

## All Hail Emperor Norton, September 18th Meeting

A JOURNEY TO THE IMAGINARY EMPIRE OF NORTON I will be the topic for our September 18th meeting of the Guild, 7:30 pm, at Doelger Center.

Joshua Norton was a self-proclaimed "Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico," who lost a fortune and his mind following rice speculation in gold-rush San Francisco. He disappeared for several years and emerged in 1859 a royal personage, creating an imaginary monarchy, distributing money, all within the benevolence of a tolerating San Francisco population.

The story of this likeable nut, who was taken to San Francisco's heart, will be recounted by Robert Chandler, PhD Wells Fargo Bank assistant v.p. in charge of historical services.

The north peninsula connection is the interment of Norton in Woodlawn Cemetery, a hoot and a holler from the graves of the John Daly family. Members of the Yerba Buena Chapter of E Clampus Vitus, a western cultural and other social interaction society, make a pilgrimage to Norton's grave each January. "Clampers," who wear red shirts and black vests, have been invited to our Norton program on the 18th.


Dr. Bob Chandler has spoken to the Guild before, most recently on the Broderick-Terry Duel. He received his doctorate in 1978 from UC Riverside, for a dissertation on "The Press and Civil Liberties in California during the Civil War, 1861-1865." Since that time he has been the senior researcher for Historical Services, Wells Fargo Bank, and has written some 30 articles on Wells Fargo and the Civil War in California.

## Merry Month of May Was Merry, Indeed!


Our May meeting was a real doozy! It could have been nothing less, with four beautiful former Miss Daly City

THE HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS ANOTHER

# HISTORY EVENING!



WEDNESDAY, Sept. 18th, at 7-30 pm



**"Out of the way!  
Here comes  
Norton I..."**

The Emperor's Story  
**ROBERT CHANDLER, PhD**  
Wells Fargo Bank

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

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queens present to reminisce over the glory days of their reigns, and former '49-er Hall of Fame tackle and mayor of Daly City Bob St. Clair down from Petaluma to hearken to his twin careers as football star and public servant.

Program Chair Bunny Gillespie had worked for many months on the gathering of as many former Miss Daly City winners as she could. The contests were sponsored by the Daly City/Colma Chamber of Commerce, who supplied scrapbooks and memorabilia that were very helpful in finding the former queens.

Bunny got in contact with a dozen former winners, who lived in as many different cities. Four of them were able to be present, bringing their scrapbooks, tiaras, sashes, trophies, and wonderful stories of their campaigns and year of reign.



Acting as spokesperson for the group was **Lynette Fishel**, 1961, who had an especially busy year, since it embraced the 50th anniversary of the founding of the city of Daly City, with attendant parties, dances, parades, etc.

She was re-introduced to former DC mayor **Bob St. Clair**, who had awarded her crown in 1961. **St. Clair** gave a few delightful remarks about being in politics and a football player at the same time, pointing out how the City Council meetings fell on Monday nights, when his aching muscles were at their sorest from the previous day's game.

**Dianne Wagner**, Miss DC 1971, who went on to become Miss California in 1972, and who competed in the Miss America pageant that year, **Diane Albee**, Miss DC 1976, and **Dorothy Barragan**, Miss DC 1978, spoke of the great sense of accomplishment and responsibility that the Miss Daly City contests had afforded them during and following the years of their participation.

Of great interest was the use of a scrapbook on display sent for the occasion by **Caroline Rickenbacher**, Miss DC of 1969.

Kicking off the Miss DC portion of the program was a sing-along medley of songs in tribute to the loveliness of women in general, with the **Mitch Miller** singers and lyrics on slides.

It was time for the report of the Nominating Committee, chaired by former mayor and councilwoman **Jane Powell**. The current slate of officers and directors had been polled and agreed to be re-nominated for the ensuing year, with the exception of long-time vice president **Neil Fahy**, who indicated that he didn't wish to run again. The committee recommended **Russ Brabec** for the post. The slate was elected and installed for the term June 1, 1996 through May 31, 1997.

**Neil Fahy's** service to the Guild was commented upon by president **Ken**, who presented **Neil** with a Certificate of Appreciation

There was an intriguing display of raffle prizes, including champagne from the Guild, crossword puzzles from the



Former Miss Daly City winners at the May meeting: (1-r) **Diane Wagner**, 1971 - **Dorothy Barragan**, 1978 - **Diane Albee**, 1976 - **Lynette Fishel**, 1961.

**Hermanns**, the beautiful toaster oven **Richard Martini** of Home Savings. This was won, incidentally by **Bob St. Clair!** Other prizes were two tote bags from **Roz Babow**, a decorative flamingo from **Bob Kelly**, wine from **Marilyn Olcese**, three plants from **John Olcese**, two books from the **Gillespies**, cookies from **Mary Hutchings**, and fancy napkins from **Esther Appleton**.

A first-time attendee among the 135 members and friends was **Susan Smith**, new executive of the Daly City/Colma Chamber of Commerce. Councilwoman **Helen Fisicaro**, **Pat Hatfield**, president of the Colma Historical Society, **Mary Brodzin**, former Colma councilwoman, represented our neighboring city Colma, while **Carol Klatt**, DC councilwoman, and **Bill Schumacher**, former mayor and councilman of DC, were also present.

