



Journal of the History Guild of Daly City/Colma

Birthday Bash at Colma

Our Guild will celebrate its 17th birthday on **January 17th**, at **Colma Town Hall**, from **2 to 4 pm**. This is our annual **MEMBERS ONLY PARTY**, with special food treats and beverages that include the bubbly. If you ain't a member, youse can jine at the door (*see the modest membership costs elsewhere in this issue of the Tattler!*) Seating is limited, so an early arrival is earnestly suggested.

Featured speaker is the recently-retired State Assemblyman **Quentin Kopp**, whose long service in local, county and state offices is highlighted by his middle initial (**L**), which probably should stand for **loquaciousness**. He has a well-deserved reputation for using his splendid vocabulary in such manner as to befuddle any who have points of disagreement.

Quentin is expected to touch on the many changes that have affected the North County area during his political life, especially in the fields of transportation.

Happy New Year, Everybody!

Happy New Year! In case you haven't noticed, this year started out with a once-in-a-lifetime bit of trivia. The very first day was 1-1-1-9-9-9. It sort of looked like the Emergency Services number, but reversed and....well, you know what we mean. Anyway, Happy New Year to you. This one promises to be historic, in fact it already is. It's the last of its kind. The last with "19", and we are all here to savor each

THE HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA
PROUDLY PRESENTS ANOTHER

HISTORY EVENT!

SUNDAY, January 17th, 2:00pm.

MEMBERS' PARTY

with
Quentin L. Kopp

at COLMA TOWN HALL

ADMISSION FREE!

Donations Gratefully Accepted ♦ Phone 755-5123 for Information

day. Come to think of it, the eleventh day of this year could have been noted as 1-1-1-1-9-9-9-. We'll stop here.

Fire Chief Lights A Fire!

Our November meeting was a blazing success, with DC's personable Fire Chief, **Bob O'Donnell**, as our guest speaker. Adding to the Guild's display of old fire department photos was a fine selection of vintage items out of the Wembley Station fire museum, including a dandy brass lantern (*used as a headlamp in the*

old days), a model fire engine, maps and photos brought by the Chief.

Bob expertly drew the history of the department from volunteer days and hand-drawn fire equipment to the most-encouraging forecasts of para-medic expertise on all the stations.

An auction of vintage Daly City street signs was offered to the attendees, which resulted in the sale of four signs. Auctioneers Mark Weinberger and Al Teglia sold *John Daly* to Treasurer Russ Brabec, *Gellert* to DC Councilwoman Carol Klatt, *Sweetwood* to Jean Gallagher, and *Hillside* to the ubiquitous Mike Rocchetta of the Hillside Homeowners Assn.

The following street signs are still available for purchase: *Abbott, Alemany, Bayshore, Bellevue (with Sullivan on reverse side), Creston, Crocker, Dennis, Eastmoor, Geneva, Gilman with Oliver, Knowles, Lycett, Pierce, Templeton* and *Westdale*.

Signs are offered for \$25.01 each, as we suspend the auction until next November. If they aren't sold out, the price leaps to \$25.02. Delivery is not included, but coffee would be served at the Gillespie home upon pickups.

By the way, member and Colma mayor Dennis Fiscaro didn't bid on the *Dennis* sign, in spite of audience urging. In later conversation with him he indicated that Colma signs wouldn't be too intriguing, *A St., B St., etc.*

Dues News!

This issue of the Tattler coincides with the renewal time for Guild dues. You will find your membership card to fill out with membership category and dues structure. Our Guild dues are perhaps the lowest of any comparable history-related group in San Mateo County.

The secretary would appreciate receiving dues for 1999 no later than the end of February. The earlier the better. They may be mailed, or paid at the January meeting, if you wish to save the price of a postage stamp.

We are able to pay our bills through the membership dues and what we make on the drawings at regular meetings.

Senior/Student.....	\$ 3.00
Individual.....	\$ 5.00
Family.....	\$ 8.00
Patron.....	\$25.00
	or more

Memorial Tributes

Memorial Monetary Tributes for the benefit of the Guild have been received through the thoughtfulness of several of our members.

Guild director Marilyn Olcese has honored the life of Dorothy Staib Pendergast, who passed away in early November. Mrs. Pendergast was a member of the Guild since 1984. While physically unable to attend only a very few of our meetings, she was a member whose little notes of encouragement were always upbeat and positive. She taught English and Journalism at Jefferson High School from 1926 to 1945.

A long-time resident of Colma, Assunta "Susie" Olcese, passed away on Nov. 19, at the age of 98. "Susie" was the mother of Guild members John Olcese and Elsie Schenone. In her memory the Guild received a contribution given jointly by additional members of her family, Marilyn Olcese, Joyce Olcese, Tillio Olcese Jr., and Alan Olcese.

