

# THE TATTLE



## JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY-COLMA

### GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

I hope that everyone had a fantastic summer. We have a lot in store for the remainder of 2011--Daly City's centennial year. I look forward to welcoming you to our September 10<sup>th</sup> open house (after the Top-of-the-Hill historical walk) and our next September 21<sup>st</sup> member meeting.

Well, we finally got the wall opened up and light gently dawned on the vintage fireplace which had been shrouded in darkness approximately since F.D.R. was in the White House. The actual hearth is in excellent condition--pictures further down. Unfortunately, the brick facade and mantle are long gone. At this point we most likely will use slate or granite for finishing touches, which will be determined by Mark Fontana of V. Fontana & Co. monument makers of Colma. Mark has been a loyal friend-and-true to the Guild for many years and has offered to help us however he can with this and other projects.



Mark Weinberger, fireplace project manager, observes the removing of bookshelves in the Gillespie Room.

Yours truly cleaned out a ton of broken mortar, broken bricks and more cement dust than I ever cared to inhale. We also found an intact skeleton of a small bird, perhaps a swallow, and the decaying remains of a Chesterfield cigarette pack. Alas, no hidden gold or other John Daly treasures.



Original firebox revealed!



## HISTORY EVENING

*The Way We Were in 1941*  
VINTAGE DALY CITY FILM EXCERPTS

**Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**7 P.M.**

**FREE - REFRESHMENTS**  
101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City  
Doelger Center Café

Pre-World War II memories of Daly City businesses will be presented as an edited version assembled by Michael Rocchetta in DVD format of an original film shown to Guild members during two meetings back in 2003 and 2004. The original film was the product of Dale Hovey, who was a staff photographer for the *Daly City Record*. Although there is no sound, many images will bring back memories to those who remember that time and a look at what Daly City was for those who were not here (or not born yet!).

### TOP-OF-THE-HILL HISTORY WALK & TALK

SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>



Hand lettered metal sign that hung for many years above the storefront at 24 Hillcrest, owned by the Monson family. The long-time landmark at the Top-of-the-Hill originally had six lights flashing in an alternating pattern.

Photo provided by Susan Monson.

Under the aegis of the Daly City Centennial Committee, City Historian Bunny Gillespie will lead a historically-focused walking tour on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2 p.m. The free "walk & talk" event will focus on Daly City's "Top-of-the-Hill" section, considered the oldest and most historic location in the city.

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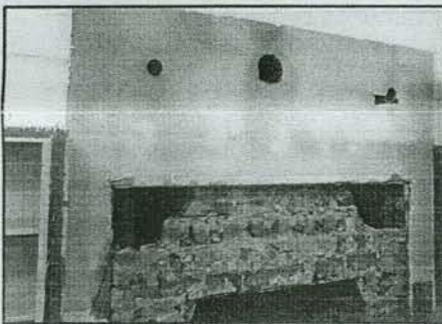
At this writing we have lined up the other vendors for the project including a carpenter, electrician and plumber. Our hope is to have the project completely finished by the end of September. I should also mention that our old furnace, over 40 years old, finally gave out – coincidentally on the same day we opened the wall and revealed the original fireplace.



New efficient gas fireplace heater insert – simulates a log-burning fire.

Therefore, it is most appropriate that we are embarking on this project right now so we can have heat available for docents

and guests in the wintertime. We have chosen a fireplace insert with a design in plain cast iron finish that we believe reflects the integrity of the building and complements both the original Craftsman style room (1920) and the Art Deco addition (1939).



When bookshelves were removed, a vent (possibly for a pot belly stove after the fireplace was covered-over?) and electrical wiring for what looks to be two wall sconces were revealed.

The entire project doesn't come cheap at just under \$12,000. We have received several donations specifically for the fireplace project and would be grateful for any additional donations. Send to the museum address with a note on the check "Fireplace Renovation." We will display a certificate on the fireplace mantel acknowledging all those who have made a special contribution to this project.

I want to offer a big welcome to our two new Directors Dave Crimmen and Marcus Gonzalez, elected at our May meeting. Both are on regular museum docent duty. Dave authored an Arcadia book on Broadmoor Village and collaborated with Bunny Gillespie on the new Arcadia *Then and Now* book on Daly City. Dave is a professional musician and rock music historian. Marcus has a graduate degree in history from SFSU, is a member of the city's Centennial Committee, and is sponsoring a history walk through Westlake on October 15<sup>th</sup> (see schedule under "Historical Happenings").

