

HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA

Vol. 9, No. 6 May 1991

"GATES & GARDENS" TOPIC FOR MAY 15TH MEETING

The May 15th meeting of the History Guild of Daly City/Colma will be tinkled to order with a cowbell from John Daly's dairy farm at 7:30 p.m. at Doelger Center.

Speaker for the evening will be Mrs. Betty Horn of the San Mateo County Historical Association, with an illustrated program on the beauty spots of San Mateo County. Titled "Gates and Gardens", many of the Peninsula's famous estates will be shown and discussed by Mrs. Horn, well-known as an expert on the subject. She is a member of the SMCHA Museum Auxiliary, the Funders of SMCHA, the Westerners' SF Corral and the Hillsborough Garden Club.

As an introduction to "Gates and Gardens", a few slides will be shown of Daly City's authentic mansion, that of hat-tycoon John Meussdorffer, whose beautiful, 22-room home was located on property now occupied by George Washington Elementary School, Hanover and Whittier. Still visible in the play yard is a cement plug which covers a former well for the block-square house and gardens.


Also on the agenda is the report of the Nominating Committee, the election and installation of officers for 1991-1992. Chairperson Jane Powell may be reached at 992-2757 for any interested in running for the offices listed at the end of the bulletin.

MARCH 15TH MEETING NOTES


For the first time in the history of the Guild, the program for the evening didn't materialize. Scheduled to speak had been our own Neil Fahy, on the history, geology, flora and fauna of San Bruno Mountain. But...ship timing in the South Pacific precluded his arrival back in time for the meeting. We missed you, Neil, and welcome back to the cooler climes!

THE HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA
PROUDLY PRESENTS ANOTHER

HISTORY EVENING!



WEDNESDAY, May 15th 7:30 pm



GATES & GARDENS
OF THE PENINSULA
an illustrated talk
by
Betty Horn

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

ADMISSION FREE!

Donations Gratefully Accepted • Phone 755-5123 for information

As a substitute, Ken Gillespie presented a slide program of "Then and Now" pictures, with lots of input from the 100 plus members and friends in attendance. It was good fun to get photo i.d.'s of what was where something else is now.

We also celebrated the 80th birthday of the incorporation of Daly City. It was on March 18, 1911 when voters approved the creation of a new town in San Mateo County, by a 2 vote margin. A ceremonial candle in the shape of an "8" was lit by Councilwoman Jane Powell, and blown out by all present.

As a special treat for the evening, 75th Anniversary King and Queen Hartley and Esther Appleton wore their ceremonial sashes and tiara, and displayed a beautiful photo album and other regalia of their "royal" tenure.

Member John Olcese donated two beautiful Primula plants for the raffle, and the cookie crew were Elsa Ramos, Lorraine Cordova, Belva Carroll,

NOTE: We're looking for any memorabilia (pictures, hats, etc.) from the Meusdorffer estate to display on May 15th, if any member or friend has such items. Bring them along or call Ken or Bunny, 755-5123. Merci!

The beautiful gardens of the John Meusdorffer estate that was up near the County Line.



Evelyn Tyler and Eda Giusti. To all of those we express sincere thanks! and also to ticket sellers Dorothy Gorry, LeRoy and Aida Larsen!

CATALOGUING & DONATIONS

Cataloguing of materials at Serramonte Library has been slowed down to once a month, on the 2nd Tuesday, from 1-2:30 p.m. The plaque which had been on the front steps of the 2nd City Hall on Wellington Ave. has been salvaged, and is now in the collection at the Library. Installed for the May 1939 dedication of the building, the heavy metal insert reads:

This building dedicated to

**TRUTH-LIBERTY
- TOLERATION -**

by the
Native Sons of the Golden West
May 21, 1939

One corner of the plate was bent in the demolition, and we hope that some good soul will give us advice on how to straighten such a heavy ($\frac{1}{2}$ " piece of metal???

Other donations to the collection are 9 yard-square aerial photos of our area at the time when St. Francis Hts. was nearly completed and Serramonte was just being developed. The pix were found in the basement of City Hall and were salvaged and forwarded by good member Mike Wilson, whose very sharp eyes even found the tiny NBC letters which used to adorn the hill below Radio Road on San Bruno Mtn.

These pix became quite useful when we were asked about the terrain behind St. Andrew's Catholic Church on Southgate prior to its building. We were able to say that it looked like open pasture land, part of the Christen Dairy Farm.

LOLA'S LUNCHEON A LULU!

Member Lola Garcia was feted on April 6th last with a party attended by more than 200 at the Holiday Inn in San Francisco. It was a most happy occasion, with representatives from many of the North Peninsula organizations whose activities were highlighted in Lola's column over the 27 years she wrote for local newspapers.