Mrs. Olcese had migrated from Italy as a young girl and spent most of her life in Colma.

Memorial donations are gratefully received by the Guild treasury and are earmarked towards creation of a DC Museum that

will eventually serve as an ongoing living tribute to **Mrs. Olcese, Mrs. Pendergast** and all others who have been part of the rich fabric that is Daly City's historical heritage.

Sincere Thanks are also given to new Guild member, **Diane Pitto**, who has favored the organization with a *Holiday Donation* to the treasury. **Diane** joined the Guild in November, and we are indeed delighted to have her on board. Kudos to her, and to **Early Bird Club** members who have chosen to send in their dues even before this annual reminder was mailed. The "Early Birds" include **Yolanda Hardiman, Elizabeth Lytle, Laverne and Deasy Walsh, and Ken Ashe**.

Many, Many Thanks

Donations for the Guild collection of artifacts, paper goods, photos and memory joggers continue to be happily accepted for the sake of our "someday" museum. Among the items received and their generous donors are the following:

Betty Schultz - DC Teen Summit badge and info.

Gabe Goulard - Additional Teen Summit info and souvenir T-shirt.

Mark Weinberger - Project Read mug and Library Convention badge, memorabilia.

Michael & Richard Rocchetta - 1986 DC Anniversary poster and 1998 Civic Center North dedication program.

Al D'Isep - 1943 US Army plane crash engine plate; 1955 and 1966 Chamber of Commerce maps, 1961 and 1962 prescription envelopes from McGraw's Drug Store; delivered by **Ingrid and Bob Salazar**.

Frank Franceschini- Current progress photos of various DC locations, taken by the donor.

Rita Perada -Vintage photos of DC fire department pioneers and shots taken during

testing of water pressure capabilities around 1912 (or so).

Marilyn Olcese -1915 Spring Valley Water Company hand-set memorial tribute to the late Antoine Borel, autographed by members of the board of directors.

A quote from this rare volume: "His character was indeed so perfectly proportioned that it may be said of him with full sincerity *his life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'this was a man.'*"

Yummies for the Tummies

Goodies for the **January 17th** Colma meeting have been volunteered by following sweet peoples:

Elsie Tonelli
Marie Brizuela
Janice Mason
Ingrid Salazar
Bianca Caserza
Marian Mann

Hospitality chair **Mary Hutchings** will phone shortly before the meeting to re-confirm the availability of goodies. In case there's el problemo, her phone number is **(650) 756-0864**. Many thanks to the generous num-a-numers!

Mini-Museum Meanderings

The Mini-Museum continues to function smoothly from **1-2:30 p.m.** each Tuesday that the Serramonte Library is open. Faithful in their hosting activities are **Collins Orton, Walter Schultz, Don Manning** and the **Gillespies**.

Wall space along the accordion divider is now used for photo displays, and newspaper collages. During November and December, in the entry area of the library, we utilized a display case that previously housed a model of the now-open Westlake Library. We displayed

vintage holiday memorabilia, highlighting Thanksgivings, Christmas and New Years celebrations of years past. It's gone now, but another display case will soon take its place.

Due to arrive in late January, or February, is a new showcase identical to the three owned by the Guild in the Mini-Museum. It will house displays that we hope will focus on timely topics, and serve as a teaser luring visitors down the stairs to the museum.

Jeff Hi Band Follow-up

Those of you who attended the September meeting at Doelger, will remember that we saluted Jefferson High School, and enjoyed a surprise concert by the current school band on arrival. It was under the direction of **Bill Burkhead**, an energetic young man that hopes to not only train young musicians, but hopes to put them into uniforms worthy of Jefferson's marching and musical prowess.

We'd passed the hat that night, collected \$203 to benefit the purchase of band uniforms, and have received a pleasant "Thank You!" from **Mr. Burkhead**. His students, he wrote, were "delighted with the awesome display of memorabilia" from Jeff's past.

HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA Officers and Directors

Ken Gillespie	President	755-5123
Mark Weinberger	Vice-President	755-0612
Bunny Gillespie	Secretary	755-5123
Russ Brabec	Treasurer	583-4985
Marilyn Olcese	Director	755-5616
Walter Riney	Director	992-4696
Albert Teglia	Director	755-1792

KOPP



State Senator **Quentin Kopp** has concluded 27 years of public service. The Q-man, as he was often referred to, became a private citizen, representing San Francisco on the Board of Supervisors and in the State Senate, besides serving on innumerable boards and commissions.

The cartoon above was struck for him by the SF Chronicle's talented **Phil Frank** some years ago, and was used as a stage backdrop for a roast of **Quentin** at the SF Press Club.