



Good Times and Business Too At Our Christmas Meeting



Guild members approved the 2010 Budget and the slate of officers for the NHG Board of Directors (shown in photo). One hundred and fifty-eight pounds of canned and packaged food was collected at the General Meeting and donated to the Marin Community Food Bank.



Dick and Nancy Altman, long-time guild members, enjoying the festivities at the annual Christmas party which was held at the Margaret Todd Senior Center on Saturday, December 12, 2009.

Guest Speaker Shirley Genetin

The guest speaker for our March General Meeting will be Shirley Genetin from the Marin Genealogical Society

She will give tips on how to start looking for your ancestors: techniques, tips, resources and examples. Her talk will be followed by a question-and-answer session presented by members of the Marin County Genealogical Society.

Wednesday Docents Needed

There is a need for docent volunteers on Wednesdays of each month. Docents operate the museum during open hours of 12 noon to 4 p.m. While you are volunteering at the museum, you are responsible for greeting visitors, answering the phone, taking messages for the museum staff, selling gifts in the gift shop, and answering visitor's questions about the exhibits.

An orientation will be given to you before you begin volunteering to explain your duties. If you have the time to volunteer on Wednesdays, please contact Cindy Motsinger, Wednesday docent coordinator, at (415) 897-4881. If you cannot commit monthly, it is possible to be on a substitute list. We want to be able to keep the museum open on Wednesdays, so please give this serious consideration. It is the efforts of volunteers that make our museum possible.

Returning Board Member



It is our pleasure to have Yvette Jackson as a returning Novato Historical Guild Board Member.

Things To Do Today

- ✓ Support the Guild—pay your dues.
- ✓ Visit the museum, especially if you haven't.
- ✓ Volunteer for a docent position.

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 2010 Officers

President	Ron Vela
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Edna Manzoni	Pat Johnstone
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Eleonora Lafranchi

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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 June issue is May 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 Ron Vela

President, Novato Historical Guild

Many significant accomplishments have taken place in Novato and for the Novato Historical Guild.

We watched the Whole Foods project get completed with mixed emotions. We saw the old City Hall go through its renovations. If you haven't seen the finished product, you should stop by, as they have done an amazing job.

The time capsule and artifacts that were found in the cornerstone are now on display. The artifacts included a copper box which contained a bible, a newspaper, the Petalumanian dated 1896, and a hand-written list of the church members.

The old train depot now has a new roof although I miss the blue tarp. For the first time in decades we saw a train come through town. Of course there are those who oppose the plan, but for me a railroad track without a train is like a hotdog without a bun.

The Historical Guild had its challenges in 2009. We had to partially fund the curator's position to keep Samantha as curator. It was a good investment because without her I doubt we would have been able to accomplish what we did in 2009. In 2008 we published a book through Arcadia publishing called *Hamilton Field*. In 2009 we published a second book called *Novato, Then and Now*. Samantha was the catalyst that made it possible to bring those books to print. The coordination of putting a team of volunteers together and creating two books is a major task. A job well done, Samantha. Thank you.

Last year under Samantha's direction using volunteers' help, the Museum's artifacts were documented digitally and put into a database. This too was a major accomplishment.

The *Novato, Then and Now* book was a great project; it is a collection

of old photos from around Novato. Anyone who has been around Novato for a while will appreciate the many changes this city has gone through. We encourage all of you to buy a copy—they make great gifts for family and friends.

The big accomplishment in 2009 is the Hamilton Museum. A handful of volunteers led by Ray Dwelly worked over 3,300 hours to complete the build-out of the interior of the Museum and they did an extraordinary job. What is amazing is that it came in under budget. The exhibition team, led by Samantha, is working on plans for the space. A preliminary plan is complete and the tasks of creating the exhibits are underway. May 12 will be the official ribbon cutting as it is the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Hamilton Field. An open house will be on May 15. We hope to see you all there for a very special day.

The next couple of years are going to be very challenging for the Guild. We have all read and have heard how Novato as well as other cities' budgets are in dire straits. At our first board meeting of the New Year we were informed that the city must cut the curator's position. Losing this position and Samantha puts the Guild in a difficult position. The board will be exploring ways to support, in some way, the curator's position. **We encourage your input and any donations you may wish to give in an effort to keep Samantha.**

We will continue to operate the two museums, our programs will continue as before, and life will go on. We do encourage you to get involved and we are always looking for docents, we will need more since we will be maintaining the two museums.

