

THE TATTLER



JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY COLMA

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

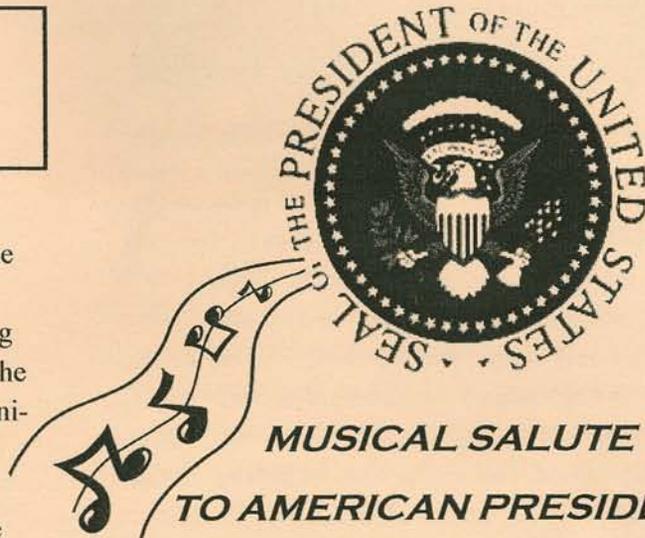
For those who attended our November 14 grand premiere of "Daly City: Growing Up in America" at the Century 20 Theaters, you already know that it was a great event for all. This was the first time in a very long while that we have relocated from our usual venue of the Doelger Cafe, but I hope that you all agree that our mini-field trip was well worth the extra trek. What a celebration it was to be in such good company by all who either call or once called Daly City home, or have another attachment to this great community.



Theatre filling up with guests; approximately 350 people attended the documentary premiere at the Century 20 Theatre.

We were equally lucky to enjoy the fine reception hosted by the City of Daly City, which preceded the main show and was very well-attended at city hall. Who could have asked for anything more? Our sincere appreciation to the City.

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**MUSICAL SALUTE
TO AMERICAN PRESIDENTS**

**JANUARY
DAYTIME MEETING
Sunday, January 20th
2:00 p.m.**

101 Lake Merced Blvd. Daly City
Doelger Center Café

**Our annual party – join us for cake
and champagne!**

This year's January program will be held the day before the Presidential Inauguration. Guild member **Vaughn Jones** will present a musical salute to all American Presidents with selections from past campaign songs from Washington to Obama and a musical review of American patriotic songs. The program will include a sing-a-long. Come and join us for a little music, a little history, a lot of friendship, and some great treats on Sunday, January 20th!





Documentary premiere reception at the City Hall rotunda.

As you know, the film was a collaboration between the Guild and KM2 Communications. This almost two-year effort required a great deal of researching, writing, editing, and still more researching. Our hats off to producers Bryan Kingston and Kevin Mullin for the amount of work that went into making this film a reality. Thanks also go out to all the stars of the film and those who contributed both financially and behind the scenes toward making it as accurate and relevant as possible. Mission accomplished!

On a sad note, our only regret is that two of the Guild's longtime members and very good friends who were profiled, Bernard Winn and Max Ramos, both nonagenarians, passed before completion of the film and therefore didn't get to see the finished product. No doubt both men are smiling down and would definitely approve as reflected by the testimonials of Audrey Winn and Elsa Ramos.



Welcoming guests at the premiere (Dana Smith, Marcus Gonzalez, Judith Christensen)

Finally regarding the film, I want to share that we had a limited run--one night only--at the Balboa Theater in San Francisco. The Balboa ran our film on the evening of December 6, and it was met with a wildly enthusiastic response from the audience. The turnout was not quite the 300+ we had at the November showing in Daly City, and this time around the theater charged for tickets [last time we rented the theater and tickets were free], but the Guild will be receiving half of the ticket sales. Not too bad for a single night. If we're able to secure other theaters in the future we'll certainly let our membership know, though there are no such plans at this time.



Marquee of the Balboa Theatre in San Francisco announcing the special showing of the Daly City documentary arranged by Mark Weinberger, movie and theatre buff.

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Many of you have already sent in your 2013 membership renewals and taken advantage of our recent 2013 Combo special: a Basic Membership along with the DVD for a total of \$40, and we thank you. [That's a \$5 savings if purchased separately.] As this is our official rollout of our 2013 membership drive, we hope that you'll take a good look at the other membership categories on your renewal form. We have some great thank you gifts at the \$50, \$75, \$100, and \$500 levels. These are but small tokens of our thanks to you, our membership, who make the Guild all that it is, and your continued generosity helps to make possible all the work that we do in the museum, as well as the purchase of additional museum displays and materials.

