

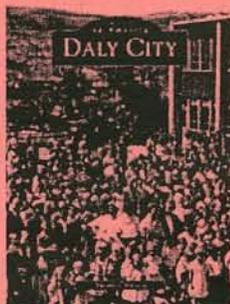


JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

Time to renew your membership!

RENEW ■ RENEW ■ RENEW ■ RENEW

We have enclosed a return envelope and donor card for our annual January renewal of membership. Please note that we ask you to consider an extra donation above the standard \$25 individual/household membership to help with our new museum endeavor. Renewals at the \$100+ level will receive a signed copy of Bunny Gillespie's Arcadia book *Images of America: Daly City*. If you bring your renewal to the January member reception, Bunny can write a special inscription in your book!



The member renewal card also has space to indicate your volunteer interests and (*very important*) a place to list your contact information (phone and email.) We will have extra *Tattlers* and member cards available at the meeting to pass on to interested friends and family. 2009 is a great year to be a member of the History Guild!

Greetings from President Mark

Well friends, at long last this is the year we've been waiting for. We finally will be able to open the doors of our brand new history museum to you, our membership, and the greater Daly City/Colma community. At this writing, your board still is working on the finishing touches that will let us celebrate our museum in all its resplendent glory. We've come such a long way since we set out to realize this long-cherished dream. New handrails are now complete, Michael Rocchetta will head up the effort to paint bathrooms, while Al Hipona and Robert Brizuela have taken on yet another project—painting the front of the building. We will have news about signage in our next *Tattler*.

I want to let you know about our latest acquisitions—the Daly City Fire Department's historic collection of memorabilia and Native American displays from City Hall. Our thanks go to former Fire Chief Bob O'Donnell for

First...



MUSEUM OPEN-HOUSE

Sunday, January 18th

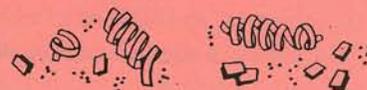
12 NOON – 1:30 PM

6351 Mission Street

(a few doors north of John Daly Blvd.)

Join us for an informal viewing of renovations

Then...



ANNUAL MEMBERS' RECEPTION

Sunday, January 18th

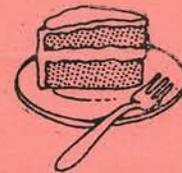
2-4 PM

Larcombe Clubhouse

Westlake Park

99 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City

(Larcombe Clubhouse is just to the left as you enter the park)



Champagne, special treats, raffle, festivities!

THANK YOU TO OUR REFRESHMENT DONORS:

Marilyn Olcese, Judith Christensen, Betty Schultz, Pat Hatfield, Dana Smith, Mark Weinberger, Ruth and Jim Lewis, Annette Hipona and all of you who bring additional special treats for this event!

John Daly granddaughter Passes at age 101

News comes from Bunny Gillespie that Frances Levensaler Bishopric, a granddaughter of Daly City patron John Donald Daly, recently died at the remarkable age of 101. Mrs. Bishopric was in Daly City in 1987 when Representative Tom Lantos honored the family with an award as a Founding Family of Daly City. Mrs. Bishopric accepted the tribute on behalf of her family.



Message from Mark, cont'd.

making arrangements and to the Fire Department for this long-term loan. Bob also contributed a fully restored fire alarm box from his personal collection. Don Ciucci and Steve Hawthorne assisted with the exhibit. You'll be amazed at what you'll see, not the least of which is a restored 1907 chemical fire fighting wagon, the centerpiece of the collection prominently displayed center court in the original room. In addition, we now have two museum showcases with Native American artifacts from the 1977 archaeological dig at Mussel Rock and a diorama of an Ohlone village made by students at San Francisco State University. The diorama was displayed outside the City Hall finance office for many years. The Guild is truly fortunate to have these displays.

I want to let you know that immediately before our annual birthday bash on Sunday, January 18th, we will be hosting an informal open house at the new museum from 12 noon to 1:30 pm at 6351 Mission Street, Top-of-the-hill (formerly the original John Daly Library). This will be an opportunity for you, our dedicated members, donors, and future docents to come see a work still in progress. There will be no set program or activities, so feel free to stop by anytime during that hour and a half. I want to emphasize that this is NOT our grand opening event for the museum.

We will be holding our annual member party directly after the museum open house at the Larcombe Clubhouse in Westlake Park at 2:00 pm. (Please note that the Doelger Center is otherwise engaged and unavailable to us that day.)

