



Holiday Fun on the Horizon

On Saturday, December 13, the Novato Historical Guild will hold its General Meeting and Holiday Party. There will be delicious refreshments provided by Guild volunteers and traditional holiday music by the Rob Sundberg Combo. There will be a

short business meeting to elect a new Board of Directors for 2009, and to present the budget for the new year.

For the seventh consecutive year, the Guild will be collecting canned food for the needy of Novato. The canned food will be donated to the

Novato Human Needs Center. The collection will take place at the General Meeting on Saturday, December 13, at the Margaret Todd Senior Center starting at 1 p.m. An extra ticket will be given for the door prizes for each can donated.

Hamilton Field Book a Huge Success!



Jim McNern, Pat Johnstone and Dan Johnstone manned the Guild's booth at the Hamilton Hometown Festival on September 21. The Guild made \$526 that day selling the new Hamilton Field book. See "Staff Desk" for more info.

Coming Events!

**Friday & Saturday,
December 5 & 6**

Holiday Crafts Faire

Margaret Todd Senior Center

Saturday, December 13, 1 p.m.

General Meeting,

Election of Officers & Holiday Party

Margaret Todd Senior Center

Monday, December 8, 1 p.m.

Board Meeting

Druids Hall

Monday, January 12, 1 p.m.

Board Meeting

Police Department Training Room

Monday, February 9, 1 p.m.

Board Meeting

Police Department Training Room

Saturday, March 7, 1 p.m.

General Meeting

Margaret Todd Senior Center

Monday, March 9, 1 p.m.

Board Meeting

Police Department Training Room

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
- Vice President** Anna Young
- Secretary** Diane Campbell
- Treasurer** Charlotte Urban
- Board of Directors**
- Dick Altman Stephen Schwindt
- Cindy Motsinger Pat Johnstone
- Edna Manzoni Yvette Jackson
- Mike Silva Cathrin van den Toorn
- Ron Vela Mike Read

Honorary Historian

Eleonora Lafranchi

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- Finance** Anna Young
- Fund Raising** Anna Young
- Gift Store** Pat Johnstone
- Grants** Edna Manzoni
- Hamilton Museum** Mike Silva
- Hospitality** Diana Goebel
- Edna Manzoni
- Bill Almeida
- Mailing** Edna Manzoni
- Membership** Edna Manzoni
- Nominating** Ron Vela
- Oral History** Nikki Gothelf
- Publicity** Pending appointment
- Public Outreach** Cathrin van den Toorn
- School Tours** Janice Bazurto
- Anne Lehan
- Cindy Motsinger
- Anna Morrison
- Sunshine**
- Volunteer Scheduler** Ida Kohl

Newsletter Editorial Board

- Bill Almeida Jim McNern
- 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 March issue is February 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

It's hard to believe that the year 2008 is coming to an end. We have had a successful year at the museum with many new visitors coming in to learn about the history of Novato and to view the exhibits. We've had numerous people come in to do research. Our great team of volunteer docents are what make the museum so successful.

The Guild's greatest achievement this year has been the publication of the new book on Hamilton Field. We are pleased with the reception the book is receiving and how well it is selling. We had two events out at Hamilton where the Guild introduced the book to Hamilton residents: one was the booth at the Hamilton Hometown Festival in September, and the other was our Book Release Party on October 11.

Our yearly membership drive is now under way. Several Guild board members recently gave a presentation to the Novato Horsemen to generate interest in Novato's equine history and to solicit new members.

My term as Guild president is rapidly coming to an end. Ron Vela will be taking over the leadership reins in January. I want to thank the Board of Directors of the past two years for their support during my presidency. I also want to acknowledge the help and guidance of past presidents Elayne Miller and Roland Fuette who were always there for me.

We hope to see many of you at the Guild's Holiday Party on December 13 at the Margaret Todd Senior Center. Happy holidays to all!



Guest speaker, Betty Goerke, told the story of Chief Marin and the Coast Miwok people at the September meeting.



The September 2008 NHG meeting was held at Druids Hall. As usual everyone had a good time.



Novato—50 Years Ago (October, November, December 1958)

by *Bill Almeida and Pat Willat*

“Novato—50 Years Ago” is a collection of items culled by Bill Almeida from the October, November, and December 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.

- The Novato community grieved the death of 19 year old Robert McClelland, Jr., who was killed on September 27 in a crash near Geyserville. More than 350 persons, many of them standing, crammed into the Parent Funeral chapel in Petaluma. Robert, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McClelland of 495 Olive Avenue, was killed instantly and Earl Barr, 16, of Petaluma, was critically injured. McClelland was an outstanding member of 4-H and the Future Farmers of America. He graduated from Petaluma High School in 1957 where he had been a member of the school’s state championship dairy judging team.

- Jim McNern, 19-year-old Novato youth leader was named winner of a \$350 leadership scholarship, donated by Santa Fe Railroad. He won the award as state winner in the state 4-H leadership program, and was eligible to compete for a trip to the National 4-H Club Congress to be held November 20 to December 4 in Chicago.

- The Smith Bros. dump, three miles north of Novato called the Redwood Sanitary Landfill, Inc., opened in October. The dump, a fill

and cover operation, lies just across the railroad tracks. All kinds of refuse are accepted and homeowners may dump a carload for 25 cents.

- E. J. McGah scored the first hole-in-one at the newly opened Marin Golf Club in late October. It was on the 165 yard seventh hole. McGah hit a 7 iron over the water to the island green and watched it roll directly into the cup.

- James Simontacchi, 73, of 859 Atherton Avenue, died November 4 at a San Rafael Hospital. Mr. Simontacchi worked as a section foreman on the Northwestern Pacific Railroad until he was disabled in a railroad accident 30 years ago.

- A handful of Novatans appeared at the Northwestern Pacific station on November 10 to witness the demise of the NWP passenger service in Marin County. As the last train pulled into the Novato station from San Rafael at 8:45 A.M., it was boarded by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Enyeart, Mrs. Bert York, and the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pechner, Mike, 11, and Richard, 10. The Enyearts made the complete run to Eureka, Mrs. York detrained at Petaluma, and the Pechner boys in Santa Rosa. The Pechner boys are longtime train enthusiasts and have become acquainted with the trainmen. Two weeks ago they were given a ride in the cab with the engineer, George Argall. Only freight trains will remain on the tracks which were once the major means of passenger transportation to and from Novato.

- The Novato High Football

Hornets won their final game of the year 47-20 against Marin Catholic. It was also the last football game for the seniors who were to be in Novato High School’s first graduating class in June of 1959.

- A mysterious early morning fire destroyed the historic one-room Burdell School overlooking Stafford Lake on November 23. Fire Chief George Cavallero said the fire was suspicious and apparently started on the outside of the building. The building had been used as a school since 1903. Before that it was a cheese factory owned by the Burdell Cheese Company.

- The new pro to replace popular Floyd Hudson at Indian Valley Golf Course will probably be Jim Perrin, Novato homeowner who has been working at Lake Tahoe as a golf professional. Perrin recently turned pro after a career as an outstanding amateur golfer in the Hawaiian Islands where he won numerous titles.

- On December 9 the Novato school trustees and the Baccaglio family agreed on a price for land adjoining Hill Intermediate School. The board offered \$5,575 per acre for the 8-acre piece. Jid Baccaglio, representing the Baccaglio family, accepted the offer of \$44, 600.

- Announcement was made December 10 of the engagement of Margaret “Peg” Burke to Major Phillip Coady of Hamilton Air Force Base. The popular couple will wed January 18 at a ceremony in Auburn. Note: Peg Coady was the founder of

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Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

August 2008

New Business — Diane Campbell discovered that the flag pole in front of the museum was a gift from the Soroptimist Club. Charlotte Urban is a member of that organization and will check and see if the club might donate a new pole.

Mike Read and Bob Manzoni searched the grounds of the museum looking for an irrigation system control box, but could not find one. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the hidden control box, please call the museum.

Hamilton Tour — On August 3 Diane Campbell and Edna Manzoni

led a group of ex GI's formerly stationed at Hamilton AFB in the 60s and gave them a tour of the base. Jim McCabe was there to do oral interviews and captured the tour on the new digital camera recently purchased by the Guild. Jim also produced a hard copy transcript of the tour, accompanied by photos.

Outdoor Bench for 3rd Grade Tours — The 8-foot metal bench will cost around \$1,600. Jim McNern said that the money gifted to his mother's memorial fund is currently \$1,200 which could go toward the bench, with the remaining balance coming from Jim and his brother Joe. A motion to accept the proposal was passed.

