

# 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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October - December 2016

The Novato Historian

Volume 40, Number 4



Members of the Novato Historical Guild visited the historic Trumbull Manor in October. The manor is currently a conference center and retreat house. The manor entrance and front room are shown below.



## Audio Guides at Hamilton Field History Museum

Hamilton Field History Museum will soon be offering visitors an Audio Guide option when exploring the museum

The guest will simply put the handset strap around the neck, listen to some quick instructions from the docent, put the headset on and they are ready to go.

Entering the number associated with each of the museum points of interest on the handset, will begin commentary for that particular display.

The audio guide will provide additional background information that is not readily apparent when a visitor is just viewing a display.

The goal is to have the audio guide program "up and running" in January 2017.



**The Novato Historian**

Published March, June, September and December by the Novato Historical Guild, a California 501(c)3 non-profit corporation formed on November 18, 1976.

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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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**Deadline for the March issue is February 1st.**

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Kathy Kormos

**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 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year started with awards and lots to celebrate and is ending with a flurry of events promoting the Guild and the two museums. In October, the Guild had a display of pictures from the Hamilton and Novato History Museums at Copperfield's Book store. Ray Dwelly, Edna Manzoni, and Ron and Dee Vella put that together.

The Hamilton Field History Museum went prime time with two tours led by Doug McConnell of TV's *Back Roads*. They combined the museum tour with bird watching on the Bay Trail. An interesting combination of things to do if you have visitors. A new exhibit about the Coast Guard history at Hamilton opened in November. The exhibit was created by a Girl Scout for her Gold Project. What a great way for students to be involved with history.

The Novato History Museum had a starring role when it was filmed for a Soroptimist community television program. Jim Crumpler and Carole Bennett were the moderators and Sharon Azevedo and I were the tour guides. We'll let you know when it will be shown.

The Novato Chamber of Commerce invited the Guild to do a presentation for their Leadership Class. I did a presentation on Novato's historical events that have affected today's Novato. Then Laurie O'Mara led them on a tour of Old Town Novato. That was a highlight for the class. Laurie

and I wanted the business leaders to learn about Novato's history and also to understand why preserving our history is important to the community.

The Guild's most important event is the recognition of the volunteers.

First, there was a tour of the Trumbull Manor arranged by Jim McNern. The manor is now a retreat center and not open for tours. The house has played such an important role in Novato's history so it was very exciting for docents to see inside the house. Even though it has been modernized, it was still possible to imagine what a beautiful home it had been for the Sweetser, DeLong and Trumbull families.

The main event to say "thank you" to the volunteers was a tea at the Buck Institute in November. It included a talk by a scientist on the mission of the Buck Institute, a tour of the facility and best of all - time to visit with other volunteers. Diana Goebel and Sheila Brossier organized the event.

It has been a very good and busy fortieth year for the Guild with a big increase in publicity, outreach and partnership activities. The Guild Board, the volunteers and the members deserve to take a moment to appreciate what we have accomplished together. Then together we can take on the challenges of the next decade.



# Novato-50 Years Ago

## (October, November and December 1966)

by Yvette Borloz Jackson

*“Novato 50 Years Ago” is a collection of items culled by Yvette Borloz Jackson from the October, November and December issues of the Novato Advance newspaper in the collection of the Novato History Museum and the Novato Advance.*

This is last article for 1966. I would like to remind you that the items that I write about are taken directly from the Novato Advance newspaper articles as written. The only editing is to shorten the items to allow more space. Anything that doesn't seem “PC” now, wasn't then. I hope you enjoy .

- Mayor Wayne Womack expressed the feelings of the council last night when he stated, “we will not tolerate cross-burnings in this city”. The statement referred to a cross-burning Monday night at the home of the Hoza Wright family, 17 Raposa Vista. The Wrights are a negro family and have lived here for about two years “without any problems or any type of harassment or threatening calls or anonymous calls of any type”, according to investigating Novato police officer Gary Stansfield.

- Fire Chief George Cavallero says there's evidence that the election is getting hotter. Two calls were received by the Novato Fire department about 3:30 p.m. yesterday (10/11/1966) from the area of the Shell Station on South Novato Blvd. saying that there was a fire (but no smoke) on the hill below the Lynwood tanks near Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Novato firemen wheeled to the scene, hoses at the ready. They found not a flame, but a Ronald Reagan campaign sign, “It was the fluorescent printing” said Chief Cavallero.

- Mrs. Della Cain, widow of the late Albert J. Cain who founded Novato's

first utilities company, died yesterday morning (10/18/1966) at Novato General Hospital after a brief illness. She was 87. Mrs. Cain is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Laurence Tresch, and Mrs. William Campbell; three grandchildren – Maureen Tresch of Novato, Dean Tresch of Idaho and Burt Campbell of Citrus Heights, Calif. and two grandchildren.

- Born in Edgewood, Calif. near the Oregon border, she married the late Albert Cain in 1907. Their first home was at Machin & Sweetser Avenues in the house that later became the Parker Rest Home. In the 1940s they moved to 916 Sherman Avenue, and Mrs. Cain had lived there ever since.

