

# THE TATTLEER

## JOURNAL OF DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

### GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

We are pleased to welcome back Ken Miles from the Pacifica Historical Society to complete his presentation on the San Mateo County Coast and the Pacific on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Ken was our speaker in November and gave a great talk on the same topic, however, he needed to break it into parts due to time considerations. This time around he'll discuss in greater detail that which was previously presented as well as additional new material. This meeting will again take place via Zoom. I will send an email invitation about one week before; please save this as you will need it to view and participate.

Our most recent meeting which focused on the *Lost Department Stores of San Francisco* was attended by 30 via Zoom. Anne Evers Hitz gave a wonderful history of the City of Paris, The White House, Joseph Magnin, I. Magnin, Emporium, and Gump's department stores. She also mentioned Liberty House, Ransohoff's, Roos Brothers, and O'Connor, Moffat & Co. in passing. Her's was a wonderful **tour down memory lane**, which left many, including yours truly, nostalgic for those heady days of yesteryear. Anne's book is captivating, and I can't bring myself to put it down.

Thank you to all who have already donated or will be donating to the Guild. We thank each and every one of you for your generous contributions and continued patronage. YOU make the difference helping us to pay ongoing bills for the museum (even though we are closed for the time being due to the pandemic), paying the insurance premiums, printing and mailing the *Tattler*, opening a Zoom account for our lecture meetings, etc. We announced in the January *Tattler* that the Board of Directors voted to renew all 2020 memberships at no charge due to the reduced services we are able to provide and the hardships many are facing. So your generous donations are all the more appreciated because they are voluntary. (See Gratitude Report).

As I write in each *Tattler*, we hope that all of you are safe and well at this time. It is hoped that in-person meetings will resume in the near future once Daly City is open again and declares that group gatherings are permitted.

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## ZOOM LECTURE AND MEETING WEDNESDAY MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> 7 PM

### Ken Miles

#### *Presents Part Two*



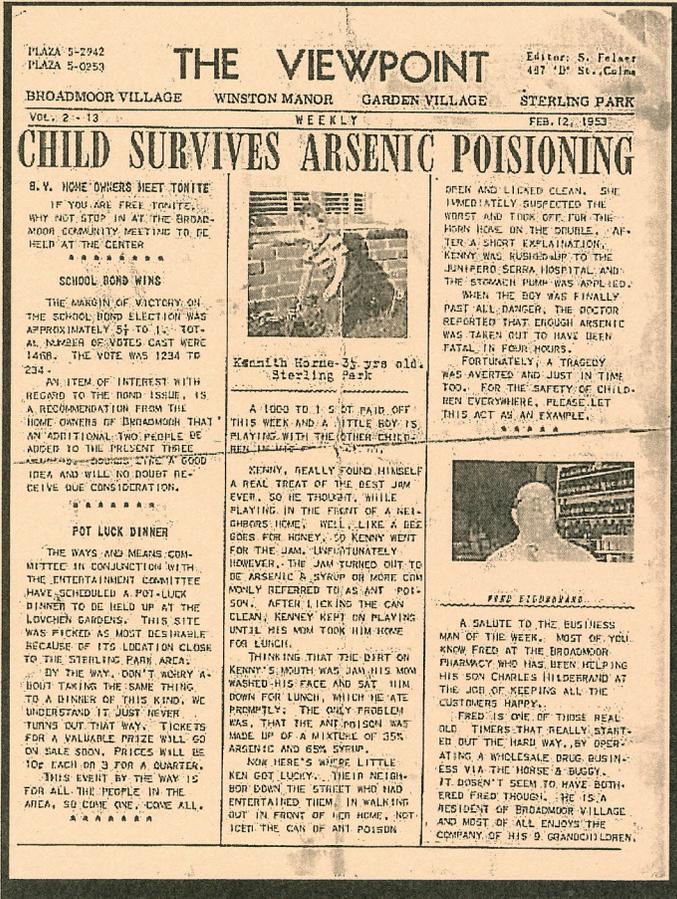
### Discoveries of San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate, from Prehistoric Times to the Arrival of Europeans and Beyond

For many years Ken Miles' interest in Spanish explorations of early California grew as he read about and studied Native American history and cultures. As he read various accounts about early Spanish explorations in Alta California, and wondered why there were often different accounts provided for the same historical events. Ken shares his discoveries.