The Board met on June 15<sup>th</sup> and adopted a very thorough fiscal year budget 2011-2012. Our Treasurer Judith Christensen spent many hours crafting the budget and providing drafts for board review. We have changed from a calendar year budget to a fiscal year for ease in various reporting requirements and to accommodate revenues received from our membership drive which begins in November.

Through the efforts of the Guild, KM2 productions, and some community leaders, we have recently received a \$5,000 unrestricted grant from the Thelma Doelger Charitable Trust. This is the first contribution for what we hope will result in a centennial documentary. Efforts are continuing and I will keep you updated on our progress. We are very grateful for the generosity of the Doelger Trust.

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"Walk & Talk" cont'd.

History buffs, residents new and old, and students are encouraged to participate. The tour will start from the public parking lot at the corner of Bepler Street and San Jose Avenue, the area that embraced John Daly's dairy ranch from 1868 to 1907. Participants will view or visit approximately fourteen of Daly City's vintage locations. Some "Top of the Hill" buildings, constructed between 1905 and 1911, are still in use, although modified over the years. The history walk will conclude at our Daly City History Museum at 6351 Mission Street, the site of Daly City's first public library. The building is now our History Guild's privately operated non-profit museum. The museum will be open special hours with an open house and light refreshments at the conclusion of the tour.

### THANKS TO SEPTEMBER REFRESHMENT DONORS & PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

**Annette Hipona, Gloriann and Vaughn Jones, Grace and Marcus Gonzalez, Marie Brizuela and Judith Christensen** will be providing refreshments at our next September meeting. Thanks are also due to Hospitality Chair **Elinor Charleston** and **Marilyn Olcese**, who set up and serve at every meeting (and always bring extra treats); **Marian Mann** for organizing our raffle; **Michael Rocchetta** and **Richard Rocchetta** for coming early to set up equipment for the program.

**CENTENNIAL GIFT SUGGESTION:** Daly City Centennial pins are available at the Museum for \$2/each.

## DONATE YOUR VINTAGE PHOTOS & ARTIFACTS



Recent addition to our photo collection.

One of the most important things you can do for our museum is to donate your vintage family photos and encourage friends to do likewise. We have a scanner at the museum to make copies if you prefer

to keep your originals. Much history is lost in dumpsters when people move or pass away. Think about making donations now, or make sure your family members know your wishes for items that you intend to leave to the museum. Current news and magazine clipping and photos of history in the making are also valuable donations - our archives need documentation of continuing history. We collect historical source materials and artifacts - relevance to our local history is the main criteria for acceptance of donations. For more information, contact our Museum Director Dana Smith at 650/892-2166. Copies of our Collections Policy and Deed of Gift are available on request.

## OTHER HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

**Daly City sponsored Centennial Events:**

**Thursday, August 25** - 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Daly City Hall. Bunny Gillespie and Dave Crimmen will be speaking about their new Arcadia book - *Then & Now Daly City* and signing copies.

**Saturday, September 10** - 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Bunny Gillespie will lead a history walk in the Top of the Hill area. The walk begins at the Bepler Street municipal parking lot at 2:00 p.m. and ends with an open house and light refreshments at the Daly City History Museum.

**Saturday, September 24** - Daly City Centennial Dinner at the Lake Merced Golf and Country Club 6:00 p.m. cocktails/7:00 p.m. dinner. The \$75 per person (tables of 10 can be reserved for \$750-\$2000). Call the City Manager's Office 650/991-8127 or download a reservation form at [www.dalycity.org/centennial](http://www.dalycity.org/centennial). Entrée choices: Filet of beef, stuffed chicken, or butternut squash ravioli (vegetarian). Guest speakers: Bunny Gillespie, Tom McGraw, and Mike Pacelli.

**Saturday, October 15** - 10:00 a.m. Marcus Gonzalez will lead a history walk through the Westlake District. The walk starts at the roof of the parking structure connected to the Ross Dress for Less store, 405 Westlake Center at Park Plaza Drive.

Historical Happenings, cont'd.

