

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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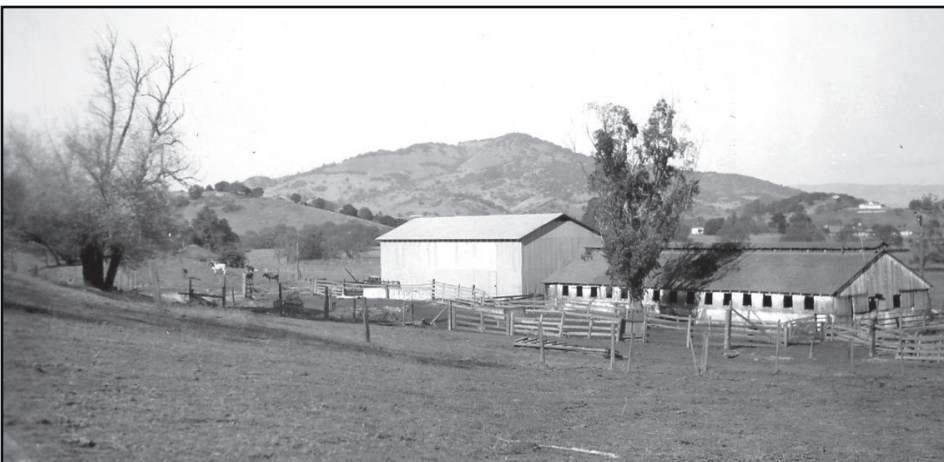
October - December 2017

The Novato Historian

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The September General Membership Meeting, which was held at the Hamilton Air Museum.



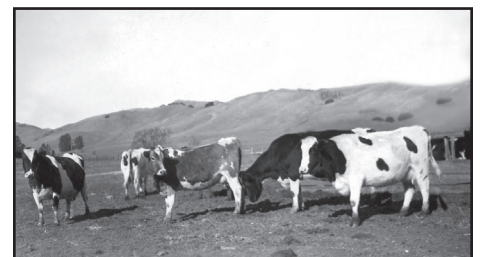
This is the 400-acre Joe Brazil Dairy. It was located on So. Novato Blvd., in the area of Novato High School and the surrounding sub-division. It was purchased in 1922 and sold in the 1950's.

Is Your Home On A Former Dairy?

The Exhibit Committee has spent most of the spring and summer researching the many dairies in and around Novato beginning in the late 1890's to the 1950's. Our exhibit is in the downtown museum, and we think it is well planned and will be enjoyed by adults and children alike.

There are a few dairies located in West Novato that are still operating, but all of the dairies that were close to downtown Novato are gone. A few of the sites still have original structures. You can find out where they are at the museum.

Some people who grew up on a dairy have recorded their stories for future generations, and they will be available at the museum for research.



Grazing cows on the Garzelli Dairy, which was located on Novato Boulevard.

The Marin-Dell milk transport truck (upper right). Most of the Grade A dairies in Novato sold their milk to Marin-Dell for pasteurizing, bottling and distribution.

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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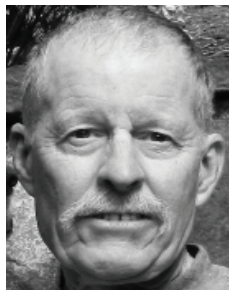
Deadline for the March 2018 issue is February 1st.

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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

Jim Crumpler

President, Novato Historical Guild

Recent Guild Events

Hope you were all able to attend the September Members BBQ at the Hamilton Field History Museum. For those of you that were unable to attend this annual event you missed a wonderful talk by Matt Cerkel, Marin Municipal Water District Ranger, about the sixty or so plane crashes in Marin.

Most of the accidents involved planes from Hamilton Air Force Base. Remember, in the late 30's and 40's the planes were much different than they are today, limited radio communications, no radar and few of today's instruments.

Combine that with young pilots with limited experience and Marin's fog and hills. It's a wonder that the number of accidents weren't much higher. Actually one of the more famous crashes occurred in 1972, when a Delta Jet crashed into a hill near Atherton Avenue.

This summer I was lucky enough to attend a tour of the Lieb property that the City recently acquired. The Lieb Ranch is on Hill Road and covers about eight acres. The property had been in the Lieb family since the early 1900's. A few days before the City took over the property, Phil Lieb

agreed to give a few people a tour of the Ranch. The property contains a two-story barn, a hundred year-old two-story cottage, a couple of newer houses and several out-buildings. Over the years the Lieb family raised and sold chickens and eggs. At one time they had as many as 5,000 chickens.

The Lieb property is an excellent example of how people in Novato lived in the early nineteenth century.