**Note:** Mark Weinberger will send an email invitation about one week before this meeting. Please save his instructions on how to view and participate. If you are unsure whether we have your correct email, please inform Mark at:  
[events@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:events@dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

Until then, we hope that you can join us on Zoom. There was a short learning curve for all of us getting up and running with this new technology, but we have been successfully holding our board meetings and lectures on Zoom, with member participation increasing.

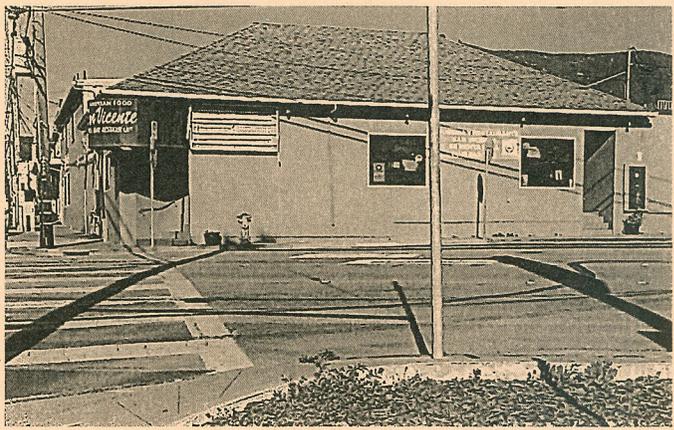
Ken Horne submitted this copy of a neighborhood newsletter to the Guild Facebook page.



In the 1950s home ownership boomed after WWII and suburban housing developments were popping up all over south of the San Francisco border. Pride in ownership was evidenced by neighborhood newsletters and get-togethers. This front page of *The Viewpoint* is interesting for its mention of the Lovchen Gardens and the story with a happy ending for Ken, alive and well and one of our Facebook friends.

*Rich Rocchetta comments:* "We have a copy of this at Colma. This was a local, home published newsletter when Sterling Park first was developed. We have a few issues in the Colma Library. If you notice, it actually covered Colma (Sterling Park), Broadmoor and Garden Village. (Those were the relatively new subdivisions in unincorporated Colma) and a neighborhood in SSF! *The Viewpoint* was mostly neighborhood news and items of local interest to those in those areas. They didn't have any formal homeowner's association and most of those homes were in unincorporated Colma and just one side of

D Street and E and F Streets were in the Town of Colma at that time. Ken Horne, the kid in the photo, lived in Colma, then moved to Callan Heights neighborhood (the tract in front of the Franciscan Mobile Home Park, overlooking Pollicita School). He went to Colma and Jeff the same years I did. He sometimes posts a comment on Lance Ramirez' Facebook page on Daly City": (<https://m.facebook.com/groups/34951848805>)



Thanks to the Rocchettas for taking this current picture and for finding historic photos of Lovchen Gardens

Below is the side view from Linden Street. The large building in the center was the dance hall. The front facade was changed but from another angle you can see two peaks of the old roof. There's a driveway between the restaurant and the warehouse. The picnic area was on Linden to the right of the large warehouse, where apartments are located now.



## LOVCHEN GARDENS

By Richard and Michael Rocchetta, who are a Fountain of information

Lovchen Gardens was where the Salvadoran restaurant is now, down the corner from us at Linden/Hillside/Chester streets. It was a bar/restaurant and picnic grounds where people would have various ethnic picnics in a wooded area in back of the place. The building in back, facing Linden, where there is now a roofer was where they had

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dances. They even had a couple of bowling lanes where our dad used to set pins when he lived across Chester at the corner house from the 1920s to the early 1940s. Lovchen goes back to the 1920s. They even had a bus that used to pick up people from the streetcar to transport them to the Gardens. In 1931 The Redwood City news reported that federal prohibition agents had started an abatement proceeding against Lovchen Gardens and then owner Lee Firpo. "The establishment differs from those generally considered in abatement proceedings in that it is an out-of-doors place, and there is no building to close under the abatement proceedings... it is said to have been twice raided by prohibition agents and quantities of beer confiscated. A third raid made last month resulted in the abatement move."



An Italian group having a good time in the wooded picnic area at Lovchen

In the early days they used to have private parties called "smokers"—where they would show "adult movies". By the mid to late 1950s they no longer had the picnic grounds and it settled into being just a bar and Italian restaurant called Castagnettos, after owner Ed Castagnetto. Ed was a golfer who won the City championship in the 1940s in San Francisco. He also had a roofing business in the old Lovchen Gardens dance hall building until the 1980s. He put on many roofs in the Serramonte development.

