



# THE TATTLER

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## Journal of the History Guild of Daly City/Colma

### January Meeting Set for Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>

Again on Jan. 18, at 2 p.m., the Guild will have the pleasure of meeting in the multi-use room at Doelger Center for the annual party and toasting of the New Year. We hope you'll be there to enjoy the treats, special cakes, and even a bit of bubbly.

#### *There's "good news and bad news" about the program for that afternoon.*

First the "bad news": There will be no "guest speaker" that day.

The "good news": There will be a short oral presentation. The basis for the talk is this – Recently the City Manager's Office asked for a "re-cap" of what the Guild had done in the past year. We responded, of course, but have not yet learned why the request was made. However, the content of the little report seems of adequate importance to share with Guild members who also might wonder what-in-the-world the Guild does year after year...so that's what we plan to do.

As usual, our January meeting will assume an air of frivolity and provide a good opportunity for old friends and members to mingle, munch, and enjoy each other as friends united under the Guild banner. We might even try a bit of a sing-along. Mi, mi, mi, mi.....

2004

### DOTS on Your Label?

This is the time of year when our intrepid Membership Chairperson, **Betty Schultz**, similar to Santa, checks her list (of Tattler recipients) to see who's "been naughty or nice."

Again this year, those of you with **RED DOTS** on your mailing label are alerted that you will be dropped from the Guild Mailing List if you do not remit dues before March 1, 2004. RED DOTS indicate that we have not received any indication of membership interest from you during 2002 & 2003. Dues ARE payable annually. NO DOT means your dues are due. GREEN DOTS do not owe dues at this time. BLUE DOTS are not expected to remit dues.

**Betty** will be happy to accept your checks or cash at the Jan 18 meeting.

### Treat Donors Continue To Delight All Tasters

Thanks to those who brought treats for the November meeting: **Alice Brockman, Gloria and Lee Weis, Marie Brizuela, Elsie Tonelli, and Pat Hatfield.**

*For the January afternoon meeting,* these kind people have signed up to bring treats: **Dana Smith, Mary Nano, Annette Hipona, Marilyn Olcese, Elinor Charleston, and Bunny Gillespie.** As always, those who would like to add to the treat table are also appreciated. **Mary**

Hutchings will phone with a gentle reminder a few days before the meeting. Thanx in advance to all.

### DC Water/Wastewater Talk Fascinates Crowd

**Patrick Sweetland**, chief of Water and Wastewater services for the City of Daly City, delighted avid listeners at the Nov. 19 meeting of the Guild. An actual fountain of information (small pun intended), **Mr. Sweetland**.

**Sweetland** shared a wealth of knowledge with The Guild about the intricacies of our transparent resource, so often taken for granted but sorely missed when shut off for even the slightest of moments.

**Mr. Sweetland** had high praise for Guild treasurer **Russ Brabec**, who had been a Water Department employee during part of his 37 years with Daly City. **Russ** was thanked for his cooperation, input, expertise and approval of the speakers' scripted presentation, which was detailed palatably from first to last drop. **Mr. Sweetland's** prepared remarks were not only enlightening, but also thoroughly and completely authoritative.

Among questions posed was the availability of "good old fashioned, unmixed, water."

Another query recalled the building of a local outfall tunnel during the end of the 1890s. "Is it true that donkeys used there went blind?" asked **Betty Schultz**. The topic was embellished by another attendee. "In Britain," he remarked, "Animals used in the mineral mines gave rise to the expression 'blind as a pit donkey.'"

On display from the HG archival files were several rare photos dating back to the time just after DC's incorporation, 1911, when city officials tested the power of the newly installed water system. The speaker also displayed vintage photos and a DC map used to promote the issue of bonds to fund the city's first water system. We were later

able to identify DC Record journalist Monte Dayton in one of Pat's 1957 photos.

Our most sincere thanks to **Patrick Sweetland** for sharing his expertise.

### The Collection Grows

Thanks to generous friends and members, The Guild's archival and nostalgic collection of locally related items has been enriched by contributions from the following:

- **Frank Franceschini:** photos of DC businesses, construction, etc.
- **Richard & Michael Rocchetta:** Vintage post card with image of the First National Bank of Daly City's original office.
- **Betty Schultz:** Clippings of DC historic relevance for archival files.
- **Mystery Donor:** May 1993 Jefferson High School reunion souvenir booklet.
- **Neil Fahy:** Aug 1974 "California Geology" issue featuring his cover story on the "Origin of Lake Merced." At the time, **Neil** was employed at Standard Oil of California and taught geology at Westmoor Adult School. Great material!
- **Elsie Tonelli:** 2004 Heritage Calendar produced by First National Bank, including a photo of the 1927 DCPD and an early Colma firehouse.
- **Cindy Balbi Oliver:** Two illustrated family history binders regarding Colma pioneers Giuseppe Silicani and Agostino Cavo, created by their granddaughter. **Ms. Oliver** seeks further input about her ancestors. Might you help?
- **Patrick Sweetland/Russ Brabec:** Folder with notes, photos, deeds and data tracing development of the DC Water System from 1862 to the present. These were the basis for **Mr. Sweetland's** presentation for the Guild in November.





