

The Novato Historian

The Quarterly Publication of the
Novato Historical Guild, the Novato History Museum,
and the Hamilton Field History Museum

Preserving Novato's History

News Section

Contents © 2011 Novato Historical Guild, Inc.



April-June 2011

The Novato Historian

Volume 35, Number 2

Unique Father's Day Presents Available At Museum's Gift Shops

Father's Day is June 19 and will be here before you know it. If you want something unique for that special guy, we have warbird design T-Shirts with the P-38 Lightning, B-25 Mitchell and P-51 Mustang designs on them. These T-Shirts are 100% cotton pre-shrunk, color is stone, they come in S, M, L, XL and cost \$18. The Guild has been selling these T-Shirts for 10 months and have sold 100-plus so far.

Another unique gift is our *Mission Accomplished* DVD that tells the history of Hamilton Army Airfield. This 28-minute DVD shows historical film footage of designing and building Hamilton Airfield and costs only \$15. This DVD is very popular and can be viewed at the Hamilton Field History Museum.

We just purchased a new book, *Child on the Home Front*, by Robert Ross Talley. If you are 55 or older and if you grew up in the San Francisco

Bay Area, this book is required reminiscing. John Trumbull read the book and said. "It is what every grandfather should write for his grandchildren. It is great for starting cocktail discussions of what you did as a kid – that you don't want to see your kids do." This 119 page softcover book sells for \$21 (includes sales tax).

The above merchandise is in addition to our stock of placemats with vintage images of Novato on them, our large assortment of Note Cards and our books: *Novato Township*, *Novato, Then and Now* and *Hamilton Field History*.

Stop by one of our museums on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 12-4 and buy that special gift for that special person. And while you are there, please thank the docents for their gift of time, because without them the guild would not be able to keep the museums open.

Novato Historical Guild June Meeting

Attention:

New Location and Day!

On Saturday, June 18, at the City Hall on Sherman Avenue, the Guild will be having the 21st annual "Old Timers Day." Because of the size of the 8th grade class in 1961, we will not be doing the class reunion of the 8th grade class. Instead, we will be going back to what the "Old Timers Day" was back in 1990, the first year it was celebrated, which was "Show and Tell." So dig out that favorite family photo or an item you believe is interesting historically and bring it for all to enjoy at the meeting.

Tom Keena has put together a video of the Pini fire back in 1945 along with a walk down Grant Avenue in 1938. We will also have newspaper pictures from the 1950's to 1970's.

The June 18 meeting starts at 1 p.m. There will be refreshments provided by Guild volunteers during the meeting.



Aftermath of the 1945 Pini fire. A video of the fire will be shown at the June meeting.

Reminder! New Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Novato Historical Guild will be held at the Old Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue on **June 18.**

The Novato Historian

Published March, June, September, and December by the Novato Historical Guild, a California 501(c)3 non-profit corporation formed November 18, 1976. Contents © 2010 Novato Historical Guild, Inc.

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

President	Mike Read
Vice President	Tom Keena
Secretary	Kathryn Hansen
Treasurer	Charlotte Urban

Board of Directors

Cindy Motsinger	Roland Fuette
Pat Johnstone	Ray Dwelly
John Trumbull	Diana Goebel
Yvette Jackson	Bill McDill
Louise Koenig	Sheila Brossier
Ron Vela	

Honorary Historian

Eleonora Lafranchi

Committee Chairs

Cemetery	Joe Giari
Finance	Tom Keena
Fund Raising	Tom Keena
Gift Stores	Pat Johnstone
Hamilton Museum	Ray Dwelly
Hospitality	Diana Goebel
	Edna Manzoni
	Bill Almeida
Mailing	Edna Manzoni
Membership	Edna Manzoni
Nominating	Yvette Jackson
Oral History	Jim McNern
Publicity	Bill McDill
Public Outreach	Roland Fuette
School Tours	Janice Bazurto
	Anne Lehan
	Cindy Motsinger
Sunshine	Diane Campbell

Newsletter Editorial Board

Bill Almeida	Jim McNern
Pat Johnstone	Tonie Brown
	Mike Read

Typography, Layout, Composition

Mike Clancy

City of Novato Staff

Community Services Division Manager
Kathy Kormos

Museum Curator

Samantha Kimpel

Original articles and photographs related to Novato history are welcomed!

