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THE TATTLER

JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

Greetings from President Mark

Well, friends, we're almost there. Since I last updated you, we have made a tremendous amount of progress with renovations to our future museum. Over the summer months we have renovated all of the electrical and lighting, thankfully a job done for a reasonable rate by **Andy Ferrari of ASF Electric, Inc.** of Daly City. We are just about finished with painting of the interior. First off, we painted the main or "grand" room built in 1938. Through a generous donation for painting supplies from **Marilyn Olcese**, we were able to finish with the original 1920 room. Both rooms are painted in a flat Navajo white with complementing glossy brown window trim. The original room's built-in bookcases are contrasting beige.

I want to pause for a moment to note that the entire painting job of both rooms has been an all-volunteer effort, with several folks lending their time and painting talents toward making this a seamless and flawless project. However, two individuals have given over and above all that could ever have been expected, and then some. Without the master craftsmanship and expertise of **Al Hipona** and **Robert Brizuela**, we never would have achieved the remarkable results which are now two proud museum galleries anxiously awaiting the moment when they will display the historical records of Daly City. Thanks to Al and Robert, we have a professional paint job which will last for many years to come, and was accomplished on time and within budget.

Also, joining in the painting efforts have been **Guild Vice President Rich Rocchetta** and **Director Michael Rocchetta**, who next to the two earlier-mentioned individuals have done the yeomen's share of prepping, painting and other necessary tasks. These are two truly unsung heroes. And the next time you set your watch to the grand old clock which still graces the archway between the two rooms, be sure to thank Michael, who decided that unlike all the king's horses and all the king's men, he could put all the pieces of this vintage timepiece back together again--this after an accident that shattered its Bakelite casing. Not to worry; it still keeps time. Thanks are also due to **Directors Vaughn and Gloriann Jones**, **Treasurer Marie Brizuela** and **Secretary Dana Smith**, and **Chris and Ashley Hipona**, for getting paint on themselves, but also some on the walls.

Cont'd next page

HISTORY EVENING!

Back from our Summer break!



Wednesday
September 17th
7:30 p.m.
Presented by
Georgette Sarles

Westlake Shopping Center

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

ADMISSION FREE!

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Georgette Sarles, longtime owner of Georgette's of Westlake hair salon, will be the featured speaker at the Guild's History Night on Wednesday, September 17th at the Doelger Senior Center multi-use room. As a business owner in the Westlake Shopping center since 1963, Georgette has seen this center and the community evolve over 45 years. Still operating her business in the mall, in addition to Sarles Properties, she currently holds the title of President/CEO of the Daly City-Colma Chamber of Commerce. She has been active in Westlake merchant activities including chairing the committee for the Miss Daly City Contest and the 50th Anniversary Event for the Westlake Shopping Center. Her many charitable and volunteer activities in the community were recognized when she was inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame in 2007. Please join us for a night of remembrances of the Westlake Shopping Center and many stories from this longtime business owner and community treasure.

Refreshments for the evening will be provided by: **Judith Christensen, Pat Hatfield, Marilyn Olcese, and Annette Hipona**. Additional refreshments and donations of raffle items are always welcomed!

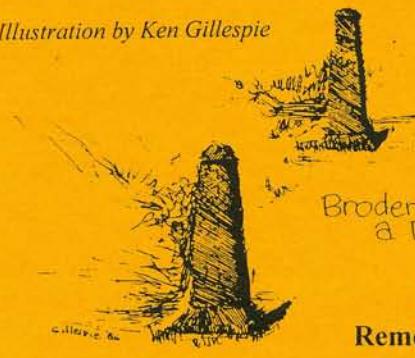
These folks did a fantastic job of washing the original knotty pine paneling that makes up the lower half of the main room and then applying a preservative agent and prepping and painting the bookcases in the original room.

Additional thanks go to **Anthony Caccia of Caccia Plumbing**, San Mateo, for volunteering his services and donating two new sinks for our bathrooms and **Bill Baioni** of Daly City for lending scaffolding during the prepping and painting of the ceilings. **Bob O'Donnell**, Lion-spouse **Pat Kelly**, and **Steve Hawthorne** earned Daly City Host Lion's community service points by joining Guild


members for a work day at the museum to paint the rear exterior of the building and clear brush from the backyards on Saturday, August 16th. We had some exciting moments as Pat Kelly heard kitten mewing from a Pampas Grass bush he was trimming. Guild cat expert Dana Smith was called to the scene and work ceased in that area with the mother cat watching from a distance. The black and white mother cat returned in the afternoon to move her kittens to a different site.