Curator's Report — Oral History

guidelines are ready to be distributed to those currently participating. Also, about 60 percent of the items in storage at Building 500 have been identified and inventoried by Jim McCabe.

Hamilton Museum — Ray Dwelly reported that the new estimated completion date for overall construction by the contractors is September 12. After that date, Guild members will be able to access the interior to begin the finish work, pending the issuance of a City permit.

September 2008

New Business — Charlotte Urban is going to talk to the Soroptimist Club of Novato to see if they would be interested in donating a flag pole to the Hamilton Museum.

Curator's Report — Staff is working on an exhibit that will be on display for three weeks at Margaret Todd Senior Center, to coincide with the annual Health Fair at the end of October. The Panels on the Community House will be displayed, along with some medical-professional related artifacts from the museum's collection. Also a Guild member suggested that a railing be installed in the corner, at the turn of the stairs, as you enter the second floor. This would make the descent safer.

October 2008

New Business — Kathy Graves provided the Board with an update on the potential budget shortfall for 2009 and the possible impact that the shortfall could have on the operation of the museum. The next budget workshop for the Council is November 21.

Curator's Report — The inventorying of the collection at the 500 Building in Hamilton is almost complete. The next task will be to take digital images of all the artifacts and upload them to the Past Perfect database. Samantha Kimpel is also working with the librarian at the South

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:

Sharyn Moss
Francis Ventura
Eleanor Tobin

The Guild

Extends Sympathy to

Pat and Bill Wright on the death of her sister, Kathleen Poer

Edna and Paul Scheller on the death of her sister, Geraldine "Jeri" Calkins

Leonette and Hans Eide on the death of "Leo's" mother, Marjorie Prince

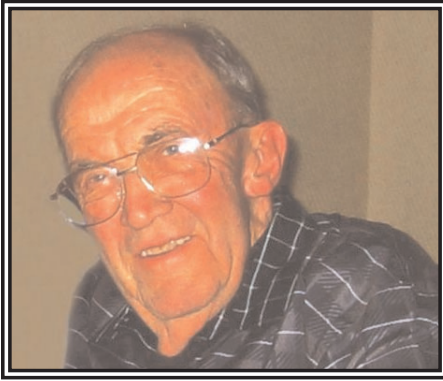
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Nurse on the death of her mother, Marion Higgins

Clarence "Bud" Tobin and family on the death of his wife, Eleanor

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Novato Memories

by Jim McNern



Stan Crandall

Stan Crandall was born in Oakland in 1923. He moved to Novato in 1935. Stan was a member of the 1937 graduating class from Novato Grammar School. He now lives in Petaluma, but has wonderful memories of growing up in Novato and shares them in this December issue of the *Novato Historian*. Stan remembers:

- Moving to Novato in 1935 when he was 12 years old to an eight acre parcel on Virginia Avenue with his parents Stanley and Hazel, his sister Audrey, and brother David. His dad paid \$5,700 for the land.
- His father was a livestock dealer and the family moved here so they could have enough land to have horses.
- Attending Novato Grammar School for the seventh and eighth grades and having Katherine Steele and Lulu Sutton as his teachers. He remembers Edna Baccaglio and Miss Clark teaching at the school at that time.
- His friends and classmates: Bob Busher, Bud Steele, Charlie Bunt, Al Braz, Dante Panfiglio, Roger Lane, Margaret and Wilda Johnson, Valerie Everett, Gladys Alberelli and Marge Corda (who attended Burdell School).
- Getting smacked on the knuck-



From the Staff Desk

by Samantha Kimpel
Museum Curator

Guild Releases a New Book

On September 8, 2008, we were excited to release the book, *Hamilton Field*, which is an Arcadia Publishing Images of America title. Guild members should have received an invitation to the book release party that was held on October 11 at Hamilton Field. We are happy to report that we sold 90 copies of the book just at the event, which was attended by over 150 people.

People have continued to inquire where to purchase the book. If purchased through the Museum gift shop, 50 percent of the proceeds support the Guild. Otherwise, it is available at many local and national chain bookstores; please contact the museum if you have questions regarding how or where to purchase a copy. The book will also be on sale at the Novato Holiday Crafts Faire at Margaret Todd Senior Center on December 5 & 6.

les once by Miss Sutton for getting into a fight on the baseball field.