Deadline for September issue is August 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

It hardly seems possible that almost half the year has passed and we are once again planning our June General Meeting with Old Timers Day. This program was started back in 1990 with the 8th grade class of 1940 from Grant Avenue School. Due to the large class of 1961, which had over 200 students, we no longer host the 8th grade classes. Instead we are bringing back the popular "Show and Tell" program as instituted in 1990. So dig out that favorite family photo and an item you believe to be historically interesting to share at the meeting. We will also show the film of the 1945 Pini Hardware fire and historic photos from the 50's and 60's. The date of the June General Meeting at City Hall has been changed from June 11 to the 18th due to the conflict with the Art and Wine Festival.

Speaking of the Art and Wine Festival, we will have a booth this year for the first time. The fund raising committee will be selling historic Novato photos, books and other items of interest from our gift shop. We need volunteers to set up and work the booth. If you can give a couple of hours either day, please contact Tom Keena at 898-9200.

Once again we will be participating in the 4th of July parade. The theme this year is "Novato, Into the Future." This is always a fun event and we want to make a great showing of our museums. Again, we need your help to make it a success. Anyone interested in helping to design and construct our float, coordinate or be in the parade, contact me at mread1834@aol.com.

In order for our museums to succeed, the Guild needs to recruit new members not only to join but to participate. Please tell your friends or surprise them with the gift of a mem-

bership. Again, if you can give any of your time and expertise, or wish to learn the stories about our town to pass on to visitors, or can wield a hammer, work a computer, or just lend a hand to the many tasks the Curator needs done, please call me at 717-1412 or Samantha at 897-4320.

The Historian Newsletter Board is always looking for ways to improve the newsletter. We would like your suggestions as to its look and content. We would also like your input on what you would like to see in the "Feature Section," stories you would like to hear about, photos, places or events from the past. Please submit your ideas to me at mread1834@aol.com.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped paint and clean the Novato Museum. The team headed by Roland Fuette was able to repaint the entry way and upstairs. His crew was comprised of Tom Keena and Diane Campbell. A big thanks to Pini Hardware who donated all of the paint. Bob Manzoni and Bill Almeida cleared a path to the McNern bench, taking out all of the weeds around it. Paul Gockel weed-eated the surrounding area. Clean up day, Friday, April 22, was headed by Roland Fuette, with the help of Tom Keena, Diane Campbell, Paul Gockel, Diane and Phil Goebel, Bill McDill, and John Trumbull. With all their hard work, the Novato Museum is revitalized and refreshed, making it a more pleasant place to visit.

Together we can keep our Museums interesting destinations for visitors and a learning environment for the residents of our city.





Novato—50 Years Ago

(April, May and June 1961)

by Bill Almeida and Tonie Brown

“Novato 50 Years Ago” is a collection of items culled by Bill Almeida from the April, May and June 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.

- Some 11½ acres of land at the intersection of Highway 101 and Diablo Avenue has been sold by Safeway Stores Inc. Sale price, according to the county recorder’s office, was for \$181,500. Safeway reportedly paid \$10,000 per acre to the DeBorba family in 1955. The 11 ½ acre site will be developed as a fully integrated shopping center and will include a large Safeway supermarket, a junior department store, a super-drug store, coffee shop, liquor store and numerous other types of businesses. Construction is scheduled to begin in June.

- On April 27 there was a showing of the North Marin history film, compiled by Al Lerch of Novato. This was the final showing of his film before it was retired for an indefinite period. The film was shown in the Novato High gymnasium and was held to benefit the Novato High School Bleacher Fund.

- Al Lerch wrote Gerald Hoytt, owner of the Patterson ranch property, that instead of a shopping center the site might be more suitable as a future civic center for the city. He was awaiting a reply from Hoytt. Note: This is now the Downtown Shopping Center anchored by C.V.S. and Lucky’s.

- A Novato woman accountant who made a business of preparing income tax returns for others was sentenced in U.S. District Court in San

Francisco on five counts of failing to file her own income tax returns. Mrs. Catherine Clever, of Atherton Avenue, pled guilty to failure to file an income tax return for 1954 and nolo contendere (no contest) to the same charges for 1955, ’56, ’57 and ’58.