At the beginning of September we are planning for the professional installation of the beautiful red oak floor which will cover the entire two galleries and hide the well-worn linoleum that has more than outlived its seventy years of usefulness. This will be a floor crafted of sustainably harvested wood; there also will be two retro-period banisters for the front stairs which will complement the interior. With every effort realized we are that much closer to throwing open our doors this fall with a grand celebration to follow shortly thereafter. Stay tuned... it wouldn't be that grand time without you and your ongoing support for all that we are undertaking!

Illustration by Ken Gillespie

Broderick-Terry duel site in a DC forest glade...

Broderick/Terry Duel
Remembered in September

David Colbreth Broderick (1820-1859), member of California State Senate, 1850-52; Lieutenant Governor of California, 1851-52; U.S. Senator from California, 1857-59; died in office 1859. Mortally wounded in a duel on **September 13, 1859** with David S. Terry, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, and died in San Francisco. Interesting website dedicated to politicians who participated or were killed in dueling:
<http://politicalgraveyard.com/special/duel-participants.html>



Free

VICTORIAN DAY

Annual County History Event!
Sunday, September 14, 12 - 4 p.m.
Victorian costumes encouraged

San Mateo County History Museum,
2200 Broadway Street, Redwood City 650/299-0104

Family activities and crafts in the Rotunda from 12 - 4 p.m. **Gossip Behind the Gates**, a drama production, in Courtroom A at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Set in the 1890s, the audience eavesdrops as members of the high society gossip in the garden of San Mateo hostess, Mrs. Antoine Borel, and we learn some remarkable historical "facts" during the banter. **History Lane** will be held in the Upper Rotunda & Hallways from 12-4 p.m. Stroll History Lane and visit booths of countywide historical organizations, including one shared by the History Guild of Daly City/Colma and the Colma Historical Association.



RAFFLE provides ongoing support for the Guild – Your donations of treasures to our raffle and purchase of raffle tickets at our member meetings bring hundreds of dollars to the Guild treasury. Thanks for helping!

WESTLAKE DOCUMENTARY VIDEO FEATURED MAY PROGRAM

Robert Keil, Guild member and author, showed his half-hour documentary video based on his book "Little Boxes: The Architecture of a Classic Mid-Century Suburb, the story of the Westlake subdivision in Daly City" at the May Member Meeting. This very professionally produced video included recent interviews with many of the principal people who helped develop and build this area of the city and will be moving to final edits and then promotion to local and national television markets.

After the program, **Vaughn Jones** played a medley of spring songs on the piano, accompanied by **Rich Rocchetta** on the accordion: When you wore a tulip (1914); Tiptoe Through the Tulips (1928); When the Red, Red Robin (1927); I'll Be With You in Apple Blossom Time (1920); Jeanine, I dream of Lilac Time (1928); Sweet and Lovely (1931); Spring is Here (1938); Love in Bloom (1934); When it's Springtime in the Rockies (1929), Spring will be a little late this year (1943), It Might as Well be Spring (1945); Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries (1931); The Best Things in Life Are Free (1927), Looking at the World Through Rose-Colored Glasses (1926); My Buddy (1922).



Mystery Novel Set In Colma
Alive in Necropolis by Doug Dorst

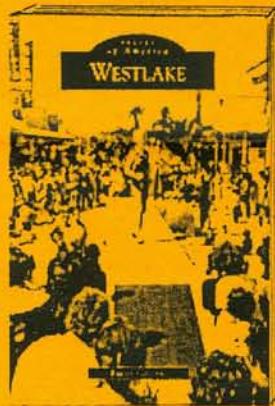
"This charming first novel maps the landscape and lives of a small town where ghosts and the living are sometimes indistinguishable from one another. That's what police officer Michael Mercer discovers the night he saves the life of a teenage boy left unconscious and at the mercy of the elements in a Colma, Calif., cemetery. Later, Michael witnesses nocturnal incidents that turn out to be the afterlife activities of local residents who've been dead for decades... His ability to show the magic potential of everyday lives marks him as an author to watch."

—Publisher's Weekly

Doug Dorst teaches creative writing at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. He was a former Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford and resident of San Francisco. This is his first novel.

