

# THE TATTLE

Vol. 19, No. 3

Jan. 2001

Journal of the History Guild of Daly City/Colma

## Colma Is Topic For Jan. 21 Meeting

Pat Hatfield, president of the Colma Historical Assn. and recent star of a Bay Area Back Roads tv show, is the featured speaker for the Sunday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m., meeting of the Guild at the Colma Town Hall on El Camino Real. A patron of the HG since 1994, Pat will present a show and tell slide program focusing on some of the notable "Underground Residents of Colma".

The program promises to be one of the more fascinating, with a limitless cast of character possibilities ranging from sporty Joe DiMaggio to historic Emperor Norton. Those selected to be highlighted will be a surprise. Always cooperative, Pat and her husband, David, as well as their son, David, are mainstays of the Colma HA, ever willing, ever pleasant, ever energetic.

Over the years, Colma has been a "City of the Dead". Thanks to Pat and her CHA cohorts have breathed historical life into Colma, truly giving its citizens the right to boast "It's Great to be Alive in Colma!!!" A special thought: In the DC Record newspaper of June 5, 1914, the editor deemed Colma "that little city of gardens and good people." The remark is just as pertinent now.

### An Invitation to the Park

From Cypress Lawn Memorial Park rep Anne Averill, executive director of the CL Heritage Foundation, the Guild has received notice of an invitation to attend Sunday afternoon lectures and/or walks, 2-4p.m., on Third Sundays. For reservations (required) call (650) 550-8811. First one is

THE HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS ANOTHER

# HISTORY EVENT

Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 p.m.

**COLMA**  
The Underground Story  
With  
Pat Hatfield,  
President,  
Colma Historical Ass'n.

Colma Town Hall  
El Camino Real & Serramonte Blvd.

**ADMISSION FREE!**  
Donations Gratefully Accepted • Phone 755-5123 for Information

Jan. 21, clashing with our HG Annual Party.  
Next, Feb. 18 & March 18. Presentations are set for Noble Chapel (cc1892), east of ECR.

### Treats for January????

They say the mind is the first thing to go...so you'll forgive the lapse, perhaps, incurred at the HG meeting in November. Bunny (!) experienced a "Senior Moment" and completely forgot about passing around the sign-up sheet for those who might like to bring munchies for our annual meeting at the Colma Town Hall. Sooooo..

We're asking those so inclined to bring treats for that gala event to bring along the goodies

that you might have brought along if you'd had a board upon which to sign and indicate your inclination.

We'll plan on the usual celebration cakes, coffee, and cool beverages and will look to Guild-member generosity for other yummys. **Bunny** will bring her famous (or infamous) cucumber open-face tea sandwiches, and that's a promise, on a platter ready to be placed directly on our hospitality table.

Please bring finger foods (the kind that you'd like to eat yourself) on plates, trays, or platters, ready to place.....not giving another task to our ever-friendly hospitality crew. If you have questions, please phone director Marilyn Olcese.

### November OLPH Salute Was a Loving Tribute

With **Father Joseph Gordon** at the podium, and a near-capacity audience in the multi-use room at Doelger Community Center, November's recognition of the 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Anniversary year of Daly City's pioneer Roman Catholic church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, was another highlight of the year 2000 programming. Drawing from his personal knowledge of the parish, the church, and the personalities that have sustained OLPH over the decades, **Father Gordon** traced the history of OLPH since her founding in 1925 on Wellington Ave. at the Top-of-the-Hill in Daly City.

Also participating in the program was **Sister Rita Marie Kropp**, whose teaching career at OLPH School pre-dated and embraced WWII and later years. Among those in the audience were **Monsignor John Pernia**, the current pastor, former students at OLPH and current parishioners.

The Guild again thanks HG member **Joe Gordon** for sharing his research and memories in warm, loving, fashion.

### Pleasant Note

Now and then the Guild receives little and large warm fuzzies, so we'll share:

From **Christen Wegener**, of San Francisco, a member of the HG since December, '85, a brief envelope note attests he "loves Daly City, always." Thanx Mr. **Wegener**. (Editor's note: We agree.)

### Prizes Invited for Fun/ Fund Raising Drawings

Prizes are always needed for fun/fund raising drawings at our meetings. This activity provides a nice part of our annual income, and is sorta fun.. If you're inclined, donate items that you would like to win & take home-- edibles, potables, pretty things, good-looking things. (No tired junque, please.) Delivery to the meetings appreciated. Qs? Call director **Marilyn Olcese**, (650) 755-5616. By the way, the cheerful guy that roams around selling those little prize-winning tickets is long-time director **Walter Riney**. There are times when he could use a helper. Volunteers most welcome to inquire at the desk. Fringe benefit: you get to chat w/ lots of people.

### HG Member Ratnikas Puts DC History on Net

Through the diligence of **Algis Ratnikas**, an HG member since January, '98, there is a great way to improve our personal information banks regarding local history. Obviously a person of talent and perseverance, **Mr. Ratnikas** has done a vast amount of research about the North County and has put it together in *Time Line* form. His work is to be found via [algis.com](http://algis.com). Click on Timelines of History, States and Cities of the USA, US Cities, and (wow!) Daly City/Colma. .

This masterwork spans the ages, starting with 100 million years ago when, he writes, the Colma Hills are gently sloping mountains made of sandstone, shale and a conglomerate of marine and continental origin.

He takes the area through the intervening years to anticipation of 2086, when Daly City's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary time capsule is to be opened.

You may find Mr. Ratnikas' complete work on the internet, but, with his permission, we'll pick up some excerpts:

1774: Fernando Rivera and four soldiers climbed San Bruno Mtn and watched the sun rise over the bay. (When's the last time you did that???)

1846: Rancho Laguna de la Merced passed to American owners, later to become Spring Valley Water Co., and, even later, the Westlake section of Daly City.

1915: Lagomarsino family of Colma employs dozens of women to pick and fashion violets into nosegays for SF Worlds Fair visitors.

### The Collection Grows

Thanks to the eagle eyes of our members and friends, recent additions to the Guild collection of pertinent memorabilia continues to grow. But first, an apology to Los Gatos HG member **Laverne Nolan**, whose name was omitted in the Nov. Tattler regarding the copy of the 1931 Jefferson High varsity baseball team that ran in the DC Record. We neglected to thank **Laverne**. We again thank **Diane Pitto** for shepherding it to us. And, **Laverne**, we really do thank you.

Recently the Guild has received:

- From DC City Clerk/HG member, **Helen Flowerday**, a copy of the 1868 official map of San Mateo County. The document attests to being "carefully compiled from actual surveys" and passed by SMC Supervisors.
- 8/16/1942 Two snapshot prints of US Navy blimp L-8, from estate of **Don Stiewell**, via **Pat Hatfield**.

- **George Washington Elem. School**, via HG member **Claren Palmer**, 22 scrapbooks/student photo albums 1973-1990.

### Members Vote To Raise Dues, a Bit

At the September meeting, members voted to increase annual dues \$1 per label to cover the price difference in sending out the Tattler first class for each mailing, thereby (hopefully) insuring more prompt delivery of our premier communication.

**On the subject of dues:** *Membership dues are an annual event.* Each January, as with this mailing, invitations to remit are posted to all on our mailing list. Prompt renewals are truly appreciated.

**Betty and Walter Schultz** have accepted responsibility for collecting and keeping track of dues payments. We thank them for their gracious willingness to assume this significant task.

Again this year, we shall be eliminating from the mailing list those names from whom there has been no indication of interest (ie dues payment) for several years. If there is a red dot on your mailing label, this will be your final Tattler, unless we hear from you. A *green dot* means you've already paid through 2001. A *blue dot* means no dues are expected. **NO Dot** means dues are payable now.

### In Our Memory

New pages are added to the Guild's beautiful Memorial Book, viewable at the Mini-Museum, as donations are made to the MM fund in memory of loved ones. Recent additions include pages honoring:

**Mrs. Lena Caserza**, beloved wife of **Lawrence Caserza**. **Lena and Lawrence** joined the Guild in May 1985. She passed away March 31, 2000, but continues in the hearts and memories of all who knew her.

**Mrs. Elaine Riney**, beloved wife of **Walter Riney**, who continues on the HG Board of Directors. **Elaine** was a founding director of the Guild, with her husband, and

instrumental in the establishment of the Mini Museum. They joined the HG in March '83.

The special Memorial Fund benefiting the growth of the Mini-Museum has generated just over \$1000 in donations, for which we are most grateful, even as we continue to mourn the loss of loved ones but treasure their memories in mind and heart.

### HG Library Showcase Display Salutes Upcoming Program (s)

Now on view near the Main Entrance at Serramonte Library is a special showcase display focusing on the earliest days of the North County. The unique town of Colma, the topic for the Guild's Jan. 21 program, is sharing the space with items relevant to our March 21 meeting when the HG will salute the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Daly City.

The showcase has been moved slightly to the left of its premier entrance-on placement within the Library, but continues to attract viewers. Installed periodically, displays pertinent to things historical are proving of gratifying interest to Library patrons, many of whom visit the Mini Museum 1-2:30 p.m., Tuesdays, to see more history materials. You can do the same. It's free, of course.

### Another Smiling Face

**Elinor Charleston**, a member of the Guild since 1983, has graciously agreed to be part of the HG Hospitality Committee, serving as purchaser for our drinking cups and helping with serving. Ever pleasant, **Elinor** brings to the position vast

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#### HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA Officers and Directors

Ken Gillespie	President	(650)755-5123
Mark Weinberger	Vice-President	(650)755-0612
Bunny Gillespie	Secretary	(650)755-5123
Russ Brabec	Treasurer	(650)583-4985
Marilyn Olcese	Director	(650)755-5616
Walter Riney	Director	(650)992-4696
Albert Teglia	Director	(650)755-1792
Diane Pitto	Director	(415)584-9876

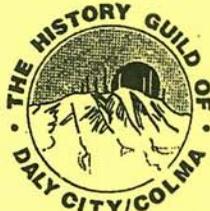
experience gained as a Doelger Ctr. Volunteer. Bless you, Dear Lady. The Guild offers other volunteer opportunities to those who'd wish to help, ranging from Mini-Museum hosting to a myriad of ad hoc needs at meetings, street fairs, etc.

Museum volunteers **Don Manning, Russ Brabec, Walter Schultz, Ken Gillespie** and **Bunny Gillespie** continue faithfully each Tuesday, ready to greet visitors from 1-2:30. Now and then the "regulars" must be elsewhere. **Diane** and **Marilyn** have let it be known that they are available as needed. Care to be on the list?? Phone.

### Unique anytime Gifts Available at Mini-Museum

Several interesting items, uniquely available through the Guild and suitable for anytime gifting, are among historically-pertinent materials sold for the benefit of the organizational treasury, including:

- "From the Top of the Hill" by member **Bernard Winn**, \$17.95, autographed.
- "Gateway to the Peninsula" by former DC Librarian **Sam Chandler**, \$15.00
- "The Great Daly City Historical Trivia Book" by members **Ken & Bunny Gillespie**, \$15.00
- Notepaper packets, each with six line drawings of DC scenes, \$2.50.
- Enameled HG logo pins, \$4.00



**History Guild of Daly City/Colma**  
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