Finally, in an effort to raise operat-

Continued on Page N-9



Novato—50 Years Ago

(January, February and March 1960)

by Bill Almeida and Tonie Brown

“Novato 50 Years Ago” is a collection of items culled by Bill Almeida from the January, February, and March issues of the Novato Advance newspapers in the collection of the Novato History Museum and microfilm at the Novato Library. Tonie Brown retypes the articles for the newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading the names and happenings of 1960.

- Sam Zanco was advertising model homes in Miwok Estates off the 1700 block of Center Road. The 3 bedroom, 2 baths, and 2 car garage were selling for \$18,500 and \$19,500.

- A proposed first-year annual budget for the City of Novato showed expenditures of \$381,890 with the same amount as revenues. Gas tax and vehicle licenses were estimated at \$183,841 and the property tax rate was 21 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

- On January 12, election day, the Advance received many calls from disappointed and angry residents in West Novato who realized they were out of the city and could not vote.

- Novato’s fire chief, George Cavallero, suggested that everyone save the January 13 issue of the Advance announcing the birth of the City of Novato. “It’s a historic document” said Cavallero. The vote for incorporation was 2,086 Yes, 802 No. The new city was the 447th in the state of California, and the tenth in the county of Marin.

- The Nave Shopping Center celebrated its third anniversary on March 3 and 4. William Nave, builder and owner of the shopping center, donated \$500 to the Nave Center’s Merchant Association to use as prize money for the celebration.

- Anticipated city council rhubarbs in early weeks: Safeway’s application for rezoning, Rotary Club’s swimming pool-park proposal and who was going to get the city’s insurance business.

- The Mira Monte fishing resort, north of Novato on San Antonio Creek, was up for sale. Sale price of the 56-acre piece was \$125,000.

- On the night of January 20 at Hill School, five men were sworn in as city councilmen by Deputy County Clerk George Gness. Their first official act was to select Wayne Womack as their chairman. He will be “mayor” to the city. Charles Johnson, Manuel (Babe) Silva, Everett Pozzi, and Harvey Vicchio joined Womack to comprise Novato’s first city council.

- A new 107-home subdivision map was presented to the Marin County Planning Commission of February 1 by the Kaehler Construction Company, builders of Forest Park. The proposed subdivision was to be called Forest Park, Unit 6.

- Hugh Turner explaining how radio station “KTIM,” in San Rafael, got those letters. Turner said the “K” was used by all radio stations and “TIM” stood for “This Is Marin.” Now you know!

- An application for a \$300,000 loan from the Small Business Administration was being sought for Novato General Hospital according to Dr. Ralph Weseman, chairman of the board of the corporation set to build a hospital here.

- Sandra Lazzari, daughter of Major and Mrs. M. E. Lazzari, was installed as worthy advisor of the Novato Rainbow Assembly in late January. She replaced Dorothy Treece as Rainbow leader.

- Roy M. Wilfert, son of Alvin J. Wilfert, 801 McClay Road, enlisted in the Air Force on February 18. The new airman is a graduate of Novato High School and attended the college of San Mateo for a half a year. He has a brother, Glenn, who is also a member of the Air Force stationed in Lincoln, Nebraska.

- Councilman Charles (better known as Chuck) Johnson said he believed one of the foremost problems facing the city was the location of Highway 101 when it became a full freeway.

- Novato’s base residential telephone rates were scheduled to increase by about 20 per cent on April 1, as announced by the California Public Utilities Commission. Pacific Telephone, owners of the Tucker exchange and Western California Telephone with Twinbrook, were conducting an “extended service study” to see if toll-free dialing between the two is feasible.

- A gas war opened fire at noon on March 11 in Novato, with prices of major gasoline dropping from 33.9 to 27.9 cents on regular and 37.9 to 31.9 on ethyl. Most gas stations along Highway 101 had signs up.

- In a March 25 track meet against Marin Catholic High, Bill Henderson, a junior, and Joe McNern, a senior, ran 9.9-second 100 yard dashes to highlight a resounding 88-25 victory by the Novato High School Hornets. Henderson also anchored the relay while McNern led all the way to a 55.6 quarter mile victory.

- The man building the new Lee Bros. supermarket here, Louis Fallaschi, was a famous St. Mary’s All-American and former pre-World

Continued on page N-6

Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

November 2009

New Business – A motion was made and approved that Board of Directors Meetings will remain at the Novato Police Station Training Room.

Curator's Report – Interns are taking inventory of the Novato Advance donated photos. A master task list is being developed for the Hamilton Museum and related events. A work order was sent to the city to fix the parking lot lights.

Old Business – The City has 172 bricks for the Guild to use at the Hamilton Field History Museum. Since the area is not prepared yet

Kathy Graves will ask the Maintenance Dept. to store the bricks at the City Corporation Yard.