- In 1906 Albert Cain and his brother James founded Novato Utilities Company, which furnished water, power leased from PG&E, and telephone service. The firm was sold to PG&E in the late 1920s. The water and telephone service were bought back by the Cains. The water service later was sold to A. H. Tresch, brother-in-law to Mrs. Cain's daughter. The telephone service was sold in 1951 to the firm that later became Western California Telephone Company. Albert Cain died in 1961.

- Funeral services were held Saturday (10/15) at Chapel of Marin for Charles W. Russell, purchasing agent of the North Marin Water District who died Thursday at the age of 58. He suffered a heart attack while playing golf at the Olympic Club golf course in San Francisco. He is survived by his wife Rita Russell of Novato, a daughter Mrs. Howie Broxton of Stockton, a granddaughter Tammy Broxton of Stockton and a brother & sister Roger & Sue Russell both of San Carlos.

- The Novato Unified School board was asked Monday to consider reducing the number of students in several

English and Social Studies classes at Novato High. Making the request was high school teacher William Luft, representing the American Federation of Teachers. He said that a number of classes exceed 30 students, making teaching unwieldy. Supt. James Bunker said that he shares Luft's concerns over some classes being “too large”. He said that the class average at the high school which now has a student body of approximately 2300 is a little over 28.3, which is slightly above the state average as of last spring..

- Our Lady of Loretto Church was the scene of the ceremony last Wednesday in which Linda Azevedo became the bride of Dan Parr. The bride is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A.P. Azevedo and the groom is the son of Mr. & Mrs. James Parr. Serving as the bride's matron of honor was her sister Mrs. Dan Morrison. Best man was Joseph McNern. Following the ceremony a dinner for the family was held at Sabella's Restaurant. The new Mrs. Parr is a 1962 graduate of Novato High School. She was graduated from College of Marin two years ago and is now employed at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco. Her husband is employed by Market Radio Supply Company in San Francisco. \* Dan was also a graduate of Novato High class of 1960.

- Long's Drugs advertised their Halloween Specials: Halloween Costumes \$0.88- \$1.44; 101 pieces of Fleer “Wahoo” bubble gum \$0.59; 80 count of candy Money \$0.66; bag of 80 pieces assorted DUM-DUM pops \$0.69.

- Dedication of the new San Marin fire station will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday (10/29/66), after which an open house will be held for the public. Special guests will be E.C. Adams

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# 50 Years Ago

*Continued from Page N-3*

and Fred Kaiser of the Pacific Fire Rating Bureau and city and county officials along with others involved in the construction of the \$92,000 building located at San Marin Dr. and San Ramon Way. Coffee & cake will be served.

- A fourth child was born October 12 in Petaluma to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Burgi, McClay Rd. The baby girl has been named Camille Mabel. The mother & baby returned home Saturday from Petaluma General Hospital. The baby's grandparents are the Jack Burgis, McClay Rd. and the C.L. Porters, Del Mar Ave.

- Air Force Major Joseph C. Petit got the red carpet treatment from neighbors when he arrived home at 60 Clausing Court yesterday after spending a year away in Vietnam. Petit's wife, Pat, his daughter, Cathy & Mrs. Petit's mother drove to Travis Air Force Base yesterday and brought Petit home about 3 p.m. On his garage door neighbors hung a red cloth with black lettering that read, "Welcome Home Joe". Red material covered the front steps of the house. "We didn't give him an official reception," said Mrs. Edward Hood, 95 Clausing Crt., "we just smiled & waved. We wanted to give him time with his family".

- On February 9, 1966 after the clock struck 3 p.m. the New York Stock Exchange had reached a peak 995.15 on the Dow Jones Average of 30 industrial stocks. Historic new highs were made on all leading market averages. The march "through 1,000" seemed inevitable. It didn't happen. Eight months later at the close of the market on October 6, the industrial average had slumped to 744.32.

- The Community House was near ready after Mrs. William Carpenter, the driving force behind the voluntary citizens project to redecorate the clubhouse interior, was busy this week completing the new golden drapes for the Auditorium. Ed Adams, city recreation director, was on hand Monday night as one of the Volunteer

workers. He said, of the approximately \$3000 budgeted for the project by the City, some \$2300 so far has been spent. How much is left will determine how much carpeting can be installed in the foyer and stairway.

- E. D. McGillicuddy Construction Co. plans to begin construction January 1, on a new \$600,000 administrative and professional building at 1450 Grant Ave., next to the Bank of Marin.

- Three stores will open this week (10/16/66) in the Pacheco Plaza Shopping Center. Taylor Variety, Plaza Liquors, and Klein's TV. They soon will be joined by a coin-operated laundry, a one hour cleaners, Don Sparrow beauty Salon, Plaza Drugs, Gordon Walker & Associates Real Estate, Barney Kushman's barber shop and Safe-way Market.