- Miss Sutton was a great teacher who loved to read the classics to her students.
- In the spring of 1937, it was ok to wear western clothes to school to celebrate the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge.
- Boys could get a driver's license at 14, so he drove a car to school in eighth grade.
- "Borrowing" a sign that was in the shape of an airplane from the Wright Ranch one Halloween, and putting it on the roof of the Pini Building.
- Putting up signs around town on Halloween directing traffic down to Railroad Avenue.
- Joining the Novato 4-H Club and attending meetings in the Club

So many people worked on the book, from docents who edited early drafts (did you know that we have at least three retired English teachers on our docent team?), to Guild volunteers who contributed their personal knowledge. They are too many to list, but many are acknowledged in the preface of the book.

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the contributions of the author team. A little less than a year ago, a dedicated group of people volunteered to work on this project. The team, which included Pat Johnstone, Edna Manzoni, Elayne Miller, Jim McNern, Mike Read, Ron Vela, and Iva Young, worked very hard this past winter to research and write their assigned chapters and subject areas.

Ron Vela authored and chose the images for the opening chapter,

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Car behind the Community House. His 4-H project was swine. He had two sows that he bought for \$5.00 each, and they would produce two litters of piglets a year. He sold his pigs to Harry Hale.

- 4-H was really big in Novato in those days. Miss Gertrude Lane, Walter and Ena Bunt, and George Orr were active leaders.

- The Novato 4-H Club had a very active drum corps that would march in area parades. They would lead the big 4-H contingent into the racetrack at the California State Fair each year.

- Showing his pigs at the Petaluma Fair each year.

- Picking up 10-gallon cans of whey from Louie Salmina at Judge Rudoloff's Cheese Factory. The

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Novato—50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N-3

the Novato Historical Guild which was started June 9, 1976.

- Four Novato High School football players were named to the North Bay League Section II All-Conference first team. The four players are Jack Sparrow, quarterback; Jay Johnson, halfback; Pete Ferrarese, end; and George Gness, guard. Sparrow and Gness also made “All North” and “All North Coast” teams as selected by San Francisco newspapers.

- A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Seeley on December 4 at Marin General Hospital.

- The Grant Avenue School property which housed a generation of Novato School children has been sold by the heirs of Sweetser and DeLong to John Predranzini of Santa Rosa for around \$250,000. The structure will be torn down to make way for business buildings.

- Paul and Edna Scheller of

Novato are the proud parents of the first child born in Marin on Christmas Day. Infant daughter Sharon Ann arrived at Marin General Hospital at 12:55 a.m. Christmas Day.

- A new \$23,000 fire truck was welcomed at Station No. 2 on South Novato Boulevard. The 4-wheel drive pumper was required to pump 1,000 gallons a minute in a four-hour test supervised by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. The test was witnessed by Fire Chief George Cavallero and Fireman Robert Campbell.

- Four Novatans made the “Grand Tour” of Europe this past summer, including some little known fabulous spots in such places as Spain, Island of Las Palmas, England, and others. Making the tour were Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bowman; Kitty Chaplin, former manager of the Novato Telephone Company; and Mrs. Bowman’s mother, Mrs. Mary

Rey. Especially interesting spots were Paris, Rome, Venice, Luxembourg, Lucerne and Monaco, as well as the French and Italian Riviera.

- Stephen J. Taylor of 856 Sutro Avenue was shot at on October 9, at night, by someone who followed him in a car as he was returning from a meeting of the Junior Horsemen. Stephen was on his motor scooter. He noticed he was being followed by a light green 1956 Buick. When he came to a friend’s house he leaped off his motor scooter and ran toward the house. As he did so he heard a shot fired. Another car came by and the Buick took off at high speed. Stephen was carrying about \$70 in Junior Horsemen funds.

- Seventeen homes to be known as “Miwok Estates” will comprise a new development in early stages of planning on Center Road by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Zanco of 1711 Center Road. Price range is planned to be from \$16,000 to \$18,000, with the final price dependent on building costs. The title “Miwok Estates” was chosen in deference to the early primitive Indians who settled in the area.

- Dr. Leo A. Wagner, 36-year old Coloradan, has opened his medical practice in Novato. The physician is a specialist in internal medicine. His office is in the Twinbrook Medical Center on Grant Avenue.

