

# HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA

Vol. 10, No.3 Jan. 1992

## GUILD BIRTHDAY PARTY AT COLMA TOWN HALL

Sunday, January 19th, is the date of our first 1992 meeting. The time is 2-4p.m., at COLMA TOWN HALL. This is our annual birthday bash for the Guild, now entering our 11th year of operation.

A members-only gathering, special foods and champagne will add a festive air to the celebration. Space at the beautiful Council Chambers location is limited, and we don't highlight the activity in the newspapers.

Our speakers for the gathering will be the C'de Baca family, who own and operate PET'S REST CEMETERY on Hillside Boulevard in Colma, a most unusual memorial park. The first pet was buried there in 1947. Since that time, more than 20,000 pets have been buried or cremated at Pet's Rest. "People bury their pets here because they want to, not because they have to," says Irene C'de Baca, who, with husband Phil and daughter Julane, will be celebrating the 45th anniversary of the pet park, initiated by their father, a groundskeeper for Cypress Lawn Memorial Park.


The pictures shown at the November meeting, of the Italian farmers in Colma, will also be available for inspection at the January meeting. Further identification of those pictured is hoped to be made.

### AL TEGLIA A GREAT HIT AT PACKED NOVEMBER MEET

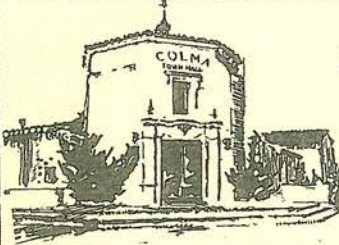
The Nov. 20th meeting at Doelger Center was a packed house gathering, 164 the nose count. The attraction was our good member friend DC Councilman Al Teglia, who cast aside his political portmanteau to tell us of his boyhood in Colma. Born in a farmhouse on Collins Ave., Al told us sweet stories of growing up

THE HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS ANOTHER

# HISTORY EVENT!



Sunday, JANUARY 19, 1992



GUILD  
BIRTHDAY  
PARTY

Colma  
Town Hall

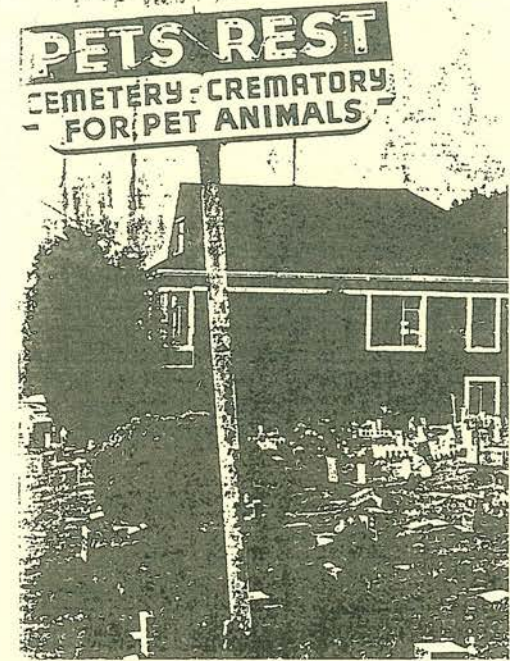
2-4 p.m.

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in an atmosphere of hard farm work, close family life, delivering produce to the SF produce dealers. The presentation was warm, kindly, and nostalgic, received with great affection and appreciation by many members who had grown up in similar circumstances in Colma.

A surprise highlight at the meeting was the presentation of a large number of beautiful photographs, some as large as 40"x60", depicting Colma Italian farmers. The collection had been discovered by member Marilyn Olcese, while attending a Festa Italiana at Fisherman's Wharf. Presented by Ferndale artist Carlos Bowden, pictures had been taken during the 1920's by one Gino Sbrana, a San Mateo County photographer. The glass plate negs., sparkling in clarity, were acquired by Bowden, who printed up a number of pictures, without knowing the identities of those portrayed.



Pet's Rest animal cemetery, on Hillside Boulevard in Colma.

It turned out that Marilyn Olcese's grandfather, Guiseppi Gaggero, was discovered; Mary Garibaldi Hutchings' father, aboard a fine white horse; SM County Superintendent of School's Floyd Gonella's father, Amadeo, is shown; and many more have been since identified. Our good members Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett have produced a fine article on the pictures, which was printed in the Dec. 27th, 1991 "Other Times" page of the San Mateo Times.

Besides these wonderful pictures, there was a total of six tables of Colma memorabilia from the collection, and shown by other Guild members. It was a tremendous display, and we are grateful to Marilyn, Mary and the others for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

Colma officialdom was well represented at the meeting. City Manager

Frances Liston and Councilman Ted Kirschner attended, as well as Daly City Mayor Tony Giammona, Councilwoman (now mayor) Jane Powell, City Clerk Lorraine D'Elia, Treasurer Tony Zidich, former mayor Eddie Dennis, Commissioners Bianca Caserza, George Riba, Nanda Sereni, Ron Darling.

Treats were served under Mary Hutchings's fine Hospitality Committee, Marilyn Olcese and Bob and Enid Williams. APOLOGIES ARE DUE TO the following good members whose names were inadvertently left out of the November bulletin, and who had provided the goodies for the meeting: Barbara O'Brien, Frances Kelly, Jean Gallagher, Marilyn Olcese, Mary Hutchings.

Since Colma was the topic of Al Teglia's reminiscences, attendees were led in a rousing rendition of "Dear Old Colma", a title song from a musical comedy written 30 years ago for Broadmoor Presbyterian Church, with a Colma theme. President Ken Gillespie asked the members if someday they might like to produce the show again, and received a surprisingly positive response. So, who knows, maybe the Guild will indeed expand its horizons into the field of musical comedy? If any members are serious about it, give Ken a call.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS APPRECIATED

Appreciation for sharp eyes goes to member Col. Bill Wade, who spied a letter to the editor in a military periodical offering newspaper clips of the "Mystery of the L-8" (the blimp which fell in Daly City in 1942) from a writer in Oak Harbor, Washington. He contacted the source and received a copy for us of a Moffett Field newspaper. Many thanks to Bill for his interest and diligence.

Continuing thanks to Russ Brabec for his work on diagramming graves of well-known S.F. and S.M. County personalities buried in our local cemeteries.

#### DUES ARE DUE!

Membership dues are due, notes Roz Babow, our super Treasurer. Our structure is amazingly low, with many of

our members eligible for the \$2.00 per year senior rate. The Guild operates on a very small budget, mostly for bulletin printing and postage, refreshments and stationery items.

We do hope to make expenditures for the proposed Mini-Museum display cases at the Serramonte Library, which will draw down our resources. But, this is something your Board has been anticipating for a number of years.

#### GOODIE REMINDER

The following are reminded of their signing-up for goodies for the January Meeting. Finger foods are preferred for this birthday get-together. Cake will be provided also. Many thanks in advance for these generous friends:

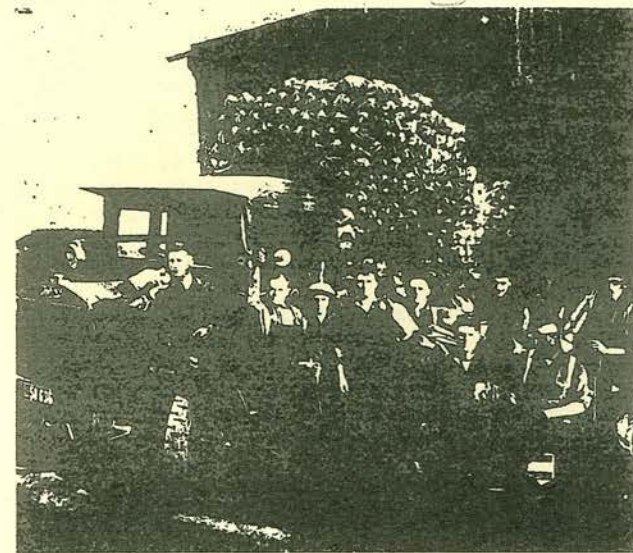
Carl & Bea Hoppe  
Aida Larsen  
Chuck Meagher  
Maria: Marian Rochetta  
Betty Schultz  
Bunny Gillespie  
Irene Krueger

You will be contacted by phone by Mary Hutchings a few days in advance.

#### CYPRESS LAWN CELEBRATES

The 100th anniversary of the opening of Cypress Lawn Cemetery will be well-celebrated during 1992 by a series of special events, starting as early as March. The cemetery staff is very interested in contacting former cemetery workers, long-time residents of Colma, who could be of great help in assisting in the compilation of historical information relative to earlier days in Colma.

Representatives of Cypress Lawn will be introduced at the January meeting, and members are encouraged to volunteer their presence. The events will be produced over a series of months.



Truckload of cabbage, ready for market, is shown in front of a farm shed in the old days of Colma.

#### WEAR YOUR MEMBERSHIP BADGE!

Let's all wear our membership badges for the Guild birthday party on the 19th of January. Sure, we know who we are, but many others don't, considering how we meet only 5 times a year. Many members have yet to pick up their paid-for and completed badges. They know who they are, and we hope to see them on the 19th!

#### HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!

#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Ken Gillespie - President	755-5123
Neil Fahy - Vice President	756-2753
Bunny Gillespie - Secretary	755-5123
Roz Babow - Treasurer	994-7662
Ted Babow - Director	994-7662
Yolanda Hardiman - Director	589-0188
Elaine Riney - Director	992-4696
Walter Riney - Director	992-4696