- Peacock Restaurant specializing in Oriental dishes but also offering American Food on the menu, will open officially Monday at 11:00 a.m. at 1624 Grant Ave. near Seventh Street.

- A touch of Fisherman's Wharf, reinforced by the odor of cooking crab, is on the menu for the east side of Highway 101 location near Vallejo Avenue formerly known as the Truck Stop restaurant. The planning commission Monday night gave quick approval to Israel Vilner to install an outdoor brick crab cooker next to the existing restaurant, which will probably be con-

verted into a fish market and a cocktail lounge. \* It was called the Octopus. (Now Chianti Cucina)

- The Novato Advance Takes A Look At Novato Activities of 1966:

The City Council elected Wayne Womack on April 19; Mrs. Edmund G. Brown, wife of the governor, viewed redecorating work underway at the Novato Community Clubhouse on September 14; In a meeting November 1, civic center committee representing the city and the Novato School District agreed that the Pinheiro site was the most suitable for a civic center; At its November 7 meeting the Novato school board learned that construction of a new junior high school at Wilson Ave. & Vineyard Rd. would be delayed for 18 months because the lowest bid for construction was \$306,000 above the architect's \$1,321,315 estimate.

This is all I had room for. I would have loved to have celebrated all weddings & engagements; honored those service men who went to Viet Nam, some losing their lives; and all the clubs and sports groups for their achievements and much more. Oh by the way, Ronald Reagan won the governor's race over Edmund "Pat" Brown.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, let's see what the New Year will bring, then and now.



Elaine and Bob Singleton as George and Martha Washington..



Sharon Azevedo, Laurie O'Mara, and Laurie Gratiot greet "Trick-or-Treaters" at the Novato Historical Museum.

# Novato Memories

by Jim McNern



## Sharon Smith Safina

*Sharon Smith Safina is a 1956 graduate of San Rafael High School. She then attended College of Marin and San Francisco State University. Sharon now lives in Independence, Oregon. She is retired after working many years for the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles. Sharon loves coming back to Novato to visit her many friends and to attend class reunions. She shares her Novato memories in this December issue of the Novato Historian.*

My family, mother Edna Smith and father Sydney Smith and my brother Ron and I, moved to Novato from San Anselmo in 1948. We bought a house on 5.5 acres on Canyon Road and it even came with a cat - Kittypuss.

The previous owners, the Shultons, said that Kittypuss had been there all his life and they thought it was best for him to stay at the home he knew. I guess they could tell we were all cat lovers. That certainly remained true, as, over the years, we acquired many stray cats. And, as my father didn't believe in spaying and neutering, we usually had a litter of kittens to play with. At one time we had 17 cats and they all ate in the house. For a few years we had chickens as the place came with a large chicken house.

My father was a carpenter and worked for and helped a lot of people with building. My mother worked at the Post Office. I should make that plural as the Post Office moved 3-4 times while she was there. She started when the Post Office was near the east end of Grant Avenue across from DeBorba's. Alberta Frankamp was the Postmaster then.

Mr. Boynton had a chicken ranch across the road from our place and my brother and I got jobs buffing eggs. Mr. Boynton was not too fond of broken eggs so we had to be very careful not to press too hard on the buffing machine. We came across lots of

mouse nests with baby mice in that shed.

My brother and I played catch on the road often. There was hardly any traffic but just in case, we used chalk and wrote SLOW on the road between the curve and our driveway.

When I was 10 years old I was eligible to join 4-H. If this piece sounds like a history of 4-H in Novato it's because 4-H was the biggest part of my life from 1949 to about 1960. The club meetings were held in the 4-H Club Car between the Community House and the Presbyterian Church. There were sewing machines in the club car as the girls taking sewing projects met there also.

I also became a Girl Scout for a few years and my mother was the troop leader. We met in the Presbyterian Church. My brother joined Cub Scouts.

I started 4-H with a rabbit project. There was a rabbitry up on Ridge Road so it was a simple matter to purchase the rabbits locally. When they were old enough to sell I sold them to the Sonoma County Rabbit Breeders Association (SCRBA). A man from SCRBA came to the house when I was ready to sell them. He weighed the bunnies and paid me for them.

It seems most of the kids in Novato were in 4-H. It also seems that many of the parents were 4-H leaders. My cooking leader was Glenna Glass,

my Entomology leader was Mrs. Ehreth, and I took sewing from Gloria Schwindt. I raised lambs one year but selling them at auction was too sad for me so I didn't have a lamb project again.

George Orr was the 4-H dairy leader and he lived on McClay Road. It was a short walk for me to the end of Canyon Road and down Young's driveway and around the back to the Orr place. We bought a Guernsey heifer from Virginia Orr as my first dairy project. She was a beautiful grade Guernsey and I won many ribbons with her. I named her Dash because of a dash of white on her forehead. She even won Champion at the Napa County Fair.

The summers were busy with going to fairs and 4-H camp. We went to Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Calistoga and the State Fair in Sacramento. George Orr had a big cattle truck and at the Petaluma fair we all climbed in the back of the truck and he drove us to town for dinner each night. We looked forward to the Calistoga Fair because we could go swimming in the public pool in town in the afternoons.