- In April, a controlling interest in Indian Valley Golf Course was sold to five new owners, four of whom were local businessmen. New owners, who contracted to buy out the Dr. David B. Rosehill group for an estimated \$75,000, are Darrel D. Altermatt and Charles Fedrick, partners in a large contracting firm; Robert Ohman of Oakland; Ernest Yates, and Al Leach, operator of Indian Valley’s bar and restaurant.

- James Morris, postmaster of Novato since 1954, announced his resignation to take effect May 26. He decided to retire for personal health reasons. An acting postmaster will be named after Morris’ resignation becomes effective.

- Harry Overly, assistant postmaster, tendered his resignation in late April as director of the Novato Sanitary District and director of the Novato Community Club. Overly announced he was a candidate for the soon-to-be postmaster opening.

- Mrs. Ted Bergala was named 1961 Novato Advance Mother of the Year. Mrs. Bergala was mother of four children, step-mother of two and foster mother of five. She knew her role of “mother” encompassed far more than just the duties that came with the birth of a child of her own.

- A spring wedding held on April 14 in the First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael united Sandra Gilman and John Delano Groff, formerly of Novato. The double-ring rites were followed by a reception held in the

San Rafael Improvement Club.

- Funeral services were held May 15 in the Yountville Veterans Home for Leo Zunino, 67, long-time resident of Novato. Mr. Zunino was a member of the Druids and a veteran of World War I.

- John R. Thompson, 81, of 1304 Grant Avenue, died May 16 at the Letterman Army Hospital, Presidio of San Francisco. Mr. Thompson, a long-time resident of Novato with a wide circle of friends, enlisted in the Army during the Spanish-American War. He decided to make the Army his career and served at posts throughout the United States and its possessions.

- A daughter named Christie Anne was born to Mr. & Mrs. Max Jackson of Vallejo on May 11. She weighed in at eight pounds, five ounces and was the first child of the couple. The mother grew up in Novato as Yvette Borloz.

- Six Novato girls were among the 15 gold medalists chosen throughout Marin County when the 4-H Dress Revue was held on May 13 at Hill School. Local winners were Sheila Hodges, Miwok; Eileen Azevedo and Diana McIsaac, Novato Valley; and Mary Linda Baccaglio, Pam Saffores and Joan Marzell, Novato Aggies. The county winner will be named and announced on Exhibit Day June 3 at the 4th District Fairgrounds in Petaluma.

- Novato Hornet catcher Lu Haas, who led the Marin County Athletic League in home runs, was voted by opposing players to the all league baseball squad. Haas led the Hornets with a .347 mark in the regular season. He also starred as linebacker and fullback on the varsity grid team.

- Pam Saffores, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Saffores, and a freshman

Continued on Page N-6

Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

February 2011

New Business – Arcadia Publishing would like the Guild to publish another book about Novato. All agreed that this is not the right time to take on another project. NHG might qualify for a grant from Marin Community Foundation that would help pay for the curator’s position. A proposal was submitted.

Treasurer’s Report – Cash receipts for January were \$6,900.00 and disbursements were \$750.03. The majority of the income was from Membership Dues and the Curator’s Salary of \$3,000 was not expensed in January. Total assets are \$174, 993.

Old Business – Hamilton Memorial Wall will cost another \$500. The board approved the additional expense. The board approved spending \$200 for a Hamilton Field History Museum sign that would hang across the front of the museum.

March 2011

New Business – Ron Vela presented several samples of logos for the Hamilton Field History Museum. The board approved the logo with a P-38 flying over the museum. The board discussed having a booth at the Novato Art & Wine Festival June 11 and 12. Mike Read will find out how much it will cost. The Hamilton

Museum is changing ownership from belonging to the Novato Public Financial Authority to the City of Novato as a response to Gov. Brown’s proposal to eliminate the Redevelopment Agencies throughout the state.

Curator’s Report – Volunteer Appreciation and 3rd Grade Docent meeting was held on March 8 at Hamilton Museum. Approximately 30 people attended and some new volunteers signed up. Samantha Kimpel met with the program officer from Marin Community Foundation to go over NHG’s Grant Proposal. A decision will be made the first of April. A special thanks to Kathy Kormos for encouraging NHG to apply for the grant.

Old Business – The board approved a 3 foot by 3 foot sign with the new logo for the entryway of Hamilton Museum. Roland Fuelle has started painting the hallway at the Downtown Museum. He will get a work crew together to help him finish painting and to do other projects.