Not to be missed, Betty Goerke will be a speaker at our upcoming Members Meeting on Saturday, December 9th at the Margaret Todd Senior Center.

Betty has taught anthropology and archaeology at College of Marin and is the author of *Chief Marin: Leader, Rebel and Legend*.

Finally, I would like to thank all the terrific volunteers that make our Guild work. Without you the Guild wouldn't exist, thank you! An additional "thank you" goes out to Carol Aregger for her wonderful job of assembling the *Historian* four times a year.

Hope to see you all at the December Member's Meeting.



Phil Lieb giving a tour of the Leib Ranch, which was recently acquired by the City of Novato. The Leibs raised and sold chickens and eggs on the ranch.



Novato-50 Years Ago

(October, November, December 1967)

by Yvette Borloz Jackson

Wow! The last issue for the year 1967. I can't believe how time flies. I hope you are all as interested in some of the events that happened in 1967 as I am. The times were so different, yet in some ways very much the same as today. I find it fascinating to make the comparison. I want to wish you all a wonderful holiday season filled with joy, peace and contentment.

A reminder that the following text & language, although abridged, is taken directly from the pages of the Novato Advance Newspaper from the year 1967.

- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sparrow were the guests of honor Saturday night at a 30th wedding anniversary surprise party given at their home at 475 Rowland Blvd. by their children, Susan, Bob, Jack and his wife Judy. Highlighting the buffet dinner was a two-tiered wedding cake topped with a decoration used on the wedding cake of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Sparrow Jr. 5 years previously. Present for the happy occasion were many special guests and Novato neighbors. (Event date 8/26/ 1967 *Advance* issue date 8/30 /1967)
- For close on three hours Monday, Novatans were reminded that autumn and winter are at hand. In what could be described as either a freak storm or the first downpour of the season, more than a half inch of rain was dumped on the city in less than three hours here. The fire department rain gauge showed that the clouds opened up at 3:15 PM and produced .66 inches of rain by 5 PM. The heaviest downpour came between 3:45 PM and 4 PM when almost a quarter of an inch was reported. Hamilton Air Force Base said that gusts of wind up to 31 miles an hour accompanied the rain. (10/04/1967)
- A zoning change which would permit establishment of a 445 lot mobile home park just south of the Sonoma County line will be considered Monday by the County planning commission. The hearing will take place at the County Civic Center. The commission will hear a request from Charmaine A. Burdell to change a 52- acre parcel bordered on the north by San Antonio creek and on the east by the Old State Highway from limited agricultural to a mobile home park district. The commission will consider a master plan for the property. To be called "Enchanted Valley", it would include mobile home lots and related facilities. The property is part of Rancho Olompali .
- Fireman say that match playing children were responsible for two grass fires that hit Novato neighborhoods last Wednesday afternoon. At 4:35 p.m. fire blackened about an acre on the hillside behind the Elmwood Court subdivision, scorching several eucalyptus trees and 20 fence posts, then at 6:29 PM, a blaze was reported on the hillside behind the Loma Verde school. It leveled about a quarter acre of dry grass. Children were seen in both areas just before the fires were sighted.
- A model meeting, the second event Alpha Tau chapter of Kappa Phi Sigma, was held last Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Gordon Tremoureaux, in Terra Linda. The rushees were Mmes. Wayne Colyer, Max Jackson, John Osborn, Carl Windh, Carol Varner, Robert Powers, Howard Lee, James Schyberg, Arthur Bayles, Dennis Monahan and John E. Wright. Mrs. Robert Corbett, president, welcomed guests and members. Each officer and committee chairman then presented a short resume on her specific duties. Mrs. Alan King introduced the program for the evening, which was a demonstration of wigs and hairpieces from the "New Look Wig Shop" in Novato. Plans were discussed for the Halloween party the chapter will hold Monday for children at the kindergarten
- ten for the mentally retarded in Santa Venetia, operated by the county schools office. Mrs. Colin White, service chairman, is in charge, assisted by Mmes, John Bassett, Earl Aurelius, Leo Horton, Carl Windh and John Colistra.
- Dennis J Hachmyer, 19, left recently for Lang Bien, Vietnam where he will be for 13 months. A graduate of Novato High, Dennis completed his 19 week course of basic training at Fort Polk, La. He then went to a leadership school for a few weeks. He enlisted in the army on April 21.
- The widow of the founder of the *Novato Advance*, Mrs. William Hanen, died early Sunday morning. She had been suffering recently from a heart ailment. Her husband, who established the *Advance* in 1922, had died in 1941, shortly after he had sold the *Advance* to Jack Sparrow. Mrs. Hanen, who was born in England, retained her attractive looks and remained fairly active until she was recently hospitalized. She was 78. The *Advance* was the second paper founded in Novato. It was preceded by *The Banner*, established before World War II .
- It's election day next Tuesday and despite a large number of candidates, interest in the election-- involving directors for the water board and commissioners for the fire district-- appears weak. It will be the first election for the water board in 10 years time.
- A Montgomery Ward catalog sales agency will open tomorrow at 479 Entrada Dr., at the Roger Wilco shopping center. The new facility, which will be operated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ledogar under a franchise from the Montgomery Ward company will be open six days a week.
- NOVATO OFFICE EQUIPMENT CO.