Announcing . . .

**LOVCHEN GARDENS**  
**BEEF BARBECUE**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

\* Your Admission \*  
**PURCHASE OF A \$1.00 TICKET FOR**  
**SAINTS & SINNERS MILK FUND**

Hillside & Chester Streets - Colma

*Editor's note: Can anyone tell us about the "Saints & Sinners Milk Fund" in this 1954 ad? I'll think of a little prize for an answer!*

**COPPERWOOD LODGE**  
 1197 Hillside Boulevard (Corner of 'A' Street) Colma, California

**Third Anniversary Party**  
 Wed., Aug. 22 — Thurs., Aug. 23 — Free Buffet — Fun for All!

**Watch The World's Champion Twister In Action**  
 Dancing to the Music of the  
**FABULOUS DICK GUMINA TRIO**  
 From 6 p. m. to 2 a. m.

**Your Hosts: The Wrestling Sharpe Brothers — Ben and Mike**

The Sharpe brothers in 1962

In the 1960s it became "Copperwood Lodge", bar and restaurant and eventually owned by the wrestling brothers, Ben and Mike Sharpe. They used to be tag team wrestlers who wrestled locally at Kezar Pavilion and the Cow Palace. After matches, wrestlers would come back and congregate at the bar. Mike Sharp lived locally.

After that, they even had Topless dancers for a very short time when that was popular. Since the 70s it has been a number of types of restaurants with a bar. A Mr. Gomez owned the business until the early 70s, first called "Mr. G's Steakhouse" and then Mr. G's Rockhouse". It changed ownership and was known as "Vincenzo's" (previously a seafood restaurant that was located near the Serra Bowl) until it became a Mexican restaurant in 1992. At that time the interior was remodeled and then it became a series of different restaurants: Casa Manila, Los Juanas, Rio, La Pachanga, etc.

## GUILD ELECTION IN MAY

Guild Elections for officers and board members will be held in May. If you are interested in serving, please let Mark know: [president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org).

Please note: In order to serve on the board, one must be willing to volunteer at the museum at least one Tuesday or Saturday afternoon per month for three hours (once the museum reopens) and take charge of an ongoing task to keep the organization functioning. All board members donate their time and skills, it's a **labor of love**.

A slate of nominations will be presented in the May *Tattler* and then voted at that meeting.



## COVID CHRONICLES

By Dana Smith

Well, it's been almost a year since this Covid nightmare began. Sometimes it feels like forever and at other times you can wake up in the morning feeling normal... until you realize "this is another Covid day." I'm still cooking up a storm and my very short hair has grown, I am now styling a pony tail and shopping online for Scuncis.

In one of those waking Covid moments I had a funny thought... "when we are past this will we think of time as PC (prior to Covid) and AC (after Covid)?" It's hard to have perspective on these tragically historic times, but 2020 will go down in history in **BOLD** type. I will breathe a lot easier when I get my second vaccine shot at the beginning of March. I'm hoping you have been as fortunate as I in that regard. As I was in line at the Moscone Center vaccination hub, all I could think about was having a **no-holds-barred** feast at a sushi restaurant!

*Covid Humor: Had I known last March that it was the last time I would be in a restaurant, I would have ordered dessert!*

I am still struggling with "Covid Ennui" as I try and put together another *Tattler*... a term my sister Judith and I use to express the startling lack of energy and inspiration (a soul weariness) that we feel from Covid stress, sadness and social isolation. \* Even so, I wake up every morning and repeat "I'm so lucky" like a mantra. Indeed, I do feel lucky while the world struggles on and so many people are facing serious calamity. But admittedly, on some days getting out of bed and putting on a bra (I don't know what the equivalent would be for you guys) seems like a major accomplishment. When I finally do get up my mind is swirling with songs and lyrics from my childhood. (Is this some kind of "**second childhood**", a symptom of Covid isolation?)

I must admit marching around the house singing the Micky Mouse Club song is quite invigorating. Now I've moved on to the theme song to the 1961-66 television show Mr. Ed: "*A horse is a horse. of course, of course, and no one can talk to a horse, of course, that is, of course, unless the horse is the famous Mister Ed!*" The cats really hate the Mr. Ed thing and my sister Judith has bopped me on the head a few times for **driving her crazy**. I think it's kind of like a computer virus... (See, now you are humming the tune!)