On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a heartfelt Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanza and joyous 2013. May we all have good health, wealth, and safety in the New Year.



A TECHNOLOGY "RELIC" ATTRACTS ATTENTION

By Carole Hutchins

As museum docents, it often seems as though we don't generate quite the level of excitement and enthusiasm we would like over our collection. While some visitors are truly impressed, we also get a lot of "very nice, interesting, will return when we can stay longer" when casual visitors come into the museum.

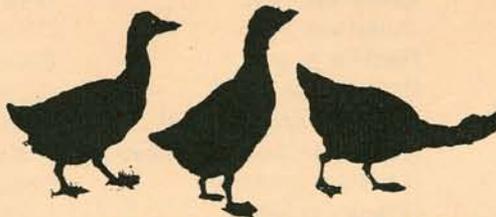
Today [Nov. 6] we had a number of middle school age kids from Our Lady of Perpetual Help visit as the students had a shortened school day. They browsed around and finally a couple of them discovered "the typewriter". They were very curious about this "relic". Fascinated is really a better description of their interest. After explaining all about this machine, they left the museum and eventually returned (actually twice) with a new set of classmates each time to whom they introduced "the typewriter".

They were interested in all facets of this rather unique piece of equipment. When showing them the guts of the machine, they were interested in the cap lock and further fascinated by the keys including both upper and lower class letters. It was rather dark and we used a flashlight

to illuminate the interior and to highlight the keys and the empty ribbon holders. It was interesting that the kids could not immediately grasp the concept of a ribbon versus keys that in their minds should be inked.

Their comments were, "COOL, WOW," and the word used over and over was, believe it or not, "AWESOME". Now I surely wouldn't call a typewriter awesome, but to see these middle-schoolers describe it as awesome, was truly *awesome*. One of the big questions was, "what if you make a mistake. How do you correct it?" The kids also charged me with trying to find a ribbon so they could return and see a typewriter in action. OMG, the thought of the typewriter rising again is truly chilling...

(Note: Our manual typewriter was donated by Ursula Deutsch. The Colma History Museum has a special exhibit of old typewriters with a custom built display cabinet. Their exhibit attracts lots of attention from visiting school children.)

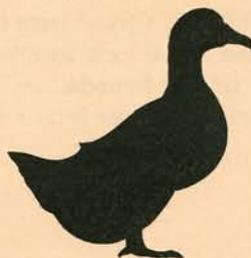


HOW "DUCK" SULLIVAN GOT HIS NAME

By George Kirchhubel

The late George Kirchhubel was a pioneer resident as a young boy at the very beginning of Daly City. When he grew up he owned the landmark Kirchhubel's Bar at the NW corner of Hillcrest and Mission Streets. George had a keen interest in recording local history and was a great raconteur. The History Guild archives have a number of his recollections typed on a manual typewriter. This story tells how "Duck" Sullivan redeemed his unflattering nickname bestowed upon him when he was refereeing a boxing match and made a bad call for the winner. The crowds began booing James Sullivan, throwing a water bucket, a stool, and any manner of objects at hand. Someone in the crowd yelled "duck Sullivan!" - a name he would be known by for the rest of his life. But that's another story...

One of the first matters of business passed by the Council was the appointment of James Sullivan as Sewer Inspector and Pound Man. The city provided Sullivan



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*Thank you to all our 2012 members.
Your renewed support in 2013 is crucial to our continued success.*

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*Thank you to the City
and people of Daly City
for use of the Doelger
Café and Museum
Building.*

Thank you to all the donors who made our documentary film possible:

Seton Medical Center, First National Bank, City of Daly City, Thelma Doelger Trust, Kaiser Permanente, Equity One Realty & Management, Armanino and Uccelli Families, Duggans Mortuary, ASF Electric, Armanino and Ferrari Families, Allied Waste, Fred Gellert Foundation, The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation, PG&E, Kimco, Ray Satorre, Pat Martel, Inquirer Interactive Marketing, Supporters of Doelger Senior Center, Planet Fitness San Francisco.

Duck Sullivan, cont'd

with a cottage and a piece of ground for the pound... Sullivan went to the Reichardt Duck Farm in Colma and there he purchased some newly hatched ducklets. Immediately he began to train them. Whether this man had a certain gift, or a know-how, or whether it was just plain persistence, his efforts began to pay off. All over town stories were going around about Sullivan and his trained ducks.

