** for the 75th Anniversary Celebration.

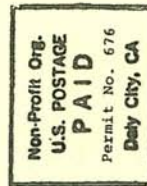
While having a pleasant lunch up at **Licata's**, at Cypress Hills Golf Course, we were startled, and pleased, to see a beautiful red fox move steadily in and out of the plantings outside. The full-grown, bushy-tailed fox didn't seem in any hurry, or hungry, passing by two full families of quail, and not disturbing either group. It took us back to early days in Broadmoor, when all beyond the Old County Road was farm land, and in the wooded gully that later became Margaret Pauline Brown School rabbits, raccoons, opossums, and an occasional fox were to be seen.

Several generous donations have been made to the Guild in the name of our late good friend **George Gaggero**. Such thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated.

Membership badges have been ordered and made for the following, and are

ready to be picked up at our next meeting:

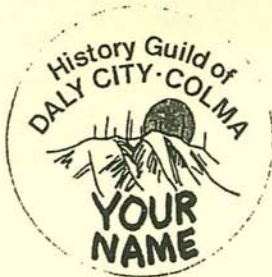
Nick Nano, Jean and John Gallagher, Elsie Martin, Gwen Newman, Elinor Charleston, Ed Fish, Betty Lyle, Frances Bullard, Joe Anguilla, John Palmer, Ray Harman and Julie Lenkert.



### WOULD YOU LIKE A BADGE?

Membership badges of the Guild are available from Ken Gillespie, who purchased a button-making machine, and has been having lots of fun making individual buttons for particular projects.

Buttons are as represented below, with names lettered, are 2½" in diameter, and can be ordered at \$1.00 each, with 75¢ going to the Guild treasury.



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#### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Ken Gillespie, pres.	755-5123
Roz Babow, treas.	994-7662
Bunny Gillespie, secy.	755-5123
Neil Fahy, dir.	756-2753
Yolanda Hardiman, dir.	589-0188
Ted Babow, dir.	994-7662

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DALY CITY ADVOCATES  
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**DATED MATERIAL**