I have to be thankful to all of you who rise to the occasion every Covid morning... I'm thinking of Guilder Bill Hamilton who continues to feed his feral cat friends at 10+ sites a day and an artist friend and former roommate who made 200, double-sided, weatherproof valentines, which she hung on trees all over Holyoke, MA.

Musical flashback... "Love Is All We Need" was an R&B hit from 1977 by black artist Mary Blige, who is now 50 and a breast cancer awareness advocate. Also, the 1965 hit song "What the World Needs Now (is love, sweet love. No, not just for some, but for everyone!)" by Jackie DeShannon comes to mind along with the 1967 Beatles hit "All You Need Is Love". Below, a belated Valentine for YOU from my fellow artist in Holyoke.



We are now constantly being reminded of the 1918 pandemic, the closest comparison to the Covid pandemic in modern times. The so-called Spanish Flu, which was caused by a different strain of H1N1 virus, ravaged the globe between 1918 and 1919. According to CDC estimates, roughly 500 million people became ill with the disease, which ultimately took the lives of about 50 million worldwide. The tools at the time were only able to detect bacteria, not smaller pathogens, therefore no vaccines. My mother lived through the 1918 pandemic as a 7-year old, but her younger brother died at the age of 3. He would have been my uncle Clarence. In comparison, to date the 2020-21 Covid pandemic has resulted in approximately 111.2 million cases and 2.5 million deaths.

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I had intended to opine about the long-term impact of our current pandemic on culture, economics, education, brick and mortar businesses, shopping malls, the Colma Tea, concerts and festivals, the travel and tourism industry, movie theaters, the future for young people, etc. (The list goes on, but I have to stop before I hyperventilate!) When I discovered a huge and no doubt growing list of articles on the topic (Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic - Wikipedia), I blanched. I'm ready to think about the "new normal" intellectually, but not emotionally.

But in the meantime, can anyone explain to me why the stock market is booming while the world is **going to hell in a handbasket** and I'm wondering if there will be a sushi restaurant left open by the time we can safely take off our masks? Finally, **hats off** to all the women who put on their bras day in and day out! Enough about me and my mental rambling. I have **baled my soul** (and my weird sense of humor) and now I would like to hear from YOU about your pandemic "history". Stay safe and hopeful! Email me at: [dana@vikingsmith.net](mailto:dana@vikingsmith.net)

*\*Ennui is a French word for listlessness, but "Covid Ennui" is so much MORE!*

## A Fun Pandemic Game... IDIOMS

*Editor's note:* My friend Annette (Guilder and our City Clerk) have been playing an "idiom game" for a few months. Every distanced day we exchange idioms, like "going to the funny farm... it's not rocket science", etc. I've put pads of paper and pens all over the house so I can jot down an idiom when it **pops into my head**, which is all the time now. I've bolded all the idioms in this *Tattler*... you see what I mean. I'm going to win this contest because I'm older and from an era when idioms were popular. Play this game with a friend. It becomes contagious (like Mr. Ed!) Do young people still use idioms, have they created ones, or are idioms being lost to the English language in the same way that script writing is a lost skill?

Just found the answer on the Internet... SMS (Short Service Message) language, also known as "textspeak", is a term used for slang abbreviations used with mobile phone text messaging or email. As in: ROFL (rolling on the floor laughing), IFYP (I feel your pain), MYOB (mind your own business), etc. I'm really not this "**hip**". You can find Internet dictionaries for textspeak. I would caution though, be careful when you use the letter "F" because it often means.... well, I guess you can figure that out on your own. Now I'm off to learn more SMS and catch up on my Babble Internet Italian lessons! TTFN (ta ta for now) and ciao!

## Note From Bianca Caserza

"I miss going to the Sunday meetings. I miss all of my Guild friends...I still live comfortably with two daughters, have food on the table and have people helping me... At 94 and a half I can still work, exercise, eat and sleep well. I really enjoy the articles in our newsletter. Excellent and getting even better." - Bianca

## Myra Virginia Simmons, Prominent Bay Area African American Suffragist and Community Organizer (June 8, 1880-March 16, 1965)

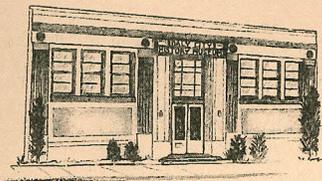
By Maureen O'Connor



Myra Virginia Simmons was a prominent community organizer for the California Suffrage Movement. She was President of the Colored American Equal Suffrage League (CAESL) which was based in Oakland. When women gained the vote in California [1911], she reorganized CAESL into a study club focusing on educating black women in reading, writing, "practical politics" and the voting process. She held leadership positions in many organizations that fought segregation in schools and supported the appointment and election of black officials in government. A registered Socialist, she campaigned successfully for many racial social justice issues. One of the issues of the time was the poor treatment of African American prisoners in San Quentin prison.

