

THE TATTLER

Vol. 16, No. 4 Mar.,1998

Journal of the History Guild of Daly City/Colma

Let's Reminisce On Recreation

The highlights of the last 60 years of activity by our very active Parks and Recreation Department will be presented by Mike Stallings, director of the thriving organization, on Wednesday evening, March 18th at 7:30 p.m., Doelger Center.

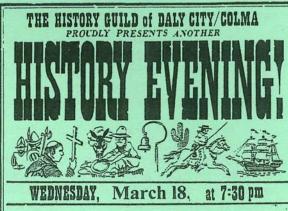
With stories, programs, albums of pictures and personal remembrances, and with the aid of co-workers Ed Barney and Steve Geramoni, the growth of the Parks and Rec from a single clubhouse (still a-goin',though!) on Parkview to the splendid, bustling multiplicity of means of merriment for Daly City do-ers will be depicted.

Members and friends are urged to bring any personal memorabilia (programs, posters, photos, etc.) for additional display with thematerials brought by Mike, Ed and Steve.

The auctioning of several vintage Daly City street signs (used between 1965 and 1995) which have been replaced by the new seagull design, will take place at the March 18th meeting. The cancellation of the January Birthday Bash at Colma Town Hall obviated the original auction. Minimum bid will be \$25 per sign.



"Ringers" in action at a Rec Dept. horseshoe tournament, and the first clubhouse at 10l Parkview Ave. (above) in these pictures from the 1940 Daly City directory.



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Our Parks & Rec Department

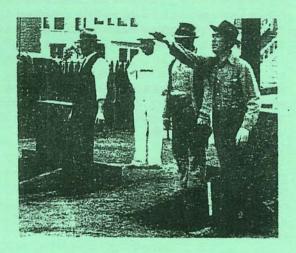
A History

with Mike Stallings

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



Donations Gratefully Accepted . Phone 991-8025 for Information



OKAY, NOAH... WHA' HAPPENED?

While sitting in church at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 18th, the rains came, and came, and came! If the sermon by the Rev. Wayne Herstad at Broadmoor Presbyterian Church wasn't on Noah, or on the trials of Job, well, it should have been.

There were a couple of errands to be run before heading for Colma Town Hall and helping to set up for the annual Guild Birthday Bash. At the same time a hundred or so Guild members were peering out at the unbelievable downpour and wondering if they should venture forth.

Included in such anxiety were the dozen cast members of "Dear Old Colma", the musical which was to be presented as the program of the day at the party, as well as the half-dozen goody givers of the special foods which are always part of the January Jaunt, and Mary Hutchings' Hospitality Crew, Marilyn Olcese, the Williamses, and extra volunteers to help squeeze as many chairs into the Colma Council Chambers as possible.

The transport car was jammed with junk...the champagne, ice chest, extra mike cables and extension cords for the sound system, props, scripts, agenda, street signs, drawing prizes, costumes, etc., etc. etc.

Well, cancel indeed! Let's mosey on down to see if this crisis is for real. Yep! We took the best part of half an hour to get as far east on Serramonte Blvd. as ToysR-Us, before the smiling Colma cops shooed us into a U-All turn. We could see Lake K-Mart in the distance, and were forced into the Target parking lot. Junipero Serra was closed northbound from Serramonte because of a Mercedes sedan that was in its own car wash.

We now were true believers in the Dispatcher's Dogma, and proceeded home along Southgate, passing 8 submerged cars on the way. Arriving at the secure menage, we found the answering machine awash with messages, all with the same general theme.

Some 80 calls were exchanged, in and out, and a good number of members were advised similarly. With a dozen bottles of chilling champagne still in the trunk, we considered having our own survival celebration. But, since it was Guild money that bought the bottles, we didn't feel exactly right about that.

But....we just can't sit here and watch the Titanic go down. So, off to Colma Town Hall again, after asking the Police Dispatcher to post a notice on the front door of the buildingi, just in case any members were less chicken than the president.

Things had changed for the better on the approach to Serramonte and El Camino. The road was open! **Ken** stationed himself in the now-drying Town Hall lot, and the daunters began to arrive, perhaps 30 of them, in dribs and drabs, as the rain was still a-comin' down!

He informed the chagrined members that the party was cancelled, and expressed great regret. "But what about the food in my trunk?" some asked. "Enjoy!" was the usual answer.

All of this took place before the normal kick-off time for the party, but...not knowing how many had arrived, had turned about before reaching, had never left home, and all the possible answers, the decision to cancel had to be made-

We found out later that a goodly number had actually gotten into the dry interior of the Town Hall, and waited for a measure of time before deciding to go home. We thank those who did so for their optimism and stick-to-it-iveness. It was a sobering experience, and our sympathies go to any and all who might have suffered damage or difficult circumstances because of El Ninny,

BUT...All ain't lost!

The program which was cancelled will now be presented on Wednesday, May 20th, this time at the Doelger Center, at 7°30 p.m. Although the setting will be changed, and the format of the musical a bit different, we will present "Dear Old Colma", with its all stare cast of Guild members and ringers from the choir of Broadmoor Presbyterian.