Hamilton Museum – Exhibit cases are being made and installed and volunteers have logged 3,149 hours so far. The west end of Building 500 has been cleared of NHG items.

December 2009

New Business – The 2010 schedule for General Meetings will be March 6, June 12, September 18 and December 18.

Curator's Report – 1960's photos will be featured in a small exhibit at the Novato History Museum for Novato's 50th Anniversary. Six boxes of artifacts from 901 Sherman foundation and cornerstone box have been received by the City. These items will be added to the NHM collection. The curator is preparing a small permanent display of some of the items found at 901 Sherman, including the Time Capsule and some of its contents. The museum blog for the Hamilton Field History Museum is hamiltonfieldmuseum.wordpress.com.

Treasurer's Report – As of November 30, 2009 total assets are \$176,260.

50th Anniversary Steering Committee – The January birthday party has been postponed to May 22.

Hamilton Museum – Phil Goebel built a beautiful 36 x 19 inch display case for the museum. It was suggested that several more volunteers should be trained on the audio-visual equipment.

January 2010

Guest speaker, Kathy Kormos, from the Park & Recreation Dept. informed the board that because of budget cuts the Curator position will be eliminated.

Curator's Report – The City would like an elevation drawing of the proposed Hamilton Museum patio before they give NHG permission to install the bricks. Hamilton Museum exhibits will be in chronological order starting at the foyer with an exhibit of Lloyd Hamilton's artifacts. A Volunteer Recognition event has been scheduled for March 2. Phil Goebel has built a case to display old bottles and cornerstone artifacts at 901 Sherman.

Old Business – March 6 General Meeting will be a presentation by the Marin County Genealogical Society at the Margaret Todd Center. June 12 General Meeting will be a presentation by Matt Cerkel, an expert on Marin Airplane wrecks, at the Hamilton Field History Museum.

Hamilton Museum – 3,340 volunteer hours have been logged to date and \$34,075 has been spent from a budget of \$36,500. John Trumbull donated a library of military videos and books to the Hamilton Museum. A motion was made and approved that the collection belongs to the guild, not the city.

Museum Store – The annual sales for 2009 were \$7,808.

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:

- Edward Almeida**
- Phyllis Cope**
- Betsy Hoerr**

The Guild Extends Sympathy to

- Bob Almeida** on the death of his father Ed.
- Jerri Levy** on the death of her brother Edward Almeida.
- Bill and Joan Almeida** on the death of his brother Edward.
- Col. Bill Cope** on the death of his wife Phyllis.



Novato Memories

By Jim McNern



Lorrie D'Ambrogio-Kidder

Lorrie D'Ambrogio Kidder was born at the Petaluma General Hospital on June 25, 1928. She lived in Sonoma County for much of her childhood when her dad worked for Safeway. The family always considered Novato home. She moved back to Novato in 1942, and was a member of the 1942 graduating class from Novato Grammar School. Lorrie shares her Novato memories in this March edition of the Novato Historian. She remembers:

- Her parents: Arthur and Jeanette Bourg D'Ambrogio, who were married in San Francisco on New Year's Eve in 1925. Her sisters: Elaine and Yvonne, and brother John
- Her grandparents: Louis and Sadie (Sally) D'Ambrogio and her aunts: Marie Salmina and Lucille Rogers.
- Visiting her grandparents in Novato for Sunday dinners. They would count the cars on their way back to Petaluma, and were amazed if they counted 400 or 500 cars on both sides of the 101 Highway on a busy weekend.
- The family moved back to Novato in 1942 when her dad went to work at Marinship in Sausalito. They moved into a house at the corner of Scott and DeLong where the



From the Staff Desk

by Samantha Kimpel
Museum Curator

Why Novato?

I grew up in Ohio. I live in Sonoma County, where I've lived since I moved to California seven years ago. And no, I did not know much about Novato before I came to work for the Novato History Museum.

These are answers to questions that I am asked sometimes by Museum visitors. They presume that I am a native or adopted Novatan, and when they find out that I am not, they do not hide their curiosity about why I work to promote and preserve a history that is not "mine."

I love these questions, because it gives me the chance to talk about the importance of preserving all local histories, no matter which community you currently call home, return to, or explore.

My hometown is a small farming community, population 2000, that has a beautifully designed town square

lined by civic buildings and residences, all dating from 1820-1880. In the 1970s, my parents started a campaign that led to its designation as a National Historic District on the National Register.

Growing up in the midst of preservationists, I learned to look for the stories in every community that give it its sense of history and special character, which can be seen in the landscape, in architecture, and in its people.

Also, as I traveled and lived in different regions around the U.S., I became increasingly concerned about the loss of that character. Too many Main Streets were either abandoned for mall development or taken over by franchises that had no link to the character of the people who lived in those towns.

Continued on Page N-8

Millworks now stands. Her grandparents lived across the street. Her neighbors were the Almeida, Amaral and Murray families. Attending Novato Grammar School for two months at the end of eighth grade and having Miss Sutton as her teacher. She learned more in those two months with Miss Sutton than all of her previous school years in Petaluma. Studying the U.S. Constitution and learning the Amendments with the help of her Aunt Marie in order to pass the county civics test and graduate from eighth grade.

- Miss Sutton was a strict disciplinarian; but kind and fair. She would slap your hand with a rubber knife if you misbehaved. She excelled in teaching English grammar. She also taught the boys and girls how to dance.

- Her classmates and friends: Phyllis Sousa, Rose Simas, Joan Dever, Pat Ruhlman, Betty Listman, Ruth Cole, Lester Taylor, Duane Tharp, Curt Askim, Aldo Paladini, Rosina Breg, and Alice and Virgil Westlund.

- Leaving school at lunch time for an hour each day for her job serving the Merchant's Lunch at Meyer's Bakery.

- Graduating from Novato Grammar School in June 1942 in the school auditorium.

- Every Halloween, the boys would haul outhouses onto Grant Avenue along with bales of hay and other junk and they would jump off the school roof.

Continued on Page N-7

Our Volunteers at Work John and Susan Trumbull

John Trumbull's initial involvement with the Guild occurred in 1994, when president Karen Millikin and some of her board approached him to draft an employment agreement to hire Hannah Clayborn as a consultant



Sue and John Trumbull

to the Guild concerning the future organization of the museum. Later John was put on the board, and he and Pat Willat importuned the City Council to hire Hannah to provide direction and institutional stability for preservation and display of the City's artifacts.

In 1996 John was elected president of the Guild with the task of coordinating the City's more active role in the museum with the previously indispensable volunteer service of people such as Jackie Moore, Col. Bill Palmer and Al Pariani. John served two terms as president and then served as secretary under President Pat Willat. He was reappointed to the board in 2009 and is currently so serving.

During 1996, the third grade educational program, which had consisted of historical artifacts being taken to requesting schools by Jackie Moore, was expanded by Hannah Clayborn with the help of Lois Eichen into a child-oriented program at the museum and a walking tour of Old Town, both requiring docents. In 1997, Lois turned the job of chairperson over to Susan Trumbull. Susan, one of the docents, was a retired teacher, and she recruited other retired teachers (in

addition to other people). The program eventually expanded to have every third grade in the Novato Unified School system participate as part of their "Introduction to Local History" unit. Susan was chair of this committee from 1997 to 2007, and still serves as one of the docents. She has exhibited her 1900's costume, made for the docent program, on the Guild's 4th of July float in several recent parades. John has participated as a downtown docent until recently when problems understanding questions in the juvenile vocal ranges limited his usefulness.

John has been involved in the Hamilton Air Field museum from the time the base was released to control of the City in the 1990s. Long before demilitarization, Col. Bill Palmer was the proponent of this project, which was picked up and advocated for over the following decade by John, Pat Willat and Lin Hines. The museum's proposed location moved from the rear of the ground floor of Building 500 to the 1930s base Firehouse/Military Police building. Efforts of the Guild preserved most of the building. (The 3 cell jail was demolished without notice to or per-

Hamilton Field Museum News

Work is proceeding apace at the museum in anticipation of its May debut. UV protective film is being applied to the south and east facing windows, making John Trumbull into a "film star." The model airplane exhibit is being fine tuned by Ed Ewery. Display panels are being constructed by Ray Dwelly and painted by Bob Manzoni. Built-in bookcases for the library are under construction by Bob Lowrey. The Guild is fortunate to have outgrown its original book and video tape storage before it even opened. We may well be the only library to have a 54-inch video monitor as well. President Ron Vela has volunteers standing by to start the brick patio and memorial wall project when the ground dries enough, and at least two outside organizations have expressed interest in aiding with labor. Two groups have already requested to hold events at the museum after it opens, so there is excitement building.

mission of the City.) John has donated a number of volunteer hours in his retirement to the renovation of the interior of the "Firehouse" under the direction of Ray Dwelly and now he hopes to be at the public opening of this museum on May 15 of this year.

50 Years Ago

Continued from page N-3

War II New York Giant Pro Quarterback. (Note: Lee Bros. is now the gymnastics building on 7th Street.)

