

# The Novato Historian

The Quarterly Publication of the Novato Historical Guild, the Novato History Museum, and the Hamilton Field History Museum



## Preserving Novato's History News Section

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April - June 2015

The Novato Historian

Volume 39, Number 2

## A Busy Museum 3rd Grade Program Receives High Marks

June 5th marked the last of the third grade tours for this school year at the downtown Novato History Museum. The program continues to receive high marks on teacher evaluation surveys. One teacher commented that she loved the enthusiasm of the docents. Another thought the program was presented in a professional, fun way.

Credit goes to this year's dedicated docents, namely Sharon Azevedo, Mary Bicknell, Celinda Current, Carol Fitzgerald, Diana Goebel, Laurie Gratiot, Bobbie Kettler, Anne Lehan, Lauren Long, Jim McNern, Cindy Motsinger, Susanne Bergstrom-Null, Laurie O'Mara, Stan Pelmeur, Anne Russell and Susan Trumbull.

Students' thank you notes to the docents expressed what they learned and liked about the field trip. One student said she liked going on the downtown tour and learning about the railroad depot. Another learned that some baseball players lived in Novato and really liked seeing the baseball exhibit. Hearing the story about the first postmaster was liked by one student. These are just a few of the comments students made.

This year's Spring tours were once again very successful as measured by teacher and student responses.



*Guild members and guests enjoy a continental breakfast and a presentation by Dianne Einstein of Olompali State Park on the history of Olompali.*



*Docent Laurie O'Mara (left) and Sharon Azevedo (right) lead third graders through a walking history tour of Novato.*

**The Novato Historian**

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**Guild Mission Statement**

*Our Mission is to collect, preserve, and make reasonably available to the public, exhibits and information related to the historical and social development of the Novato valley, Hamilton Field, and the adjacent North Marin area.*

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Samantha Kimpel

**Deadline for the Sept. issue is Aug. 1**

**Address Changes**

*The Novato Historian is mailed by bulk mail and will not be forwarded by the Postal Service. Please notify us promptly of your address change at Novato Historical Guild, P.O. Box 1296, Novato, CA 94948.*



**President's Corner**

**Susan Magnone**

**President, Novato Historical Guild**

The Guild's dream of moving the Novato History Museum to the much larger Simmons House on Sherman Ave has been delayed. On March 10<sup>th</sup> the City Council voted, 4 to 1, to make no decision regarding "historical homes and the Community House" until an update of the City's Capital Improvement Plan can be completed in 2017. The City wants a comprehensive plan for development of the Civic Center, which includes three houses (one is the Simmons House) and the Community House, all of which are owned by the city. The cost of making the required building improvements for the Simmons House was estimated at \$830,000. So the dream will wait a little longer. In the mean time the Guild will continue to work with the City to preserve our history and to provide an interesting experience for the visitors at both of the museums. Our mantra: Continue the good work, Expand what we do, and Keep on Dreaming.

An example of expanding what we do is the formation of the *Novato Museums Association*. This was Jim Crumpler's dream and he has made it happen by bring the six museums in Novato together to promote Novato as a great place to visit. The museums in the Association are, **The Museum of the American Indian, Space Station Museum, Olampali State Park, Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, and of course Hamilton Field and Novato History Museums.**

The first project is a brochure with

information about each museum to be distributed to local businesses and retirement communities in the Bay Area. Jim recently met with the Novato Tourism Council and they are interested in promoting the Museums of Novato.

The six museums have agreed to inform their members of events at the other museums. For the Guild, this means sending an email to our members email list with the information. So you might get an email from the Guild about an event at the Space Station Museum. If you would like to be on the Guilds email list just let us know at [nhg1859@yahoo.com](mailto:nhg1859@yahoo.com).

Another example of expanding what we do is that the Guild now has Pay Pal on our web site. This means that someone can go to our web page, click on Pay Pal and use a credit card to pay for membership or make a donation. Of course you can still pay the usual way with a check, but for many people, Pay Pal is easier and more convenient.

