



## Annual Christmas Party Held at Margaret Todd Center

The Guild's annual holiday party which was held on Saturday, December 18, at the Margaret Todd Center, was the best attended holiday party we have had in a long time. It was great to have so many members come out and join us.

The membership approved the 2011 budget and also approved the new slate of nominees for the board. Twenty-four members of The Novato Music Association entertained the group with a wide selection of Christmas and holiday music, which had us all humming and tapping our feet. Diana Goebel and Edna Manzoni and their hospitality committee provided a tasteful variety of delicious holiday refreshments.

Thanks to our generous members,

the Guild collected seven boxes of canned and boxed food, which Bill Almeida delivered to the Marin Community Food Bank as he has faithfully done for years. Our thanks go out to the many members who helped make the afternoon a success.

### NOTICE

The **June** Guild meeting will be June 11 at the Margaret Todd Senior Center in Novato. "Oldtimer's Day" will be celebrated with many "oldtimers" expected to be present. The 8th grade class reunion, usually observed at the June meeting, will not be held this year. More information coming in the June newsletter.

## Beloved Member Marie Salmina Has Passed On

The Novato Historical Guild lost a valuable member of its docent staff with the passing of Marie Salmina



*Marie, an ever-busy volunteer.*

who died February 5 after a long illness. Marie, 90 years of age, served as a docent for many years and was always ready and willing to help wherever needed. She was efficient, polite and beloved by everyone who knew her.

Marie also served as the driver for friends who needed transportation to doctor appointments or to go grocery shopping. She will be greatly missed by many people. The Guild has lost one of its best members and she will be hard to replace.

Marie was an active member of Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church parish. She is survived by daughter Julieann and son-in-law Dennis Ikerd.



*Wonderful Christmas and holiday music was part of one of the best Guild Christmas parties.*

**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 2011 Officers**

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Eleonora Lafranchi

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Gift Stores	Pat Johnstone
Hamilton Museum	Ray Dwelly
Hospitality	Diana Goebel
	Edna Manzoni
Mailing	Bill Almeida
Membership	Edna Manzoni
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Oral History	Jim McNern
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**Newsletter Editorial Board**

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**City of Novato Staff**

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**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 Michael Read

President, Novato Historical Guild

All of the past incoming Guild presidents started their first letter to the Guild sharing a bit of personal history. My great, great, great, great grandfather, originally from Missouri, came to California in 1849 with his family - they settled in the Vacaville area. My great grandfather was a county supervisor in Lake County for many years. I grew up in Vallejo and graduated from Hogan High School in 1972 and then went on to graduate from San Francisco State University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Business Management. I worked in the automotive industry in one form or another and was also a racing official for almost 25 years. I retired from racing in 2004. I first arrived in Novato in 1989 to work for Randall Brothers Automotive and became co-owner in 1999. I am proud that Randall Brothers was named Novato's Business of the Year for 2006.

I graduated from the Novato Chamber of Commerce's "Leadership Novato Program" in 2005 which is where I first learned about the Novato History Museum. After exploring the thousands of maps and photos stored in the museum's archives, I was "encouraged" by the Saturday docents to join the Guild, which I did in 2006. I was immediately recruited as a Saturday docent and also helped with the Guild's history presentation to the Novato Chamber of Commerce leadership class. The Guild's membership elected me to the board in 2007. And now I have the privilege of serving as the Guild's president for the next two years.

I want to take my hat off to Ron Vela for his strong leadership and drive as our president during this last term. A few of his milestone accomplishments include the opening of the Hamilton Field History Museum, the

production and release of the *Novato—Then and Now* book, and the just completed memorial wall and brick patio at the front entrance of the Hamilton Museum.

I also want to thank the Board for nominating me for the 2010 Novato Citizen of the Year award. I was selected as the 2010 Citizen of the Year and received the key to the city this past January 20 at the city's 51st birthday party. It was quite a night indeed!

My goal for the coming year is to increase community awareness of the Guild and of the two museums we operate. It is critical to our survival, especially in our current economic times, that we have full support and interest of the community and that we drive an increase in our membership through this awareness.

I would also like to be able to reach out to our members more frequently and spontaneously to remind you of upcoming events and to let you know of volunteer opportunities as well as other Guild news between the arrival of newsletters in your mailbox. Email me at [novato1850@aol.com](mailto:novato1850@aol.com) so I can record your email address for future correspondence.

With your support, I am looking forward to a fun and productive two years.



*Kathryn Hansen & Pat Johnstone manned the Guild's booth at the Holiday Crafts Faire that was held at the Margaret Todd Senior Center in December. The Guild made \$356.*



# Novato—50 Years Ago

## (January, February, and March 1961)

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 1961.*

- Councilman Everett Pozzi claimed the weather was the coldest since 1928 when many trees died in Novato. Gum trees froze solid, he recalls.