- Gness, Coleman, Sparrow, Olrich, Ferrarese and other familiar faces returned as Novato Hornet alumni to show this year's varsity that they were just a bunch of upstarts. Final score was 48 to 27 for the "old-timers," all of them college freshmen home for the holidays.

- New Year's weekend saw four holes-in-one scored on the Indian Valley Golf Course. Aces were scored by Richard Larsen of Novato,

Gordon Chan of San Anselmo, Richard Carroll of Colma, and Dr. Harry Lancaster, a retired Army Colonel of San Francisco.

- George Tocalino, manager of the Central Valley National Bank in Novato, was elected to the board of directors of the Western California Telephone Company in early March.

- On January 28 the city council officially abolished the positions of Assessor and Tax Collector, which never existed for the new City of Novato. Those functions continued to be performed by the county of Marin.

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-5

- The beautifully decorated valentine boxes that were in every classroom for Valentine's Day and exchanging cards with everyone (whether you liked them or not).

- The stores in downtown Novato would always be decorated for Christmas, and Aunt Marie would always decorate Ambrogio's Market for the holidays.

- Her grandfather's store was called "Ambrogio's Market," and was located on Grant Avenue where Ernie Zunino's shop is today. Grandpa D'Ambrogio was an excellent meat cutter and he handled the butcher shop part of the market. He always had a hot dog for the kids. Aunt Marie ran the grocery department.



Ambrogio's Market with Louis and Marie D'Ambrogio.

- Some of the faithful customers at Ambrogio's Market were the Grossi, Renati, Flugger, Leveroni, Silva, Wise, Cain and Tresch families.

- Riding the school bus driven by John Sasse to San Rafael High School each day.

- Miss Cunningham's cooking class at San Rafael High School.

- Winning the prize as the best dressed "hick" on "Hick's Day" at San Rafael High School.

- To get around town, you either rode your bike or walked.

- Novato kids made their own fun. Playing "Hide 'n' Seek," marbles, jacks, and baseball were always popular.

- All of the Novato businesses were located on the east side of the 101 Highway.

- Some of the early businesses were: Simmons Meat Market, Pachal's Meat Market, Rayburn's Market, H.Pini & Co., Carlisle's Hardware, Westlund's Drapery Shop, R & W Market, Joe Foisey's Men's Store, Torassa's Bakery, Meyer's Bakery, George Gness' Electric Shop, DeBorba's, Sid's Chinese

Restaurant next to DeBorba's, and the Novato Drug Store on the corner of Grant and the 101 Highway.

- Kitty Chaplin was the town's telephone operator.

- Seeing Bruno waving his cane as he came down Grant Avenue.

- The Rudolff Cheese Factory next to the railroad tracks at the end of De Long Avenue.

- The condemnation of the Novato Grammar School building because it was not "earthquake proof" and then seeing all the trouble they had trying to knock it down with a wrecking ball.

- Working at Borden's Parrot Cage Soda Fountain; sweeping the floor and cleaning Irene Heifner's Beauty Salon in the Flat Iron Building; commuting by Greyhound bus to San Francisco to work at the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; working at Irene's Cleaners and McDonald's Jewelers; driving school bus for the N.U.S.D. for five years; and cooking at the Jim Grossi Ranch for six years.

- Her sister, Elaine, working at the Novato Drug Store. It was a fun place.

- Robertson's Turkey Farm on Center Road.

- Watching the Pini fire of 1945 from the school grounds across the street.

- People riding the Greyhound bus to get to destinations out of town.

- The ball games at DeBorba Field, where Safeway now stands.

- Being called "The Cake Lady" because she has been making wedding and special occasion cakes for Novatans for 50 years.

- The Village Inn at the corner of Grant and the 101 Highway was painted barn red and was trimmed in white. She had many ice cream cones there when it was DeBorba's Ice Cream Parlor. The Village Inn was

Continued on Page N-10

To Our Museum Friends

By Samantha Kimpel

Last month, curators from the Marin History Museum visited our archives and viewed Burdell family artifacts from our collection as they planned for their latest exhibit on Olompali. They did end up using some of our photographs.

"Now on Exhibit at Marin History Museum: "Ranching and Rockin' at Olompali" - features the vibrant history of the Olompali Ranch and State Park. Guests will have an opportunity to view historic maps, ranch artifacts and photographs detailing Olompali's diverse use as an early Miwok village, a Mexican land grant, a four acre Victorian estate, swim club, and

hippie commune.

This new exhibition will complement our current exhibition at the Boyd Gate House, "Growing the Future: Farming Families of Marin."

The Marin History Museum's Boyd Gate House is located at 1125 B Street, San Rafael, CA 94901.

Any questions, contact Samantha Kimpel, Curator, Novato History Museum, City of Novato Parks, Recreation & Community Services

Phone 415-899-8236

Fax 415-899-8219



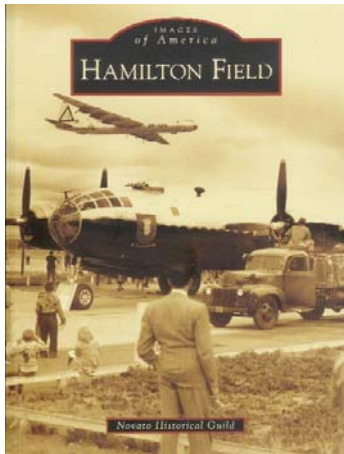
Congratulations
 to
Guild Member
Elizabeth Sleath
For being chosen Novato's
"Citizen of the Year"

Membership Dues Increase

2010 Membership dues for individual, family and student levels have increased by \$5.00. It has been many years since our membership dues have increased and our dues are still lower than most similar organizations.

Hamilton Field History Book

This book was published in September of 2008 and so far 2,000 copies have been sold. You can still purchase this 128-page softcover pictorial history book at the Novato History Museum for \$21.



Novato Historical Guild

Welcome New Guild Members
 Through December 2009

<p><u>Individual Memberships:</u></p> <p><u>Family Memberships:</u></p> <p><u>Patron:</u> Sharon & Alfred Sanchez</p> <p><u>Life Memberships:</u> Edna & Bob Manzoni</p> <p><u>Please support our Guild business members:</u> Acme Digital and Screen Graphics Bank of Marin</p>	<p>Heirloom Storage (House of Daniels, Inc.) Marin Landscape Materials McIsaac Dairy Novato Horsemen Now and Then Antiques Pini Hardware Suburban Alternatives Land Trust The Wright Salon Trumbull Manor Inc. - Novato Zenith Instant Printing</p>
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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

Continued from Page 5

That is why I work for the Novato History Museums. I want to visit and live in places with visible histories—where the history is honored—and to be able to access those stories. Also, I am a museum professional, and curators and collections managers are trained to preserve and care for museum collections so that anyone can learn from them, always, now and in the future.

Over the coming weeks, there will be much discussion of how the City of Novato budget deficit will affect the operation and staffing of the Novato & Hamilton Field History Museums. I know there are so many dedicated members of the Guild and community who will rally to keep the museums in operation. But, in order to keep the collections intact and preserved, the museum should be professionally staffed.

There are a number of ways to help: financially (the Hamilton “buy a brick” campaign, increase your membership, or make an additional donation), with your ideas, and with your time. Even if a staff position is maintained, we will be relying on more volunteers to take leadership in certain areas. I look forward to talking to anyone who would like to donate their time and skills to help keep Novato’s history visible and vital!

Save the date: March 2, 2010

On March 2, at 10 a.m. at the Hamilton Field History Museum, we will honor the Novato and Hamilton Museums 2009 volunteers, as well as present an orientation for new and continuing volunteers. Watch your mail for an event postcard! Call (415) 899-8236 for more information.

New Board Member Tom Keena Jr.

Born January 1950, Thomas J. Keena Jr. I was raised in Novato.

My education included Marion grammar School, Our Lady of Loreto grammar school, Marin Catholic High School, College of Marin. I graduated from Chico in 1974 and the Stanford paramedic program in 1978.



I spent thirty years ('74-'04) employed by Novato Fire Protection District. During my years at NFPD I served as a firefighter, paramedic and engine captain. In addition, I've been a licensed electrical contractor since 1982.

My wife of 29 years, Kris, and I have two sons and a daughter. My grandfather, Michael Keena, purchased land on McClay Road in 1910. Kris and I currently live in a home we built on this property in 1988.

President's Corner

Continued from Page N-2

ing capital, we like the city, will be selling engraved bricks for the Hamilton Museum. We will soon be constructing a brick patio at the entrance to the museum. There will be roughly 1,000 bricks on the patio deck available for sale. We encourage all our members to buy a brick. They will cost \$100 and have space for three lines of text. The form is enclosed with the newsletter. Later we will be adding a memorial wall for honoring our service persons. There will be tiles giving name, rank, theater amid vital dates. The cost of a tile will be \$250, and the form is on the reverse of the brick form. We thank you for your support and wish all of you the best for 2010.



New Board Member Louise Koenig

I was born in Novato and have spent my entire life here.

I attended Marion School, Hill School and Novato High School. I was a teacher and administrator in the Novato Unified School District working at seven schools and the District Office. I retired in June 2009 after 40 years in education.