I bought my first horse from Bert Page who lived on the corner of McClay and Indian Valley Roads. He was a retired cavalry man. I also took riding lessons from him. The horse was a buckskin roan mare and she was wonderful, so mellow. Her name

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# Novato Memories

*Continued from Page N-5*

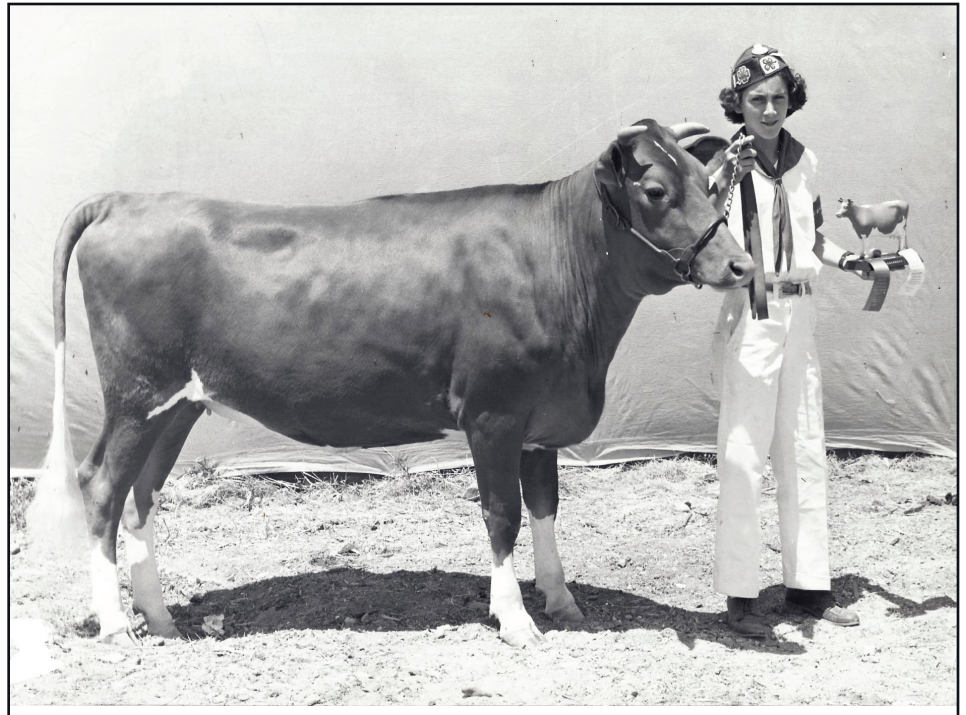
was Snooks. I rode her for many years and then we bought a half Arab half Quarter Horse from the Maxwells on Hatch Road and her name was Bonnie. She was black with white on her face and better as a show horse than Snooks.

There was no horse project in 4-H at that time so some of us who had horses joined the Novato Junior Horsemen's Club. Ad Schwindt was a big help to us then. The Horsemen's Club was on Bugeia Lane just past where the cemetery is now. We had a club house and an arena. There were rodeos every year. Many of us also went out to Rhea and Ross Maxwell's place on Hatch Road and trained for a drill team. We could ride our horses from home to Hatch road. We bought our animal feed and hay at Pini Mill which was behind the train station. Doc Stafford was our veterinarian and later on Dr. Rediske came to town.

I started school at the Grant Ave. School in the 5th grade. Mrs. Busher was my teacher. Then they built Marion Street School and I started the 6th grade there. My teachers were Mrs. Steele, Mr. Lavaroni, Mr. Slepnikoff and Miss Sutton. One of my brother's teachers was Miss Dolcini.

Mr. Lavaroni played the clarinet and loved music so he started a music program. I played the cello; many of the girls played the violin. Judy Johnson, Sandy Glass, Valerie Schwindt, and Erline Porter are the ones I remember as playing violin.

The bus stop for both grammar school and high school was at the intersection of Hill Road and Diablo. At that time the field to the east was a dairy. A few years later the land was sold and a school was built on it. Later on we had 4-H club meetings in that school. Several years later, just down Hill Road, near Canyon Road, Novato Hospital was built on pear orchard land and previous to the hospital being built a developer put in Del Mar Ave. After picking us up at Hill Road the bus went around Indian



Sharon Smith with her prize-winning 4H Guernsey "Dash," champion at the Napa County Fair, in the early 1950s.

Valley Road on its way to San Rafael High School.

Miss Sutton was a task master as well as a master marbles player and we really learned something in her class. In her 8th grade class she wrote the constitution on the blackboards and we copied it into our notebooks. We then took tests and wrote papers about it. So we learned, and were graded on, penmanship and spelling as well as knowledge of the subject. Graduation ceremonies for the 8th grade students were held in the Community House.