Hamilton Museum – Bob Lowery has volunteered to make a stand for the bell at HFHM based on a sample from Angel Island. The materials will cost approximately \$150. A recent visitor brought 15 boxes of memorabilia to the museum. A sample of a sign the city made for Hamilton Museum to hang on the poles on Grant Ave. was shown to the board.

Membership – There are 431 active members, 69 Lifetime members and 96 overdue members. Reminders will be sent out April 1 to the delinquent members.

April 2011

New Business – The Guild will have a booth at the Art & Wine Festival this year for the first time. The dates are June 11 and 12. The

Continued on Page N-8

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:

- Riley Wingate**
- Frances Hale**
- Lorraine Crandall**
- Beatrice N. Heise**
- Karl Olson**

The Guild

Extends Sympathy to

- Jeff Craemer** on the death of his father Jack.
- Dolly Wingate** on the death of her husband Riley and nephew Alvin Lee Bilbe.
- Madge Angel** on the death of her son Robert.
- Edna and Bob Manzoni** on the death of her brother Robert.
- George Hale** on the death of his wife Frances.
- Stan Crandall** on the death of his wife Lorraine.
- Cathy Tait** on the death of her mother Lorraine Crandall.
- Joan Olson** on the death of her husband Karl.

Novato Memories

By Jim McNern



Dave Milano

Dave Milano was born in Osage City, Kansas. His family moved to California in the mid 1940's because there were more opportunities for work on the west coast after the Depression. The family moved to a home in Sonoma for six months before buying their home at 1021 Second Street from Knutte Realty in August 1946. Dave was one of nine children in the Milano family. He shares his Novato memories in this June edition of the Novato Historian. Dave remembers:

- His parents: John and Stella Milano; his siblings: John, Robert, Elizabeth, Virginia, Barbara, Susan, Evelyn and Michael.
- Entering San Rafael High School as a sophomore in 1946.
- Catching the S.R.H.S. bus each morning at the corner of Grant Avenue and the 101 Highway (now Redwood Boulevard). There were two buses taking Novato students to San Rafael; one for East Novato, and one for West Novato.
- Bob Manzoni was the first person he met in town.
- His neighbors: Mrs. Pimentel, the Keena, Rosser and Bertucci families.
- His classmates and friends:



From the Staff Desk

by Samantha Kimpel
Museum Curator

Staffing Our Museums

When looking into grants that could support our museums, it became clear that one of the most difficult-to-fund areas right now is small history museums and humanities. Many of the granting organizations that assist museums like ours have stopped or held off making new grants due to the poor economy.

However, when we thought about the history museums' role in the com-

volunteers are trained to do all the jobs needed to keep our museums running at a professional level. Most of that money will go toward keeping the curator (and volunteer coordinator!) position in place at half time through April 2012; the remainder of the project and salary funding will come from the Guild.

In a slightly restructured role, I will still be managing the museum collections, overseeing research requests, and developing exhibits, among other projects. But I will be training teams of volunteers to take on much more responsibility for tasks within all the areas that are needed to keep our museums inviting, educational, and safe places to visit.



munity, we realized that our volunteer program fit with the Marin Community Foundation's (MCF) Successful Aging Initiative. One part of that initiative is to encourage volunteerism and civic engagement among older adults (60+). As 95 percent of our volunteers are in that age bracket we decided to apply; I wrote and submitted the grant on behalf of the Guild.

In April, MCF announced that we were awarded \$20,000 for our volunteer program. Our goal is to double the volunteer pool over the coming year, and to create a program wherein

Donald and Bill Jack, Fred Thompson, Bob Manzoni, Bill Almeida, Bill Nye, Kay Murray, Virginia Orr, Margaret Clark, Barbara Simmons and Jean Johnson.

- His favorite teachers at S.R.H.S. were Mr. Mellon, Mr. Dresia, and Miss Bolton.
- Hunting ducks along Novato



We are creating four volunteer teams. They include the docent team, the collections management and research team, the community outreach and hospitality team, and the facilities management team.

Docents include all those who staff the museums during open hours, those who lead group tours or walking tours, and the 3rd grade tour docents. Collections managers and researchers include those who like to help with patron research or exhibit planning, who enjoy archive work, or who want to help us with documenting or caring for our object collections.