The Vista Grande Theatre was on Mission Street and to us kids it was the nickelodeon. On Sunday this was the big day in our life when we had a nickel and could see the Sunday Matinee starting at two o'clock. And now on this particular Sunday the word was out that Sullivan was going to put on a performance with his ducks just before the theatre opened.

By one o'clock people were gathered on both sides of the street in front of the pound. By 1:30 they were lined four and five deep about 100' each way... Sullivan came out of the house and flicking a toothpick from his mouth he went to where the ducks were and opened their pen. He then aligned them one in back of the other in single formation. When he was satisfied, he put a hand to his mouth as though to say "don't move". Then stationing himself in front of the front duck, he asked someone to open the cage. He then placed a police whistle in his mouth and raised his right hand in the air and gave a peep from the whistle and marched out of the pound with all the splendor of a Royal Palace Guard. And here come the ducks after him in perfect alignment. When he had gotten about five feet into the street, he gave another peep from his whistle and negotiating a perfect right turn he marched down the street. Each duck then followed, coming up to the spot where he had turned and then taking after Sullivan still in single file. About fifty feet down the street he made a snappy left to the other side of the street, and then another left and marched up the street toward Mission. The ducks repeated the same maneuvers as the first, just as though they could read his very mind. And you can bet the people were going wild, with their eyes opened wide in awe and disbelief. But Sullivan had still another treat in store for them. When he had reached a point about fifty feet from the rear of the show he again made a left and when he passed about twelve feet from the center of the street he came to a halt. The ducks stopped, then Sullivan put his hands palms downward motioning them to remain in this position. He then took

a position in front of the ducks. A peep from his whistle and the ducks moved to face him. Then doing a snapped out face, with a click of the heels, he blew his whistle and marched down the street. Now the ducks were spread out keeping the distance away from him that he had taught them. When he had gotten a ways down the street he increased the pace. Now the ducks were running to their utmost, and in doing so it was necessary for them to spread their wings and a great sight it was to see the ducks enjoying themselves, a honking and a quacking, while the crowd went wild. As they came down the street spread out wing to wing it seemed as though a small white wave was about to break over the shore.

When Sullivan reached the spot opposite to the entrance to the pound, he came to a stop. Taking a position in front of the first duck he blew his whistle, proceeded into the pound with the ducks following. Once inside the pound, he closed the gate and rewarded the ducks with several handfuls of grain.

As he came out from the pen, the people were cheering lustily. But there must have been a little ham in Sullivan for as he listened, he put one hand on his ear, as though something were missing. Then to three "hip, hip, hoorays for Duck Sullivan", a wide grin came over his face, he nodded approval and returned to his house...

As I later reflected upon this incident, this may have been the most important moment of this man's life. As we were walking up the street to the show, a little boy much younger than me asked his father, "Papa, is that why they call him Duck Sullivan?" His father answered him, "Some day boy you can tell the people that you saw it yourself, what this man can do with animals. Yes, that's why he is called Duck Sullivan."

And this is how a city was born, and a little man who in no small way was responsible for that city's birth, because of a bad decision made by him as a fight referee and who because of that decision was given the nickname "Duck Sullivan" that was intended to be a reminder and a stigma to wear for the rest of his life, turned that nickname into one of the most respected and honored names of that city.



THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM

6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA

94014650/757-7177 Current Hours: Every Tuesday, Thursday, and the first and third Saturdays of the month from noon to 3 p.m.



Please visit us on Facebook/

Daly City History Museum

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Bunny Gillespie receiving a commendation at City Hall from Mayor Sal Torres.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS CITY HISTORIAN

On September 23, 1987 Mayor Jane Powell and the City Council of Daly City designated Bunny and the late Ken Gillespie as Daly City's Official City Historians.

At the November 13, 2012 City Council Meeting Bunny was presented a commendation on the occasion of her 25th Anniversary as City Historian by Mayor Sal Torres. The commendation made special note of the walking tour Bunny developed and led at the Top-of-the-Hill during the Centennial year. Congratulations and thank you to Bunny for past and continuing contributions to preserve and disseminate the history of our area.

GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
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Board meetings are held as necessary and are open to the membership. Please call Mark for further information.

- Ken Gillespie (1924-2011), President-Emeritus**
Bunny Gillespie, Secretary-Emerita
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director@dalycityhistorymuseum.org

Contributors: Dana Smith, Mark Weinberger, Carole Hutchins, and the late George Kirchhubel. Thanks to Michael Rocchetta, Richard Rocchetta, Marcus Gonzalez, and Mark Weinberger for mailing the previous *Tattler*.

The History Guild of Daly City/Colma is a
501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization
Memberships are \$25 per year.