- A vast lagoon-type home development was being planned for the shore of the bay just north of Hamilton Air Force Base, adjoining Novato Creek. The 2,250 acre property, called Marin Meadows by its owners, was being sold to a firm in Los Angeles headed by Jack West. The low lying land, mostly protected by levees, would be a natural for a Belvedere-type lagoon network of homes. Note: Now Bel Marin Keys.

- New officers of the Novato Volunteer Firemen’s Association were installed in early January. New president was Frank Helbing; vice president, James Hovis; secretary, Wilfred Lieb; treasurer, George Gness; fire chief, George Cavallero; property clerk, George Hale; sergeant-at-arms, Jim Guibbini.

- Carol Tresch, daughter of the A.H. Tresches, left by air January 13 for Heidelberg, Germany, there to become a recreation director in the U.S. Army Special Services Division. From Heidelberg, she was to be reassigned to an Army post in France or Germany for two years. Miss Tresch graduated from the California College of Arts and Crafts in June 1960.

- Frank Galli, son of the owner of Galli’s Restaurant in Ignacio, was born and raised in Ignacio. The Ignacio area was steeped in history, said Galli. He told everyone that “Ignacio should be remembered as the Ignacio region of Novato...just like Lynwood, Monte Maria, Trumbull Estates and so on.” Frank was regarded as the “mayor” of Ignacio.

- Novato celebrated its second year of existence as a city with an “inaugural” ball on January 20 at the Novato High School gymnasium. Novato’s celebration coincided with the inauguration ceremonies of John F. Kennedy, as President, being conducted in Washington, D.C.

- On January 23, Ralph Briggs unveiled plans for a half-million dollar motel with restaurant, bar and banquet room facilities. The motel was to be constructed by Briggs and his son on the west side of Highway 101 opposite the airport. The project would be on property owned by William Q. Wright, Jr., who also owned the airport land and surrounding property.

- With the Marin County Civic Center about 30 percent complete, three of the five county supervisors voted to stop further construction, a so-called “economy bloc” stop order. Board Chairman William Fusselman, Supervisors Walter Blair and George Ludy agreed with Fusselman. Supervisors William Gness and Walter Castro objected to halting the project. Fusselman suggested the then-completed structure could be converted to a county hospital. Ludy and Blair had “economy measure” and “the civic center was too advanced” as their reasons for stopping further construction. Gness and Castro started a full scale investigation, contacting the county counsel and the contractor’s attorneys.

- Novato’s own hospital opened for business on January 30 with appropriate dedication and open house ceremonies the day before. Dedicatory remarks were made by Mayor Wayne Womack, Novato Supervisor William Gness, and Dr. Ralph Weseman, chairman of the board of directors of the Novato General Hospital, Inc. The hospital, at Hill and Canyon Roads, was staffed by 26 people, including 5 registered nurses and 2 surgery nurses. When the hospital reached a peak patient load of 30, for which it is presently designed, a staff of 45 will be necessary.

- Eight of the first 43 cases at Novato Hospital were maternity cases. Note: Yes, Novato General Hospital had a maternity ward.

- The Novato Advance was awarded an editorial citation for publishing the best editorial or series of editorials during 1960 of any weekly or daily newspaper in the state of California. The award was presented by Gov. Edmund Brown to George A. Barnwell, editor and co-publisher of the Advance.

- One of Novato’s most colorful “old-timers,” Ernest Vogel, for many years known as Novato’s “unofficial mayor,” died February 5 at Novato Hospital. He became the first person to die at the new institution. He was 75. For several years he ran the salvage shop which formerly stood at the northeast corner of Grant and Reichert. He was also proprietor of a “fix-it” shop across the street.

- The name of the new branch post office on Entrada Drive was to be “Ignacio Branch.” The naming of the branch represented a victory for Frank Galli, who engaged in a one-man battle to preserve the name of Ignacio. Local postal officials had

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# Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

## November 2010

*New Business* — The Guild will have a booth at Novato’s Tree lighting event on December 4. Should the museums have a fee policy? Ron Vela will e-mail Kathy Kormos to get a copy of the city’s policy.

*Curator’s Report* — In the coming week, new and additional interior exhibit labels will be installed at Hamilton Museum. The curator will check with Kathy Kormos to see if the city can provide exterior signage to mark the Hamilton Museum facility at its roadside. The curator is going to co-produce a weekly history video about Novato with Patch.com. This 2-3 minute video will be posted to the new AOL website that reports and

posts online news for small and medium-sized cities. Building Better Citizens, a non-profit that raises funds for the Novato ROTC program, is having a fund raiser November 10. The museum is sending over a few displays for the event, and the keynote presenters are HFHM docents Lee and Nancy Janover.