The community outreach and hospitality team will include volunteers

Continued on Page N-7

Continued on Page N-6

Staff Desk

Continued from Page N-5

who enjoy setting up meetings and events, and who enjoy hosting duties at them. This team will also include anyone who would like to work at the museums in a greeter role (versus becoming a docent) or who would like to promote the museums in the community, whether in helping us with graphic design or as a speaker to community groups.

The facilities management team helps to keep both museums in good repair, and as safe, attractive landmarks to visit. This includes landscaping and any other building project, including constructing exhibits.

I will be communicating with you, our amazing Guild membership, over the coming months to tell you much more about these opportunities. I am excited about this program and think it will help us to create more vibrant museums!

50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N-3

at Novato High was named Marin County Dress Revue winner at the 4-H Exhibit Day in Petaluma. She wore a cranberry wool suit.

• On June 4 between 250 and 300 persons attended a reception at the Catholic Parish Hall honoring the Rev. Charles Farrell who was celebrating his silver jubilee commemorating his 25 years in the priesthood.

• Ed Salmina, a junior at Novato High School, joined the Novato Advance on a part-time basis to write little league news. Note: Ed worked at the Advance until his sudden death in 1995.

• Edith M. Connell, 69, died June 8

at her home on South Novato Boulevard. She was born on the property where the old Connell home, built in 1849, still stands.

• Mr. E. E. Carlile, one of Novato's best loved pioneer citizens, has left his home at 853 Reichert to take up residence in a San Rafael rest home, due to failing health. Mr. Carlile was trainmaster here in 1916 and later established his hardware store on Grant Avenue. He is known as a walking history book of Novato. Note: The Carlile home is now the Chamber of Commerce office.

• Names of persons buried in the new Novato Memorial Cemetery off Bugeia Lane, with the dates of their deaths are: Charles Freeman, 1952; Lewis Mayo, 1950; Maude Mayo, 1955; William Finnell and Jessie C. Finnell, 1958; Harry Whittaker, 1960; and Baby Girl King, 1961.

• Chester W. Seely, the Hamilton Air Force Base postmaster for 25 years, retired June 30. He was replaced by Howard Bradley of the Sausalito post office. Seely was the first postmaster at Hamilton, beginning in 1936. After a round-the-world trip, Seely plans to retire to the Russian River country.

• Gas prices leveled off at about 25.9 cents for regular and 31.9 cents for ethyl. Gas prices were expected to remain at this point if none of the stations slash their prices as the gas war goes into its second week here.

• Former Vice President Richard Nixon was greeted by John Rickey on April 8 at Rickey's Rancho Rafael where 500 Republican workers gathered for a luncheon buffet. Nixon thanked those who had worked for him in the fall campaign and shook hands with many of those present.

• A ewe belonging to James McNern, of 610 McClay Road, was found dead, its throat and shoulder chewed. McNern's brother, Joe, summoned him and they followed two

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

Welcome New Guild Members

Through June 2011

Individual Memberships:

Ronald D. Manzoni

Family Memberships:

Life Membership

Please support our Guild

Business Members:

Acme Digital and Screen Graphics

Bank of Marin
Marin Landscape Materials
McIsaac Dairy
Novato Horsemen
Pini Hardware
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.***

Continued on Page N-8

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-5

Creek and the Petaluma River.

- Novato boys would swim in Novato Creek on hot summer days.

- His first job was being a bus boy at Maison Marin. He worked for Sohner Tree Service climbing trees clearing branches from electric lines and then went to work at Novato Lumber Yard. In 1951 he got into the Sheet Metal Apprentice Program for five years, and became a journeyman sheet metal worker for Howell Plumbing Company in Novato.

- His first car was a 1937 Plymouth Coupe.

- The whole town of Novato was located on East Grant Avenue. On West Grant Avenue there was a motel located on the corner of Grant Avenue and the 101 Highway. The fire house was on the North side of Grant Avenue. The Catholic Church was located on the corner of Grant and Second Street where Cacti Restaurant is now located. The rest of Grant Avenue on the West side was residential.

- Attending services and youth activities at the Novato Presbyterian Church.

- Shopping at Ascherman’s and Rayburn’s Markets, Simmons Meat Market, Pini Hardware, Novato Drug Store and Irv Links Mens’ Wear Store.

