

# HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA

Volume 7 - No. 1 Sept. 1988

## BREAKERS AHEAD FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING

After what we trust was a very pleasant summer season for all our members and friends, the Guild will plunge back into action with a most fascinating topic for the kickoff, **SHIPWRECKS OF THE GOLDEN GATE.**

The date is Wednesday, September 21st, at 7:30 p.m., Doelger Center. Our featured speaker is from the Department of Interpretation of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Mr. John Martini.

Mr. Martini is a former resident of Daly City, and grew up not far from where he'll be speaking, having attended Our Lady of Mercy School and Westmoor High School. He brings a fine knowledge of the shipwrecks of the Golden Gate and our north county coastline, a wonderful slide program, and looks forward to sharing with us the mishaps that are part of our local maritime history.


Some of our old salts in the Guild, such as Goldie Goldberg, Capt. Jack Elliott, and others surely remember the hazardous days of trying to bring large ships through the fog, without the benefit of modern radar, and the bones of those ships that didn't make it through.

Although there hasn't been a serious mishap since the collision of the two tankers near the Golden Gate in the 70's, our coastline was host to a goodly number of shipwrecks in our lifetime.

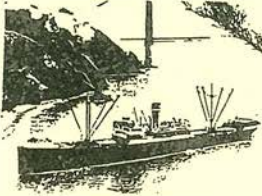
We can remember as children swimming around the wreckage of the Ohioan (see picture), the Frank Buck, at Land's End, of being at Fort Mason pier when the survivors of the Hospital Ship Benevolence were brought in, the Fernstream was hit by a Luckenbach ship, and many, many others, both in the Bay, the Golden Gate and down our coast.

THE HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS ANOTHER

# HISTORY EVENING!



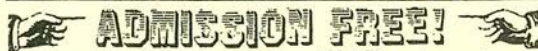
**WEDNESDAY, September 21, at 7:30 pm**



## SHIPWRECKS OF THE GOLDEN GATE

**JOHN MARTINI**  
GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL  
RECREATION AREA

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



### ADMISSION FREE!

Donations Gratefully Accepted ♦ Phone 755-5123 for Information

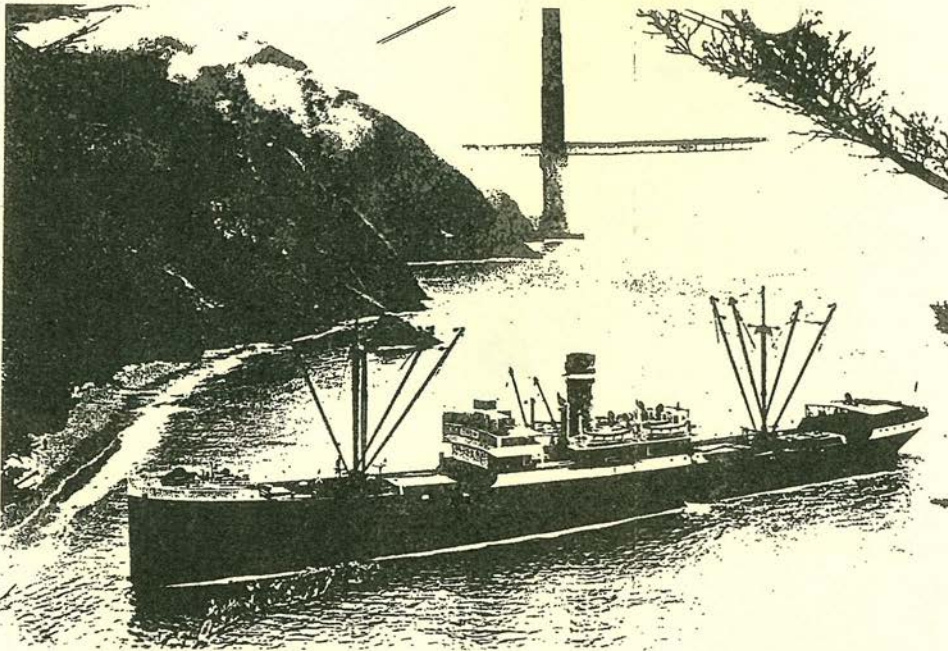
If you have any memorabilia of shipwrecks, or nautical gear, bring them along for a most interesting evening of nautical history.

## A FULL HOUSE OF MAYORS AND THEIR MEMORIES

When Secretary Bunny Gillespie started the project that became our May program, **A FOND REMEMBRANCE OF OUR MAYORS**, she certainly had no idea how wonderful the response would eventually become.

With lists of names and addresses from the administrations of both Colma and Daly City of the living former mayors and current chief officers of our communities, she set to work communicating with the 23 names on the lists.

Fifteen were ex-mayors of Daly City, and eight had served Colma. Of the 23 mayors, Bunny heard from 22, and on the night of May 18th there were 12 former Daly City



The Gulf Pacific Mail Line freighter Point Lobos ashore outside Lime Point in the Golden Gate. Striking a rock in heavy fog, she was, fortunately, able to make repairs and was pulled off.

mayors, the widow of a mayor, and two Colma ex-mayors!

The mayor who served DC earliest was Paul Selmi, 1936-40, who had only recently returned to live in DC from San Francisco. Now 87 years old, he spoke with great warmth and vigor, and was very pleased to be among many of his former colleagues.

After signing in at the podium on a large gavel facsimile, each of the mayors, in his or her chronological

order, spoke briefly of highlights during first or succeeding terms. Following Mayor Selmi was Mickey De Bernardi, who drove all the way from Groveland (near Yosemite) for the festivities.