50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N-3

Had a sale on Smith Corona Typewriters: GET THE FACT'S AND IT WILL BE THE ONE YOU BUY!

Fact #1: Whispermatic repeat action carriage return

Fact#2: Touch Tuning, permits a pinpoint touch adjustment

Fact #3: Vanity compartment keeps your make-up accessories at your fingertips. Full Size Electric \$315

- Reduced rates for many out-of-state long-distance telephone calls go into effect today, Pacific Telephone has reminded customers. The new rate schedule, filed last month by the Bell System with the federal communications commission, also introduces a new "midnight-to-7a.m." rate for dialed calls; a maximum 75 cent initial charge anywhere in the United States. Pacific said this service is expected to be especially convenient for early-morning calls to the east. Calls requiring operator assistance are not included.

- Riley's Restaurant is planning to locate in Novato, Dave Young, owner of property on which the restaurant will build has announced. Young is one of the four brothers who own and operate Young Brothers Furniture and Appliance on Highway 101. Riley's will go up on the corner of Highway 101 and Olive Ave., the property adjoining the furniture and appliance store. Young said the restaurant building will occupy some 4000 square ft. "It will be a smart looking and a modern structure," Young said, "with an unusual roof design." Cost will be \$200,000 to \$300,000. It will seat 165. "It will be similar to Lyon's restaurant and Sambo's," Young said, "but will feature a more extensive menu." Construction is expected to start after the first of the year. Opening will take place sometime in April or May depending on the weather.

- In Another business transaction, purchase of the El Novato trailer park was confirmed by Young. The trailer park covers four acres. It was bought from eight partners who recently purchased the trailer park from Robert Webber. The trailer park property adjoins the Young Bros. store on the north side of Red-

wood Blvd. The trailer park land was bought for future development but in the meantime he will continue to operate the park, said Young. It will be modernized. (*this is the corner where the Trader Joe's is today and the restaurant never was built*).

- Talks have begun between the Marin Transit District & Western Pacific Railroad aimed at converting unused NWP right-of- ways to rapid bus lanes between Novato and San Francisco. This was confirmed by MTD manager Seymour Kashin in an appearance before a tri-partite transit committee of the Golden Gate Bridge and Marin-San Francisco supervisors. Kashin envisioned using new dual-purpose buses on rail-car wheels over the old NWP routes from Novato to Sausalito. Next retracting the rail wheels to permit rubber-tire buses to run up Bridgeway and over the Golden Gate Bridge, then using State Belt RR rails from the Presidio to the Ferry Building. Feeder buses could use the same system into Greenbrae from Manor, Ross and other outlying suburbs.

- Youth in increasing numbers during the past generation have been herded onto college campuses ostensibly for an education but also possibly because society as a whole can't find anything economically useful for them to do (except as soldiers). A whole new subculture is being developed as the numbers of college campuses grow. Challenging moral standards, and demanding a voice in the rules that govern them, students are upsetting quite a number of adults by their behavior and increasing use of "student power." Adults became angry because they feel students are ungrateful for the free education they received from the state.

- Holiday plans of Novato families are in the news this week, here are some of them. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Jemison of Clausing Ave. will welcome today their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Merwin Bryan, of Neptune, N.J. The Rev. and Mrs. Ilion T. Jones of Rowland Blvd. will be spending Christmas with their daughter, Mrs. Nancy Bowman, and her six children in Rohnert Park. Mrs. Bowman appeared last weekend at the opera "Hansel and Gretel" at Sonoma

State College. She sang the role of Gretel, with Anna Secrist of Novato appearing in the role on alternate nights.

- Mr. and Mrs. Ray Muir of Monte Maria, are expecting a holiday visit from their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Muir and son Kevin, 1 1/2, of Sacramento. On Christmas Eve their guest will be Mrs. Hattie Butler of Menlo Park, Mr. Muir's aunt.

- Mr. and Mrs. Max Keeler of Devonhire Drive, will welcome home Mrs. Keeler's son, George Davis, today. Davis, who is in the Navy, will be home for about two weeks before returning to the amphibious base at Coronado. A Novato High graduate, he is 21. He recently completed underwater demolition training.