We will continue our good work by having a booth at the Novato Art and Wine Festival on June 13 & 14. Come by and say hello. Or better yet, volunteer to staff the booth. Use the email above or call Jim Crumpler. Also look for the NHG's truck in the Fourth of July Parade. The Guild continues to be an active part of our community.



# Novato-50 Years Ago

## (April, May, and June 1965)

by Bill Almeida and Tonie Brown

*“Novato 50 Years Ago” is a collection of items culled by Bill Almeida from the April, May and June issues of the Novato Advance newspapers in the collection of the Novato History Museum and the Novato Advance. Tonie Brown retypes the articles for the newsletter. Enjoy reading the names and happenings of 1965.*

- More than 200 boys applied for work as “pack-outs” at the new Roger Wilco store at Novak Square which opened on April 8. Only 15 boys were chosen.

- According to City Manager John J. Baget, Novato’s estimated population as of May 1, 1965, was 27,150. This figure gave the city hopes of soon having a local office of the department of motor vehicles here in Novato.

- Mrs. Winifred Berger of Novato was named to the California Woman’s Bowling Association “Hall of Fame” at a convention held at the Miramar Hotel in Santa Barbara. She was introduced to bowling on her wedding day on August 25, 1928 by her husband, Lee.

- Though the police personnel were proud of their department and their work, they were reported to be very unhappy with the department’s pay scale, which has always been a couple of unhealthy cuts below that of surrounding Bay Area law enforcement agencies.

- Six candidates were seek-

ing election to the Fire Commission Board in the April election: Henry “Hank” Alvornaz, 39, Frank Helbring, 45, Wilfred Lieb, 40, Kenneth Roche, 35, Joseph Silveira, 40, and Edward Smith, 38.

- Two Novato ranch hands underwent the unpleasant Pasteur treatment as a result of being exposed to a rabid cow. James Cordiero, 38, and Frank Mendes, 43, milkers on the Silveira ranch in Novato, took the 14 day series of rabies shots to prevent incurring the disease.

- Funeral services were held for Capt. Hugo Ewald Clever, 72, of 781 Atherton Avenue, who died April 16 in his home after a short illness.

- Roger Wilco celebrated their grand opening at Novak Square in late April. Stage coaches, fire engines, clowns, ice cream, cotton candy, 7-Up floats, hot dogs and cake were available to store visitors. Note: Novak Square later became known as Novato Square Shopping Center.

- On sale at Roger Wilco: abalone steaks, 8 oz. Package, \$0.89; sliced strawberries, 12 oz. package, 5 for \$1.00.

- John Dolinsek, left handed junior pitcher for the Novato Hornets, pitched a no-hit, no-run, 6-0 victory over the Tamalpais Indians in a Marin County Athletic League varsity baseball game on April 27 on the Novato High diamond.

- Mrs. Richard McGinnis was

chosen 1965 Novato Mother of the Year. Mother of 12, Mrs. McGinnis children ranged from 20 years to 10 months. She emphasized “generosity” in her family’s upbringing.

- Marin County Board of Supervisors signed a joint powers agreement with the City of Novato to share costs for removal of “Thrill Hill” on McClay Road. One side of McClay lies in the city and the other is in county jurisdiction. The supervisors agreed to pay half the costs of engineering and construction up to \$5,000. Note: “Thrill Hill” was located between the present Brookside and Saddlebrook Courts.

- Funeral services were held for Warren Kingsley on May 13 in San Rafael. Kingsley, 59, had been a Novato resident for 28 years.

- Major General Carroll W. McColpin took over as commander of the 28th Air Division at Hamilton Air Force Base on April 1.

- The Novato Men’s Shop, operated by Irv Links at 875 Grant Avenue began a closing-out sale on May 25. The sale was scheduled to continue until June 15.

- A number of Novato 4-H members won medals at the 1965 4-H club Dress Revue held at Hill Junior High on May 22.

Blue ribbon winners were: Charlene Manzoni, Novato Aggie; Shir-

# 50 Years Ago

*Continued from Page N-3*

ley Bomio, Novato Olompali; Sharon Bomio, Novato Olompali; Marsha Baccaglio, Novato Aggie; Janice Kidder, Novato Jets. Red ribbon winners were Marian Baccaglio and Cheryl Skowronek.