Novato's Treasures NOVATO BANK



This building was built by Frank Silva in 1913. It is located at 826 Grant Avenue and is now “New Shoes for Kids.” Novato Bank changed names several times and is now Bank of the West located at 1311 Grant Avenue. The Silva family still owns the building.



Board Highlights

Continued from Page N-4

Novato Library at Hamilton to prepare an exhibit on the history of Hamilton Field.

Old Business — Mike Read reported that on October 8 the two bunga-

lows adjacent to the Old City Hall were demolished to make way for relocating the City Hall building east on Sherman Avenue as well as ultimate restoration of that facility.

Nominating Committee — Mike Read announced that the following people have agreed to join the Board in 2009, pending approval by Guild members: Ray Dwelly, Diana Goebel, Bill McDill, and Roland Fuelle. Ron Vela has agreed to take on the position as President and Mike Read as Vice President. Leaving the Board will be Jim McNern, Yvette Jackson, and Catherin Van den Toorn.

Hamilton Museum—Ray Dwelly reported that the new front door is installed and the concrete work around the building was started and then stopped. The City of Novato is requiring some changes to the sidewalk layout requirements and the contractor has ceased work until those requirements are fully known. Ray is also preparing written plans for the tenant improvement work that needs to be done, which may require assistance of an architect. The plans will be used to create a dollar estimate of the materials and labor that will be required to be spent by the Guild in 2009 to complete the project.

Welcome New Guild Members

September 1, through October 31, 2008

Individual Memberships:

Karen Dunlap Millikin,
returning after a few years
absence

Gloria Gilbert

Barbara Bruff Hemmingsen

Rebecca Jones

Brian Pedroli

Helen Romero

Family Memberships

Heidi Powell

Ellen V. & Kenneth Johnson

Please support our

Guild business members:

Acme Digital and Screen
Graphics

Bank of Marin

House of Daniels, Inc.

Marin Landscape Materials

McIsaac Dairy

Novato Horsemen

Now and Then Antiques

Pini Hardware

Suburban Alternatives
Land Trust

The Wright Salon

Zenith Instant Printing

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

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

Staff Desk

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“Founding an Army Airfield,” as well as photographed the base and authored the closing chapter “Hamilton Today.” Pat Johnstone authored and chose the images for the chapter on the early days of the Army Air Field, titled “The Bomber Base Years.” Edna Manzoni authored and chose the images for the chapter “World War II and Reorganization,” which covers the years 1941-1949.

For the chapter “From Growth to Decommissioning,” which covers the 1950’s through the mid-1970’s, Elayne Miller, Jim McNern, and Mike Read all contributed writing, research, and chose images for the span of time when the base was known as Hamilton Air Force Base. Iva Young chose the images and contributed research for the “Open Houses and Air Shows” chapter. Finally, I worked to create a unified writing style between chapters, as well as fact-checked items, edited the text, and formatted the layout for the book.

I am very proud of this accomplishment, and thank everyone who worked on this compelling project.

Around Town

Museum staff recently installed two mini-exhibits around Novato. We transported the Community House exhibit to Margaret Todd Senior Center, where it was on display for a few weeks this fall. Also at Margeret Todd Senior Center, I curated two small displays of some of the medical history of Novato, to coincide with the autumn health fair held at the center. Items from Dr. Ralph Weseman, who was the only doctor in Novato when he began his practice in the 1930’s, were on display, along with some prescriptions and items from Novato pharmacies representing 1913 through the 1950’s. Dr. Weseman’s medical bag and its contents will also be on display at the museum beginning in December.

Collections Assistant Jim McCabe curated a small exhibit of photographs and artifacts from Hamilton Field that are now on display at the South Novato Library. That exhibit will be on display through January 2009.

Please stop by the museum or the South Novato Library for an opportunity to see some more objects and stories from our interesting collection!

Scheller's Memories Continued

By Jim McNern with Paul Scheller

Here we continue Paul Scheller's memories of Novato, continued from our last issue.