*Committee Reports* — Sheila Brossier will be nominated as a board member at the general meeting. Ron Vela got a bid of \$2,000 to plaster the memorial wall at HFHM with an acrylic finish. It was decided that hanging a flag, with a light shining on it from the HFHM balcony would be the best location.

## December 2010

*New Business* — The publisher of the *Novato Township* book will be destroying the negatives at the end of the month. A motion was made and approved to allocate \$500 to have the negatives shipped to the Guild and stored at Building 500. A motion was made and approved to pay Novato Music Association \$150 to perform at the December General Meeting.

*Treasurer’s Report* — Total in all accounts is \$154,375. Income for November is \$592.78, and disbursements were \$3,957.37 for a net loss of \$3,364.59.

*Curator’s Report* — A job description is being written for a volunteer graphic artist and a database administrator. They will be posted at the Volunteer Center for Non-Profits in San Rafael. Three videos about Novato’s history have been posted on Patch.com and will continue to be posted. The curator will prepare the videos on her own time and be paid separately for this project.

*Old Business* — According to the city, the NHG museums are not rentable buildings at this time. They are available to host small supervised events in exchange for a donation. The Pacheco Winery Fundraiser raised approximately \$5,000. Randall Brothers donated the wine glasses and Fork and Fingers donated the hors d’oeuvres.

*Committee Reports* — It was moved and approved to award Bob Lowry a lifetime membership to the guild for his 487 hours of volunteer work at the HFHM, and for using his contractor’s license and credit card for materials. The guild has 423 active members and 68 life members.

## January 2011

*New Business* — Tom Keena will chair the Finance Committee and the Fundraising Committee. The Grants

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## 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. Plaques cost \$250 per person named.

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

You may make a gift of appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) to the Novato Historical Guild. Your gift is not only tax-deductible, but if you have held the shares for more than one year, your tax deduction will equal the full value of the securities on the date of the gift. 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.”

## In Memoriam

The Guild mourns the loss of the following members:

- Charles “Chuck” Daniels**
- May Gronberg**
- Marie Salmina**

### The Guild

#### Extends Sympathy to

**Mike and Carol Clancy** on the death of his brother, Stephen.

**Al and Jean Nunes** on the death of her brother, Keith Donahoo.

**Carol Daniels** on the death of her husband, “Chuck” Daniels.

**The family** of May Gronberg.

**Adrienne and Jim Phalon** on the death of her Uncle, William Schofield, III.

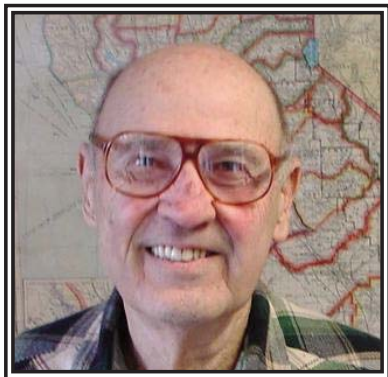
**Jim and Agnes Henderson** on the death of his son, Michael.

**Julieann and Dennis Ikerd** on the death of her mother, Marie Salmina.

**Virginia and Frank Paladini** on the death of her sister, Norma Racicot.

# Novato Memories

By Jim McNern



**Gordon Quilici**

Gordon Quilici was born June 15, 1929 at the Petaluma General Hospital. He grew up in Black Point and has lived in Novato for many years. Gordon was one of the two graduates from Black Point School in 1944. He shares his Novato memories in this March edition of the Novato Historian. Gordon remembers:

- Living on a 27-acre chicken ranch at 375 Sunset Trail, off School Road in Black Point with his parents: August and Rose Quilici and his siblings: Esther, Marina and Maury. Another brother, Martin, died from asthma before Gordon was born.
- Attending the one-room Black Point School and having Miss Bonetti as his teacher in Grades 1-4, and Mrs. Dorothy Olson in Grades 5-8.
- When he entered Black Point School in 1936, he could not speak English. The Quilici family spoke Italian at home.
- His school friends: Dolly Petersen; Ruth Riebli; Bill, Rose and Louis Mazzoleni; Barry, Wilson and Josie Dep; Frank, Eva, and Dorothy Bruce; Elmer Duckett; Robert and Greta Buchanan; Domenico and Caterina Robustelli; Richard Stubbe; William and Harold Groom; and



## From the Staff Desk

by Samantha Kimpel  
Museum Curator

### Artifact Hunting

For the past three and a half years, I've had multiple people tell me about an artifact that we absolutely should have in the collection of the Novato History Museum. "There's a lamp in the old Novato Theater that all the projectionists signed," said Jim McNern. As talk progressed about how the theater, now abandoned, could be reused and possibly redeveloped, other people mentioned the lamp. But when I questioned its dimensions, how it was used, or where it could be found in the building, no one was sure.