- The engagement of Sandra Underwood of Lafayette and William Joseph Wright of Novato was announced by the bride-elect's parents in late May. Mr. Wright was a graduate of Novato High School and the University of California at Davis. His Fiancée was a senior at the University of California at Berkeley.

- Funeral services were held for Mrs. Alta O. Johnson, 66, of 18

Jules Drive who died June 2. She was employed as secretary of the Marin County Farm Bureau. She also founded the first girl scout troop in Novato in 1945 and was a 4-H Club leader for 17 years. She was a past Arch Druidess for Sylvan Circle.

- Martin Baccaglio of Novato, member of the College of Marin football team, was presented the \$100 Dick Signorelli scholarship as the athlete with the most outstanding citizenship and scholastic record. The award was presented on the Kentfield campus in early June. The Dick Signorelli medal was in memory of a member of the 1952 baseball team who was killed enroute to a game.

- Nancy Tocalino, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Tocalino of

Vineyard Road, served as valedictorian of her graduating class at St. Vincent High School in Petaluma on June 6. She received numerous other honors in addition to being valedictorian.

- Cattarina (Cathrin) Birgitta Young and Pieter van den Toorn were married on June 26 in Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. The bride was a 1961 graduate of Novato High School and from the Sorbonne in Paris, France. The bridegroom graduated from Amherst College in 1960 with a masters from Harvard in 1962.

- Pini Hardware celebrated 22 years in business in late April. The three partners also celebrated the 18th year since they re-opened the doors of the firm after a disastrous fire on April 19, 1945.

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# Novato Memories

by Jim McNern



## Libba Patterson

*Ninety-eight year old Libba Patterson was born in Plainview, Arkansas in 1917 as Mary Elizabeth Bauer. She was one of six children. "Libba" came from her brother J.A. who couldn't say Elizabeth. The family moved to Judsonia, Arkansas in 1921 and that is where she grew up. Libba graduated in the class of 1935 from Judsonia High School. She moved to Novato in 1943 to join her husband, Bob, who was already at Hamilton Field. Libba shares her Hamilton Field and Novato memories in this June edition of the Novato Historian.*

### HAMILTON FIELD

After completing basic training and radio training in Illinois, Bob left in November 1941 for deployment to Hamilton Field, Novato, California. His train ticket was for DeWitt, California. The Northwest Pacific Railroad ran through Hamilton Field at the DeWitt station.

I arrived in California in May of 1943. I did not look for work until the fall of 1943. I applied for a Civil Service position at Hamilton and was hired the day I went in for the interview. We had been given quarters in the space outside the Hamilton gates because Bob needed to be close to work. He worked with recruits in their need to be efficient in the use of firearms. He was in charge of academics as well, including studying, reading, and gaining knowledge and use of all firearms.

At first, our housing was in the Meadow Park Annex and after that we moved across the street into Meadow Park on Walton Avenue. Our P.O. Box was P.O. Box 631, Hamilton Field, California. Our housing was down in the little area to the right of the main gate. The main gate was up across the railroad tracks at first and then they moved it farther out as it got so busy with so many cars moving in and out. They had to build walkways on the outside of the bridge going both directions.

In the Meadow Park Annex, there were four units in each building. You walked in and you were in the kitchen and the kitchen was about big enough for three people to stand in the middle of it. Everything was against the wall, including the stove, refrigerator, and a table with chairs. The sink was also your wash tub. It was a double sink and there was no sink to wash dishes in except for that sink.

### RED CROSS

I started working for the Red Cross in 1944. I learned within two weeks of starting this job that I was pregnant with my first child. I worked the entire period of my pregnancy. Michael Allen Patterson was born June 25, 1945. During my tenure with the Red Cross, I went through many field directors and workers. My boss at the time was impressed with my memory. If a client had been in the Red Cross office, I could recall that we had received information on him and his needs. Usually, these were people who had already used Red Cross services and were not able to manage their lives either economically or in the military. We were there for the GIs and their families, but they could get themselves in debt and could not handle their income with their circumstances.