The **Colma Historical Association** annual fundraising dinner will be held at the Colma Community Center on **Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>** at 5 p.m. Dennis Fiscaro will be cooking up something special. \$35 per person. Contact the Colma Museum: 650/757-1676, or email: [colmahist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:colmahist@sbcglobal.net).

### **Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation:**

**Lectures** meet at the Reception Center, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma, 2 pm. - 4 pm. Lecture Information: 650.550-8811.

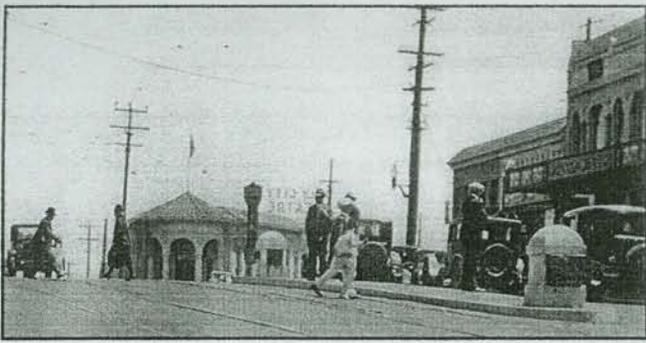
**Sunday, Aug. 21** *Antiques Appraisal* at Cypress Lawn, appraiser antique dealer Terry Hamburg. **Sunday, Sept. 18** *Ultimate Undertaking Extravaganzas - Fantastic Funerals; Long Lingered Farewells*, lecturer: Michael Svanevik.

**Walking Tours** meet at the Noble Chapel, (Cypress Lawn's East Campus) at 1:30 p.m. Walking Tour Information: 650.550-8810. **September 17** *Landmarks and Destinations*, **October 15** *Gargoyles, Foo Dogs & More: Interesting & Unusual Monuments*, both led by Terry Hamburg. **October 29** *Grand Tombs of 19th Century High Society*, led by Michael Svanevik.

**San Mateo County Museum** at 2200 Broadway, Redwood City will hold its annual free Victorian Day **Sunday, August 21** from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. "Love & Marriage Victorian Style" will be the live theatre performance at 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. upstairs in the court room. The History Guild and Colma Historical Association will share an information table at the event.

## DONATIONS & VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Thanks to **Alan Wilmunder** of Palo Alto for the fire chef's trumpet and photo of Daly City Fire Department #5; **Gloriann and Vaughn Jones** for a unique Daly City Scavenger coffee mug in the shape of a garbage can; **Annette Hipona** for a reference book, *A Flora of the San Bruno Mountains*, by the California Native Plant Society and for various documentation of city retirements and community events; **Fred and Barbara Stevens** for dahlia bulbs (for our raffle and in plantings in front of the museum); **Michael Svanevik** for copies of *La Peninsula* magazine; **Fire Station 95** for three Fire Dept. badges; **Colma Historical Assoc.** for binders of Chamber of Commerce newsletters and Hillside Homeowners Improvement Assoc. newsletters, **Eric Steeg** (Master's Auto Body) for vintage business directories and business cards; neighbor **Billy Wiggins** for ongoing gardening; **Mark Weinberger** for taking the lead on the fireplace project; and, as always, thanks to our museum docent volunteers.



Top-of-the-Hill Streetcar platform as it appeared in 1929

## CENTENNIAL MEMORIES

By Ken & Bunny Gillespie, Daly City Historians

### *Mystery...suspense...curiosity....anticipation...intrigue*

All of the above factor into one item of Daly City's 100 year history. The item has been unseen and forgotten for unspecified years. The item might be a relic dating from Daly's City celebration of incorporation on the Fourth of July in 1911. Lost in time, the relic is a "*historic time capsule*" placed during celebrations of the city's founding year. It may be placed on Daly City's list of unsolved mysteries.

The hilltop near the site of John Daly's dairy ranch (1868-1907) had become a busy little hub of activity by 1911. John Daly was no longer living on his hilltop property. The ranch had been sold. His property was being developed into residential and business locations. The population of six-month-young Daly City was growing. The business section, located for the most part on the west side of Mission Road, was a mecca for hilltop visitors. Public transportation to and from Daly's Hill, then the popular designation for the area, was primarily by electric powered street cars that rumbled from San Francisco's Ferry Building to the Daly City terminus, and sometimes beyond.