Over the past year, a few of the City of Novato staff looked for the lamp. They didn't find it. Last spring, a member of the City staff called me to visit the theater to see if any of the items still onsite should be preserved as historical artifacts. We picked our way up the dark stairs to the projection room, and opened an exterior roof-level door to let in natural light (electricity was off). I photographed some of the old projectors. He and I turned over items, looked on shelves in the projection room, and looked in piles of projector parts. I peeked in the other side offices on the first floor, but nothing remained there of historical interest. We did not find the lamp.

A few months ago, Pat Eklund, (both City Councilwoman and

Robert, Rufus and Nancy McFarland.

• There was always an evening Christmas play put on by the students and Santa Claus would come to visit and pass out candy and oranges to the children.

• Kids would take gates off fences around Black Point as a Halloween prank.

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Hamilton Field History Museum docent), approached me and said excitedly "Did you see the lamp?" She and Dennis Cooper of the City Planning Commission had found it. Mystery solved, and it is now part of the Museum collection! It is heavy, metal, and indeed, signed by nearly forty projectionists. The earliest signature is "Geo. H. Whitten Oct 1946." Some other signatures include "Dennis Cooper 6-88," "Stewart Cilley Nov 1975," "Noel Diffendorf Jan. 1972," and "Fred Frelander '89."



It is objects like this one that make a local history collection pertinent and special, and an exemplary example of the way your history museum preserves the collective memory of Novato. Also in this edition of The Historian, we have listed those who donated to the collection in 2010. Thank you for helping to preserve the stories of greater Novato and Hamilton Field.

#### Volunteer Appreciation Event

On March 8, we will gather to honor our volunteers for the Novato and Hamilton Field History Museums from the past year. The 3rd Grade Docent Team will also meet, and we

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## Staff Desk

*Continued from Page N-5*

will welcome any new prospective volunteers and do a brief orientation. We rely on our Guild volunteers to operate two museums, to educate visitors, to do research, and to help maintain beautiful and safe facilities.

If you've been thinking of volunteering, please come! It will be held at Hamilton Field History Museum, 555 Hangar Drive, at 10 a.m. on March 8. Call 415-899-8236 for more information.

### Notice

The phone number for the  
*Hamilton Field History Museum* is  
**415-382-8614**

## 50 Years Ago

*Continued from Page N-3*

hoped to name the new branch "South Novato." It is to be located in the new Roger Wilco supermarket.

- A man who was born in Novato and lived here all his life, died February 18 in Marin hospital. Frank Yelmorini, 69, had been in ill health for a year and in the hospital for six months. Mr. Yelmorini owned property in Novato and was self-employed. He was a veteran of World War I. He never married.

- During Washington's Birthday ceremonies, Hamilton base officials presented the city with an F-86 jet to be used as a play station for children.

The plane, located at the corner of Seventh Street and Grant Avenue, helped to further cement the good relationship existing between Novato and Hamilton.

- A pretty meadow was being tailored to become Novato's first memorial park. The burial site at Bugeia and H Lanes was expected to be open for burials in April, according to its manager, Charles Johnson, Novato funeral director and city councilman, even though the gently rolling 94 acres already has seven graves. Reason for the early burials was the state requirement of at least six to make a piece of ground a cemetery.

- The first TWinbrook 7 number of the Western California Telephone Company went into operation on March 7 at Todd's Department Store in the Nave Shopping Center. This was the first of 750 new TWinbrook 7's that will go into operation April 8 as a result of the new phone company addition.

- A boy was born on March 9 to Mr. and Mrs. Neil McIsaac of 2754 Novato Boulevard. The mother is the former Evelyn Dolcini. The baby was born at Novato General Hospital.

- Thirteen-year-old Saralee McClelland, daughter of the Robert McClellands of Olive Avenue, was raising a half-grown German Shepherd pup from the Guide Dog Kennels which will some day serve as a blind person's "eyes." The eight-month-old female, named "Wing" was born at Guide Dogs north of San Rafael. When Wing is a year old, Saralee will give her back to the unique school on Los Ranchitos Road that serves blind men and women of the 24 western states and Canada. The parting will be painful for both Saralee and Wing, but Saralee's pride and satisfaction should far outweigh the feeling of loss for Wing.

- Sale was pending of Novato's oldest drug store, Novato Pharmacy, by

## Welcome New Guild Members

Through March 2011

### Individual Memberships:

Clifford Bunds  
Ron Leach  
Fran Thorsson  
Glenn Thorsson  
Elizabeth Trimble

### Family Memberships:

Michael S. Frank/  
David T. Adams  
Kathryn Cross &  
Michael Giari  
Marie & Terry Lazzari

### Life Membership

Robert Lowry (Honorary)

### Please support our Guild Business Members:

Acme Digital and Screen Graphics  
Bank of Marin  
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

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

**If you haven't renewed your membership for 2011  
IT IS TIME TO DO SO!**

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

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# Novato Memories

*Continued from Page N-5*

- The wood burning stove that heated the school room on cold days.