Bob got out of the service in November 1945. He then started his studies at College of Marin and then San Francisco State to prepare for his goal of becoming a teacher.

### MEADOW PARK SCHOOL

We took on the janitorial duties at Meadow Park School. Since Bob was going to school on the GI Bill and couldn't have any extra income, I was paid for both of us. Bob did all the heavy work, and our duties included cleaning and mopping floors, and I was assigned the jobs of watering and taking care of the principal's plants and cleaning the venetian blinds. Our Saturdays were taken up with cleaning the school. That's the way we got through college. Bob opened the school in the early morning and then boarded the Greyhound bus to go to his classes at College of Marin. He would return by 4:30 PM so he could start on the tasks of cleaning and mopping the floors.

In June 1949, Bob graduated from San Francisco State. When he graduated, Bob was hired by the principal of Meadow Park School at Hamilton as a seventh grade teacher. The school was in the San Jose School District. This is where Bob started his teaching career. We both continued to work as janitors as well.

### NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bob's teaching career spanned 33 years. In the summer of 1954, he was hired by Bill Smith to teach the sev-

# Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-5

enth grade at Marion School, which was in the Novato Unified School District. Bob taught at Marion for two years and in 1956 when the beginning staff of Novato High School was formed he was hired as the first vice principal. He was also a counselor at the high school. In 1958, he became principal of Hill Junior High School. Bob returned to Novato High School in 1960 or 1961 and retired from teaching in 1981.

Bob was a teacher and coach. He coached cross-country track and had a winning record. He was good and we have all the plaques and awards he received for winning in the Marin County Athletic League. His teams were first for many years and I've got all his awards framed.

## REICHERT AVENUE

We found a lot for a home at 817 Reichert Avenue in Novato. It was the third house on the street and they had only started the foundation. We stopped and asked if the house was sold. The contractor said, "No." We said, "We'll take it." We added a bedroom for Grandma Bauer by extending behind the garage. Our lot was the first house over the hill to be developed. We were in one of the original orchards planted in early Novato. Our home was built on the hill between Reichert and the Hill Top Restaurant. On August 19, 1950, we had a daughter, Mona Alana and in 1952, Mari-beth arrived. Bob continued to go to school, teach and do janitor work.

Albert Young ran the bar at the Hill Top. We knew him well because he rented his northern field to us for the horse owned by our daughter, Alana. We fed "Freckles" right over our back fence. Mr. Young used the route from the top of the hill to get to Reichert Avenue. We had no fence for 30 years between the properties.

On an early Novato map, Reichert Avenue was drawn to be a two way street. We were Reichert Street until



the street signs were changed. Only one side of Reichert was built during the first construction phase.

Our tulip tree, as well as other shrubs are cuttings from Meadow Park. Our house reminds me every day that we lived at Hamilton A.F.B.

## UN SECRETARY GENERAL Ban KI-Moon

It was 1962 and that was the year that I met Ban Ki-Moon. I was 45 years old and Ki-Moon, who was 18, had just won a trip to the United States by competing in a Red Cross English contest in his native South Korea. Ban Ki-Moon and 30 other South Korean students were coming to the United States to spend time with American families.

At the time I was working for the American Red Cross at Hamilton A.F.B. Families were being chosen to take these students. We had a desire to have an exchange student. Ki-Moon stayed with our family for eight days. He told us his goal was to become a diplomat. He is now the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He

took office on January 1, 2007 and on June 21, 2011 he was unanimously re-elected by the General Assembly and will continue to serve until December 31, 2016.

Ki-Moon's second visit to our home was in 2007, 45 years after we had taken him in as an exchange student. This visit was very different from his first visit in 1962. This time, he stopped traffic in Novato for two hours. No one could get through with all the policemen in the area. There were guards and the FBI scanning the hill. The entourage coming from the City to Novato was just a string of lights.

My relationship with Ban Ki-Moon started in 1962 and has lasted over 50 years.