I want to note the passing of Walter Riney, Guild veteran and long-serving past board member. He will be missed and remembered fondly. *(Please see Walter Riney tribute in this edition of the Tattler).*

In the spirit of Walter's devotion to the Guild as a long-time docent in our former mini-museum, I hope that you, too, will consider volunteering some time on a Tuesday or Saturday afternoon between 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm. These will be the first two days of the week that we will be opening our doors to the public at our new museum. We hope to expand days and hours as we go along, but that will depend on you, our volunteer docents. More will be mentioned at our January meeting and a sign-up sheet will be circulated.

And finally one further note. In response to a grant request written by Board Member Dana Smith, we received the good news of a \$1,000 donation from the Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation to support our museum renovations. And while we are on the topic of funding, I want to thank you all in advance for renewing your membership in 2009; we depend first and foremost on the generosity of our own Guild family.

On behalf of the board of the History Guild, I wish you all a happy, healthy and joyous new year.



Mussel Rock **Archaeological Excavation** *(Excerpted from story boards from the exhibit)*

In 1977 construction of the Mussel Rock Transfer Station facility, in Daly City on the slope above Mussel Rock, threatened to destroy the remains of an Indian village located there, the seventy-second archaeological site recorded in San Mateo County (SMA-72). In an effort to learn something about the former village, excavations by archaeologists took place that year, resulting in the recovery of the largest amount of information yet retrieved from any of the 22 recorded archaeological sites located on the northern San Francisco Peninsula.

... The native culture was devastated by the establishment of Spanish Missions on the Peninsula in the late 1700s... Radio-carbon dates indicate that the site was inhabited around 1500 AD and later, most certainly by the ancestors of the Costanoan or Ohlone Indians encountered by the Spanish on the Peninsula.

... Detailed laboratory work was needed to interpret the materials from the site. Identification and analysis of the shellfish remains, Sea Otter and other sea mammal bones, deer, elk, and other mammal and bird bones found in the "midden" was done. Identification and analysis of the artifactual (or "made by humans") materials retrieved from the site was done by trained archaeologists. SMA-72 turns out not to be a simple camp used on a casual basis to gather and eat sea foods. Rather this location appears to be a more permanent village where members of the local tribelet might have lived throughout the year. Small living structures were built, and the dead were buried at the village. Its inhabitants enjoyed the benefits of the rich environment, gathering shellfish from the coastside, clubbing seals and Sea Otters, hunting sea lions (including the Northern Fur Seal), huge Sea Elephants, and other sea mammals on the beach, as well as making use of the occasional whale washed up, along with fish from the ocean. The marshy valley now covered by the landfill yielded additional food sources, such as seeds, birds, deer, elk, and other mammals. Resident and migratory birds were an important source of eggs, meat, feathers and useful bone. Vegetable foods gathered in the area were a significant part of the diet as well.

The largest portion of aboriginal tools recovered from the Mussel Rock Site are made of stone. These knives, scrapers, arrowheads, and other tools are part of a technology which is both simple yet sophisticated. ...Hundreds of stone tools were found at the site.



... The Indians at SMA-72 were not isolated from inhabitants of the rest of the Peninsula, nor for that matter, from the rest of California. Elaborate native cultures had existed in the San Francisco Bay Area for at least 10,000 years. Obsidian was traded in from Napa County, Lake County, and possibly the eastern Sierras. "Monterey" chert came in from quarries far from Mussel Rock, as did mica ornaments and quartz crystals. In partial exchange for these items, the inhabitants of Mussel Rock collected Olivella, clam, abalone, and other shells for the manufacture of beads and ornaments, which by the 1500s had become a form of money for Indians as far away as western Nevada. Food items were also traded between the prehistoric native groups.

... Archaeological research at the Mussel Rock Site has shown that Daly City was occupied by Indians carrying on an age-old way of life before the arrival of the Spanish.

Guild Loses Friend Walter Riney



Walter Riney, another treasured member of the History Guild family, has passed away. Walter died in November after lingering illnesses. No services were held. Survived by his daughter, Jan, the Riney family were long-time residents of Westlake. Mrs. Riney died in 1997.

Walter and his late wife Elaine became charter members of the Guild in 1983. He was a member of the Steering Committee for the Guild's Mini-Museum when it opened in the basement of the Serramonte Library in 1992. Walter and Elaine became constant Tuesday afternoon museum docents, frequently donating items to the collection and faithfully cataloguing thousands of photos, clippings, and memorabilia that now form the backbone of History Guild's archives. Over the years the couple were constant staffers at the Guild's display booths at San Mateo County Historical Association's Victorian Days and local festivals.