- Attending the annual Play Day at Novato Grammar School in May was always fun.

- Graduating from Black Point School in June of 1944. He and Shirley Tobin were the only members of the eighth grade class. The graduation was held at the school.

- Mrs. Olson from Black Point School was his favorite teacher of all his school years.

- His mother cooking on a wood-burning stove at home. Later they used oil and butane for fuel.

- The family operating the Black Point Service Station on Highway 37, and later adding a small store and bar when they got a liquor license in 1933.

- Selling gas for \$ .15 a gallon.

- Beer sold for \$ .10 a glass; high balls were \$ .15, or two for \$ .25 and every third drink was free.

- Catching the San Rafael High School bus at the end of School Road and Atherton Avenue each morning.

- Miss Turner was his counselor at S.R.H.S. His favorite high school teachers were: Paul Miller, Fred Hines, Lauriston Tardy and Mr. Woods.

- Working at the Quilici family gas station on Saturdays and Sundays.

- Theda Bugeia delivering mail all over rural Black Point in her Model A.

- Getting haircuts from Pete Peters in downtown Novato.

- Raising pigeons for fun and usually having about seven pairs of pigeons at a time. He would buy them from Louis Bugeia.

- Harvesting 24 to 26 tons of grapes each year from the family vineyard.

- The successful chicken ranches on School Road owed by the Cervarich, Marshall, Fisher and Dep Chain families. Each ranch had 4,000

to 5,000 chickens and the owners could make a decent living in those days.

- In 1946 and 1947, he worked summers at the Dickson Ranch hauling hay into the warehouse and sewing sacks on the harvester.

- Shopping at H. Pini and Co., D'Ambrogio's Market, Simmons Meat Market, Torassa's Bakery, Rayburn's Market and Carlisle's Hardware. The family also liked to shop at the Petaluma Market run by a Chinese family several times a month.

- Going to see Dr. Weseman when sick. He was loved and respected by everyone in town. Dr. Weseman would make house calls anytime day or night.

- Watching the annual Novato Hosemen and Portuguese parades and going to the I.D.E.S.I. Hall to eat soup.

- Being named champion light heavyweight boxer at S.R.H.S. three years.

- Playing baseball for three years and football for one year at S.R.H.S.

- In 1932 and 1933 his mother would ask his dad how much money he made at the gas station that day, and his dad would typically say \$.75 on some days, \$1.00 and \$1.50 on other days.

- As more commuters drove to Mare Island, the station would take in \$100.00 a day in gas sales.

- His dad loved playing pedro with Mrs. Simontacchi and Mr. Pronzini behind the family bar.

- There were always lots of daily chores to be done around the ranch, but he enjoyed bird hunting with his BB gun and hunting jack rabbits, pheasants and ducks on the Sartori Ranch.

- The nice restaurant called "The Cliff House" above the Petaluma River.

- The Black Point Inn was run by

May Nave. Josie Bobo also worked there.

- Mr. Bobo, the bridge tender, fell into the Petaluma River and drowned. His body was later found in Black John's Slough.

- Very long freight trains with 70 to 80 cars were a common sight in Black Point.

- Going into the Army on February 7, 1951 and taking basic training at Camp Roberts before being shipped off to Korea and Japan.

- His first car was a 1949 Plymouth that he bought for \$2,400. from John Angeloni at Nave Motors.

- Working with Jid Baccaglio at Henry Hess Lumber yard in 1948 and 1949.

- The big fires on the Sartori Ranch where the barn loaded with hay burned down twice.

- The many dairy ranches in the Black Point area including the Lemos, Pozzi, and Sartori dairies, the Garzoli dairy on the Mahoney Ranch (now Bahia) and the Rodoni dairy on Deer Island.

- When Highway 37 was rerouted in 1948-49 taking business away from the Quilici family bar, store and gas station. The station was torn down in 1950.

- Old Black Point families like the Olsons, Bruces, Mathiessons, Bobos, Leiberts, Paulsons, Johnsons, and Captain White.

- Fishing for bass in Black John's Slough. The fish had to be at least 12 inches in length in those days.

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## Things To Do Today

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

# Accession Report

By Curator Samantha Kimpel

The following items were formally accessioned into the object and archives collections of the Novato History Museum during January 1 – December 31, 2010. Thank you to all the donors!

- Photograph of Daniel J. Ryan, gift of Gerald Gause.
- Archive materials and 1940s photographs of Novato, gift of Wilfred Lieb.
- Photographs and archive materials of 1953 class trip to S.S. Lurline, gift of Lenore Zanco Olesen.
- Pins and buttons of Novato City Council candidates, gift of Jennifer Goldfinger.
- "Early Days in Marin, A Picture Review," and file "The Bourne Ranch," gift of Mike Read.
- "Novato High School 1959-2009 Memory Book," gift of Yvette Jackson.
- Archive materials and objects from the Estate of Josephine M. Marzell, gift of her family.
- Archive materials and objects from the Estate of Jacqueline Moore, gift of her family.
- Archives and objects from air navigator Arthur J. Fallon, gift of his family.
- Briefcase, medals, and military and personal archive items of Col. Tom Jenken, gift of Mr. Jenken.
- Collection of Charles Hubbell Aircraft Prints, gift of Edmond Addeo.
- Uniform, fire alarm, and archive material of Bruce Bobbitt, gift of Mrs. Bruce Bobbitt.
- "Guide to HAFB," 1960, gift of John Firment.
- "Guide to HAFB," 1960, gift of Robert Long.
- "Guide to HAFB," 1961, 1962, & 1963, gift of Marvin Kazmierski.
- 78th Fighter Wing, 1st Fighter Wing Air Defense, and Dept. of Defense wooden plaques, gift of Richard Altman on behalf of Rudy Picarelli.
- Golden Gate Wing wooden plaque, Wings of Victory items, Men's & Women's fatigue uniforms, and archive materials, gift of Lt. Col. Lee R. Janover and Lt. Col. Nancy Peters-Janover.
- Photograph of Col. Holmes, 1943, gift of George Epperson.
- 1950 Map of U.S. Military Bases, gift of Jim Schultz
- 42nd Air Rescue Squadron Patch, 1960-1973, gift of Robert Livemajor.
- Photographs of HAFB Hospital Well Baby Clinic, 1961, gift of Lelah Berry.
- "Chronology of Trans-Pacific Routes," 1945, gift of Jane Cummins.
- Print of B-24 Airplane, gift of Yvonne Brown, in honor of Clarence Brown.
- Hamilton Field T-shirts, gift of Lin & Maryke Hines.
- 84th FIS coffee mug, gift of Don Moy.
- Cement Star from Hamilton Hangar, gift of Michael DiGiorgio.
- Hamilton Boy Scout Troop Scrapbooks, gift via Roland Fuetter.
- Flight bag, objects and archive materials of pilot Howard Halla, gift of Mr. Halla
- Emergency Beacon for Life Raft, gift of David Landgraf.
- Uniform, medals, and military and personal archive

materials of Lt. Col. R.F. Gerdes and Family, gift of Nancy Gerdes.

Military flight manuals and pamphlets, gift of Hugo L. Phillips.

- Army Nurse uniforms and wool coat liner with sewn-on patches, gift of Mary Rawles for Cathy Bedilion.
- Photographs of Hamilton Patrol Dog Squadron, 1956-1962, gift of John Zerbe.
- Original transcripts of radio messages concerning end of WWII, gift of Alton Fountain.
- 84th FIS Patch, gift of George Merrett
- Aviator Kit Bag, gift of Henry Hansen
- Crystal Punchbowl from HAFB Officer's Club, gift of Wendell Lee
- Star from Hangar #5, gift of Robert May
- Air Scout Scrapbook, gift of Jeff Craemer
- Desk, HAFB Officer's Wives Cookbook, Glassware, and archive materials, gift of William & Eva Linn.

Donors of materials to the Novato Historical Guild and the Hamilton Field Library Collection

John Trumbull

Jim Kennedy

David Landgraf

William Murphy on behalf of Paul Eisenberg

Joe Williams

## Diane Einstein Will Speak at Guild's March Meeting

Diane Einstein, Chairperson of The Olompali People Cooperating Association of Olompali State Historic Park, will be talking about the history of Olompali and updating us on what is going on at our historic state park just north of Novato. Diane is a credentialed teacher with a Masters Degree in Early Childhood



Education. As a young mother, she became a Terwilliger Nature Education Guide, heading the effort to find a north Marin hike site for the Terwilliger Nature Education Center. In the process, she discovered Olompali and became a founding board member of The Olompali People in 1982.

## Mike Read Named Citizen of the Year!



Our own Novato Historical Guild President Michael Read was named the 2010 Novato Citizen of the Year. Presenting a California Legislature Resolution to Mike is Mark Leno, State Senator, and Jared Huffman, State Assemblyman.



# Hamilton Museum News

By John Trumbull

We are getting better. It is ten months since the Hamilton Military Museum opened to the public. We are still completing our exhibits. The B-17 model Ed Ewry assembled for us is now on display in its own case. It was too big for the wall case displaying some of the fighters that flew from Hamilton Field. We also have models of the C-47 transport that was so ubiquitous here. This is the plane that transported military and celebrity personnel around the US and to the Pacific and brought wounded home to our hospital at Hamilton.