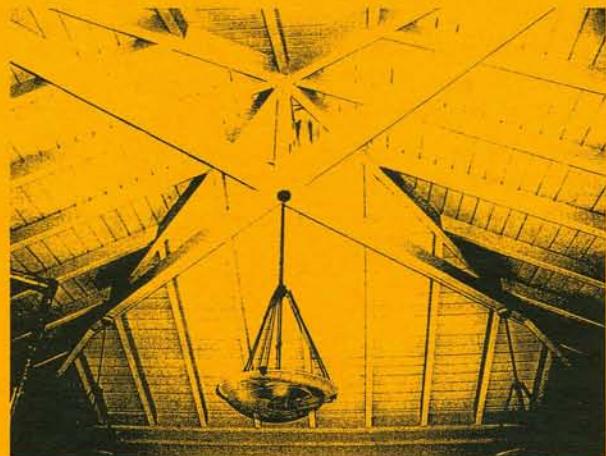
New Arcadia "Images of America"
Book on Westlake

Available at the end of September



This collection of rare photographs, primarily from the Doelger estate, is edited and authored by our own Daly City Historian and History Guild Board emerita Bunny Gillespie. This newest addition to the local "Images in America" series traces the development of

Westlake from sand dunes to suburb 60 years ago. Bunny's previous books include *Images of America: Daly City* and *The Great Daly City Historical Trivia Book*, illustrated by Ken Gillespie.



Ceiling of original room, freshly painted with new light fixtures

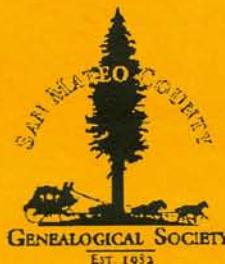
Our Thanks

RECENT MUSEUM DONATIONS

Daly City Library Director **Carol Simmons** attended a recent Guild Board meeting to have a first-hand look at renovations and to donate original plans for the Doelger yacht and the book "Starting Right – A basic Guide to Museum Planning." Thanks to Jeanne Thivierge and Carol Peterson in the **archives at the County Museum**, the Guild was presented with pertinent files from the *San Mateo County Times* newspaper clipping historic archives. Other donations: Jefferson High School 1957 reunion book from **Arlene (Bunny) Gallegos** and reunion committee; men's necktie with label from Arthurs of Westlake from **Marian Mann**; Eddie King's funeral mass program from **Carol Simons**; Westlake Shopping Center vintage holiday brochure, Thomas R. Pollicita Middle School class of 2008 program, roster of librarians and other library information from **Gloriann and Vaughn Jones**; invitation & program for City Manager John Martin's farewell and Daly City political campaign material from **Sharon and Ray Keenan**; history notes on Shakespeare Street, *Daly City Record* article on 1982 city election, and Westmoor H.S. Class of '58 Reunion materials from **Rich and Michael Rocchetta**, historic flyer advertising the beginnings of the Westlake Development from **Judith Christensen**.

Mini-Museum Still Open Every Tuesday!

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.! While we are renovating our new museum site on Mission Street, our Mini-Museum continues to be open every Tuesday in the basement of the Serramonte Library, 40 Wembley Drive, Daly City. Please drop in!



First Families of San Mateo County Project

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society has announced a new project, First Families of San Mateo County. The goal is to identify and honor our direct line ancestors who settled the county. There will be two categories of early pioneers: Founding Families: Ancestors who settled before 1879, and Early Settlers: Ancestors who settled between 1880 and 1905. Direct descendants of early settlers of San Mateo County may submit an application for inclusion in the First Families Project. Applicants must prove that their ancestor(s) lived within the boundaries of San Mateo County on or before December 31, 1900, and that they are the direct descendant of said person(s). An applicant does not have to be a resident of San Mateo County to participate in the project. For more information, call (650) 572-2929 or visit the website at www.smcgs.org



Moving soon...

FIRST CLASS MAIL

40 Wembley Avenue, Daly City, CA 94015
c/o Daly City Mini-Museum, Serramonte Library
History Guild of Daly City/Colma



CENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

One hundred years ago, in September, 1908, local children were again heading back to school. Then, as now, education for young people was a priority. Jefferson School District had been established for over 50 years. The earliest school, a one-room facility heated by a singular potbelly stove, was located on what is now designated as School Street. To the north, an energetic volunteer fire department had been organized in the hillside section known as Vista Grande and the area had recently petitioned for incorporation as a city. The movement failed. Near Daly's top-of-the-hill dairy ranch, newly constructed Brackens Hall was being used as a community gathering place.

The most northern part of unincorporated San Mateo County was yet to make definitive efforts toward becoming a city. Neighbors to the immediate south, in an area known as Colma, had already met to discuss organizing to incorporate. Among those taking leadership roles were William J. Savage, Jefferson School principal, who was chosen to serve as secretary, and entrepreneur Robert S. Thornton, who had been highly instrumental in establishing schools for local children in 1856. Colma would incorporate in 1924. Daly City would beat them to that goal in 1911.

As 1908's fall harvest was being yanked or plucked for marketing in San Francisco, or swapped with surrounding neighbors, or sold in local grocery stores, Ocean Shore Railroad rolled through the area that would become Daly City to transport produce along the line. Since June, the OSRR had been transporting passengers for thrilling rides along the San Mateo County coast.

- B/KG

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