- Volunteering as a kid to fight grass fires with wet burlap sacks.
- The lighted DeBorba Field Ball Park where Safeway now stands.
- Novato had 7 bars and 7 gas stations in the early 1950's.
- Spending lots of time at Novato Creek fishing and over the years seeing thousands of rainbow trout and steelhead in the creek. Some of the fish were up to 12 inches in size. Dave Crandall was an excellent fisherman in those days.
- It seemed that after the dairies started using detergents in their barns lots of foam started showing up in the creek and the water flow started slowing down.
- Mr. Palmer, who lived next to the creek on Simmons Lane, would extract tons of gravel out of Novato Creek each year.
- Marion Avenue was a dirt road and cars would get stuck in the mud after a heavy winter rain.
- There was a lighted ballfield where the county yard used to be located at the end of Simmons Lane.
- Plucking turkeys at Robertson's Turkey Farm on Center Road.
- Going to Petaluma to the California and State theaters and then cruising the streets hoping to meet girls.
- Driving up to the dances at Rio Nido on the Russian River.
- In 1949 he started as an apprentice carpenter working for Jack Shields, and then for John Novak, who became his mentor and good friend.
- There was a great housing shortage in Novato in the 1940's and 50's. People would scramble to buy a house when they started to see the foundation going up.

- He founded Scheller Brothers Construction Co. in 1959 with his brother Erwin. They built their first house in Petaluma and did many kitchen and bathroom remodels and additions around town.

- His firm built the now-defunct Trampoline Center behind Nave Shopping Center, the 3rd and Grant Office Building, the building next to the old Catholic Church, remodeled and updated the old Rayburn's Grocery Store, built part of the Novato Center Building at the corner of 5th and Grant, the Enterprise Rent-a-Car Building north of town, Nova Ro Housing on 7th Street, and Rotary Manor in San Rafael, as well as many condos and homes in Novato and Black Point.

- Al Nunes, George Affonso and Steve Winterboer were great carpenters and foremen.

- The Community House was the heart of the community and served a number of functions - it was a theater, roller rink, meeting place for numerous groups, a place for community plays, school graduations, and the library was upstairs. The Firemen's Dance was a big event each year. The men of Novato would volunteer and make repairs on the Community House as needed.

- Old Novato families with the names: Johnson, Robertson, Anderson, Thompson, Gness, Renati, Valim, Baccaglio, Nave, Freitas, Magetti, Leveroni, Corda, and Grossi.

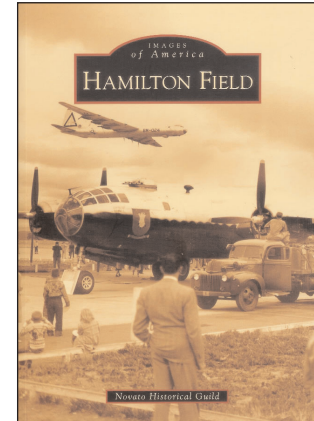
- The biggest changes have been the population and the intrusion of government into the private lives of people (having to get permits for everything).

- Hearing three blasts of the fire whistle meant there was a fire somewhere in town. Merchants would leave their shops, hop in their cars and trucks and rush to help fight the fire.

Hamilton Field History Book at Museum Gift Shoppe

By Pat Johnstone

Hamilton Field history is revealed in a new book on sale at the Museum Gift Shoppe.



Cover of new book.

What would eventually become Hamilton Air Force Base has its origins in the late 1920's, when the airfield was first established. Known at first unofficially as Marin County Air Field, as Marin Airfield, as Marin Meadows Air Field, and as the Army Base at Marin Meadows, it was officially termed from 1929 until 1932 the "Air Corps Station, San Rafael." Then, with formal development beginning, it was renamed Hamilton Army Air Field on July 12, 1932.

This 128-page softcover pictorial history book has over 200 vintage images of Hamilton Field. It sells for \$21.00 (includes sales tax); add \$3.25 for shipping charge.



Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-5

they were mixed with middlings and fed to the pigs.

- Delivering raw milk from the Bunt Family Dairy on Grant Avenue in bottles all over town in a 1923

Dodge panel truck with Bud and Al Bunt.

- Belonging to Christian Endeavor, a youth group at the Novato Presbyterian Church led by

Rev. Dan Trevitt. The group sponsored dances, sports teams, and various youth activities.

- Laddie, a special black springer spaniel, was the Crandall family's pet dog, who was great at flushing out birds.

- If your grades were good, Miss Sutton would let you out of school early to work on the hay baling crews.

- Buying a Morgan mare named "Spirit," and her colt "Buddy" from George Orr.