The patio and memorial wall are now completely constructed and are ready to install memorial tiles and commemorative engraved bricks. The museum is cooperating with the City engraved brick program, and invites the public to donate a \$100.00 contribution to the museum for which a brick will be engraved with the donor's name. A gift of \$250.00 will be granted a tile (12 x 12 inches) engraved with a service veteran's name, rank, service unit and vital dates to be affixed to the vertical interior wall of the patio in honor of the donor's designated service veteran. Any US service person may be so designated. [Miniaturized applications are reproduced below.]

The museum is starting to attract attention outside the valley. There are two bus tours scheduled for March, and more are to be expected. The Guild will make special arrangements to open the museum and to furnish volunteer guides upon due notice. Interested groups should contact either Samantha Kimpel at the museum (897-4320) Wednesday or Thursday or Ray Dwelly at the Hamilton museum. [Hamilton\_Museum@ATT.net] or 899-8970.

We will miss the Digital Image Movers Co. (Disney) which has vacated the main hanger, but as a going away present it donated to our museum a model of the original hanger including the original control tower. I think there is an inaccuracy in that model, but come to the museum and look and tell us what you think.

We are developing a good volunteer docent corps, but we can use still more, especially on Saturdays. We also can use stand-by personnel to fill in when a regular docent is sick or has a conflict. We desire to have at least two and preferably three persons in the museum when it is open to welcome visitors and supervise the display floor. Pat Johnstone is our volunteer coordinator (897-1692), or you can fill out an application at the museum when it is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons between noon and 4 p.m.

Finally we are still looking for Hamilton-connected memorabilia. If you or a friend was stationed at or lived at Hamilton, and have pictures of or items used at Hamilton, please don't let this material be lost or thrown away. Bring it in and let us see if we can save and display it. We want to be able to create rotating exhibits dealing with all aspects of Hamilton life, including the medical and civilian involvement.

## Friends of the Novato Hamilton Museum "Buy A Brick"

Please print the word or name beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> square exactly as you want it to appear on the brick. Uppercase – Lowercase – Punctuation – Spacing. Each line will automatically be centered. There is room for a maximum of 3 lines with 20 characters per line on each brick. Spaces and punctuation each count as a space. Bricks may be inscribed with a business name, family name or "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" people or pets.

DONATION  
\$100.00 per brick  
LINE 1

---

LINE 2

---

LINE 3

We reserve the rights to refuse to inscribe anything that might be controversial or in poor taste.

Please complete this order form and return to:

**Friends of Hamilton Museum  
Novato Historical Guild  
75 Rowland Way, Suite 200  
Novato, CA 94945**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please make checks payable to Novato Historical Guild.

**Any question, please contact John Trumbull at 897-1617 or email: j.a.trumbull@gmail.com.**



## Hamilton Museum Military Memorial Wall "Buy a Tile for Memory"

- > Please print the name beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> square exactly as you want it to appear on the tile. Using appropriate Uppercase – Lowercase – Punctuation – Spacing.
- > Tiles are 6" x 6". Each line will automatically be centered on tile.
- > Spaces and punctuation each count as a space. Abbreviate when necessary.

DONATION  
\$250.00 per tile

NAME

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

RANK

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

DATE OF BIRTH AND DEATH (ie. 1927-2003)

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UNIT

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THEATRES (WWII, KOREA, VIETNAM, IRAQ, AFGANISTAN)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Please complete this order form and return to:

Hamilton Museum Military Memorial Wall  
Novato Historical Guild  
75 Rowland Way, Suite 200  
Novato, CA. 94945

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

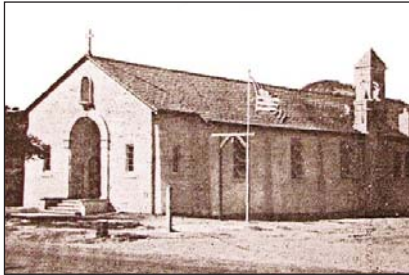
Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please make checks payable to Novato Historical Guild.

Any questions please contact John Trumbull at 897-1617 or email at j.a.trumbull@gmail.com

## Novato's Treasures

### CACTI RESTAURANT BUILDING



*Our Lady of Loretto*



*Cacti Restaurant*

Novato's first Catholic Church was dedicated on June 29, 1890, and was located just west of the present Methodist Church, on South Novato Blvd. The church was given its name – Our Lady of Loretto – in honor of Mrs. Fred W. Sweetser's grandmother, who, with Mrs. Sweetser's mother (Miss Frances Ellen Johnston) was an ardent church worker. Sadly the church burned to the ground on December 1, 1936. A new church would be built, but not on the site of the old one. The new building would be located in "new town" at the corner of Second St. and Grant Ave on land purchased in March, 1937 by the archbishop from Mrs. Belle A. Anderson. The actual plans were drawn up by architect Henry A Minton and called for a fame and stucco building of mission type, approximately 70' deep by x 30' wide. Less than one year after the loss of the original structure, the new church was dedicated on September 19, 1937.

