

"MURDER MOST FOUL" at March 19th Meeting

Our next Guild meeting will be on Wednesday, March 19th, at Doelger Center, 7:30 p.m. Featured speaker is member Shirley Burgett, partner and fellow-historian with Michael Svanevik, well-known Peninsula topic writers. Shirley will shed light on the subject of "MURDER MOST FOUL!"

This will be the fascinating story of the abduction and murder of the pastor at Holy Angels Church in Colma. On a foggy Colma evening a doorbell was rung urgently at the rectory on San Pedro Avenue. An overcoat-clad man with goggles and broken English pleaded for help from Father Patrick Heslin, who accompanied the man into the night...and was never seen alive again!

The "FLAPJACK MURDER" as the case was later dubbed, was a fascinating tale, and Shirley will surely bring us a gut-wrenching depiction as we accompany her into the wet Colma darkness of 1921!

After many years with the San Mateo Times group of newspapers, Shirley and Michael are now with the Peninsula Independent, their full-page stories appearing under the title "Now and Again."

This will be a dandy program, and we trust that you will steal out into the foggy DC/C evening for a very special presentation.


The upcoming meeting will also feature the report of the new Nominating Committee chairperson Betty Schultz, for the upcoming officer election in May.

Birthday Bash at Colma a Smasheroo!


It's a pity that Colma's charming Town Hall council chamber doesn't have rubber walls, for our gala 15th birthday bash surely could've used a bit more space last January 12th afternoon.

THE HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA
PROUDLY PRESENTS ANOTHER

HISTORY EVENING!





WEDNESDAY, March 19th, at 7:30 pm



MURDER MOST FOUL!

The Flapjack Murder
as told by
SHIRLEY BURGETT

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

 **ADMISSION FREE!** 

Donations Gratefully Accepted • Phone 991-8025 for Information

Without stripping the business offices of chairs, every other seat was occupied, and standees fringed the sides and rear of the chamber.

Appropriate greetings were offered by Colma Council members Helen and Dennis Fiscicaro and Fro Vallerger, and congratulations on our longevity came from County Supervisor Mary Griffin and recently-retired DC Councilman Al Teglia.

Colma Historical Association's Pat Hatfield updated the news on the Colma Train Station, the keys to which landmark are now in the CHA's paws, giving our sister society the opportunity to start the renovation work that is the next step in their march towards a permanent museum.

Speaker for the occasion was County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Floyd Gonella. Colma-born, he didn't discuss his experiences in our area's education process, but instead told delightful anecdotes of growing up in the very rural, very Italian Colma and Daly City.

The packed house chuckled and nodded as Floyd prodded their memories for names and dates and long-ago happy times in a more innocent era.

Mr. Gonella was serenaded prior to his talk with some special lyrics relevant to the occasion, to the tune of "Frere Jacques", toasting him affectionately:

"Floyd Gonella, Floyd Gonella,
How's by you, how's by you?
You're a very splendid
County Superintendent
Hoo hoo hoo, hoo hoo hoo!"

Staffing the registration end of the big Council table were Betty Schultz and Marilyn Olcese, accepting dues renewals.

Champagne was dispensed expertly by Guild v.p. Russ Brabec assisted by Joyce Olcese, up from Carmel for the occasion. Joyce brings up a beautiful floral display for the raffle (whoops..!) drawing each January, but was in such a dither to drive up that she left the display behind, and it was brought up some time later. We thank her for her continuing sweetness and generosity, a trait very evident in the Olcese family!

The birthday party always calls for on-the-spot volunteer help to set up and remove chairs, and all that was needed was a mention over the mike to get a stream of good guys (and gals!) to do the job. We thank Ralph Jordan, Neil Fahy, Walt Riney and Fran Bullard on the ticket sales, Jean Gallagher, Helen Miller, Max Ramos, Bob Salazar, the Rochettas, and, oh, golly! there are others whose names we just didn't write down, but just about all the more than 135 attendees were their usual cheerful, helpful Guild souls, and we thank them all for faithful enthusiasm.

The Council Chamber furniture was relocated to make the food table

a forward centerpiece athwartship the western end, instead of its traditional sidewall location. This made for easier access to the groaning spread of goodies tastefully displayed by Hospitality chair Mary Hutching and her talented staff of Enid and Bob Williams and Marilyn Olcese.

Goodies were provided by the following generous goody givers: Emile Thomas, Jr. - Trudy Erlich - Pat Hatfield - Ingrid Salazar - Angela Uccelli - Rose Veronello - Bunny Gillespie - Evelyn Franco - Helen Nelson and Elsa Ramos.

It's hard to believe that we have been enjoying the warm hospitality of Colma Township for 15 years!