- The Frank Baccaglio's of South Novato Boulevard, welcomed home their daughter Marsha, a sophomore at UC Davis campus, and Martin, a senior at San Jose State College. Another daughter, the former Mimi Baccaglio, now Mrs. George Nunes of Santa Rosa, will arrive with her family for a Christmas celebration at the Baccaglio home. Also present will be Mr. and Mrs. Babe Silva and sons (Mrs. Silva and Mrs. Baccaglio are sisters); Mrs. Delia Hoppe of Novato, their mother, and Mrs. Hazel Borotra , relatives from Cazadero.

- For many of Novato servicemen Christmas will be late this year. Most of those who expect to return home within the next several months will have the real Christmas at home. Many servicemen will spend Christmas Day surrounded by a few touches of the traditional Christmas – gifts of fruitcake and Christmas goodies, and even miniature Christmas trees. The trimmings may have looked somewhat out-of-place against a Southeast Asian background and the paraphernalia of war. The Christmas gifts were far from traditional. They included canned goods and the ever-present Kool-Aid, and for men in combat they were kept small and portable.

Yvette Borloz Jackson

NOVATO'S TREASURES Novato's First Train Depot

On November 5, 1874, local business men meet and decided to build a railroad from San Rafael through Novato to Petaluma. They Incorporate on November 12th. By October of 1875 the railroad bed was in nice shape from Petaluma to Novato. Then the rails came off.

October of 1876 - The Sonoma and Marin Railroad is sold to Peter Donahue for \$85,000, the amount that has been spent on the railroad.

Donahue team works on the railroad slowly. The tunnel at Wagner's Hill is completed on March 1877. The drawbridge over the Novato Creek is finished in June 1877.

Work was resumed in April of 1878, after the hard winter.

Pacheco Rancho right-of-way was obtained with the express stipulation that the road should be "actively at work" by the 15th day of September, 1878. Donahue is in danger of losing the "right of way."

September 12, 1878 Col. Donahue would give a free excursion to the boys of St. Vincents Orphan Asylum. He then runs the trains randomly for the next few years.

By February 1880 the State Legislature introduced a bill to compel railroad operation or forfeit the railroad.

December 4, 1884 the *Marin IJ* would report: "The S. F. and N.W.R.R. has opened a freight and ticket office here, with J.Q.A. Haven as agent. This will be a great advantage to the dairymen, as their butter can be shipped any day in the week, and will arrive in San Francisco fresh. A stock corral has also been built, so that the shippers of hogs or other stock will not have to drive to San Rafael or Petaluma, as they have heretofore done."

March of 1886 - Frank DeLong would give 1 1/2 acres at the Novato station for consideration; that all passenger trains shall stop at Novato.

On January 1903, Novato would have a new depot in the style of the depot at Ignacio. In May, work would begin on the demolition of the old depot. The old depot would be removed in two sections and work was started on the new structure at the old depot site.

In July 1903, John Pera would buy the small part of the old depot and move it to his property.

In August, J. P. Lostaunau would purchased the big half of the old depot and move it on the back lot of his hall, where it would be used as a barn.

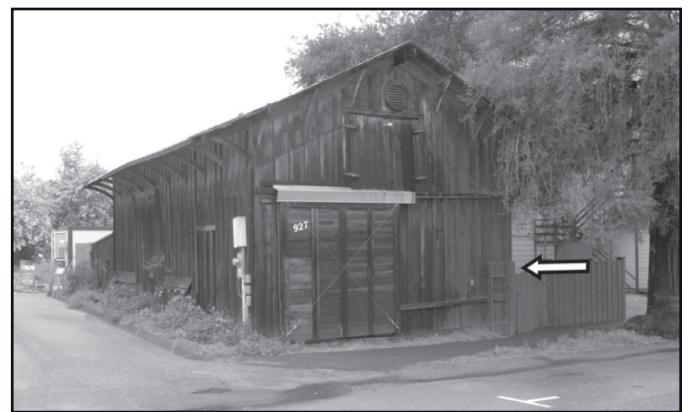
Today the Novato Druids owns the hall and the old depot is still on the back lot. The old depot was dedicated April 22, 1989 and has been designated "Novato's First Railroad Station" by the Novato



Picture was taken by Helen Hatch c. 1900 show the west side of the train depot.



This picture taken around 1910 shows the old train depot located behind the Druids Hall.



Picture of the Old Train Depot today. Arrow points to the plaque dedicated in 1989. Look above the sliding-door and you can see where the roof line of the other building was.

Historical Society, the Novato Grove of Druids No. 113, and the Grand Parlor Native Sons of The Golden West.

Novato Memories

Jim McNern



Bill Glass

Bill Glass is the son of the late Jim and Glenna Glass.. He is a 1965 graduate of Novato High School. Bill is a very active member of the Novato Druids. He now lives in Petaluma, but spends a lot of time in Novato. Bill shares his Novato memories in this December issue of the Novato Historian.

'It was all quiet and kind'a Sunday like.' Is a descriptive passage from Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer, describing a day in Hannibal, Missouri. When I read this book, some sixty years ago, I immediately thought of Novato and how quiet Sunday's were. I certainly doubt Novato's youth could identify with this passage today. But I digress!

My parents, Jim and Glenna (nee Hatfield) Glass, moved to Novato in 1940 from Alameda, CA where they met. They rented a home from Maurice Gounod, who owned five acres of land at the southeast intersection of McClay and Center roads; Gounod had recently had the house built as a wedding gift for his son and daughter-in-law as a wedding present. The daughter in-law, a native San Franciscan, (as the story goes) took one look at the place and decided she wasn't moving to the edge of the world.

With the onslaught of Pearl Harbor, my father took a job as a civilian shipboard welder at Mare Island Naval shipyard where he commuted with fellow Novatan Larry Tresch. There was a gas station at the intersection of Hwy. 37 and Hwy. 121 where Larry would stop when it was his turn to drive. Larry would go in and purchase one gallon of gasoline earning him the moniker 'My one gallon customer.' given to him by the owner.

In 1943 my parents purchased four acres of land at the southwest intersection of McClay Road and Center Road from Mr. Guerra, for one thousand dollars. Guerra owned five acres, but retained one of the parcels which had a large garage where the school buses were kept. This property later became Postmore Kennels; directly across the street from the house my parents were renting from Maurice Gounod. Gounod subsequently sold the house and one acre of land to Louis Garavanta, who ran the Novato disposal service from this location for a number of years.

My father raised pigs, a cow and chickens for a number of years, then subdivided the property, building

houses on the bare land before selling the property. Al Fields, who owned The Novato Taxi Company, bought one and a half acres and one of the houses my father built. Building materials were difficult to get during the war. With the money my father was able to save, he began construction of the house I grew up in.

Like most native Novatans, there being no local hospital, I was born at The Cottage Hospital in San Rafael, June 2, 1947; the attending physician being Dr. Ralph Weseman. I was the third of four children, and the only son. My three sisters Sandy, Judy, Nancy and I attended Novato Schools.

Like most struggling young couples, my father had more than one job. He also delivered milk for Ida Trabucchi. On June 19, 1949 my parents and maternal grandparents purchased The Parrot Cage, a 'soft drink fountain', from then owner Ella Eakin who had run it for the previous three years. The building, which was owned by Al Bowman, was just east of the Novato Theater at 912 Grant Avenue. Immediately after purchasing the business, they remodeled the building and changed the name to The Novato Creamery. Some of the employees who worked at The Creamery while attending high school were: Edna Angel Manzoni, Dee Ruhlman Sand, Aileen Breg Hume and Betty Bacigalupi Nye. In 1953, my parents sold The Creamery to Sam and June Thomas.

It was about this time that one of



Bill Glass ca. 1951.

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Novato Memories

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Charlene and Glenn Hatfield.

my mother's friends, and I am not sure which, decided a social club would be in order. They got together and formed The Dirty Dozen. Members were my mother, Glenna Glass, Wilda Nolan, Yvonne Borloz, Jo Deny, Pat Ryan, Barbara Kingsley, Madge Lang, Lillian McClelland, Gloria Schwindt, Marie Stafford and Wynn Clark.

My grandparents: Glenn and Charlene Hatfield also opened the Novato Delicatessen east of the creamery at 906 Grant Avenue. My Grandfather always claimed to have had the first automatic donut maker north of the Golden Gate.

One of my earliest memories was accompanying my mother to Judge Rudolff's Novato French Cheese Factory site. The building had been demolished, and she had received permission from the Judge to salvage bricks which she used in her garden. An interesting sideline; my mother told me that one time she and my sister, Sandra, were passengers in a car driven by Mrs. Jo Deny; they were at the Y of Novato Blvd. and Hwy. 101 (where Hwy. 37 overpass is today.). There was a stop sign on Novato Blvd. for southbound traffic; Mrs. Deny failed to stop. Her vehicle was struck by a southbound automobile driven by an airman from Hamilton Field. No one

was injured, but the case did end up in court before Judge Rudolff. Judge Rudolff found that Mrs. Deny was not at fault. Why? The Judge had performed the marriage ceremony for Jo Deny, and moonlighted in insurance sales, Mrs. Deny was his client.

As kids, my sister, Judy and I roamed the fields around our home finding many Indian artifacts. After property owners plowed their fields in the fall, arrow heads and pestels popped up in the creeks and fields of Novato. We would play with them for a couple of days, and then they would go missing.

One place we frequented often was the Trumbull Mansion between Center Road, Novato Boulevard and Wilson Avenue. The property was a labyrinth of outbuildings and nineteenth century farming equipment.

We would sit on the horse drawn machinery pretending to be tending fields. No one seemed to mind our trespass; Mr. Trumbull Sr. would drive in and out of his driveway and wave to us. The three story old barn was northwest of the house; it had a large semi-sub terrain basement filled with horse tack. In one corralled corner there lay a large pile of cattle horns, the pile reaching perhaps four feet tall.

Years later, while doing research for the Novato History Museum, I read of rival Chinese employees working for Sweetser and DeLong, who decided to settle their differences once and for all. Climbing up to the roof of this barn; each was armed with two hay hooks. The battle was ended with the death of one of the two combatants.

There was an old adobe building on the Trumbull property. The site is approximately where the backyard of 2012 Center Road is today.

One day while my sister Judy and I were playing there, a photographer with the *Novato Advance* drove by and saw us; stopping his car, he took our picture. That picture is now with the



1911 Center Road

Novato History Museum.

There was a large brass bell on the floor of the adobe. In retrospect, I would estimate the bell to be twenty-four to thirty-six inches tall and eighteen to twenty-four inches wide. I remember there was writing on the bell, but it was before I was able to read. I have often wondered what ever happened to that bell.

A favorite pastime for boys in Novato was riding hill slopes on cardboard. Virtually all the hills in town had visible scars on them where the dry grass was matted down and the littered remnants of cardboard scraps were left discarded. I used the hill owned by Dr. Dougherty (D.D.S.) on McClay Road. Neighborhood playmates were the Franco's; Maria, Machida and Andres.

The Four-H Club was popular in the early fifties in Novato. Virtually all the kids in Novato were involved. My mother was a club leader in cooking and sewing. Having two older sisters, I knew most of the kids in Novato.

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Novato Memories

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Sewing and cooking classes were usually held at our house.

I started kindergarten at Marion School, attended first grade at Hill School, was transferred to Olive School for second grade, back to Marion for third grade, over to newly completed West Novato School for fourth and fifth grade, then I suppose, because I lived at Center and McClay Road, it was decided that I should attend school at the closest school to our house. It wasn't yet constructed but Lu Sutton School was on the drawing board so the two east rooms of Marion School were so designated and I found myself back at Marion.

One day while attending sixth grade at Marion School, one of my friends, Ralph Sharp, asked me if I was going over to the Patterson ranch after school. I asked him why? He replied, "You'll find out!" Patterson ranch sat across the street from Marion School. It was a beautiful single story "California Rambler" there was a large barn and silo. When we arrived, there must have been twenty to thirty kids inside the house, smashing out every window and kicking holes in the walls. The property had been sold, and a shopping center would soon occupy the site. Hill School was changed from an elementary school to a Junior High School. After Junior High, I went to Novato High School, class of '65.

I don't think it would be a stretch of the imagination to assert that more cars pass down Center Road today, than automobiles passed through Novato on Hwy 101 in a day, back in the early fifties. I remember being at Ray Lightner's Novato Barber Shop when the new traffic lights were installed at the intersection of Grant and Redwood Highway and De Long and Redwood Highway. Dick Meriwether (Gloria Schwindt's father and uncle of Lee Meriwether, actress and Miss America '55), who worked for Ray, said 'I'm going to go out and try out the new lights'. With that, Dick became one of the first to christen the



Glenna Glass in *The Creamery* uniform.

lights which still stand.

For better or worse, I don't know that anyone played a more crucial part in changing the appearance of Novato than John Novak Sr. Following the demise of Robert Trumbull Sr., in 1952, the property was sold to John Novak who preserved and remodeled the old Delong mansion, but built tract housing surrounding it. West Novato School was built just west of the main house.

Had this been an actual emergency!

In the early sixties Nikita Khrushchev began threatening to destroy the United States with a nuclear attack. In October of '62 it was disclosed that the U.S.S.R. had been installing missiles in Cuba. The Marin Civil Defense Bureau devised a plan in which that portion of the population living south of the Hamilton Field would assemble at the Civic Center in the boiler room. Marinites living in Novato would evacuate out Novato Boulevard. A line of evacuation route signs and pointing arrows along Novato Boulevard marked the way. There, they would seek shelter at the Marin French Cheese Factory in a barn, where a

plethora of World War II C-rations, Army medical stretchers and gas masks were stored. I suppose doctors and nurses were also to assemble here. In any event, this plan wasn't needed.

In 1961, my neighbor, Ken Cramer, and I decided to go duck hunting in the marsh off Highway 101, where COSTCO is today. We had walked out Novato creek. Deciding to take a dryer route back, we got up on the highway, ran across the northbound lanes (at the time there were two lanes in each direction), and walked down the center meridian dividing north from southbound lanes. We were both fourteen years old, both carrying shotguns and walking down the middle of the highway. A highway patrolman drove past us southbound and gave us a big friendly wave. Such was life in Novato.

Archie and Alta Johnson were our neighbors on the west side of our property. My father and I used to shoot trap on Archie's property which bordered on a creek. After Fredson Ct. was built, one of the residents complained, and that was the end of our target practice.

Growing up in Novato was like growing up in Mayberry. There were so many people who knew each other; it was like one big extended family. Well do I remember the smell of sun baked hay in the summer and how quiet Novato was, especially on Sunday.

Richard Ira (Dick) Bong

By Michael Corlett

Richard Ira (Dick) Bong was assigned to Hamilton to learn how to fly the P-38 fighter on May 1st, 1942. In a little over two years, flying the P-38, he would achieve more aerial combat victories than any American Fighter pilot before him or since.

Bong was a Wisconsin farm boy. He developed an interest in flying by watching the Army mail plane, as it flew over the Bong farm, to deliver mail to Calvin Coolidge's "Summer White House," near Superior, Wisconsin.

After high school he attended State Teachers College, but what he really wanted to do was fly. In May of 1941 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps as a Flying Cadet. He was sent to Tulare, California for Primary Training, next to Gardner Field near Taft, California for Basic Training. He finished the advanced single-engine training course at Luke Field near Phoenix, AZ. While at Luke, Bongs Gunnery Instructor was Barry Goldwater. The future Presidential candidate remembered Bong as "a very bright student." A base check pilot also said that Bong was "the finest natural pilot he had ever met." Bong graduated in January of 1942, received his wings, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps Reserve.

After receiving his wings, Bong was kept on at Luke for 3-1/2 months as an instructor. As base commander General White-



In 1944, Bong received the Congressional Medal of Honor from General Douglas MacArthur



head said, "Bong could simply fly the AT-6 better than any of his contemporaries. He was good enough so that we kept him as an instructor for several months. He was a good one."

All of Bong's previous training had been on single engine aircraft. He came to Hamilton to be trained on the two-engine P-38 fighter. During training he attracted the attention of General George Kenney the head of the Fifth Air Force and future mentor

Although Bong had an angelic face, he was not above getting into mischief. Most notable were events on June 12th, 1942. He "buzzed" the house of a friend in San Anselmo who had just gotten married, flew loops around the Golden Gate Bridge and for good measure, flew at low level the length of Market Street in San Francisco. General Kenney could have court marshalled him out of the Air Corps and draft him into the infantry, but Bong got a much lesser punishment. Kenney didn't want to lose such a talented pilot.

General Kenney was assigned to the Pacific in September of 1942 and he took Bong with him. He was assigned to the 9th Squadron of the 49th Fighter Group and was transferred first to Australia then on to Port Moresby on the southeast corner of New Guinea.

Bong was 22 years old when he flew his first combat mission against the Japanese on December 27th, 1942. He scored two aerial victories. Twelve days later, on January 8, 1943, he scored 3 more victories, making him an Ace. When he had recorded his 27th victory April 27th, 1944, Bong received a letter from Eddie Rickenbacker congratulating him on breaking Rickenbacker's WW1 victory record of 26.

Bong went on to become America's all time Ace with 40 confirmed aerial combat victories against the Japanese in the South Pacific. Military recognition and medals accumulated to recognize his success. On December 12th, 1944, Bong received the

Congressional Medal of Honor from General Douglas MacArthur on Leyte Island. MacArthur said in part, "I now induct you into the society of the bravest of the brave."

After achieving 40 aerial combat victories, flown 200 combat missions and over 500 combat hours, General Kenney felt that Bong had "done his part." Kenney promoted him to Major and then "forcibly retired" him from combat for his own safety. In addition, because of Bong's popularity, should America's greatest Ace be killed, it would greatly affect the morale in the 5th Air Force and greatly sadden the American public who viewed him as a true hero.

Once home, Bong married his high school sweetheart. A few months later, the newlyweds moved to Burbank, CA. Lockheed had just developed their new P-80 Jet Fighter which was just beginning to roll off the assembly line. Bong's new assignment was to be a Testing and Acceptance pilot on the P-80 for the Army Air Corps.