Goodies were supplied for the meeting by a fascinating group, each name containing a double letter: **Julia Padreddii**, **Marian Rocchetta**, **Pat/Lou Craviotto**, **Mary Chiaparri**, and **Angela Uccelli**. Many thanks to all of these generous guys'n'gals!

### Gateway Festival A Winner

The Fifth Annual GATEWAY FESTIVAL was held on the parking lot of the Serra Bowl last June 1-2. The Festival was held in partnership with the **Kops and Kids** bowling weekend, where youngsters signed up to bowl with policemen and policewomen from North Peninsula communities.



With benevolent weather and a good assortment of booths for food, gifts, crafts and community organizations, the weekend fair was a very pleasant affair, and our **History Guild** booth was a good centerpiece, right alongside that of the **Colma Historical Association**.

As in previous years, the **Guild** contributed a written history piece for the printed program in exchange for a gratis booth space. **Colma** had a similar arrangement with the Festival management.

Since the location was on what formerly was a part of a nearly-extinct street, the **Gillespies** wrote about **Dunks Street**, its origin and landmark pioneer residents, especially **Mrs. Margaret Pauline Brown** and the **Dunks** clan.

**Guild** members staffed the booth in fine manner over the two-day stretch, **Russ Brabec**, **Betty Schultz**, **Jane Powell**, **Marilyn Olcese**, **Bill Wade**, **John Hotchkiss**, **Mark Weinberger**, **Dick Larsen**, **Don Manning**, **Bill Schumacher**, **Ralph Jordan** and **Bunny & Ken Gillespie**.

The new display racks worked very well, an ingenious three-sided PVC pipe rack system, from which photographs on Foam-Core panels were depended. Designer **Walter Riney** came by to see how the system held up in the winds which are usual at the **Gateway Festival**. There was just enough to test the display, and we consider it a great success!

These fairs are wonderful sites to show the work of the **Guild** and sister **Colma Historical** next door. Both of the booths had a steady flow of visitors, interested in the photos and the printed materials on the tables. Many thanks to all who were staffers and those who came by to say "howdy!"

**Max** and **Elsa Ramos** were very busy as Volunteer Coordinators for the Festival, and smiling, familiar faces were everywhere. One of the more popular "rides" were the **P.G.&E.** cherry picker buckets, where brave souls were whisked high above the crowds. Great fun!

### **Russ Brabec Vice-President**

**Russ Brabec** newly-elected vice president of the **Guild** is a long-time

member and enthusiastic student of local history.

**Russ** lives in South San Francisco, and enjoys gardening, full-size trains and travel. His list of contributions to the **Guild** are manifold, especially the knowledge that he brings regarding the streets and other systems of **Daly City**. He is employed by the **City of Daly City**, serving various departments as an engineer. His current position is in the **Wastewater Resources Department**.

We thank **Neil Fahy** for his service as vice president since the inception of the **Guild** in 1986. His many avocations now preclude from a time standpoint his continuance in office. Well done, **Neil**, well done!

### **Goodies for Sept. Meet**

The goodie table for the **Sept. 18** meeting will be stocked with yum-yums from the following generous suppliers:

**Pat Hatfield**  
**Fran Bullard**  
**Max & Elsa Ramos**  
**Evelyn Franco**  
**A. Nonny Mouse**

Hospitality Chair **Mary Hutchings** will contact each of the donors shortly before the meeting as a final confirmation. Her number is 756-0864 if you have any questions. Many thanks for the continuing support of our appetites!

### **Colma Gets Loving Cup**

The **Colma Historical Association** celebrated its **3RD ANNIVERSARY** at **Colma Town Hall** recently. A presentation was made to their museum collection of a large silver loving cup, engraved to the "**Colma Rolph Club**," which apparently referred to the campaign of Governor **Jimmy Rolph** in the early 1930's. The date on the cup was **May 2, 1931**.

A representative of the **S.F. Police Athletic Club** gave the cup to **Pat Hatfield**, president of the **Colma Historical Association**, hoping that more information on its circumstance would surface soon. Well, we looked in our bound volume of the **Daly City Record** for **May 1931**, and guess what! There was a six inch story for **May 8, 1931**, telling of



the presentation of a silver loving cup to Colma for turning out more votes than any other Rolph Club in the recent election. A party was held at Colombo Hall, with 500 in attendance. See how it pays not to throw out anything that refers to our communities???

### Recent Acquisitions

The following items have been presented to the Guild:

Myrtis Goodwin - JESD directories 1958-1975 (some missing), via Shirley Plank.

Walter Schultz - 6 binders

Marlene Sheridan - Jeff Hi pix, 1950's, band/parade, via Marilyn Olcese

Forest Beckel - 1859 business ledger, via Al Teglia

Bill Fort - building permit log book, examined, ret'd to City

Frank Francheschini - scenes of Daly City, 1996

Carolyn Fuchs Damonte - vintage Jeff Hi pix, 1937-1946, copied for Guild, returned

Russ Brabec - SP timetable, route map - pix of Olympic torch in DC - large blue prints of aerial photos, showing individual homes, bldgs.

Dick Larsen - newspaper clips of Guild activities

Pat Hatfield - vintage photos of streetcars, Jeff Hi, school pix, top of hill, parades, etc.

The collection keeps growing, and we are grateful for the generous gifts.

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

Ken Gillespie - president 755-5123  
Russ Brabec - vice-pres 583-4985  
Bunny Gillespie - sec'y 755-5123  
Roz Babow - treasurer 994-7662  
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