## WILSON SCHOOL IN PETA-LUMA

In 1966, I decided to go back to school to get my teaching credential. I went to Sonoma State University and graduated in 1969. I was a changed person from the person who

# Novato Memories

*Continued from Page N-6*

had started to school to get her teaching credential in 1966.

I was hired to teach fourth grade at Wilson School on Bodega Avenue outside Petaluma. I was 50 years old. I taught fourth grade that first year and then taught fifth or sixth grade for the next eleven years. So, I got some kids three times. I retired in 1979 when I was 62 years old.

## NOVATO MEMORIES

After the Pini fire in 1944, development started on the westside of Grant Avenue. In the corner of the new Pini Hardware Building was Ascherman's Market.

The Rodoni family owned the property on the southwest corner of Grant Avenue and Highway 101. They built a motel, the 101 Cafe, and the Town Club bar. Behind the cafe was the popular HiFi Burger joint.

During the War, there was a restaurant and bar called the Village Inn. It was on the northwest corner of Grant Avenue and Highway 101.

We bought food, banked and paid bills all on the east side of Grant Avenue.

Closer to Reichert was the two story stucco Druids Hall Building. I have been on Reichert for 65 years and that was there in 1949. Across the street was the blacksmith's shop. Torassa's Bakery was an active business. The Novato library was near the bakery. We were glad to be close to downtown because our children could walk down to Grant Avenue. For many years there was a junk store called Vogel's Emporium that was an interesting place for browsers.

Bob started working with Rev. Joe Easter of the Presbyterian Church on Sherman Avenue coaching a girls' basketball team. From that contact our family joined the Presbyterian Church in 1956. We were all baptised at the old church. I have been active in the church since that time.

I am so glad that Old Town Novato looks pretty much the same building wise. New trees and lights have added glamour to our old downtown.

## In Memoriam

Harry Eide  
Eleanor Renate  
Bill Wright

### *The Guild Extends Sympathy to*

The Eide family on the death  
of Harry Eide

Robert Renati on the death  
of his mother, Eleanor

Pat Wright on the death of  
her husband, Bill

## MEMORIAL PLAQUE GIFTS

You may honor a friend or loved one by having his or her name engraved on an individual brass plate on the Memorial Plaque in the History Museum. Please call the Museum at 897-4320. All contributions are tax deductible. Plaques cost \$250 per person named.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

You may make a gift of appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) to the Novato Historical Guild. Your gift is not only tax-deductible, but if you have held the shares for more than one year, your tax deduction will equal the full value of the securities on the date of the gift.

## Welcome New Guild Members

### Novato Historical Guild Membership Report April 2015

#### Individual Memberships:

Norman I Elloway, D.D.S.  
Colleen Hogue  
Rob Manzoni  
Russ Manzoni

#### Student Memberships:

#### Family Memberships:

#### Patron Memberships:

#### Life Memberships:

Carole Bennett  
Nancy Niche

#### Please support our Guild

#### Business Members:

Acme Digital and Screen Graphics  
Andrew McAgnon Landscaping  
Bank of Marin  
Burrous Bros. Cleaning  
Marin Landscape Materials  
McIsaac Dairy  
Nave Enterprises  
Pini Hardware  
The Wright Salon  
Trumbull Manor Inc. - Novato  
Zenith Instant Printing

*If you have questions about membership, call Edna Manzoni, Membership Chairman, 415-892-9603.*

*A gift membership always meets the need for that person who has everything.*

# Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Kathryn Hansen

## February 2015

*Policies Update* – City & Guild agreement – museums can host events without City employees being present to monitor. Committee – Kathy Kormos, Louise Koenig, George Gness, Ray Dwelly, Susan Magnone to review City of Novato and NHG Agreement and report back to the Board.

*Dues for 90 + years* – A motion was made by Edna, 2nd Sheila to give Honorary Life Memberships to those members 90 years and above. The motion was approved after a discussion.

*Board nomination time line* – after discussion it was decided to notify prospective board members in June through the “Historian” and provide a form to be filled out. The deadline to submit requests would be August 15th. The Nominations Committee will review and select the candidates for nomination at the December General Meeting.