My husband, Bill, and I own Marin Landscape Materials.

We have two grown daughters, one

a teacher in the NUSD and one in college.

Bill and I love to travel all over the world. We are avid Forty-Niner fans. I have attended every home regular season game and playoff game for the last 40 years.

One of my childhood memories is walking to Marion School as a five year old. There were no stores on Grant Ave. after Fourth Street and no sidewalks. There were dirt paths and homes. Everyone knew everyone else in the town of 1,700 people.



New Items Acquired for the Novato History Museum

By Samantha Kimpel, Curator

The following items were formally accessioned into the object and archives collections of the Novato History Museum during January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009. Thank you to all the donors!

Gift of Louisa Schulze: Booklet, "Welcome to Hamilton Field," 1946.

Gift of Bill & Pat Wright: Personal correspondence related to family ranch.

Gift of Diana Besser Carper: Lockheed news release, 1958.

Gift of John & Susan Trumbull: Brochures from numerous Novato subdivisions, 1970-present.

Karen Millikin: Photographs, military items formerly property of Albert Millikin, Ms. Lulu Sutton's ivory school whistle and assorted school memorabilia.

Gift of Iva Young: Name tag and patches, Wings of Victory Air Show.

Gift of Bill Almeida: Postcard, Hamilton AFB P.O. – last cancellation from base, 11 June 1976.

Gift of Barbara Schwandt: Binder, "Marin County Retired Officers' Wives Gourmet Group."

Gift of Pat Johnstone: Scrapbook, "Nova Marin Grandmother's Club."

Gift of Eric Turner: Booklet with calendar, L.D. Ambrogio's Market, 1935.

Gift of Brian Blampied: Collection of military items, including photographs, dog tags, uniforms, archive materials, and footlockers belonging to Lt. Col. Johnny A. Ziatz.

Gift of Novato Advance: Collection of negatives and photographs (1000s of items) from newspaper archives, primarily 1950s-1970s.

Gift of Jan Smith Sweeney & Gwen Smith Petersen: Lifelike dolls of W.J.J. Smith and LoraLou Smith.

Gift of Mike Read: Booklet and imprinted mug, IDESI Centennial Celebration, 2006.

Collected in the field: Collection of archaeological artifacts from the 901 Sherman excavation, which also includes the 1896 cornerstone box, some of its contents, and the cornerstone.



Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-7

later moved to the corner of Vallejo and the 101 Highway. It was a popular place for drinks and food.

- Meeting her future husband, Jack Kidder, at a dance at Strozzis Dance Hall on Atherton Avenue.

- Marrying Jack Kidder on October 12, 1947 in Carson City, Nevada. They lived in a flat on Grant Avenue and 4th Street owned by Mrs. Penhale. Rich and Joan Connell lived on the second floor. Jack worked for Cy Flugger in San Francisco delivering towels and aprons to printers.

- Going to Dr. Weseman's office on Grant Avenue when sick. Dr. Ralph Weseman was the most wonderful man and doctor that ever lived!

- Watching the annual Portuguese

parade in May and the Western Weekend parade in June.

- Working on the Novato Junior Womens' Club float entry each year for the Western Weekend parades.

- The annual pancake breakfasts held during Western Weekend.

- Being a charter member of the Novato V.F.W. Post named in honor of Donald V. Westlund.

- Was past president of the Ladies Auxillary of the Novato Fire Department. The ladies of the auxillary made sandwiches and served cold drinks to the men who were fighting fires in Novato. Some of the women who participated in this work were: Fanny Manzoni, Kathleen Panfiglio, Irene Peters, Pee Wee

Renati, and Marie Stafford along with many others. The auxillary served a prime rib dinner to the firemen each January.

- Some of the memorable fires in Novato were the Food Fair fire, the Von Tagen Sack Barn fire, a structure fire on the Hanna Ranch, the Pinheiro hill fire and the many summer grass fires around town.

- Living upstairs in the Community House for two years when she and Jack served as caretakers. They had to set up for dances and events, sweep and mop floors, air out the building and prepare for Sunday church services.

- The firemen's picnics at Armbusters were great fun, and were one of the affairs in town that everyone attended.

- Her husband, Jack, was a painter for 17 years with his father, Jim, and brothers Leland, and Bobby.

- Jack's mother, Olga Kidder, was a waitress at Galli's, and at the Travelers' Inn in San Rafael. She was 4' 11" in height and had a great reputation as a waitress. Guests would ask for her to serve them, and would wait for her until she was free to serve them.

- Jack Kidder was a volunteer fireman for many years. He rose up through the ranks in the department and was Novato's Fire Chief from 1969 to 1975.