According to Daly City Record editor J. L. Brown two steam railroads, the Ocean Shore and the Southern Pacific chugged through the area. In addition, Brown reported there were "several streetcar lines upon which 537 cars terminate or pass daily, with a hundred or more on Sundays. The fare was five cents to any part of San Francisco. Two of these lines," Brown continued, "extend south to the cemeteries and to San Mateo."

With concern for the comfort of passengers hailing, boarding, or exiting such transportation, John Daly donated a streetcar waiting platform designed to make access or egress more accessible. Constructed at the street car stop nearest Mission and Hillcrest Drive, the platform included overhead lighting, a drinking fountain, and a brass dedicatory plaque.

Placed within the solid concrete structure was a *jar* containing eclectic items intended to suggest the interests and spirit of the times. Issues of the local newspaper were enclosed as well as the first Philippino (sic) one cent piece coined by the San Francisco mint after the United States gained control of the islands from Spain in 1898. The coin was donated by John Daly. Several dozen citizens dropped business or calling cards into the *jar*, as were coins representing the first sales of a local merchant. Also enclosed were a bottle of whiskey, union cards, and a Civic Betterment League placard. Editor Brown had written in his *DC Record* opinion column that the platform "will last a thousand years." It didn't.

In 1936, new paving was completed after vintage street car lines had been relocated at the Top of the Hill. Daly's ornate streetcar waiting station was lost in the cause of progress. The bronze plaque that originally adorned the platform, acknowledging the generosity of John Daly, disappeared. The lights and drinking fountain vanished. Gone also was the *time capsule* of artifacts so thoughtfully placed in a *jar* and interred by revelers at that bygone Independence Day celebration.

History researcher Russ Brabec recently and extensively contacted several state, county, and local agencies in an attempt to determine the exact location of Daly's historic waiting station. Alas, Brabec's efforts were fruitless. Had the location been determined, it was hoped that modern-day archeologists might have found significant shards of century-old cement or the *historic time capsule*. Might the *time capsule* still be located under the reconfigured confluence of streets at the Top of the Hill? K&BG



### TIME CAPSULES LOST

Modern day time capsule sold by Time Capsule, Inc.

The International Time Capsule Society, established in 1990 and headquartered at Oglethorpe

University in Atlanta, is dedicated to tracking the world's estimated 10,000 to 15,000 time capsules. The ITCS has data on 1,400 capsules and estimates more than 80% of all time capsules are lost! One of the "10 Most Wanted Time Capsules" includes those lost by the city of Corona, California. Corona misplaced a series of 17 time capsules dating back to the 1930s. Attempts by the town's centennial committee to find the capsules led to the *L.A. Times* labeling Corona "the individual record holder in the fumbled time capsule category." That should make Daly City feel a little better, but let's keep looking for our lost time capsule!

## HOW WOMEN WON THE VOTE IN CALIFORNIA (AND DALY CITY)



A 1908 Bay Area Suffrage Parade (Oakland)

Few people know that the right to vote was won on a state by state effort. Women first began demanding the vote in the 1840s, but by 1892 only one state, Wyoming, had granted the vote to females. The general assembly in California passed a

suffrage bill in 1893, but Governor Henry Markham ruled it unconstitutional. Three years later, suffrage proponents placed an amendment to the state constitution on the ballot. It won favor with male voters in Los Angeles, but went down to overwhelming defeat in the rest of the state. A decade passed and women had won the right to vote in Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Washington State. Forging alliances with labor organizations and progressives, California suffragettes were finally successful at a special election on October 10, 1911 when California became the sixth and largest state to enfranchise women\*. The vote was a by a razor-slim margin of 125,037 for and 121,450 against, just one vote per voting precinct determined passage. In 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed prohibiting states and the federal government from denying any American citizen the right to vote based on gender.

One can only speculate how women might have voted six month's earlier in March of 1911 when Daly City incorporation won by a mere 2 votes.

*\*with the exception of Native American women (and men) who gained the right to vote a few years later.*

### Daly City Produces First Female Jury in California

November 2, 1911 – San Francisco Chronicle  
12 WOMEN ON JURY VOTE FOR ACQUITTAL  
New Court Era Dawns in Glow of Mercy

The era of feminine juries dawned in California yesterday. Its first faint glow upon the legal horizon was followed by a ray of hope that hereafter in the golden state justice will be tempered with mercy. For two juries of women sat in judgment once upon a fellow woman

and once upon a man and both verdicts were for acquittal. Daly City, a southern suburb of San Francisco and Watts, a suburb of Los Angeles, were the municipalities which sought pioneer honors in empaneling juries of women in this state.