*Data Collection* – What data is appropriate for an Annual Report? Suggestions were - annual attendance at each museum, volunteer hours and number of volunteers, membership numbers, Gift Shop sales, financial reports, a summary of operations for the preceding year.

*Speaker Protocol* – Guidelines for addressing the Board – Suggestions were for a non-board member to officially ask to be on the agenda and divulge what the contents of the address will be. There would be a 10 minutes limit.

John Trumbull asked the Board for a decision on whether Memorial Tiles are a fundraiser or should be given to an individual for free. All agreed that the family of the deceased would be honored to pay for the memorial tile therefore there is no need to give them away free.

## . Old Business:

*Pay Pal* – payment processing system. The charge is 2.2% per transaction and \$0.30 per transaction. This payment method may attract younger members who use Pay Pal regularly. A motion was made by Tom and 2nd by Jim to open a Pay Pal account. The motion carried.

## March 2015

*New Business* – Agenda for General Membership Meeting – Susan handed out a draft agenda and sample report (volunteer hours, number of visitors, membership). A “Thank you to our Volunteers” document listing the names and hours will be handed out. After some discussion additions/changes were suggested.

*Talking Points for Simmons House* – Susan - The benefits of moving to the Simmon’s House are space, safety, parking, location. The Guild has a good working relationship with the City and has financial resources to operation the building. The Guild will present their appeal for the Simmon’s House at the City Council meeting this evening.

*Bldg 500 process and removal of “junk”* – Bill & Jim – items not related to Novato history are being given back to the donor or disposed. Ownership is not always clear if the items have not been accessioned. The board will vote on items determined to be de-accessioned. The City will be asked to take the “junk” away.

*Old Business* - Historical Brick Project – Susan - The project is nearly complete. Next step is for Bill Almeida to review then give final version to Patrick MacLeamy.

## April 2015

*New Business* - Deaccession of Items – Bill Damon – a box of files

related to San Quentin Prison was displayed. There was a motion passed (1st Louise and 2nd by Tom) to offer the box of files to the San Quentin Museum. A William Mayo donated the items many years ago. Next step, the City of Novato must approve the donation.

*Marin History Museum* – Pat Johnstone – the MHM is bankrupt and they may have to gift all their collection. They may have pictures and artifacts related to Novato. It was agreed that Pat contact the NHM and assess what items the museum has that are related to Novato. Bill has a contact, Laurie Thompson at Marin Co. Library in the California Room. He will inquire about the museums latest status. Action Item: Pat & Bill will draft a letter expressing interest in the Novato related items.

*Old Business:* Pay Pal – Susan - The account is open and accepted a donation.

## 2015 Board Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month

**Margaret Todd Senior Center**

1560 Hill Rd

Time: 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Jan 13	July 14
Feb.10	Aug 11
March10	Sept 8
April 14	Oct 13
May 12	Nov 10
June 9	Dec 8

Guild members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. Please check with the President, Susan Magnone at [NHG@Yahoo.com](mailto:NHG@Yahoo.com) or 415 892-8458, in case a meeting has been changed.



# Thank You to the Novato Historical Guild VOLUNTEERS

**THANK YOU** to the 95 volunteers who worked to preserve and share Novato's history. In 2014, Guild volunteers contributed **6292.75** hours serving as docents, conducting 3<sup>rd</sup> grade tours, creating displays, preserving maps, organizing files, preparing our newsletters, and serving on committees.