## Looking Ahead Job Opportunities:

1. Again, for the January meeting, A VOLUNTEER IS SOUGHT to help *Walter Riney* sell raffle tickets. Interested person should arrive by 1:45 p.m. and be prepared to mingle with potential customers. Benefit: Guild Treasury. Tickets 3 for \$1 or \$.50 each. *Alice Brockman* responded to this invitation for November....our thanks to her!! PS: The abundance of great prizes is what makes our raffle such a successful fund-raiser.....keep 'em coming, please.
2. For the Mini-Museum, any Tuesday from 1 p.m. to 2:30p.m., VOLUNTEER CLIPPING SORTER IS SOUGHT to help tidy our archival files. Benefit: Hands-on activity & information for you.
3. IDEA PERSONS WANTED re. future Guild Meetings. Phone Bunny at (650) 755-5123. Now really, some of you MUST have thoughts about this...

### How's YOUR Memory?

For several YEARS now, we have been wracking our resources to answer a question posed by DCPD's Officer Krantz.....to no avail, yet. Perhaps YOU can help:

Officer Krantz would like to know what happened to the CANNON that used to be displayed at the East (top) end of Marchbank Park?

If you can supply an answer...we and he would be most grateful. Inquiring minds wish to know. HELP!



### Did You Know That?

One hundred years ago, when some of us weren't yet born, fascinating things were happening, to wit: The St. Francis Hotel opened, as did the Flood Building in SF...The year 1904 was to experience 20 recorded earthquakes...The SF Motorcycle Club organized. Their first run was to be a five mile race to the top of Daly's Hill via Mission Street. The event was canceled when all 12 riders were stuck in mud and couldn't make it past Geneva...The SF Giants refused to play Boston for the '04 championship because they considered the American League champions "unworthy opponents"...The SFFD was admonished by the Board of Commissioners to take greater care in keeping their horses from kicking, stepping on, or bumping people...And here in the North San Mateo County on the farmlands surrounding Daly's Hill, rumbles were being heard about formation of a city!! (*And you thought 3-dot journalism was lost when Herb Caen took his Royal Standard to the Editorial Room in the beyond...*)



### HG Memorial Book Lists Donors/Honorees

Monetary Memorials honoring loved ones may be sent to the History Guild Memorial Fund, 40 Wembley Dr., DC. 94015. The fund is earmarked for the benefit of a proper Daly City/Colma History Museum. Donors and honorees are recorded in our beautiful Memorial Book, which may be viewed on request at the Mini-Museum.

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## Notes From Here And There

Currently in the Guild's *upstairs showcase* at Serramonte Library is a new display of **Daly City Memorabilia**, mostly in the form of photos, cards and giveaways. Titled "**Images of Daly City – Local Businesses**", some of the materials were shown in the rotunda of the City Hall when the Guild and Colma Historical Assn. provided sidebar displays at the **Chamber of Commerce's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary social** in mid-November. Thanks to HG director **Dana Smith** for the new identifying sign in the case. Happy Anniversary, Chamber.



We hope you're enjoying (as are we) that clever PG&E television commercial featuring **"Dave"** who dons a white bump hat and blue tights when he's called upon to present energy safety talks at schools. Look closely at the opening. The young man featured is **Dave Powell**, son of **Dick Powell** and Daly City's late former (first lady) Mayor, **Jane Powell**. **Dave** graduated from Westmoor with the Class of June, 1978, according to eagle-eye researcher **Betty Schultz**. We find ourselves saying "Hi, Dave!" when the advert comes on the telly. His folks, both charter Guild members, must be smiling down with pride, as must **Dick & Jane's** dog, **Spot**. Ah, memories.

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

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*Hot off the press* is **Images of Daly City**, a brand new "collectors' item" book of photographs focusing on Daly City memories and history, written by **Bunny Gillespie** for Arcadia Publishing, specialists in producing local and regional history books.

The volume includes 234 researched and captioned photos of DC. It may be purchased at **City Hall, major bookstores, and other local outlets**. \$19.99. Ask for it by name if you don't see it on shelves.

Unlike most photo-album books, **Bunny's "Images"** is chronologically assembled, covering the 150 years, plus, of the development of this North County area. The content spans the years of earliest settling to current times, with recognition of the historical connection between Daly City and Colma. Many of the pictures have not previously been published. Members of The Guild and personal friends of the author contributed to this unique publication by sharing items from scrapbooks, treasure chests and private collections. As often as the Arcadia Editor assigned to Bunny would permit, photos have been credited to the source. His input was decisive, and the author bowed to his judgment calls. He was a nice young man named John, energetic, efficient, and pleasant to work with. It's a good book, but I (**Ken Gillespie**) am very biased.