The first marriage ceremony to be performed there would be to wed Miss Margaret Keena to James McNern. In April 1962, after a membership growth spurt following World War II, the church moved to its present location at 1806 Novato Blvd. James Picchi purchased the church property and rectory on Grant Ave for \$110,000 in July 1963 and moved his Picchi Realty into the old church in September of the same year. In the late 60's the building was home to Bank of America until 1970 and eventually became home to Cacti Restaurant, which is still in business there today.

## Novato—50 Years Ago

*Continued from Page N-6*

its long time owner Ralph W. Kemerer, who bought the business in 1949. Kemerer said the store, located at 1316 Grant, was getting to be a "bigger operation than I can handle." He said he had prescriptions in his files dating back as far as 1917.

- The first federal offense handled by the fledgling Novato police department involved the U.S. mails. It seems some children were playing with a cat near a mailbox and deposited the cat,

without a stamp, into the chute. Police contacted the post office, who released the cat.

- The first elevator in Novato would be built when the second unit of the three-story Talbot building went up on Grant Avenue and Fifth Street.

- "It's impossible to patrol Novato adequately with only six men," Novato Police Chief Roy McLaren said while investigating P. G. & E's safe lifting.

## New Guild Board Member

Sheila Keena Brossier is a new board member. Her parents, Tom and Alice Keena, were charter members of the Guild. Her father was a "walking historian" on Novato history. He knew everyone in town when he worked for H. Pini & Co. for many years. Sheila attended Novato Grammar School and graduated from Marion School in 1957. She graduated from Marin Catholic High School in 1961. After high school, Sheila went to nursing school and became a Registered Nurse. She worked at San Francisco General, Ross and Novato Community Hospitals.



## Board Highlights

*Continued from Page N-4*

Committee will be eliminated. The secretary, Kathryn Hansen, will send out acknowledgement letters for all donations the guild receives and record these donations. She will also write an acknowledgement policy.

*Curator's Report* — After the walls are painted on the stairwell at Downtown Museum, install quilts and reinstall donor/recognition plaques. In the main gallery, make room for 2-3 panel changing exhibits. At the Hamilton Museum, install re-designed signage, install donor recognition signage, and install headers for subject areas on walls (adhesive lettering). The building use policy for HFHM is finalized. All items received into collection at both museums will be taken to Building 500 to be processed and stored.

*Old Business* — Novato 2010 year-long Birthday Committee will prepare a final accounting January 27 and the remaining funds will be donated to NHG.

*Committee Reports* — Memorial Wall at HFHM is in progress. Income from the Museum's Gift Shops for December was \$829.

# Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-7

• Mary, Theda, John and Louis Bugeia who raised thoroughbred racing horses on their ranch where the cemetery is located.

• The many families who lived along Atherton Avenue including the Simases, Cazzanigas, Tharps, Lewises, Sjobloms, Pivatos, Nuremburgers, Villadsens, Binforads, Mrs. Murphy, Noels, Petersons,

Rieblis, Pozzis, Strozis, Genardinis, Waynes, Carpentiers and Tamborinis.

• Old Novato families like the Naves, DeBorbas, Baccaglios, Lafranchis, Torassas, Rodonis, Enyearts, Simmons, Wisers, Andersons and Grosssis.

• The biggest change in Novato

over the years has been the population growth. The roads and buildings are more modern and improved. The modern fire department and paramedic services are a big improvement.



## 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
- 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 . . . . . \$15.50
- 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

- |   |         |      |
|---|---------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time) membership | \$10    | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership          | \$20    | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership              | \$30    | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership              | \$100   | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership          | \$200   | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, individual    | \$350   |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, joint         | \$500   |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor                     | \$1,000 | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business membership            | \$50    | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate membership           | \$1,000 | year |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donations? \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in volunteering? \_\_\_\_\_



**NOVATO HISTORICAL GUILD**  
75 Rowland Way, Suite 200  
Novato, CA 94945



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***Notice***  
***General Membership Meeting***

of the

*Novato Historical Guild*

**Saturday, March 12, 2011 — 1 p.m.**

**Old City Hall**

**901 Sherman Avenue, Novato**

*Diane Einstein will speak about Olompali State Historic Park*

**Novato History Museum—815 Delong Ave.—897-4320**  
**Hamilton Field History Museum—555 Hangar Ave.—382-8614**

**COME VISIT AND BRING A FRIEND!**

The Museums are open three days a week—Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday—Noon to 4 p.m.

**Closed Major Holidays**