At Daly City Mrs. S. Rudy, accused of disturbing the peace by casting a rock through a neighbor's window, was placed at the mercy of an even dozen of her sex... The juries wore their hats in court. Their husbands, sweethearts and brothers, bareheaded, sat in the lobbies and watched them deliberate wearing broad grins... Mrs. Rudy's plea was a woman's aim. She did not deny that she had hurled the rock which broke the window, but she affirmed that she intended it to hit a barking dog. The result was a foregone conclusion. No woman could convince another for failing to hit the mark, no matter what else her missile chanced to strike...

### DALY CITY JARGON

by Paul J. Constantino

Paul Constantino, a lawyer and history buff from Burlingame, submitted a list of historic jargon of San Mateo County as a nod to our centennial. Thank you Paul. Here are some excerpts pertaining to Daly City:

*Artichoke Row* – Original name for the Westlake area developed by Henry Doelger, which formerly consisted of agricultural fields.

*Reaches the Beaches* – slang name for the Ocean Shore Railroad which ran from 1905-1920 from San Francisco, through Daly City, to Santa Cruz.

*Little Boxes* – Name for the post WWII mass produced homes by Henry Doelger in Daly City.

*Fog City or Fog Town* - Names for Daly City due to our natural air conditioning of frequent fog. Some say we are the only city where wood rusts.

*Kirchubles Bar* – Rumored to be the original "City Hall" on Mission Street. It also was the only spot where you could step on "justice" – the bar entrance had the word "justice" spelled out on tiles.

*Modesto by the Sea* – how *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Herb Caen described Daly City.

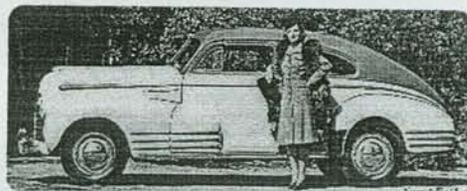
*Sand Hill* – A name for the Daly City area in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century – early residents were called sand-hillers.



**DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM**  
**HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA**  
 6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014  
 650/757-7177

Current Hours: Every Tuesday, Thursday, and  
 first and third Saturdays of the month  
 from noon to 3 p.m.

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



**THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA**

*Please help us spread the word.*

Join the History Guild and support our all-volunteer local history museum and lecture series (free to the public) in this our centennial year. Members receive five editions of our *Tattler* newsletter annually.

General membership is \$25, or give extra at the Docent level of \$50, Historian level at \$100, or the Archivist level of \$500. Your membership at any level is greatly appreciated. Checks should be made out to "History Guild of Daly City/Colma" and mailed to the museum address at 6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014.

**GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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Guild Program Director	
<b>Dana Smith, Vice-President</b>	650/892-2166
Museum Director	
<b>Judith Christensen, Treasurer</b>	650/756-3128
<b>Marie Brizuela, Secretary</b>	650/755-7188
<b>Marian Mann, Director</b>	650/991-9386
<b>Michael Rocchetta, Director</b>	650/756-3960
<b>Marilyn Olcese, Director</b>	650/755-5616
<b>Dave Crimmen, Director</b>	650/589-5852
<b>Marcus Gonzalez, Director</b>	650/757-9767

*Board meetings are held monthly and open to the membership.  
 Please call Mark for further information.*

<b>Ken Gillespie, President Emeritus</b>	
<b>Bunny Gillespie, Secretary Emerita</b>	650/755-5123
<b>Elinor Charleston, Hospitality Chair</b>	650/755-8267
<b>Michael Rocchetta, Member Chair</b>	

**Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith**

Contributors: Dana Smith, Bunny and Ken Gillespie, Mark Weinberger, Rich Rocchetta, and Paul Constantino. Thanks to Richard Rocchetta, Michael Rocchetta, and Judith Christensen for mailing our previous *Tattler*. Michael Rocchetta maintains our address list & labels.

**The History Guild of Daly City/Colma is a  
 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization**