

NOVATO HISTORY MUSEUM



Postmaster's House c. 1850
Novato, California

The Novato Historian

The Quarterly Publication of the
Novato Historical Guild and the Novato History Museum
Preserving Novato's History

News Section

Contents © 2008 Novato Historical Guild, Inc.

July-September 2008

The Novato Historian

Volume 32, Number 3

Successful Tours of Novato History Museum and Old Town

By Kay Antongiovanni and Cindy Motsinger

Our third grade tours of Old Town and the History Museum were very successful this year. Seven elementary schools visited the museum and got a feel of what Novato was like one hundred years ago. On the downtown tour, students were able to visit the railroad depot, flat iron building now Morris and Company, black-

smith shop now Dr. Insomnia's, the Carlile building now Solarium and Accents, and many other historical buildings.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our third grade docents, these trips were possible. Janice Bazarro, Mary Bicknell, Celinda Current, Don Edwards, Diana Goebel, Laurie

Gratiot, Bev Jensen, Bobbie Kettler, Anne Lehan, Edna Manzoni, Jim Mc Nern, Archie Patton, John Trumbull, Susan Trumbull, and Bob Wilkinson put in many hours instructing Novato's third graders.

Teacher comments were positive and supportive of our program.

"As usual your program is well organized and informative."—Mrs. M.

"The children loved learning about how it used to be in school."—Mrs. B.

"The inside tour was very thor-

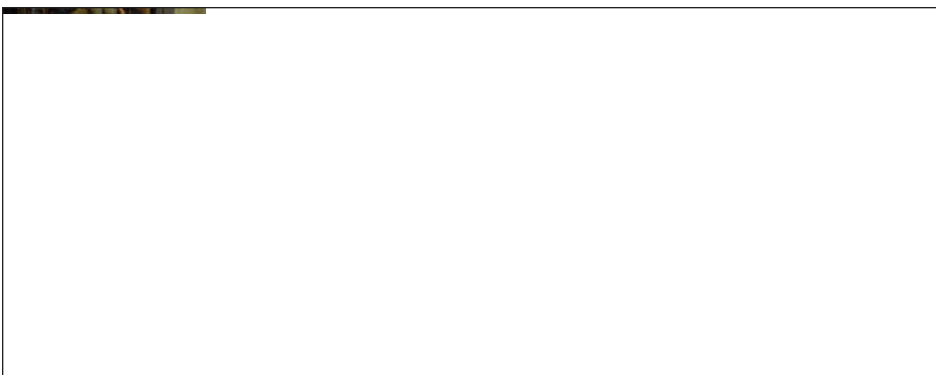
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OLD TIMERS' DAY

Eighteen members of the 1958 Marion School 8th grade graduating class were honored guests at the Novato Historical Guild's Old Timers' Day on May 31. This year the event was held at Druid's Hall and Board President, Jim McNern, said that he received a lot of positive feedback from members and guests.

Sue Stafford Davis and Pat Baseheart Vachini did a great job co-hosting the celebration and got all of their classmates to speak at the microphone. All of them had fond memories of growing up in a small town where everyone knew everyone else.

The Guild provided an excellent buffet lunch of roll-up sandwiches, fruit, and broccoli salad with wine and punch.



1958 Marion School graduates: (left to right-standing) Mary Jane Guerra, Gail (Croissant) Pace, David Johnson, Chris Berkov, Sue (Stafford) Davis, Larry Hale, John Cook, Joan (Whitten) Fischer, Clifford Craig, Carmelan (Regalia) Raab, Pat (Baseheart) Vachini; (left to right-seated) Barbara Gustafson, Donna Fischer (1957), Lovey (Craig) Jones, Joan (Fischer) Stone, Dorinda (Dustman) Raisanen, Pat (Keena) Wharton, Judy (Rush) Immel.

Coming Events!

Saturday, Sept. 6, noon

General Meeting
Druid's Hall LUNCHEON

Monday, Sept. 8, 1 p.m.

Board Meeting
Novato Police Training Room

Monday, Oct. 13, 1 p.m.

Board Meeting
Novato Police Training Room

Monday, Nov. 10, 1 p.m.

Board Meeting
Novato Police Training Room

Monday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m.

Board Meeting
Novato Police Training Room

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m.

General Meeting &
Holiday Party
Margaret Todd Senior Center

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.

Novato Historical Guild 2008 Officers

President	Jim McNern
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Pat Johnstone	Pat Willat

Typography, Composition, Layout

Mike Clancy

City of Novato Staff

Community Services Division Manager
Kathy Graves

Museum Curator

Samantha Kimpel

Original articles and photographs related to Novato history are welcomed!

Deadline for Dec. issue is Nov. 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, 75 Rowland Way, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94945.



President's Corner

by Jim McNern

President, Novato Historical Guild

The "Margaret 'Peg' Coady Research Room" located upstairs in the Novato History Museum is a rich repository of interesting and valuable historical material related to the history of Novato and Marin County.

The room contains a variety of material including old maps and deeds; bound copies of the Novato Advance dating back to 1924; yearbooks from San Rafael High School from the 1920's and from the early years of Novato and San Marin High Schools. There are obituaries dating back to the late 1800's; Novato Cemetery records; pictures, documents and memorabilia from pioneer Novato families. There are also ranch and agricultural records and historical documents from Novato clubs and organizations, as well as old videos with images dating to 1939.

My favorite document is the old ledger from the Novato Theater (1947-1955) donated by Al Bowman that lists the names and dates of every movie shown and the cash receipts each one brought in, as well as the weekly and monthly cash receipts. If you have a few hours to spend, come to the museum and check out these Novato treasures.

We are looking forward to the release of the Guild's book on Hamilton Field on September 8. The book is being published by Arcadia Press and will be available at the museum and major book stores.

The Guild is planning a "Book Release Party" out at Hamilton on Saturday, October 11 from 12 to 4 p.m.

Our September general meeting is Saturday, September 6 in the Druids Hall. Lunch will be served at 12 o'clock. There will be a nominal fee of \$5.00 to cover the cost of lunch. The speaker at the meeting will be archeologist and anthropologist Betty Goerke, author of the book *Chief Marin: Leader, Rebel, Legend*.

Novato Tours

Continued from Page N-1

ough and we all enjoyed the interactive activities."—Mrs. M.

"We love your docents. The stories bring our curriculum to life."—Mrs. W.

"I really appreciate your time, knowledge, and energy. The students really enjoyed the day and learned a lot."—Mrs. C.

Third graders were also enthusiastic about the tour.

"I thought it was really cool how we had booklets and matched the picture from the booklet to the real thing."—Katherine

"I learned that the cows swallowed a magnet in order to collect all the nails or wire in the cow's first stomach so the cow wouldn't die."—Tony

"The blacksmith's shop was a place where you could make horseshoes, decorations, frames, barbwire, and rakes. They didn't have cars. They had carriages."—Graham

"I liked looking in Grandmother's Trunk. I learned a lot about Novato."—Shannon

"Thank you for giving us a tour and teaching us about what Novato was like a long time ago."—Keilah

We want to keep this program alive so future students will be able to learn about the history of Novato. We need more docents to ensure that this happens.

If you are interested in being a third grade docent, contact Cindy Motsinger at 897-4881.



Novato—50 Years Ago

(July, August, September 1958)

by Bill Almeida and Pat Willat

“Novato—50 Years Ago” is a collection of items culled by Bill Almeida from the July, August and September issues of the Novato Advance newspapers in the collection of the Novato History Museum and Microfilm at the Novato Library. Pat Willat retypes the articles for the newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading the names and happenings of 1958.

1The Liquor Mart at 1403 Grant Avenue is changing hands. Al Carlos, the new owner, is a former partner in the Pozzi Concrete Company on Redwood Highway. The ownership change will take place in about 60 days.

1Joan Smith and Karl E. Olson were married by Rev. Howard Swartz on June 29 at the Novato Presbyterian Church. The bride is well known in Novato as a beautician in Wyonne’s Beauty Shop. The young couple honeymooned at Lake Tahoe.

1One of the most unusual elevator-lifts opened in early July at Indian Valley Golf Course. Running from the 13th green to the 14th tee, the elevator-on-rails will transport four golfers and their carts and clubs up the hill in about three minutes time.

1Joan Marzell was elected president of the Novato Aggie 4-H Club at the last meeting of the season. Others elected were Mimi Baccaglio, vice president; Linda Dimmick, recording secretary; Elisa Malone, corresponding secretary and Martin Baccaglio, treasurer. The retiring club leader for this year, Frank Smaw, thanked the club for their cooperation and announced the new leaders for next year as Mrs. Jo Baccaglio and Reno Pronzini.

1Two boys and a dog decided to take a swim in Stafford Lake on July 7, a hot day. They were quickly

ordered out by William Melson, water plant employee, but the boys resented his interference with their swim and refused to get out until Melson called the sheriff’s office. The boys and the dog had fled the scene by the time the deputy sheriff arrived at the lake.

1The Black Point Improvement Club was expecting an interesting debate July 11 on the proposed school tax rate increase. The protagonists were to be Leo Mindling, member of the Novato school board, and Paul Brindel, well-known foe of Novato Schools.

1One of the nation’s most distinguished trainers of fine show horses died in Novato on July 14. He was Ross Maxwell, 78, who had made his home at 2030 Hatch Road for the past nine years. Maxwell was known throughout the United States as “a genius with horses.” Horses had been shipped to him for training from all over the nation. Owners have sent him their finest animals, giving him freedom of discretion as to how and for what purpose they should be trained.

1Opening for business on July 23 was Novato’s latest commercial enterprise, “The Carousel,” a softie ice cream drive-in at 7441 Redwood Highway between Olive and Vallejo Streets. In addition to sundaes, sodas, floats, shakes and cones, “The Carousel” will also serve hamburgers and hot dogs at the competitive drive-in price of 24 cents.

1New postage rates went into effect August 1. First class mail (letters) went to 4 cents an ounce; airmail to 7 cents; postcards to 3 cents. Postage rates for second and third class mail were also increased according to Postmaster James Morris.

1Rebecca and Robert Mc-Clelland repeated their many wins of the Sonoma County Fair at the Sonoma-Marin 4th District Agricultural Fair on July 31. Rebecca garnered 7 first places in cooking while Robert came home with 12 firsts in the dairy cattle division.

1The Novato Chamber of Commerce board of directors went on record Aug. 14 as opposed to the proposed Safeway shopping center. Location of the planned commercial district is the 11 acres bounded by Diablo Avenue, Hwy 101, and Novato Creek, opposite the telephone building and the Texaco gas station on Diablo. Traffic problems were cited as the main objection.

1The first graduation class of seniors is attending Novato High School this year. Opening of school September 10 will mark the end of the shift that began three years ago with gradual introduction of classes into Novato High School. High school enrollment is expected to go over 600, Principal Robert McKeay has reported.

1Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Fredrickson of 1632 Center Road announced the engagement of their daughter, Ann Elizabeth, to Herbert Dwight Bruner. “Buzz,” as the future bridegroom is known has served in the Marine Corps and is now attending Colorado State University. The bride-elect is completing her senior year at San Jose State College. Wedding plans are indefinite.

1The new high level bridge across Petaluma Creek at Black Point on state highway 37 will be ready for traffic in approximately three weeks, B. W. Booker, Assistant State Highway engineer, said on August 22.

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Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

April 2008

New Business — Mike Silva gave an update on the renovation of the Grant Avenue Water Tower into a modern use facility. The project should be completed in a few weeks. Located on Scown Lane, the water tower was once part of Novato's fire protection and water supply source.

901 Sherman Ave. Project — Yvette Jackson reported that the EIR has run into some delays, but is scheduled to move forward to the City Council on May 14. There will be a 45 day review period and then it will be sent back to the City Council on July 8. The current estimated start date for the project is Oct. 1, 2008.

Curator's Report — Samantha Kimpel reported that an intern was hired to work, over the summer, for 20 hours a week. He graduated with a degree in History from Sonoma State University and has experience working in archives.

Hamilton Museum — Ray Dwelly reported that on April 1. Page Construction began work on the abatement project and that this phase should be completed by April 15. Ray requested the use of some of the allocated funds now so he could piggyback an order for materials with an order that Page Construction was placing. This would allow for materials for the interior to be purchased at contractor's cost. A motion was made and passed unanimously.

May 2008

Old Business — Kathy Graves reported that a work order to remove the flagpole in the front courtyard of the museum was submitted to the City.

Curator's Report — Samantha Kimpel was asked if the museum would be interested in accepting artifacts that relate to the Renaissance Pleasure Faire which began in Black

Point in 1968. She is still in the discussion phase to determine the size of the collection along with storage and financial requirements.

A glossy updated brochure about the Novato History Museum will be prepared and printed using City of Novato publicity funds.

Samantha has also been approached regarding a reunion for Hamilton Field retirees. She wants to formalize a list of qualified Hamilton Field speakers.

Oral Histories — Jim McNern

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New Note Card at Museum Gift Shoppe

By Pat Johnstone

The latest addition to our inventory is a high-quality card with a beautiful picture taken in autumn of last year of the Novato History Museum. The photo was taken by Novato City Council member, Jeanne MacLeamy, who had the cards printed up and then kindly donated them to the Museum to sell. This is the second card that Jeanne donated to the Museum – the first card had a photo of Novato City Hall. The cards sell for \$2.50. All proceeds from the sales of these cards will benefit the Historic Building Restoration in Novato.

We also received a new shipment of sweatshirts that have Novato History Museum and a picture of the Postmaster's House on the front. These Hanes comfort-blend sweatshirts are 50% cotton/50% polyester and come in Denim Blue and Deep Forest, size S, M, L, and XL. They sell for \$20.00

If you are a supporting or Life Member, please let us know so that you will receive your 10% discount on all items you purchase from the Gift Shoppe.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE ADDITIONS

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.

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. By donating appreciated stock investments, you will:

- avoid capital gains taxes,
- receive a sizeable charitable deduction, and
- support the Guild in "preserving Novato's history."

Plaques cost \$250 per person named.

In Memoriam

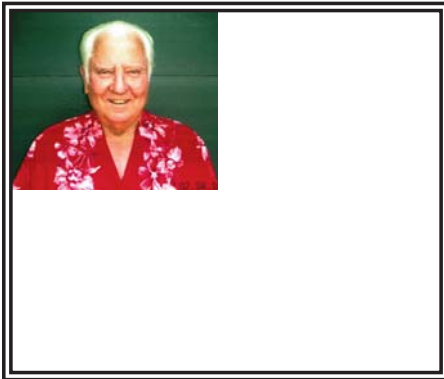
The Guild mourns the loss of the following members:

Donald Koors
Dante Panfiglio

The Guild
Extends Sympathy to
Nancy Koors on the death of her husband **Donald Kathleen Panfiglio** on the death of her husband **Dante**

Novato Memories

by Jim McNern



Paul Scheller

Paul Scheller was born July 21, 1931 in San Francisco. His parents were immigrants from Switzerland. They moved to Novato in 1933. Paul was a member of the 1945 graduating class from Novato Grammar School. He has lived in Novato most of his life and has been a very successful building contractor. Paul shares his Novato memories in this September issue of the Novato Historian. Paul remembers:

1 Living on the F Ranch at the end of Vineyard Road and at 1890 Marion Avenue with his parents Albert and Anna Scheller and his brother Erwin (who is 20 months older and who now lives in Germany).

1 The Scheller family raised all of their own food. Everything they ate came off the property and garden including: tomatoes, carrots, onions, artichokes, asparagus, cauliflower, raspberries, loganberries, strawberries, blackberries and a huge variety of fruit from their own trees. They had 2 dairy cows, goats, beef animals and 600 chickens.

1 Life in Novato in the 1930's was difficult. His dad milked cows in the morning and then would go to Bodega Bay to buy fresh fish that he would bring back to sell in town.



From the Staff Desk

by Samantha Kimpel
Museum Curator

On the Horizon

We were happy to hire James McCabe (who has nearly completed his Master's degree in history from Sonoma State University), to assist us this summer to work on the inventory of the museum collection. James has been assigning storage locations to each object in our collection and adding the information into our museum database.

The next phase of the project will be to upload photographs of all the objects to the database to ensure that items are accurately and easily identified. Our goal for next year is to have the database collection available on the museum website so that researchers (from historians to genealogists to students) can easily search for items.

Upcoming Programs

Mark your calendars for October 11, 2008 and watch your mail: an

invitation will be mailed to all guild members to help us celebrate the publishing of a new Arcadia Images of America book, *Hamilton Field*, authored by a team of Guild members.

For this winter, I have been working with staff members of the Margaret Todd Senior Center to plan some collaborative programs between the Center and the Museum. We'd love to start an historical biography reading group – please contact me if you have interest in either moderating or participating in the group. We are also planning a memory book project that grandparents and grandchildren can work on together. If anyone has led classes in scrapbooking, journaling, or creative book arts, we would love to hear your input on the development of this class.

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His family spoke Swiss German at home.

1 There was much suspicion of German-speaking immigrants during the war years. One day Constable Fred Nave drove up the driveway to check on a report he had received from a neighbor that the Schellers were sending messages to the enemy. It turned out that they had seen a hanging light in the pumphouse that was flickering.

1 He stopped speaking German in the late 1930's after kids at school started calling him a Nazi.

1 Attending Novato Grammar School and having Edna Baccaglio, Miss Walsh, Iva Busher, Katherine Steele and Lulu Sutton as his teachers.

1 When he was in Miss Baccaglio's first grade the class performed the

play, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." George Paladini was Bashful, Bob Robertson was Doc, and Joan Frost was Snow White.

1 His classmates and friends: Bob Mattos, Don Azevedo, John Westlund, Joan Frost, Leland and Bobby Kidder, George Paladini, Red James, Annie Bormolini, Marlene Miller, Bob Robertson, Bob Manzoni, Bill and Eddie Almeida and Bill and Frosty Wright.

1 Dressing up in costumes for Halloween and trick-or-treating around town. Much of the candy was home made, so no one ever worried about the candy they received. There was no violence - but sometimes out-houses were overturned as a prank.

1 Children exchanged valentines with their classmates in class. Kids always wore green to school on

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Novato—50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N-3

The new four-lane bridge replaces the existing two-lanes to a width of 21 feet between curbs. The new 2200 foot long structure consists of reinforced concrete prestressed, precast deck units on 200 ton bearing pile bents, with a center steel span 165 feet long, 70 feet above the water. Note: The bridge did open to traffic on September 3 at 10 a.m.

1 Our Lady of Loretto School opened its doors to 140 boys and girls September 3. The girls were attired in red plaid jumpers, with blouses, white shoes, and navy blue sweaters. The boys were in grey corduroys, white short-sleeve shirts, navy blue sweaters and dark shoes. Three classes of first, second and third grades are now in session. Eventually classes up through eighth grade will be organized.

1 Food Fair, on Front Street, was advertising Chuck Roast at 45 cents a lb.; fresh sole at 59 cents a lb.; 3 bars of Lux toilet soap for 29 cents; pot pies, 5 for 99 cents; short ribs at 49 cents a lb.

1 The Marin Golf Club officially opened its doors September 20. The

course is located a mile from U. S. Hwy 101, behind the Loma Verde subdivision. It is an 18-hole layout measuring 6614 yards from the center tees, and is a par 72. Ten holes have water hazards to contend with.

1 All Novato was buzzing this week as an aftermath of Novato High's tremendous 48-13 victory over an outclassed Drake High football team on Sept. 19 at San Rafael. But whether they're really "big league" will be settled Sept. 26 when they meet San Rafael High on the Big Red's home grounds. It is a "warm-up game" before the Hornets take on 5 rivals in their own Section II of the North Bay League.

1 Paul Terry, Novato insurance broker, opened a new office in downtown Novato on July 7. The location, formerly occupied by the Chamber of commerce, is 7373 Redwood Highway. Terry handles all types of insurance policies.

1 The new half-million gallon water storage tank on Lynwood Heights went into operation on July 15. The tank will supply increased water pressure through all of southern Novato,

except certain higher level points in Forest Park, from Holiday Manor up through Oakview, Westridge, Marin Village, and adjacent areas. When the peak water need diminishes in the fall, the tank will be emptied and painted inside and out with a protective coating, according to A.T. McLaughlin, manager of the water district.

1 The Marin Planning Commission approved a 60-unit trailer court to be built on the north side of Olive Avenue, next to the existing El Novato Motel and Trailer Park on U. S. Highway 101. Seeking the application was David Bellucci, who told the Advance the trailer court would represent a \$90,000 investment. Bellucci expected to have the project under construction by the first of the year.

1 Back in Novato sun-tanned and healthy after 2½ years in Saudi Arabia as an engineer, William Q. "Bill" Wright, Jr., former supervisor here and Novato rancher since 1937, was amazed at the recent growth of his old community. He cited the building of two golf courses as the town's "outstanding developments" during his sojourn in the Middle East. He and his wife, Eleanor, traveled 16,000 miles on their return to the states and counted no less than 22 countries on the way back.

1 Ernest Vogel, Novato's leading junk man, was given three weeks to clean up his establishment at Reichert and Grant Avenues to conform to the fire ordinances. His shop has been regarded as a fire hazard for some time by Fire Chief George Cavallero.

1 Local Woman Wins Car In Jingle Contest. Mrs. Arthur d'Ambrogio of 1871 Virginia Avenue, will take delivery of a brand new Simca Sedan in mid September. She won the car by submitting the best jingle during August in a radio station Calso contest. Her husband, Arthur, is a clerk at Ascherman's Grocery in Novato.

Novato's Treasures

DRUID'S HALL

Druid's Hall located at the corner of Grant and Reichert Avenues opened in 1899 as "Loustaunau's Hall." In 1937 the Druids purchased the old hotel. The building was remodeled for use as a meeting place and social hall.



Welcome New Guild Members

May 1 through July 31, 2008

Individual Memberships:

Jack Burgi
Madeline R. Kellner
Michelle Lafevre-Bernt
Ron Lear
Margaret Mills
Gail Pace
Carmelan Raab
Toni Shroyer
Susan Stafford Davis

Family Memberships:

Deede and Fred Sand

Life Memberships:

Valerie Schwindt Anderson
Clifford Craig
Patricia D. Eklund
Richard Schwindt

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.

Staff Desk

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New Volunteers

We welcomed four new volunteers to our roster this summer. Debbie Lynch is a resident of Hamilton, and is interested in helping to develop walking tours and docenting at the Hamilton Field Museum. Aaron Bae, a history student at Baylor University, assisted us this summer with collection inventory. Leslie Apperson is a San Marin High School student, and has been working on inventory of the historical photograph collection. Finally, our newest docent is Alex Britton, who will be an 8th grader at Our Lady of Loretto this fall. Alex was a docent at the Clayton Museum before moving to Novato last year.

Board Highlights

Continued from Page N-4

asked about purchasing a digital recorder for the Museum. It would make recording an oral history easier and the file could be attached to the Museum's database rather than kept as a separate file.

Hamilton Museum — Mike Silva reported that the abatement work at the Museum was completed and that other renovations are now in process. Concrete for the floor is scheduled to be poured on May 14. Rough plumbing for the restrooms are completed

June 2008

New Business — Jim McNern initiated a discussion about the potential removal of artifacts from the Novato Theatre. Kathy Graves will check to see if the Board can tour the theatre next month.

Publication date for the Hamilton Book is Sept. 8. It was suggested that a launch party be planned and volunteers will be needed. If you can help, please call the Museum.

Curator's Report — Samantha Kimpel said that we need a more formalized Oral History Program and suggested using the guidelines that are published by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Hamilton Museum — Ray Dwelly reported that as of June 16 an additional \$100,000 would be needed from the City to keep the project going. This will bring the City's investment close to \$900,000. Ray visits the site daily to field questions and provide resolution to problems.

July 2008

New Business — Samantha Kimpel asked for volunteers to meet to review and update the strategic plan for the Hamilton Museum. Six Board Members volunteered and a meeting date was set.

Sarbanes-Oxley Act — Diane Campbell advised the Board that this Act was originally enacted for public company compliance in response to on-going issues related to fraud and accounting irregularities. The law

now applies to non-profit organizations in California. The Finance Committee will meet to review the requirements of this Act and to develop a plan to propose to the Board on how the Guild can come into compliance.

Hamilton Field Book — Publication date is still September 8. Motion: that the Guild commits to an initial order of 400 books when the first order is permitted to be placed. Passed without opposition.

Curator's Report — Samantha reported that the collections inventory project is moving along nicely. She also spoke about using technology to create virtual exhibits which would allow viewing of the Museum's artifact & photo collections without having to come into the Museum. She will purchase the software to make this possible. She also noted that the accession policy must be revised to include the Hamilton Museum collection.

Hamilton Museum — Fire line plumbing is being run from the street to the museum and all of the concrete surrounding the building was removed. Grading around the building has begun and walkways should be poured next week. The interior ramp is built but modifications were required to the original plan. October 23 is the deadline for the contractor to complete his part of the build-out.

n
Happy
50th Anniversary
to
Karl and Joan
Olson

Betty Goerke Featured Speaker at Guild September General Meeting



Betty Goerke

anthropologist Betty Goerke who has been a long-time archaeology and anthropology instructor at the College of Marin. She will present an illustrated lecture about the namesake of our

Did you know that Marin County is named after Coast Miwok Chief Marin?

The guest speaker for our September Guild meeting will be archaeologist and anthropologist and

county, Chief Marin. He is the subject of her new book, *Chief Marin: Leader, Rebel, Legend*. Her book was 28 years in the making. Using mission records, ethnographies, explorers' and missionaries' diaries and correspondence and other material, Betty Goerke has pieced together a fascinating portrait of Chief Marin and the Coast Miwok people.

Besides writing this book, Betty Goerke has conducted archaeological fieldwork in California, Colorado, Greece, Holland, Kenya, and India; authored other books; written articles; and produced several video tapes.

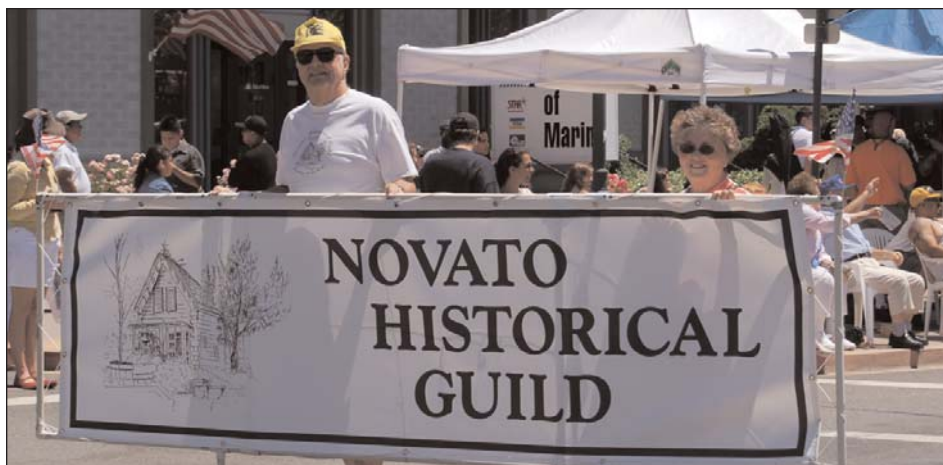
Guild Board member and museum volunteer Cindy Motsinger took a class through Dominican University given by Betty Goerke on Chief Marin. She highly recommends attending this lecture to hear the expertise and incredible knowledge Goerke has of Chief Marin and the Coast Miwoks. You will get a sense of California during Chief Marin's time: the sights, smells, and sounds of the land; the traditions the Coast Miwok fought to preserve; and the colonial system against which Marin and other Native American leaders struggled to keep their way of life. Cindy says that this is a speaker not to be missed!

A review of the book by Beth Ashley of the Marin Independent Journal states the following:

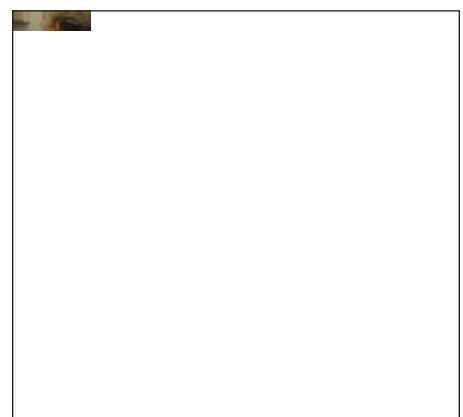
"With meticulous research and lively prose, Betty Goerke tells the true story of one group of California Natives overwhelmed by a century of change, and of one of their chiefs, Marin, whose intelligence, skills, and independent spirit epitomized his people's yearning to be free."

Betty Goerke's book will be available for purchase during her appearance at our meeting. She will sign copies of it for you as well.

We hope to see you there.



Top; John Trumbull and Edna Manzoni carry the Guild's banner in Novato's annual Fourth of July Parade. Right behind them was our float carrying photos of historical Novato figures and several members of the Guild in festive patriotic dress.



Pat Baseheart Vachini and Sue Stafford Davis did a fine job co-hosting our very successful Old Timers' Day celebration at our last general meeting..

Growing Up in Novato, Circa 1950's

By Pat Baseheart Vachini

Pat's memories are continued from our last issue.

Novato was growing. Grant School was closed and a brand new Marion Street School was opened for my 3rd grade year. Tamalpais Avenue wasn't connected to Grant Avenue yet so I had to walk all the way around to get to school. I loved it, especially on rainy days when we all jumped in every puddle wearing our big black galoshes. The teacher had to pull off each and every child's boots on every rainy morning!

On Saturday mornings, I walked along Grant Avenue to Our Lady of Loretto church (now Cacti Restaurant) to attend catechism. Afterwards, if I was lucky enough to have a quarter, I would walk across Highway 101 with my friends and stand in line to see a cartoon, a serial and a movie at the Novato Theater. A dime would buy a bag of popcorn and for a nickel I could buy a 3 Musketeers or Snickers bar.

Every Christmas, the Novato Fire Department on Grant Avenue had a Santa Claus and we stopped at the station to tell him what we wanted for Christmas and collected an orange and a candy cane (on that Saturday, we didn't need popcorn at the movies).

Our Brownie meetings were also held at the Fire Station every Wednesday after school. Kathy Hughes' mother was our leader. I also remember Girl Scout meetings at the Community House and singing and dancing many times upon the stage. Nancy Moore's mother, a saint, led our troop until we were freshmen.

On Halloween, we painted the store front windows with ghosts and pumpkins and at Christmas time we sang carols in Mr. Ferrarese's bank and were also on the radio. What a thrill!

By fifth grade I was in another brand new school—Hill Street School. We wrote a musical play called "A Musical History of the U.S.A." From the American Revolution and the time of George Washington to present day 1955 and the beginnings of rock and roll, our class learned U.S. History, English, writing, music and dances in a wonderful year led by our innovative, cross-curricular teacher, Bill Jones. Although he left teaching shortly after, we still stay in

Growing up in Novato

By Sue Stafford Davis

Sue's memories are continued from our last issue.

In third grade, classes moved to Marion or Olive School. Marion was only a few blocks from my house and I was able to ride my blue Schwinn bike to school. Our routines were simple - school, then home or to ballet or music lessons, then play until dinner. On weekends, we left our homes early to go play with our friends - Mom telling us to be home by dark! My memories of early days at Marion: having four different teachers in the third grade (something about mental break-downs!) learning to dance the fox trot to "April in Paris," the Halloween costume parades around the playground, having my minister's wife, Mrs. Swartz as my 4th grade teacher, and being lucky to have Mrs. Estes for 5th and 6th grade - she knew all my tricks, but I knew hers as well!

Once I was old enough I joined 4-H

touch with this inspiring, creative man.

I walked everywhere in Novato since my mother didn't drive. She warned me about taking a ride with strangers and after that, there was no need to worry. Every other Saturday afternoon we walked to the old Novato Library, again from Novato Blvd. all the way to the end of Grant Avenue. On the way, we'd stop to buy a honey bar at the little bakery near the library or a coke at the soda fountain at the corner drugstore currently occupied by today's Marin Trophy. At Ben Franklins, I bought handkerchiefs for my dad and "Evening of Paris" perfume for my mom for Father's and Mother's days.

By 7th and 8th grade, I was back at Marion School. Mr. Ernie Mareck was my 7th grade teacher and he encouraged us to become involved in student government and activities. I excelled in the latter. I pantomimed Teresa Brewer's "Sweet Old Fashioned Girl" at the talent show and was forever labeled! In Mrs. Larish's choir, we square danced, had sock hops, cheered for the boy's teams and started wearing rings around our necks. Among a trio of vivid memories are Sue Stafford & I taking a shortcut to school through the creek and me falling in, burning our lunch bags on the playground one day (we weren't caught) and stopping after school at Womack's

and chuch groups. I got to see some old friends from Grant School who had gone to Olive. In 4-H, I learned the basics of cooking and sewing, but I have to admit I hated those demonstrations we had to do and those annual 4-H Reports! My church group met at Trevitt Hall and was really my first boy-girl social events. About this time, I recall going to dance cotillion in the lower room of the Community House.

When I was in 5th grade, tragedy hit my family when my father died unexpectedly of a heart attack. Needless to say, this event was life altering, but what I remember most was the outpouring of love and support from the community. I was so proud when they named the new dam after my father and planted a grove of trees at Marion School in his memory. My mom sold our home and the practice and we moved to Los Alondras Court.

Continued on Page N-10

Variety Store for candy.

Western Weekend was the highlight of the year. By now we had freedom to do as we pleased and up and down Grant we paraded, sometimes actually IN the parade! At the carnival, we went on all the rides until we were sick and when it got dark we walked home.

In 8th grade, Mr. Gragg mentored us through the CONSTITUTION test, the school newspaper, and a more "sophisticated attitude." My dad drove my mom and I to San Rafael to buy my graduation dress because I couldn't find one to my liking at our usual Novato store, Tot-and-Teen, the only kid's store in town!

In 1959, as freshmen at the newly-constructed Novato High School, the class of '62 was destined to become the first class to attend all 4 years. Michael Stafford scared me to death all summer with his threat of "freshman initiation." Wearing our black-and-gold beanies we survived and thrived. The positive energy, the enthusiasm, youthful optimism and the spirit of building new traditions forever bonded us together as a school, community and people. Today, 50 years later, these memories of happy, simple, golden days growing up in Novato make me realize how blessed I've been! I treasure my old Novato friends more with each passing year.

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-5

St. Patrick's Day, even though most of them were Italian or Portuguese.

1 Classrooms at Novato Grammar School and the stores in town were always decorated for Christmas.

1 Miss Sutton was a strict disciplinarian and a wonderful human being. Everyone knew she was the authority figure at Novato Grammar School. The parents supported the teachers. The worst thing that could happen would be for Miss Sutton to call your parents to report a problem at school. She was a master marble player and supported all sports. Lulu Sutton ran a great school.

1 If you wanted to go somewhere in town, you either walked or rode your bike. Parents didn't drive you around.

1 Spending lots of time on Mt. Burdell pushing big boulders down from the quarry and watching them crash into trees and other things down below.

1 Seeing lots of wildlife on Mt.

Burdell including: bobcats, deer, raccoons, skunks, possums, ducks, geese, horned owls and a wide variety of birds.

1 Miss Sutton had a game called "Bombardment" that was lots of fun. You were in teams and tried to knock posts down with balls.

1 Jack Louie was the only non-caucasian that attended Novato Grammar School.

1 Skinnydipping in the swimming holes in Novato Creek. Boys also swam in another swimming hole down near Diablo.

1 The day a group of actors and actresses who were filming a movie at Hamilton drove down Simmons Lane in their fancy cars and stopped after seeing them swimming and then joined them for a swim in the creek. (They wore swim suits.)

1 His neighbors: the Kellas, MacPhearsons, Kikers, Giaris, Azevedos, Palmers, Lobaughs,

Paladinis, Verhoniks, Christies, Mrs. Dinsmore, Stroehs, and the Kidder and Frost families on Feliz Road.

1 Dick Christie raising racing pigeons at his place on Leese Lane.

1 The family sold milk to Andy Anderson. When Mrs. Scheller offered Andy a glass of wine - he'd always say, "Just a toothful."

1 The family made wine every year.

1 Graduating from Novato Grammar School in June of 1945.

1 Catching the San Rafael High School bus each morning at Virginia and Simmons Lane.

1 His first car was a 1938 Ford Coupe.

1 Poaching deer on Mt. Burdell.

1 Duck hunting with Leo and Julius Zunino in the marsh off Novato Creek and Highway 37.

1 Hunting pheasants on Wilson Avenue in front of the Trumbull Ranch.

1 Selling mushrooms he picked on Mt. Burdell and watercress picked on the Trumbull property to neighbors.

1 Earning money by picking prunes and pears on the Guth Ranch. The women were the fastest pickers.

1 Baling hay for five summers for Holly Tiedemann and Manuel Brazil with Aldo Paladini, George Bernard, Dave Walker, Don Evans and Pete Butti. They would bale 40 tons of hay a day and there would be 7 or 8 guys working on the baler.

1 Getting up every morning at 5 o'clock to bale hay and earning 30 cents a ton, which would usually add up to \$12. a day.

1 Watching the 1945 Pini fire from the top of Marion hill.

1 Bruno Schultz was the self-appointed "street mayor" of Novato. He stood guard after the Pini fire to make sure no one rifled through the

Sue's Memories

Continued from Page N-9

The 7th and 8th grades were big stuff at Marion—you got to go to different classrooms for different subjects. We had classes like shop and choir - subjects we hadn't been offered in grammar school. I was so afraid of entering the 8th grade because we had to pass a test on the U.S. Constitution to move on to high school. I worried all year about that test! I had Mr. Gragg for homeroom and he hated the word "shut-up." If he caught you saying it, you would have to write "I will not say "shut-up" 500 times. Well, I must have written that sentence a million times that year—but to this day, I rarely say "shut-up." Other outstanding memories: watching our art teacher Mrs. Bizzard take "refreshments" from her bottom desk drawer, watching Sputnik on TV in Mr. Larson's science class, dances in the auditorium, sitting outside of Mr. Farris' office during lunch break for some infraction of the rules and the 8th grade graduation at the new high school.

My social life was my core of neigh-

borhood, school, 4-H, and church friends. We had a wonderful time playing neighborhood baseball, exploring the creek, slumber parties and visiting Taylor's Variety. In the summers, I would enjoy 4-H camp in the mountains near St. Helena and church camp.

It is hard to believe that this is the 50th anniversary of my 8th grade graduation - the memories are so vivid. As I wrote down each memory, it helped me recall even more, but I was limited in space. Growing up in a small town is a wonderful foundation for your later years. I'm delighted to say I still have friends today that I grew up with and went to school in Novato. Our loving parents, dedicated school teachers, 4-H and church mentors, town folk who kept an eye on you all helped form the person I am today. When I'm with my grandchildren, I often wish I could give them an early childhood like mine in Novato. Since I can't do that, I give them the next best thing - exciting stories of Grandma's "escapades" in Novato!

Continued on Page N-11

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-10

debris and removed anything.

1 Running Milton Rodoni's service station during his senior year of high school, working 30 hours a week, and earning \$1.00 an hour.

1 The time Bruce Askim, who was a night fireman, encouraged him to use gasoline and shavings to clean the

service bay at the station. A huge fire erupted engulfing the place in flames and causing the paint to drop down from the ceiling. Milt Rodoni looked up at the ceiling one day and said, "I see there's been a fire."

1 The 101 Cafe and Town Club Bar next to the gas station.

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Due to space constraints we will have to finish Paul Scheller's memories in our next issue.

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