Mrs. Owens was my accordion teacher. Vernon Dwelly was another of her pupils. He played the accordion very well. We used to play in recitals. That always made me very nervous. My piano teacher was Mrs. Borloz and she lived up the hill from the Marion Street School so I could walk to those lessons after school. Her daughter, Claudette, was my friend and classmate and we used to draw houses and plan them the way we wanted to have

our house when we grew up.

The saddest time of those years was the tragic death of Bob McClelland in an auto accident. He was known as McGee to all of us. His folks had a dairy on Olive Avenue. He was such a nice boy. His death left a hole in all our hearts.

At Christmas time we had a big Christmas party at the IDESI Hall. Sam Marzell was Santa Claus and we played games and had treats and drinks. It was one of the highlights of the year. Just about everyone attended.

On weekends and summer afternoons we could "go to the show" and see movies at the Novato Theater on Grant Avenue. I worked in the box office for a year or two. Don Donahue was the owner and manager.

That block on Grant Ave. was full of businesses that we frequented often. Novato Pharmacy was on the corner of Grant Avenue and Hwy 101. They

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# Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-6

had a soda fountain where Catherine Lindley was a soda jerk. Cherry cokes were big then. McDonald's Jewelry was a few doors down. That is where we could buy lovely gifts for weddings, birthday's, etc. Mrs. McDonald wrapped them beautifully with her signature bows and ribbons. Hales Meat Market was a few doors down. Across Hwy 101 stood Anderson's Chevrolet. That is where I bought my first car, a 1951 Chevrolet.

After High School we moved to Storybook Court off of Center Road. By that time Novato had grown a lot and just down the road from us Robertson's Turkey Farm was turned into the Lu Sutton School named in honor of Miss Sutton, my 8th grade teacher.

Hamilton Field was very active in the 50s and it was a good source of dates for the local girls. Several Novato girls married men from the base. If we knew someone on the base we could go swimming in the base pool.

Novato was a great place to grow up, especially if you lived in the rural area which was a large part of Novato at that time. We were able to be outside all day every day. If we weren't busy with chores at home we could build forts and tree houses, visit friends, go horseback riding, go to the show or attend club meetings. Everybody knew almost everybody else and we all looked out for each other. We had our animals and projects to take care of and lots of social opportunities to learn responsibility. We also had friends who lived in town. I miss the old town but time marches on and I have lots of great memories from that time as well as wonderful friendships.

## Proposed Slate for Board of Directors of the Novato Historical Guild

The candidates listed below are recommended by the Nominating Committee to serve on the Board of Directors of the Novato Historical Guild for 2017 and 2018. Voting will be at the General Membership meeting on December 10, 2016 at the Novato City Hall.

- Sharon Azevedo Docent, Novato History Museum
- Jim Crumpler Incumbent/ Retired Pharmacist
- George Gness Incumbent/ Retired Attorney
- Kathryn Hansen Incumbent/ Retired Accountant
- Susan Magnone Incumbent/ Retired Educational Administrator

## GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

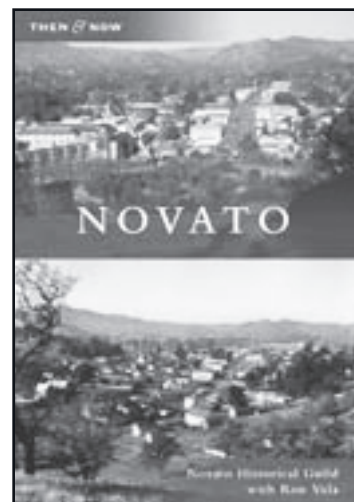
Christmas is just around the corner! The Hamilton Field History Museum Gift Shop has added a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress T-Shirt to its Warbird Design Line. The B-17 was a four-engine heavy bomber developed in the 1930s for the United States Army Air Corp. It had a short duration at Hamilton Field because the plane needed a longer runway. This T-Shirt and the other Warbird Design shirts sell for \$18.00.

We also have a large selection of note cards with historic buildings on them, coffee mugs, tote bags, sweatshirts, caps in several colors with "Novato" on them and our books: *Novato Township*, *Novato, Then and Now* and *Hamilton Field History*.

Stop by one of our museums on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 12 noon to 4:00pm and buy that unique gift for that special person. You can also purchase these items at the 2016 Holiday Crafts Faire at the Margaret Todd Senior Center on Friday, December 2nd, 6:00pm to 9:00pm, and Saturday, December 3rd, 10:00am to 4:00pm. Admission is free to the public on both days. The Guild will be at booth #12.

**DOCENTS NEEDED**  
**HAMILTON FIELD HISTORY**  
**MUSEUM**

Contact: Ray Dwelly  
 (415) 382-8614



# Hamilton's "Army Sailors"

## Crash Rescue Boats & Army Sailors

The Hamilton Field History Museum is currently featuring a display about a little known group of Army servicemen at Hamilton that spent much of the duty time on the water. These "Army Sailors" were members of the Army's Crash Rescue Boat Service. Their mission was to rescue the Army Air Force pilots and crews that crashed or ditched their planes in the Bay.