- Working on Ivan and Glen Johnson's horse-powered hay baler and making 10 cents a ton. You could make \$2.00 a day if you worked really hard.

- Graduating from Novato Grammar School in June of 1937 in the Community House.

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NOVATO HISTORICAL GUILD 2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Budget
INCOME	
Books	\$ 2,000
Donations — general	2,500
Gift Shoppe — general	1,500
Interest-checking account	\$100
Membership dues	8,000
Transfer	50,000
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$64,100</u>

EXPENSES	
Awards	\$ 100
Building— Hamilton restoration	50,000
Contingency fund	100
Director's discretionary fund	200
Dues & fees	200
Education	200
Fundraising and promotion	1,150
Hospitality committee	1,500
Internships	1,850
Membership drive	200
Memorial plaques	100
Merchandise for Gift Shoppe	2,000
Museum archival supplies	1,500
Museum exhibit supplies	1,000
Museum furnishings	1,000
Office computer equipment	1,000
Office computer supplies	1,000
Postage, bulk permit	600
Sales tax	300
Sunshine Committee	100
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$64,100</u>

Nominees for 2009 Guild Board of Directors

At the December General Meeting, members will be asked to approve the following slate of nominees to serve as the Guild Board of Directors:

President Ron Vela
Vice President Mike Read
Secretary
Treasurer Charlotte Urban

Board of Directors

Dick Altman
 Ray Dwelly
 Roland Fuelle
 Diana Goebel
 Pat Johnstone
 Edna Manzoni
 Bill McDill
 Cindy Motsinger
 Steven Schwindt
 Mike Silva
 Anna Young

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-5

- Riding to San Rafael High School each morning in a 1936 yellow Ford bus. There were two buses that took Novato students to San Rafael.

- Working at Rayburn's Market with George Cavallero. Reno Pronzini was his boss.

- Watching night ball games at the lighted field where Safeway now stands.

- Selling apricots, cling peaches and corn from a roadside stand on Virginia Avenue.

- Theda Bugeia delivering mail all over town in her Model T Ford.

- Plowing the front field with a one-eyed mule named Balaam.

- Swimming at Boyes Springs and at the Pioneer Swimming Pool in Cotati.

- His neighbors: the Suedekum, Mayo, Butti, Johnson, Paladini and Verhonik families.

- Shopping at Rayburns, H. Pini & Co., Joe Foisey's Men's Shop, Harry Hale's Butcher Shop, Carlisle's Hardware, Simmons Meat Market, and the Novato Drug Store.

- There were no retail stores on the west side of the 101.

- Seeing Glen Hall working behind the soda fountain at the Novato Drug Store.

- Many commuters took the Greyhound each morning to jobs in San Francisco.

- The St. Patrick's Day Dances sponsored by the Novato Fire Department.

- His first car was a 1923 Nash with sleeve valves and big solid

disc wheels.

- Working for Dr. Charles Stafford at his veterinary clinic on Railroad Avenue all four years of high school taking care of the kennels; helping make house calls in the evenings and on weekends; delivering calves; and gelding colts in the spring.

- His family converting a chicken house into three rentals. The units were rented for \$25 to \$30 a month to servicemen from Hamilton Field.

- Driving a '31 Chevy to San Rafael High School in his junior and senior years.

- Getting haircuts from Pete the Barber.

- Going to see Dr. Weseman when sick and to have his broken arm set. Dr. Weseman was a beautiful guy who would come to your house to treat you. (He also delivered Stan's three daughters.)

- Dancing the "Chamarita" at the I.D.E.S.I Hall.

- The years that Jack and Barbara Sparrow published the Novato Advance.

- Taking shoes to Zunino's to be repaired.

- His brother, Dave, purchasing the Village Inn from Lydia Quarg. The Village Inn was a very popular gathering place for Novatans. It was originally located at the corner of Grant and 101, and later moved to the NW corner of Vallejo and 101. Dave Crandall had the business for eight years.

- His dad was a founder and active member of the Novato Horsemen.

- Taking clothes to Irene's Cleaners to be cleaned.

- Being one of the original members of the Donald V. Westlund VFW Post.

- Enjoying the many trail rides around the hills and open spaces of Novato and the three day rides to Point. Reyes and Bolinas.



A Little Bird Told Me

By Barbara Sparrow

From the July 13, 1945 Novato Advance

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stout and family of Denair visited at the Harry Stout home over last week end.