Mickey recalled his experiences during the 1964 Republican Convention at DC's Cow Palace, which was repeatedly misrepresented as being in SF. Eddie Dennis followed with the negotiations needed to bring Mary's Help Hospital to DC, which at that time had only the 12-bed Junipero Serra Hospital on Briggs Street.

In turn the mayors brought smiles, tears, great applause and appreciation of their activities over the years. Al Polonsky told of battling a lady who was irate over a carwash permit. "What a mess," she had scolded him, "when we have to pick up our kids from school during the rain, with all the carwash traffic around." He patiently explained that on rainy days nobody had their cars washed.

Former mayor Mike Nevin at the podium, being watched closely by Paul Selmi (left) and Jim Tucker (right).



Bunny Lycett, widow of Bud Lycett, remembered her husband returning from Council meetings, reeking of cigar smoke, while Frank Pacelli told of being irked to learn that the Bingo caller (not quite legal) of a local game was the Police Dispatcher!

San Mateo County Supervisor Bill Schumacher recounted the passing of financing for a sewage treatment plant only after the odor got really offensive!

Mayor Daley of Chicago told Victor Kyriakis that he didn't know there was a city named after him. When current mayor Al Teglia mentioned that he was a native of Colma, but hadn't received a Colma pin, former mayor Charles Gerrans leaped up and pinned one on, but told him it would cost him \$15!

Jim Tucker, DC's junior mayor, and the only Republican on the DC Council, mentioned the hardship of "putting up with 10 years of Democrats!" Jane Powell, still the only DC councilwoman and mayor, read a letter from Tony Giammona, at that time vacationing in Hawaii. Former mayors from Colma Ted Kirschner and Charles Gerrans each touted their famed community, with Gerrans reminding the crowd of about 130 that visitors are always told that they'll be back, "because we have the best housing around."

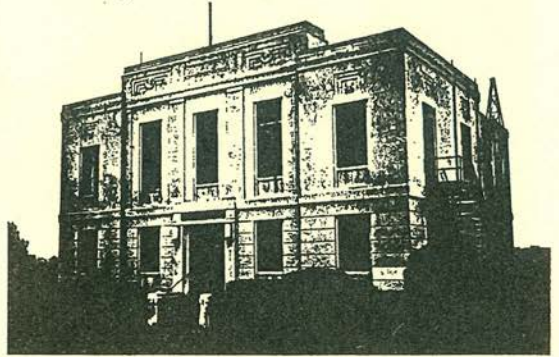
Mike Nevin said that he decided to become a councilman and mayor after spending eight years as a police inspector with duties closely allied to SF Mayor Alioto.

## **SECOND CITY HALL TO BE DEMOLISHED!**

The second DC City Hall, at 75 Wellington Ave., is to be demolished in the near future, removing one of the last remnants of the center of "old Daly City", the top of the hill!

The second city hall on the same site, the art deco building was dedicated in 1939, during the mayoralty of Paul Selmi. When the new city hall was built in 1967, the Wellington Ave. site was used for several city bureaus,

Daly City's second city hall, at 75 Wellington Avenue.



later becoming the Guadalupe Health Center, and then an architects' office. It was declared surplus recently, and bids for its demolition are due shortly.

Wandering through the empty rooms of the two-story (actually three, if the basement is included) was eerie, and it was difficult to remember the hustle and bustle of civic activities in the 53 years of occupancy on that Wellington Ave. site. The first City Hall was built there in 1914, a wooden structure, which cost \$6,000 at the time.

The jail was in the basement, with two cells, and somewhat lower than usual ceilings. We found old, broken crutches under the front stairs, a holdover from storage from the Health Center.

Mayor Teglia has been asked by us to try to have at least one of the bas relief bears saved for a future museum. There are several of them on the front and sides of the building, and we hope to get one in reasonable condition.

Interior items of salvage were virtually negligible, a light fixture maybe, a vintage drinking fountain, a piece of bannister...not much/

## **OVER THE SUMMERTIME**

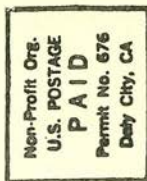
Things that happened this summer:  
David Hansen, 7th DC Police Chief died 7/6 at age 62, having served

for 35 years until 1984 retirement.

Ground breaking ceremonies were held in July for the redevelopment project on Junipero Serra Blvd., at JS Blvd. and Citrus Avenue. A former use of the property (now long gone) was the Junipero Serrra Motel built in 1938.

San Mateo County Historical Assn. exec. director Mitch Postel visited Serramonte Library to confer with DC members to ascertain local input for SMCHA's future plans. In attendance: Guild members John Sullivan, the Neil Fahys, the Ken Gillespies, Betsy Bogel.

Augie Conchi, pioneer nurseryman and resident in the DC/Colma area, turned 82 on June 20. Happy birthday!



## **FUTURE PROGRAMS RUN A REAL GAMUT!**

### **November 16 - THE MOVIES GO WEST,**

A film history of early movie making in the SF Bay Area, with film historian Geoffrey Bell, producer of the film.

### **January 21 - THE FORTY CAR,**

A celebration of the 40th anniversary of the closing of the 40 Line, which used to run through Daly City and Colma to San Mateo. At the Colma Town Hall, for annual Members' Party.

### **March 15 - NORTH COUNTY ITALIANS,**

A beautiful photographic testament to the contributions of our Italian settlers, through the voice and camera of Frank Spadarella, well-known DC restaurateur and film artist.

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### **OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

Ken Gillespie, pres.	755-5123
Roz Babow, treas.	994-7662
Bunny Gillespie, secy.	755-5123
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Ted Babow, dir.	994-7662

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**DATED MATERIAL**