Prior to World War II, a number of United States Army Air Force (USAAF or AAF) base commanders had airfields with landing patterns over water. They needed some rescue capability to retrieve pilots that crashed or bailed out. There was no formal crash rescue program at that time, so each air base developed its own procedures and equipment.

At Hamilton in the 1930s, the crash boat group consisted of 8 men and three boats. Two of the boats, one 40 foot yacht and a 30 mph speed boat were traditionally powered. However, the third one, called a Swamp Glider, was flat bottomed and powered by a small engine and a large rear facing propeller. This prop driven 35 mph craft was very useful when trying to maneuver around on the San Pablo Bay mud flats.

During the Battle of Britain, before the attack on Pearl Harbor, many military and civilian leaders felt that it was just a matter of time before the US would be going to war. The AAF sent a team of officers to England to check out how the British operated their Rescue Boat Program.

General Hap Arnold, then Chief of the Army Air Corps, was so impressed with the team's report about what they had seen in England that he immediately requested that the War Department create a similar program.

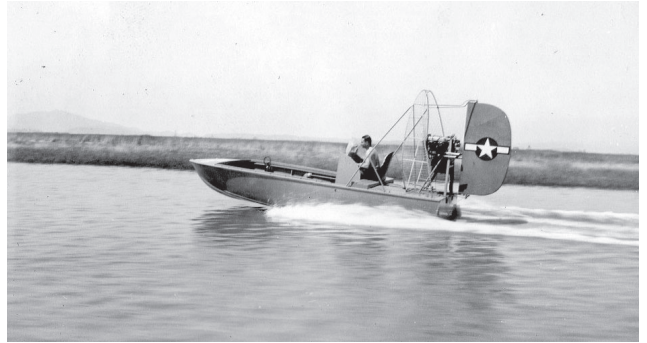
Under Arnold's leadership, a standardized rescue program was created. The group name was changed from

Rescue Boat Service Detachment to Air Sea Rescue, crews were trained, equipment was purchased and operational units were formed.

In WW II the Air Sea rescue program was used extensively in the European, Mediterranean and Pacific Theaters. Along the way the PBY amphibious aircraft was added to the Air Sea rescue equipment inventory.

In the 1942-43 time frame the 4th AAF Rescue Boat Detachment at Hamilton had grown to forty-six men and ten high-speed, specially designed boats. The boats were kept at two locations. The Main Boathouse was situated at the south end of the Hamilton Field runway. A rescue station, nicknamed Corregidor II, was located three miles out in the Bay across from China Camp. Remnants of the Main Boathouse still exist and pilings from Corregidor II are visible (with binoculars) from the China Camp pier.

As time went on, and after the Korean Conflict, helicopters became the main focus of air sea rescue operations. The usage of crash rescue boats gradually faded away and took their



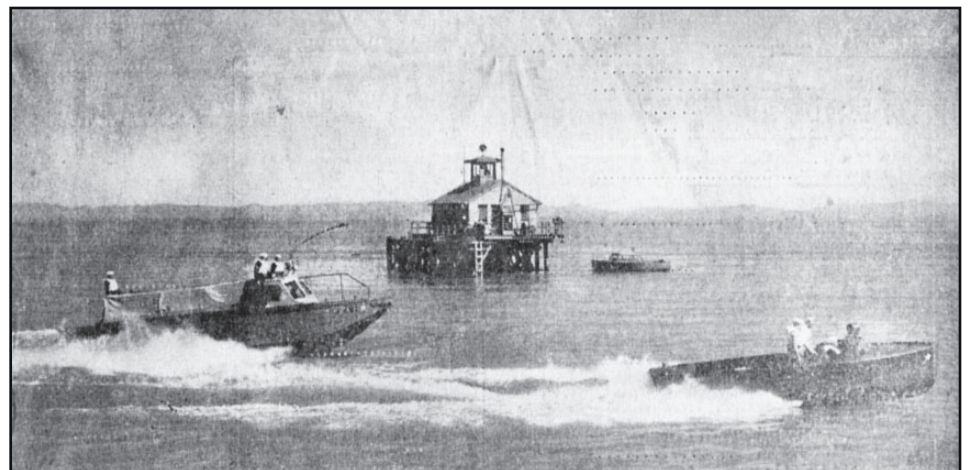
A "crash rescue" swamp glider

place in military history

The 41st Air Rescue Squadron existed at Hamilton until the base was deactivated in 1975.

The museum display has 1942-43 vintage photographs of the Main Boat House, Corregidor II, the types of boats that were used and prints showing an actual rescue operation. The photos were donated by Mike Miller and the exhibit was created by Jim Davenport.

Most of the material for this article was sourced from the U.S. Crash Boat website at [www.uscrashboats.org](http://www.uscrashboats.org) and *Hamilton Field Diary* by Major F.H. Oberding, USAF retired, 2011.



Corregidor II Rescue Station and rescue boats in San Francisco Bay near Hamilton Air Field



# Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Kathryn Hansen

## August 2016

### City Report

Novato Activities Guide for the Fall/Winter needs a submission from the Guild. *Action Item:* Susan and Ray to submit text & pictures.