The luncheon was sponsored by the South San Francisco Historical Society. Plaques and certificates were presented by national, state, county and local representatives, including those from U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos and Jackie Speier, by State Senator Quentin Kopp, County Supervisors Mary Griffin and Bill Schumacher, S.S.F. Mayor Jack Drago, D.C. Council Members Jane Powell and Al Teglia.

Lola's family was well-represented, including her sister who came to the event from Reno. The Historical Society went all out for this honoring, and paid great tribute to this tireless journalist, who promoted every worthwhile activity and organization. The speakers had a mutual theme, that of "praise for her contribution, and...it just won't be the same without Lola's column!" To which we append a rousing A-MEN!

WRITE IT DOWN...NOW!

A good lesson was learned recently at the Annual Meeting of the U.S. Naval Institute at Annapolis, Maryland, that of keeping good records, and WRITING THINGS DOWN! Attending the meeting were the Gillespies, who were delighted to witness a knock-down, drag-out panel discussion between pro and con factions of the question:

DID ROBERT PEARY REACH THE POLE?

In April of 1909, Arctic Explorer Peary claimed that he had indeed stood on the top of the world, where everything around him was straight south. He was regaled as a conquering hero, but in the past twenty years there have been a number of doubters, who have pointed to major discrepancies in proof-positive and raised questions that haven't yet been answered.

Peary didn't keep good records of his self-reported dash to what he said was the North Pole. His diary, only recently opened after 75 years, has major gaps, pages missing, loose-leaf inserted, and only a cursory mention of having reached the Pole. On the day he returned, his companion of 22 years of exploration reported his face gloomy and discouraged, not the face

of a world conqueror. The panelists included two men who'd reached the Pole, and who recounted the hardships and impossibility of making the miles that Peary claimed. Last year's confirmation of the feat by the Navigation Foundation (sponsored by the National Geographic Society) was poo-pooed as inconclusive, self-serving, etc., and the debate grew so heated that the moderator stopped the proceedings twice for a cooling-off period.

If his diary had been complete and accurate during the dash to the Pole, or at least filled in with credible data following, this discussion might never have been needed. PBS and Unsolved Mystery were filming, so perhaps we'll get a documentary shown sometime in the future.

IT'S NICE TO BE KNOWN

Our Guild's name is well-enough known to the Daly City Post Office that a letter was sent to 40 Wembley Drive, Daly City even though the address was as follows:

History Guild of Daly City/Colma
Daly City, California 94015

The letter was from the California Institute of Public Affairs, with a questionnaire enclosed, asking if we had a museum of any kind, which they would be pleased to list in their publication of such locations. Unfortunately we had to report that we had not yet been able to establish one...yet.

COOKIE REMINDER!

The Cookie Crew for May 15th are the following generous members:

Gwen Newman
Anita Stagnaro
Esther Appleton
Chuck Meagher
Anne Ingersoll

Mary Hutchings, chairperson of the Hospitality Committee will phone you as a reminder prior to the meeting. Thank you all for your assistance!

YOO-HOO! BADGES READY!

Badges have been made and will be available for pick-up at the meeting for the following members:

Eijna Larsen-Bik
Rush and Lois Manbert
Eda and Paul Giusti
Helen???*

*last name not quite deciphered, so please check in at desk on May 15th.

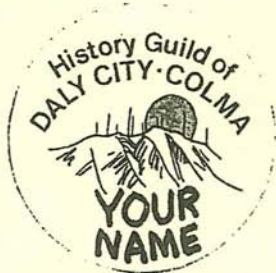
Also, the following badges have been ready for sometime, for:

Christen Wegener
Mark and Bea Marquez
Elsie Martin
Nadine Dean
Evelyn Todd
Florence Oppermann

MEMBERSHIP BADGES, ANYONE?

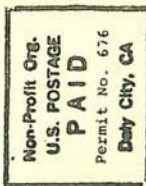
Membership badges of the Guild are available from Ken Gillespie.

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



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Ken Gillespie - President | 755-5123 |
| Neil Fahy - Vice President | 756-2753 |
| Bunny Gillespie - Secretary | 755-5123 |
| Roz Babow - Treasurer | 994-7662 |
| Ted Babow - Director | 994-7662 |
| Yolanda Hardiman - Director | 589-0188 |
| Elaine Riney - Director | 992-4696 |
| Walter Riney - Director | 992-4696 |



DALY CITY ADVOCATES
HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA
40 Wembley Drive
Daly City, CA 94015

DATED MATERIAL