Those generous guys'n'gals who volunteered numa-nums for the **Birthday Bash** are indeed thanked, and <u>do</u> <u>not have to bring anything</u>. It wouldn't be fair...but...we will enjoy the birthday cakes which have been in our freezer since the deluge, and which will be in tempting array for the **March Meeting**.

Dues Doings

There are still a good number of members who ain't yet sent in their dooz! We recognize that with the holidays, the deluge and income tax returns in the offing one more tax might seem overbearing. Betty Schultz and Marilyn Olcese will happily accept your dues at the March meet.

For These Gifts We Are Truly Thankful

Recent acquisitions to the collection are listed below, together with their generous donors:

Linda Abbey, Lena Ciarlo Rossi - 7 Jeff Hi. Student Body Cards, re Bernice Ciarlo - 3 political cards, vintage 1935-37, delivered via Marilyn Olcese.

John Gersich - Crocker Tract deed of trust, re Archie Stewart, 1917, signed by W.H. Crocker. Annexation printed items, 1946-48, with DC map. B/W photo of bakery (on Mission Street?) 1996 calendar with reproductions of old photos.

Denise Crocker (Cow Palace) - Colored print of the Cow Palace in orange and brown paint, 1970's.

> Frances Liston - 1961 DC Golden Anniversary Tie, Marie Rusert - 1908 Colma Masked Ball ticket.

We wish to thank also good member **Don Manning** for the use of his pick-up truck to move Guild items from one location to another, and for his constant help and reference abilities at the Mini-Museum.

New School Name in Colma

The new elementary school in Colma will be named in honor of Susan B. Anthony. Selection of the name was effected with the help of 5th and 6th graders from the Margaret Pauline Brown School in Daly City.

The children lobbied for the new name and the Board found it difficult to turn their petitions, in the form of oral and written pleas, down.

Comments by the children on one phase of the name selection, however, didn't sit too well with the Guild's Bunny Gillespie, who noted that some of the students at MPB maintained that their own school had been named as such because of Mrs. Brown's marriage to a famous statesman (Assemblyman Henry Ward Brown).

Bunny maintained that if the naming of the school in Mrs. Brown's honor was because of her marriage to the noted Mr. Brown, then the facility might better have been named the Henry Ward Brown Elementary School. In a detailed letter to the Peninsula Independent, in which the children's remarks were quoted, she listed many of the

accomplishments of Margaret Pauline Brown, as an educator and contributor in great measure to the well-being of the citizenry of Daly City and Colma.

THORNTON H.S. ONCE AGAIN

Continuing on the subject of historic names, the Jefferson High School District school board voted at their Feb. 17 meeting to restore the name of Robert S. Thornton to the local facility that has been known for a number of years as the Alternative Educational Center.

The change honors the first settler in the North County, who arrived in 1853, set up his blacksmith business, and proceeded to improve the quality of life in these parts. It was his idea to name the school district "Jefferson", a idea advanced when he was on the committee to open the first 1-room schoolhouse here, and when he was on the first school district board of trustees.

The vote last month came just 80 years after the 1918 opening of the R.S.Thornton elementary school at Castle & 2^{nd} .

SCHOOL STREET STATION

Another historical name has been preserved, we're happy to note. On Feb. 4, between rain showers, the new housing facility on Mission Street was dedicated, with pomp and speeches. The multi-story building, at the south-west corner facing School Street, has been named School Street Station after the long-ago railroad station that was so important to the lower-Mission Street area when, initially, the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad chugged through there and, later, the Southern Pacific RR.

Both are long-gone now, but at the dedication one could readily imagine the sound of iron wheels clicking over the tracks and whooo-whoo whistles fading in the distance.

The city council, led by Mayor Mike Guingona, was there in force to witness the celebration and offer words of encouragement to residents of the new landmark.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DALY CITY!

As has been the Guild's custom for the past 16 years, we shall be giving a polite nod to the aging of Daly City, this year noting her-its-his 87th anniversary of incorporation on March 22. One has to admit the place has grown and prospered over the years since the historic 132-130 vote that put Ed Freyer, out-of-work metalsmith, into the Mayor's chair and a man named Duck Sullivan into power as pound master.

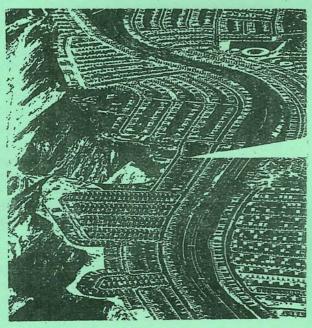
We're now the most populated city in San Mateo County, numbering 100,500 people, so they say.

Avalon Canyon Disaster

The storm damage at Avalon Canyon in Westlake brought inquiries from DC's City Hall to see if we had any pictures of the area before grading, during and post home construction.

Luckily, in the collection we were able to find a few photos that can be of help in the City's investigation of the subsidence. This is why we recommend that any old pictures of our area be labeled on the back with names and dates, and offered to the Guild for possible acquisition.

If you don't wish to part with the pictures, the Guild will photograph them and return the materials with appreciation to the owners.



HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA Officers and Directors

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Mark Weinberger	Vice-President	755-0612
Bunny Gillespie	Secretary	755-5123
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