### Informational Items

The paper used for the newsletter is 24# weight. The price has gone up to three times 20# paper. The Guild agreed to try the lighter weight paper as long as the backside isn't showing through onto the front side, especially with pictures. *Action Item:* Kathy to test the lighter weight paper. Jim & Judi to decide.

A key to the Simmons house was given to the Guild in order to walk through the house. The team will evaluate what next steps they want to take to go forward with a formal appeal to the City for the Simmons's House as a museum.

### Unfinished Business

*Copperfield's Display & Logo* – Susan & Jim – The NHG will have a display in October at the bookstore. There will be a reception October 8th. A donation of 10% will be given to the Guild based on patrons bringing in a flyer. *Action Item:* The Guild is to provide a logo to Copperfield's for the flyer.

*Volunteer Recognition* – Susan – What should the Guild do this year to recognize the volunteers. The date might be November 5th from 2-4PM, but recognition at the December General Meeting was also suggested. Suggestions were a lunch, a training session, pins, gifts. *Action Item:* Form a committee, possibly with Diane Goebel and Laurie O'Mara to plan something.

**Oral History** - Susan – June 18<sup>th</sup>. Two volunteers were trained by Ray & Jim McNern on taking oral histories. The volunteers are very excited about

the project. The first person they will interview is Don Edwards.

### New Business

*New Museum* – Susan – Jim & Lonnie met with Pam Shinault (Novato Park & Rec) and Kathy Kormos regarding the Guild's interest in moving to the Simmon's House. Next week they are meeting with Cathy Capriola, Interim City Manager for more guidance on how to move forward with the project.

*City General Plan* – Susan – Would the Guild be interested in having Bob Brown, Community Development Director, speak to the Guild about Novato's General Plan. The Board agreed that would be useful. *Action Item:* Susan to set up a presentation.

*September General Membership Meeting* – Jim & Ray – September 10th, Saturday. The speaker will be the Pacific Coast – Coast Guard Strike Team Commander. There was a discussion on who will coordinate the meals. Last year it was catered because the three volunteers (Roland, Mike, Bill) were out of town.

### Committee Reports & Updates

*Nominating Committee* – Ray – Sharon Azevedo, Thursday Downtown Museum volunteer has applied to the Board. Sheila Brossier has to leave the Board due to babysitting commitments. Up for reelection are Jim, Bill, George, Kathryn and Susan.

*Hamilton Museum* – Ray – a Coast Guard exhibit is in progress. There is a new exhibit of an Army/AirForce/ Navy uniform from 1942-1943.

*Downtown Museum* – Susan – the volunteers are continuing to log inventory into Past Perfect. Bill has taken a full time job so may have to leave the Board. A goal for the volunteers to is have oral histories on the website for everyone to listen.

## September 2016

### Unfinished Business

#### City Report

Kathy Kormos -The City is reviewing their Strategic Goals and Master Plan as soon as the new City Manager arrives. This is an opportunity for the Guild to participate in the discussion and find out the feasibility of getting the Simmon's House.

### Informational Items

*Governance Capacity* - Susan The American Alliance of Museums established in 2014 "five core documents" Mission Statement, Institutional Code of Ethics, Strategic Plan, Disaster Preparedness Plan and Collections Management Policy.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 triggered inclusion of three policies on the revised Internal Revenue Service Form 990: Conflict of Interest Statement, Whistleblower Policy and Records Retention Schedule. Website Quality – list of 10 standards.

### Unfinished Business:

*Copperfield's Display & Logo* – Ray & Susan – waiting for flyers to distribute to constituents. When the flyer is presented at the point of sale NHG will receive a donation.

*Logo Discussion* – Jim – More sample logos were presented and discussed. No decision was made.

*Volunteer Thank You* - Susan & Sheila– The Board agreed that the Buck Center including a tour would be a good event. Wednesday, November 2nd from 2PM-4PM.

*City General Plan Presentation* – Susan – Bob Brown will present to the Board at the October Board meeting.

### New Business

*New Museum* – Lonnie & Jim – The Board discussed the fact that

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## Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

Continued from Page N-9

a Capital Campaign would have to be undertaken in order to fund the Simmons House retrofit. More discussions to occur in the future.

**Planning Session and Budget Development** – Susan – a document was distributed listing the Mission Statement and detailed lists under: Collect, Preserve, Available to the Public and possible focus areas for 2017. The Board discussed and suggested the main goals for 2017 should be increasing membership, adding more content to the website, revise the Collections Policy with the City.

### Committee Reports & Updates

**Public Outreach** – Jim – suggested giving realtor's a card to add to the packet given to new home buyers that would entitle the buyer to a free membership if they took it to one of the museums. The Board agreed to follow up on the idea.

**Hamilton Museum** – Ray – a Navy exhibit is in progress.

**Downtown Museum** – Susan – needs someone with a key to open/close the museum for the docents on September 29th.

Current paid members 320, current overdue members 82, and total members 402.