With his handy sponge, Walter took charge of moistening the glue on stamps and envelopes for *Tattler* mailings, assisting the Gillespies for many years. Walter served on the Guild Board of Director from 1990-2006, frequently hosting the Board meetings at his home. He assumed the task of selling our raffle tickets from 1991 until 2007 and also served as our longtime volunteer photographer, generously donating his professional quality pictures. Walter in his cap and raffle apron contributed to the warmth of our meetings and the growing balance in our bank account. On his departure from the board, he donated magnetized identification badges for board volunteers who continue in the organization he enjoyed and helped to make enjoyable.

Walter, you are missed. Thank You!

(Thanks to Board Emerita Bunny Gillespie for her notes on the Rineys' Guild history.)

Thank You to Museum Volunteers

Richard Rocchetta and Michael Rocchetta took on the daunting responsibility of coordinating the move from the mini-museum to our new "digs" at 6351 Mission Street. A special thank you to Russ Brabec and Gloriann and Vaughn Jones for packing and moving many items in their personal cars. Others who helped: Marilyn Olcese, Marian Mann, Marie Brizuela, Eunice Brabec and Mark Weinberger and Robert Brizuela moved file cabinets. Thanks to Carol Simmons, head librarian, for her patience and assistance through the entire process of vacating the mini-museum at the Serramonte Library.

Thanks to Doris Thomasson, DC Maintenance Supervisor, and crew for moving the Native American exhibits, Fire Department artifacts and other items.

Mark Weinberger and Al Hipona risked life and limb (scaling a barbed-wire fence and clinging to a cliff) to remove graffiti that could be seen from museum windows, and Marilyn Olcese began replanting the frontage landscaping at the new museum.

Bunny Gillespie Presentation at County Courthouse Docket

Our Guild Board Emerita Bunny Gillespie will speak in the San Mateo County History Association's "Courthouse Docket" series of historical presentations on Saturday, Feb. 21, 1 PM, at the County History Museum, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Bunny's talk will focus on her new book "Images of America: Westlake", published by Arcadia. A book signing will follow.

Our Thanks

RECENT MUSEUM DONATIONS

Shirley Plank: Susan B. Anthony yearbook; **Paul Tolovi:** awards and magazine articles; **Marilyn Olcese:** metal Westlake Finer Homes Job sign, **Vaughn and Gloriann Jones:** photos, news clippings, campaign/event/meeting materials, vintage Estrada's Restaurant menu, Jefferson HS Yearbooks (incl. 1932), souvenirs from Swanson's Westlake Bowl, Lion's Club pin (circa 1960's with picture of pizza – meetings were held at then-President Frank Spaderella's Toto's Pizza Restaurant); **Daly City Fire Department:** chemical wagon and collection of vintage memorabilia; **Bob O'Donnell:** Daly City fire alarm box in working order; **Daly City:** Ohlone artifacts and diorama from Mussel Rock; **Howard Mason:** desk used in Doeger office hand-built by the employees at the Doelger mill in Daly City; **Mike Pacelli:** large framed aerial photograph of Daly City; and **Bruce Moore:** oak display case.



THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014

New address!

See inside...

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SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP BOOK OFFER-SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP BOOK OFFER

CENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

by Ken and Bunny Gillespie,
Daly City Historians



In January of 1909, as in January of 2009, residents of unincorporated North San Mateo County considered festivities surrounding the recent Presidential election with unique interest. The President-to-be was William Howard Taft, a jolly overweight gentleman who would be sworn to office in March as America's 27th President. Among localities considering the long trek to Washington, DC, to view the ceremony was Henry Ward Brown, a Colma Republican and practicing attorney with unique ties to the nation's capital. His father, Samuel Peters Brown, was one of those responsible for reconstruction of the city after the Civil War.

H.W. Brown, often referred to as "Honest" Ward Brown, represented San Mateo County as a California Assemblyman, elected in 1889, 1901, 1903. He was returned to office in 1911 and continued until his death in 1916. In 1892, he'd married Margaret Pauline McCullough, daughter of a pioneer Colma family. She later had a public school named in her honor. Working out of a Montgomery Street office in San Francisco and his Dunks Street home (now demolished), lawyer/notary Brown oversaw the legal needs of many local residents and entities. Clients were eclectic: Colma Foresters, Cypress Lawn Cemetery Assn. ,

rancher Jane O'Reilly, widow Bridget Millett, the Ernesta Belli family, homeowner Bernardo Ottoboni, builders Massa & Schenone, the Richard Elford estate, and countless others.

Dubbed the "Dean of the Assembly", Mr. Brown was highly respected. Reportedly, he was "ever ready to be of service to those about him, both in public and private life, without thought of favor or reward." One of his well-used leather wallets is among treasures to be displayed at the History Guild's soon-to-open Daly City History Museum. K/BG

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