L-8 Model Well Underway

When we asked in the January Tattler for a volunteer artist to assemble and complete a small model of a WW II blimp to resemble our famous Daly City Unsolved Mystery blimp that fell on Bellevue Avenue in August of 1942 with its 2-officer crew missing, we received an immediate response from member Col. Bill Wade, who has the project well in hand at his Westlake workshop.

An experienced model maker, Bill brought the assembled blimp to the Mini-Museum recently to see the area of display that will show off the finished project. It will be placed in one of the illuminated showcases, near some mounted fragments of the actual L-8 that are currently shown.

Seven different colors of paint were purchased by Bill to recreate the way the blimp looked back in 1942. We thank the good Colonel for his enthusiasm and craftsmanship.

Incidentally, the Mini-Museum docent staff, Walt Schultz, Don Manning, Collins Orton and Dick Larsen, all WW II vets, examined the blimp and gave Bill's assembly a prompt nod of approval!

New Storage Area in Use

Since there is no storage space at the Mini-Museum at Serramonte Library that isn't being used, as bulky items have been received for

the collection much of it has been placed in the Gillespie basement. Items such as display racks, the tent canopy, table, easels, mannequin forms for clothing, etc. grew and grew and grew.

We investigated professional storing locally, but the cost would have been prohibitive, and then we received the offer of a small, but adequate storage space in a building that was available through director Marilyn Olcese. And, through the generosity of member Don Manning and his trusty pick-up truck, we were able to deliver the stuff to its new storage spot, which will be just right for withdrawals for use at Gateway Festival, Westlake shows, and Victorian Days in the Park.

Many thanks to Marilyn for the use of the safe, dry and accessible location! Now, all we need is the use of the John Daly Library at the top of the hill as a future museum.

History Guild to Enter Historic Preservation Program

Our Guild has received an invitation from the State of California to participate in the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards program, a process wherein interested parties can submit a nomination for inclusion.

The eligibility factor reads as follows:

Any group, organization, state or local agency involved in historic preservation is eligible to receive the Governor's Historic Preservation Award. The nomination must be made by a person or persons outside the nominated organization.

With the cooperation of our Daly City Mayor Carol Klatt, we will submit shortly our application on behalf of the Mini-Museum, which falls within the project timespan of 5 years since inception.

Certain items must be submitted: A typed statement, 300 words or less, Black and white photos, slides, newspaper items, supplementary data.

The above include before and after pictures or documents, all of which we have kept in the files since the original concept of the Mini-Museum some 4½ years ago.

Dues in Doses!

Continuing appreciation is extended to member Richard Babow, son of Guild director Ted Babow and our recently-deceased treasurer Roz Babow, for his faithful work in keeping up the computer file which enables us to receive address labels and alpha and zip code listings for our member mailings.

We miss Roz so very much, but interim treasurer Bunny Gillespie has been doing splendid work in recording the dues payments accurately, making bank deposits on an as-needed basis, and keeping track of our membership listings.

The renewals have been coming in quite steadily, a flood in January and piecemeal in February. We would encourage those who haven't yet returned their dues to do so promptly.

Special thanks are due to our growing list of PATRON MEMBERS, who have sent in \$25 or more in renewal. So far we have received 29 in that category and are very grateful for their generosity.

How Doth the Cookie Crumble?

Yum yums for the March 19th meeting at Doelger Center have been volunteered by these lovely folk:

Mildred Eschler
Fran Bullard
Helen Asplund
Bianca Caserza
Doris Hill
Esther Appleton
Michael Rocchetta (cider)

Mary Hutchings will give you a call shortly before the meeting as a reminder. If there's any problem, Mary's number is 756-0864.

Additions to the Collection

Additions to the collection have been received gratefully from:

Ted Wurm - Ocean Shore R.R. paper goods, schedules, bond coupons.

Marian Mann - DC Fire Department pics and history; DC Record clippings in scrapbook; June 1932 JUHS newspaper "Totem Pole" copy; JUHS "Spirit" book copy; 1929 Pioneer class book.

Pat Sweetland - June 1953 election materials, re Sanitation bonds, discovered in DC building wall!

Kenneth Varner (CEO Cypress Lawn) - Beautiful book, "Cypress Lawn, Guardian of California Heritage."

June Neuhaus - Large pegboard panels for use in building displays.

Nanda Serini - Two portable display easels; one large and one small display board.

Carolyn Fuchs Damonte - Holy Angels 1956 Building Program booklet; Lake Merced art thermometer; 1939 meditation booklet.

Carolyn Pretzer - 1902 autograph book from Josephine Dunne of Colma.

Many thanks for the thoughtfulness and interest displayed by our many contributors to the history collection of our area. Also, to Don Manning for picking up the bulkier donated items.

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