Ms. Simmons was born in California as was her mother, Virginia L. Campbell Simmons. Her father, William J. Simmons, immigrated to California from Jamaica. Her older sister was Vivian Leonie Simmons. She lived in Alameda County for many years. By the time of the 1930 census, she was living with her mother in San Francisco. After a long and successful life of service to her community and, by extension, the community of humanity, she now rests with her family at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma.

*Editor's note: This article will become part of our archive with all the research references. Thanks go to Maureen for bringing this new history to light as we celebrate Black History Month this February, and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the United States this past year. Kamala Harris, a Bay Area native, delivered her first speech as our first female Black vice president in a white pant suit — a nod to the suffragettes who paraded in white dresses. When I worked for the Institute on Aging in San Francisco, Kamala as District Attorney was a frequent speaker at our elder abuse prevention rallies and lectures.*



**DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM**

**& ARCHIVE**

6351 Mission Street Daly City, CA 94014

650/757-7177

Currently closed due to pandemic



Please visit us on Facebook at "Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive"

[www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org](http://www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**GRATITUDE REPORT**

DONATIONS TO DATE: \$250 - Mark Fontana (V. Fontana & Co.) \$100 to \$150 - Eunice Brabec, Bianca Caserza, Joseph Curran, Daly City Public Library Associates, Celeste De Martini, Steve & Jeanne Hawthorne, Carole Hutchins, James Hyde, Toni Lozica, Shirley Plank, Pete Scalia, Patrick Sweetland, Janice Ucceli, \$50 to \$99 - Betty Battaglia, Alan & Julie Chimenti, Judith Christensen, Debby Ciucci & family, Patrick Cunneen, Neil Fahy, Bill Hamilton, Earl & Esmeralda Harper, Ruth Hill, Vaughn & Gloriann Jones, Bill & Diane Lex, Ken Miles, Thomas Miller, Bob & Jackie O'Donnell, Norma Quickert, Elaine Riggs, Michael Rocchetta, Rich Rocchetta, Dana Smith, Adrienne Tissier, Mike Wilson, Up to \$49 - Barbara Balbi, Dennis Barbata, Larry Barbata, Kathleen Brachna, Louise Bradford, Alice & Dan Brockman, Jim & Sara Broussard, Sue Cook, Teri Marie Counce, Lorraine D'Elia, Kate DeMartini, Sylvia Fandel, Helen & Dennis Fiscaro, Vena Frank, Marilyn Fullam, John & Jean Gallagher, Alex Gallegos, Mary Gee, John Gersich, Grace & Marcus Gonzalez, Don Grant, Stan Gustavson, Bob Hicks, Judy Hnilo, Denise & Pat Kelly, Quentin Kopp, Michele Krolick, Frances Liston, Bill & Janice Mason, Linda Minnix, John & Claren Palmer, Gary Parma, Marianne Petroni, Maureen O'Connor, O'Neill Glass, Inc, Sylvia Raquel, Dan Ryther & Sherry Brown-Ryther, Jeff Schwarz, Denise Schwarzbach, Fred & Barbara Stevens, Georgina Tboni, Monika Trobits

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president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org  
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**Marcus Gonzalez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President/Museum Director**  
**Judith Christensen, Treasurer**  
**Algis Ratnikas, Secretary**  
**Directors: Michael Rocchetta, Dana Smith**

Ken Gillespie (1924-2011), President-Emeritus, Bunny Gillespie (1926-2017), Secretary-Emerita, Grace and Marcus Gonzales Hospitality Crew

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

**Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive is a  
501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization  
Memberships begin at \$25 per year.**

**Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith**  
**(dana@vikingsmith.net)** Editor's note: I dedicate this edition to Bianca in appreciation of her sweet note that inspired this edition of the *Tattler*. Bianca Caserza has lived a lot of local history and was one of the stars of our centennial video.