On August 6th, 1945, on a routine acceptance flight, the P-80 Bong was flying flamed out due to failure of the primary fuel pump shortly after take-off. He maneuvered the plane away from a nearby housing development, then ejected. However, the plane had not maintained enough altitude for the parachute to be effective, and he was killed. He was 24 years old.

Bong's death was national news. It shared front page space on the nation's newspapers with the dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, which occurred the same day.

Richard Bong's last flight was two days after he died. An Army Transport plane, escorted by 18 fighter planes, carried his body back to his hometown of Superior, Wisconsin. The funeral was attended by Washington military brass, a group of military pall bearers, a 100-man military police company and a 30-man military band.

Bong was remembered in his home state in many ways, among them, the Richard I. Bong Memorial Bridge, which connects Duluth, MN with Superior, WI, and the Richard I. Bong Heritage Center in Superior, WI.

Because the nature of warfare has changed over the years, Richard Bong, Americas' Ace of Aces, holds a record that will never be broken.

Sources: *Dick Bong, Americas' Ace of Aces*, General George C. Kenney, 1960
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Bong
http://acepilots.com/usaaf_bong.html

Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Kathryn Hansen

August 2017

City Report - There was a discussion about the wifi connection. The Chamber of Commerce next door has wifi.

Action Item: Liz Tran to check if the City uses Comcast.

A thank you from Jim for the new locks at the downtown museum.

Unfinished Business:

Past Perfect 5.0 update – report on the status of Past Perfect 5 update

New Business:

September's General Meeting is in the planning stage. Forks & Fingers is unable to provide the BBQ this year. Jim asked for suggestions for a new vendor.

Committee Reports & Updates

Strategic Plan – Lonnie Karste

- Reviewed the definition, process and schedule
- Reviewed the Mission Statement
- Reviewed the 2012 Strategic Plan
- From a list of ten the Board chose the three most important goals
- *A questionnaire will be sent out to Board members to complete before the next meeting.*

Museum Stores – Pat Johnstone reported on donations and sales at museum stores

Membership – Current paid memberships are 317, overdue 38, life members 85.

September 2017

Unfinished Business:

Strategic Plan – Lonnie Karste presented the results of the questionnaire Board members answered during the month. The top three priorities are:

- Website Presence,
- Engage the local business community and
- Community awareness and visibility

The mission statement was reviewed and discussed

- Where do we want to be in 2 years, 5 years, and 10 years was discussed
- Who is our audience was discussed
- What do we do well was discussed
- Where do we want to improve as an Organization was discussed
- Who do we want to engage as future board members was discussed

New Business:

The calendar for 2018 meetings was distributed by Jim Crumpler

Committee Reports & Updates

Strategic Plan – Lonnie Karste

- Reviewed the definition, process and schedule
- Reviewed the Mission Statement
- Reviewed the 2012 Strategic Plan
- From a list of ten the Board chose the three most important goals (see above)

Hamilton Museum – Ray Dwelly Hamilton Development Association wants to hold a meeting at the museum. The City did not allow it.
Action Item: Ray to follow up with Liz Tran as to why the meeting was not allowed.

A pop up tent was purchased for the General Meeting

October 2017

No minutes were taken at the October Board Meeting due to lack of a quorum. Only Committee Reports were given.

Welcome New Guild Members

Novato Historical Guild Membership Report December 2017

Family Membership

Kathy & Dennis Baldwin
Genevieve Duboscq
Lynn Prime

Please support our Guild Business Members:

Acme 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
Marin Volvo/Saab
McIsaac 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.*



2017 Board Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month

Margaret Todd Senior Center

1560 Hill Road

Time: 1:30- 3:30 PM

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

Guild members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. Please check with the President, Susan Magnone at NHG1850@yahoo.com or 415 897-5705, in case a meeting has been changed.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Jean Johnson

Mary Jeanne Stavish

John Stuber

Rebecca McClelland Wade

The Guild Extends Sympathy to

Judith Robertson on the loss of her sister Jean Johnson

The Stavish family on the loss of Mary Jeanne Stavish

The Stuber family on the loss of John Stuber

Allan Wade on the loss of his wife Rebecca McClelland Wade

Contact Us

Hamilton Field History Museum

Manager: Ray Dwelly

Museum phone: 415-382-8614

Email: Hamilton_museum@att.net

<https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonFieldHistoryMuseum/>

<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/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NovatoHistoryMuseum/>

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.

DOCENTS NEEDED HAMILTON FIELD HISTORY MUSEUM

Contact: Ray Dwelly
(415) 382-8614

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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TIME VALUE



YOU ARE INVITED

General Membership Meeting ~ Novato Historical Guild

**Saturday, December 9, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
at the Margaret Todd Senior Center,
1560 Hill Road, Novato**

Betty Goerke will be giving a talk on some amazing history of Marin

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