Bob Manzoni is visiting an uncle in Point Arena for a vacation.

Mrs. Mario Busher Adcock of Santa Cruz and Miss Joan Cameron of San Francisco spent the weekend at the home of Mrs. E. W. Camp.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Dettner and daughter Doris visited in Novato the early part of the week. Mr. Dettner has recently sold his printing shop in Alameda and is now retired. The Dettners are former residents.

Mrs. Gene Scurini and children Alice, Louie and Janette of San Francisco, are staying at the Bacigalupi home on Center Lane for two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Baughman and son Dee leave next week for Utah where Mr. Baughman plans to go into the furniture business with his father-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Flugger and sons Ray and Edwin have returned from a week's vacation spent on the Eel River.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Porcella and daughter, Mrs. Donald Langley left Sunday for Yosemite Valley where they will spend two weeks vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Rayburn and daughters, Katherine and Barbara left Sunday for Lake County where they will enjoy several weeks vacation.

Edith Joy Carlile of Marysville, visited with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Carlile, last week.

Mrs. Frank Cararra's brother, Al Bignami, who has just received his honorable discharge from the army after four years overseas duty, is visiting at the Carrara home here.

Mrs. Everett Pozzi and her niece, Eleanor Mastrup, with Mrs. E. Spaletta of Petaluma, have returned from a two weeks vacation, which they spent fishing at Harry's Camp located at the mouth of the Klamath River.

Continued on Page N-11

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-10

- His dad selling the palomino stallion "Chief" to Vern Dwelly.
- Traveling by Greyhound bus to Mare Island to work in the shipyards in 1942.
- Riding a bus home from the war in September 1945, and when entering Novato seeing a sign that said "Population 1,761."

- Buying the Beacon Gas Station next to the Chateau (near Lucas Valley Road) in 1947 from Harry Suedekum for \$1,500.
- Old Novato families with the names: Gness, Bunt, Lane, Simmons, Busher, Tyler, Alberelli, Pimentel, Braz, Dias, Briggs, Tharp, Silva,

Loewenthal, Bugeia, Stafford, Page, Binford, Pechner, Lafranchi, Baccaglio, Valim and Zunino.

- The biggest changes in Novato have been the population and property values. After incorporation, the small town feeling went away.



THE GIFT SHOPPE

The Museum Gift Shoppe has the perfect unique Novato gift!

Books & Pamphlets

- *Novato Township** the definitive history of Novato by May Ungemach \$30.50
- *Hamilton Field* by Novato Historical Guild \$21.00
- Hamilton Airfield History \$2.00

Videos & CD's

- Hamilton Field History (VHS) \$15.00
- Novato History (VHS) \$10.00
- Novato History (CD) \$10.00
(available only through the museum)

Sweatshirts (S, M, L, & XL) \$20.00

- Novato History Museum (blue or green)

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- Novato History Museum \$7.00
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- Novato City Hall \$10.00

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Postmaster's House, City Hall/Church, Railroad Depot

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- Novato Historic Buildings Notecard Sets \$10.00
- Guild Tote Bags \$5.00
- Ceramic Thimble \$1.00
- Novato History Collector Cards . . . \$3 per pack or 30¢ each
- Hamilton Field Historic Picture Reproductions \$10.00
- Mugs \$5.00
- Laminated Place Mat (11 x 14) \$5.00
(available only at the museum)

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- Coin Purse \$15.00
- Business Card Holder \$12.50
- Small Purse \$23.00

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* All proceeds from the sale of *Novato Township* go directly to the support of the History Museum. All prices include sales tax. To Order: Call the Museum at 897-4320 or email patjohnstn@aol.com for shipping charges and information. Supporting and Life Members receive a 10% discount at the Gift Shoppe!

Membership Form

Please mail checks to **Novato Historical Guild, 75 Rowland Way, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94945.**

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time) membership | \$5 | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership | \$15 | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership | \$25 | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership | \$100 | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership | \$200 | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, individual | \$350 | |
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The Novato Historical Guild

*Wishes you all Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year
and cordially invites you to the*

*December General Meeting
Election of Officers and Christmas Party*

Saturday, December 13, 2008, at 1 p.m.

Margaret Todd Senior Center

Members and prospective members are welcome

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