## 1000+ Hours

Ray Dwelly

## Over 300 Hours

Mike Read

## 200-299 hours

Bill Damon

Jim Davenport

Susan Magnone

## 100-199 hours

Judi Brady

Chase Caligiuri

Kathryn Hansen

Pat Johnstone

Anna Morrison

Kathy Pereira

John Trumbull

## 50 to 99 hours

Bill Almeida

Kay Antongiovanni

Phil Brown

Michael Corlett

Judy Dwelly

Pat Eklund

Joe Giari

Yvette Jackson

Lee Janover

Dan Johnstone

Bobbie Kettler

Edna Manzoni

Bob Manzoni

Bill McDill

Jim McNern

Kevin Morrison

Nancy Peters-Janover

Susan Trumbull

Van White

Joe Williams

## 1 to 49 hours

Dick Altman

Jo Anan

Carol Aregger

Terry Arnaud

Sharon Azevedo

Janice Barzata

Mary Bicknell

Gary Bramon

Sheila Brossier

Tonie Brown

Ron Cisi

Bill Cline

Joann Crocker

Jim Crumpler

Celinda Current

Ed Driscoll

Alan Dunham

Marianne Dwelly

Don Edwards

Mary Lou Fuelle

Ellen Glass

Diana Goebel

Jennifer Goldfinger

Jackie Graf

Laurie Gratiot

Jim Hallstrom

Tom Keena

John Knebel

Louise Koenig

Susan Koenigh

Anne Lehan

Lauren Long

Robert Lowry

Gene Marcinkowski

Bill McDermott

Elayne Miller

Kit Mitchell-Ball

Michelle Morrison

Carolyn Neer

Jim Nye

Cindy Motsinger

Fred Oberding

Laurie Oimara

Laurie O'Mara

Stan Pelmeur

Rudy Picarelli

Ellen Presenti

Ken Putnam

Donna Rasmussen

Lou Rucker

Anne Russell

Pat Silva

Barry Smail

Joe Taggard

Jolene Tompkins

Gary Trenchard

Dee Vela

Ron Vela

Dave Williams

Phil Waegner

John Zerbe

## NOVATO'S TREASURES

# The Midway Garage



1919

According to Elton Carlisle, his father bought a Peerless in 1912. Automobiles were not a practical means of travel at that time. Breakdowns were not uncommon. Blacksmith shops, the only available aid for miles, were not equipped or experienced to repair them. The Peerless was kept in their "barn" garage.

As time passed, maintenance was needed. Manual Mathias who had some knowledge in this respect was hired. In time, Ed bought a lot on the left side of the road to Petaluma and built a garage there. He hired Mathias to operate it. Although this was the only garage with a mechanic in Novato, business didn't prosper.

Louis Nave opened his Midway Garage in 1919 in this building before moving into a new building in 1923. In 1945, with the widening of Highway 101, the front of the building was removed and another section was



2015

added to the back of the building.

In the 1940's it was the "Bill Johnson's Garage," "selling Fords and "Union 76" gas. Also in the 1940's, Albert Young bought the building.

Peter Quinn and Hyrum Oroubay announced the opening of "H and P Motors," at the former location of Young's Garage on May 1949. The two men purchased Young's repair shop, and stated that they were specialists in hydramatic transmissions.

In 1957 the Novato phone book shows the garage being called "101 Garage" with Richfield Service. The Viking Bar was added to left side of the building in 1960. The bar would add more space to the front of the building in the 1980's. The back of the building had an address of 1012 1st Street with Marin Mobil Company using in the garage. Currently, Marin European occupies the garage.

## Call for Board Member Applications

Interested Guild members are invited to apply to serve on the Novato Historical Guild Board of Directors. The term of office is two years.

### Requirements and Process:

- Have been a Guild member for a year prior to the election on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 2015.
- Complete the Guild Board Application and return it by August 15, 2015.
- Board Applications are available at each museum or by email to [NHG1850@yahoo.com](mailto:NHG1850@yahoo.com).
- By Oct 1, 2015, the nominating Committee will select a slate to be on the December ballot.

*Interested individuals are encouraged to attend a Board meeting and to talk with Board members about the role and responsibilities of serving on the Board.*