- Meeting the famous Hawaiian singer, Hilo Hattie, backstage in Hawaii, and learning that she knew where Novato was. She rented a house at the corner of Grant Avenue and the 101 Highway from the Rodoni family for a number of years when performing in San Francisco. Hilo Hattie said she loved eating at Galli's Restaurant.

- Dr. Charles and Marie Stafford's veterinary hospital on Railroad Avenue. The Staffords were very active in Novato community affairs and Stafford Lake is named after Dr. Stafford.

Novato's Treasures A.D. SCOTT GENERAL STORE



Sausalito News dated February 4, 1890, states "A.D. Scott will erect a fine store and move his general merchandise business to the town site" and on May 23, 1890, "A.D. Scott expects to occupy his new building." On January 29, 1975, the Novato Advance stated "Save Me! Unless renovated and saved in the near future this historic building at the corner of Sherman and Grant Ave will be lost. The building in its time served as a grocery store with a social hall located on the second floor. During the Silent Movie era a company used to film movies in Novato and used the building for on-location shooting. It most recently was occupied by Johnson's Red Barn. Newton K. Gregg Publisher had to move when the floor began to buckle under the weight of books." On September 9, 1979, just past midnight, a fire started under the rear stairwell in the back, spread up the wall to the roof and damaged much of the old wooden building's interior. Today a salon and clothing store are on the first floor and State Farm Insurance on the second floor.

Continued on Page N-11

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-10

- The gas station at the corner of Grant Avenue and 101 owned by Manuel Pimentel next to The Town Club.

- Planting and maintaining a garden in the oval area near the closed train depot with members of the

Novato Junior Women’s Club with flowers from Burgi’s Indian Valley Nursery.

- The Novato Junior Women’s Club gave an apple to every Novato teacher each year to celebrate “Teacher Appreciation Day.”

- Shopping often at the little Balz Store on Simmons Lane for quick things like bread and milk.

Lorrie had so many valuable memories; and rather than leaving anything out, we will save them for our next issue.

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
- *Novato, Then and Now* by Novato Historical Guild \$21.00
- *Hamilton Field* by Novato Historical Guild \$21.00
- *Hamilton Airfield History* \$2.00

Videos & DVD's

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

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

- Novato History Museum (blue or green)

Ornaments

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

T-Shirts (M, L, & XL) \$11.00

- Guild Historic Buildings (3 designs):
Postmaster's House, City Hall/Church, Railroad Depot

Miscellaneous

- 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)

Leather Goods

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

We accept VISA or MASTERCARD

* 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 | \$10 | year |
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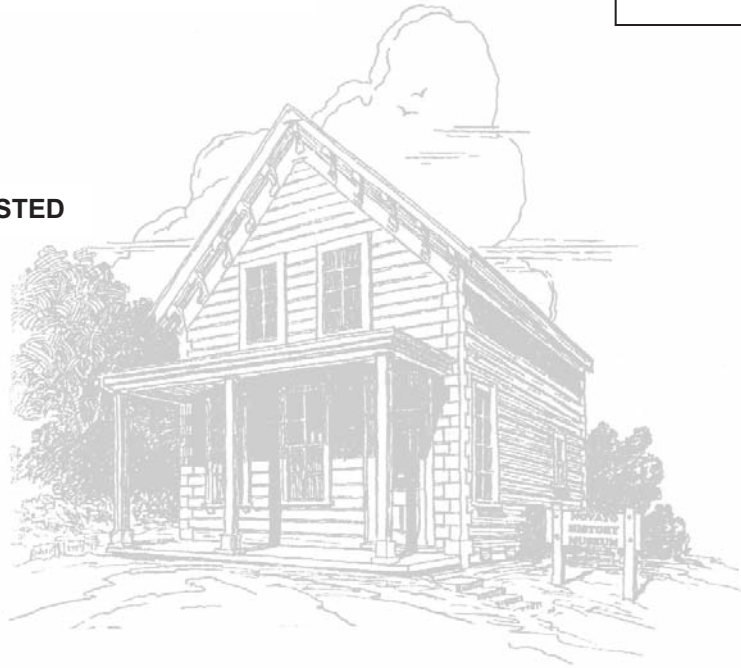


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Notice
General Membership Meeting
of the
Novato Historical Guild

Saturday, March 6, 2010—1 p.m.
Margaret Todd Senior Center
1560 Hill Road

Our guest speaker will be Shirley Genetin from the Marin County Genealogical Society.

NOVATO HISTORY MUSEUM

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The Museum is open 3 days a week—Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday—Noon to 4 p.m. • 897-4320

Closed Major Holidays