### October 2016

**City of Novato General Plan 2035** – Bob Brown – The 20 year plan lays out the community's vision for the future of the City and creates a road map on how to get us there. It will guide City decisions that affect future jobs, housing and growth in our community. Written details were distributed. A thumb drive of the Plan was given to the Guild. It can be read on <http://www.Novato.org/General Plan>.

### Informational Items

**Governance Capacity** – Susan – The Guild is hosting the Novato Leadership Presentation & Walking Tour – November 9th for the Chamber of Commerce.

The Novato History Museum will be filmed for TV on November 10th.

### Unfinished Business

**Copperfield's Display** – Ray & Edna – the display is in the window of the store. The Guild will get 10% of the proceeds when a customer presents the flyer at point of purchase on October 8th & 9th.

**Volunteers Thank You** – Susan & Sheila – Invitations went out to volunteers for the event at the Buck Center, Wednesday, November 2nd from 2PM-4PM.

**Focus Areas for 2017** – Susan – Further discussion about what the Guild goals are for 2017.

- Improve public awareness
- Increase public access to the museums' collections through social media (website and Facebook) and technology.
- Revise Collections Policy with the City to expand Novato's history into the 60's and 70's

### Committee Reports & Updates

**Hamilton** – Ray – November 12th is a reception for the Coast Guard Exhibit designed by Megan Gimble, Girl Scout. This was the project for her Gold Award. Two bus tours organized by Doug McConnell of *Backroads* TV show will be visiting this month.

## Welcome New Guild Members

### Novato Historical Guild Membership Report December 2016

#### Individual Memberships:

Eve Novak  
Ellen Pesenti  
Gene Thornton  
Gary Trenchard  
Robin Williamson

#### Family Memberships:

#### Business Memberships:

#### Please support our Guild Business Members:

AAcme Digital and Screen Graphics  
Andrew McAghon Landscaping  
Bank of Marin  
Goltermann Garden & Country Inn, Petaluma, CA  
Indian Valley Golf Club  
Marin Landscape Materials  
Marin Trophies  
Mclsaac Dairy  
Nave Enterprises  
Novato Builders Supply, Inc.  
Pini Hardware  
The Wright Salon  
Trumbull Manor Inc. – Novato  
Valley Oak Wealth Management  
Zenith Instant Printing

*If you have questions about membership, call*

*Edna Manzoni,  
Membership Chairman,  
415-892-9603.*

### 2016 Board Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month  
**Margaret Todd Senior Center**  
 1560 Hill Road  
 Time: 1:30- 3:30 PM

Jan 12	July (no meeting)
Feb.9	Aug 9
March 8	Sept 13
April 12	Oct 11
May 10	Nov 8
June 14	Dec 13

Guild members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. Please check with the President, Susan Magnone at NHG1850@yahoo.com or 415 892-8458, in case a meeting has been changed.

### Contact Us

**Hamilton Field History Museum**  
 Manager: Ray Dwelly  
 Museum phone: 415-382-8614  
 Email: Hamilton\_museum@att.net  
<https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonFieldHistoryMuseum/>

**Novato History Museum**  
 Manager: Susan Magnone  
 Museum phone: 415-897-4320  
 Email: NHG1850@yahoo.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/NovatoHistoryMuseum/>

### The Guild Extends Sympathy to

The Beyer family on the loss of Rosina Beyer  
 Aileen Hune on the loss of her sister, Rosina Beyer

Bob Champion, son of Alyce Champion, on the loss of his mother  
 Phyllis Nerviani, sister of Alyce Champion, on the loss of her sister

The Lautrup family on the loss of Hank Lautrup

Rosalie Mack on the loss of her husband, George Mack

Tom Skinner and family on the loss of Arleen Kolby Skinner



### In Memoriam

#### In Memoriam

**Rosina M. Beyer**  
**Alyce Champion**  
**Hank Lautrup**  
**George Mack**  
**Arleen Lorraine Kolby Skinner**

### 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.

### 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

- |   |        |      |                                   |
|---|--------|------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time) membership | \$10   | year | Name _____                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership          | \$20   | year | Address _____                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership              | \$30   | year | City _____                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership              | \$100  | year | State _____ Zip _____             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership          | \$200  | year | Phone _____                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, individual    | \$350  | year | Additional donations? _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, joint         | \$500  | year | Interested in volunteering? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor                     | \$1000 | year | Email address: _____              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business membership            | \$50   | year |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate membership           | \$1000 | year |                                   |



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



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## YOU ARE INVITED

**General Membership Meeting ~ Novato Historical Guild**

**Saturday, December 10, 2016 - 10:00 - 12:00**

Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Ave., Novato

*The business meeting will include election of Guild Board Members and the Approval of the budget for 2017*

**Breck Parkman, Senior State Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison  
California State Parks, will be discussing Olompali State Park.**

Come enjoy refreshments, good company, and an interesting presentation.

**Guild Members and anyone interested in Novato 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**