# Gift Shop

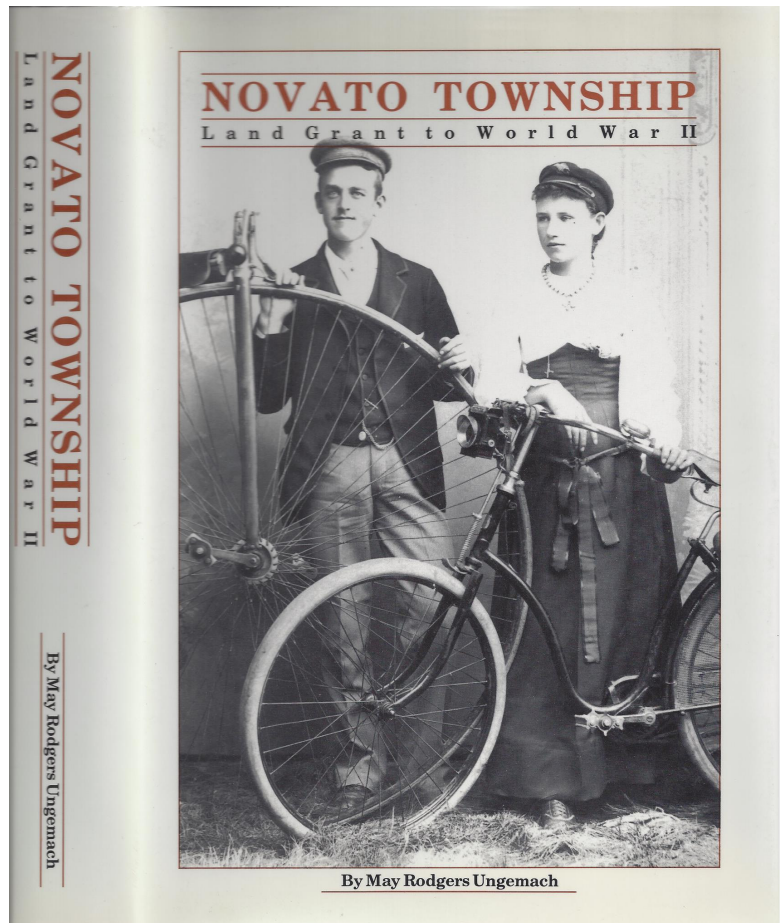
by Pat Johnstone

The *Novato Township* book was written by May Rodgers Ungemach and published in 1989. May told me that it took her about five years to research and write this book with the help of many others who assisted her with research and who shared their knowledge on the history of Novato. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Novato Historical Guild.

The dust jacket and book design was created by Carol Keena Aregger who currently does the typography, layout and composition for "The Novato Historian".

Pini Hardware has been a generous supporter and a member of the guild for many years. They sell the *Novato Township* book at their store in the Nave Shopping Center that was part of the original "Old Town" from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through the early 1900's.

Randall Bros. has also supported the guild for many years and they sell the *Novato Township, Novato, Then and Now* and *Hamilton Field* book with all proceeds going to the Novato Historical Guild.



The *Novato Township* book is a great reference book that covers Novato Township from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to World War II and sells for \$29.00. This book can be purchased at Novato History Museum, Hamilton Field History Museum or online at [www.novatohistory.org](http://www.novatohistory.org).



## Membership Form

Please mail checks to Novato Historical Guild. P.O. Box 1296. Novato. CA 94948.

Yes, I want to join the Novato Historical Guild and help preserve Novato history!  new  renewal

- Student (full time) membership \$10 year
- Individual membership \$20 year
- Family membership \$30 year
- Patron membership \$100 year
- Supporting membership \$200 year
- Life membership, individual \$350 year
- Life membership, joint \$500 year
- Benefactor \$1000 year
- Business membership \$50 year
- Corporate membership \$1000 year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donations? \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in volunteering? \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_



Novato Historical Guild  
P.O. Box 1296  
Novato, CA 94948



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## YOU ARE INVITED

**General Membership Meeting**  
**Novato Historical Guild**

**Saturday, June 20, 2015 - 10:00 am to 12:00 noon**  
**Novato City Hall**  
**901 Sherman Avenue**

**Presentation by Teresa Saltzman, Archeologist,**  
**from The Museum of the American Indian.**

**Enjoy a continental breakfast, good company, and an interesting presentation**  
**Guild Members and prospective members are welcome**

**Novato History Museum**

**815 Delong Avenue**

**(415) 897-4320**

**Hamilton Field History Museum**

**555 Hangar Avenue**

**(415) 382-8614**

**COME VISIT AND BRING A FRIEND!**

The Museums are open three days a week -- Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday - Noon to 4 p.m.

**Closed Major Holidays**