- After working ten years in the heating and sheet metal trade, he decided to study for his contractor’s license. He took the test and passed. In April of 1960, an acquaintance who owned Acme Sheet Metal Shop in San Rafael offered to sell it for a very reasonable price. He was able to raise the money, purchased it and moved the business to Novato and renamed it Aaero Heating and Sheet Metal Inc.

- Started square dancing in 1958 and continued for over forty years. He took caller classes and called for the Novato Stump Jumpers for many years.

- Worked for many years organizing, raising funds, and constructing the Novato Boys’ and Girls’ Club.

- Was encouraged by numerous citizens, the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and two officers of the police department to consider running for the Novato City Council. After

careful consideration, he decided to enter the race and won a seat on the council.

- Holding many leadership positions over the years, including: being Mayor of Novato in 1978 and 1979; serving on the Novato City Council for four years; President of the Marin Builders’ Exchange; President of the Redwood Empire Sheet Metal Contractors’ Association; Director of the California State Sheet Metal Contractors’ Association and serving as a Director of the Novato Chamber of Commerce.

- The biggest issues in Novato while he was Mayor of Novato were the building of the new police station and the development of Hamilton Field. The old police station was in an old house located next to City Hall. There was no jail. The only jail they had was a chair in the corner with a white circle painted around it. The prisoner had to sit there until the county sheriff came to pick him up and take him to the county jail.

- Judging the horses and riders before the Western Weekend parades. He would select the Best Dressed Western Man and Woman riders, Best Looking Horse, etc.

- Hearing the fire whistle blow each day at noon.

- Seeing Bruno walking down Grant Avenue waving his cane.

- The day Bruno was annoyed with Aldo Paladini and cracked his car’s windshield with his cane.

- Hanging out on the stone wall in

Continued on Page N-9



At our March general meeting Diane Einstein, Chairperson of The Olompali People Cooperating Association of Olompali State Historic Park, gives a talk about the history of Olompali and updating us on what is going on at our historic state park just north of Novato.

Things To Do Today

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

Novato's Treasures

HAMILTON HOUSE



Hamilton House c.1908



Hamilton House today

Known as the Hamilton House, located at 920 Sherman Avenue, it consisted of Lots 10, 11 and 12 in Block G. This Novato treasure was first sold to N.D. Hoskins in 1889 by the Home and Farm Co. In the earliest picture on record of downtown Novato, dated 1890, you can see a house at this location. Hoskins sold it to James Camp of Siskiyou County in 1894, and Camp sold it to Antone and Ana DeBorba on August 1, 1898. DeBorba sold it to Fred Hamilton on February 9, 1904. Fred Hamilton would build and operate a general store on this lot on the southeast corner of Grant and Sherman until 1917 when they moved to San Rafael. The Hamiltons would sell the place to George P. McNear on September 10, 1918. In the 1970's the home was occupied by Betty's Bridge Club and it would be sold by Betty Krambs for \$67,500 in July 1975 to former mayor, David Price Jones. Mr. Jones is still the current owner of the house. Today the house is home to Nine Corners: The Center for Balanced Living.

Novato—50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N-6

dogs running from the scene. One dog proved to be owned by Roxanne Kreloff who resides at 699 Tamalpais Avenue. The dead ewe was valued by McNern at \$125. He is a long-time 4-H member.

- Robert W. Melton, popular vice principal at Novato High School, resigned in late May. He has accepted the post of vice principal at Irvington High School in Fremont, a new school expected to jump to 1,900 enrollment within the next year. His reason for

leaving Novato was “based solely on professional improvement.”

- The 130 member graduating class of Novato High School will be replaced by an incoming class of 167 freshmen coming up from Hill School next fall.

- Two new Novato police officers were hired to join Police Chief Roy McLaren's department. They, Donal Merkley, 26, and Warren Mak, 34, will start their duties on July 1.

Board Highlights

Continued from Page N-4

June General Meeting date conflicts with the Art & Wine Festival so it was moved and approved that the General Meeting will be on the 18th of June at City Hall. Ron Vela designed a number of logos for the Novato Historical Guild. Board Members selected their favorites. Ron will continue to refine the logo.

Curator's Report – Marin Community Foundation approved the grant proposal submitted by the curator focusing on Volunteer Leadership and Capacity Building Projects, with increasing involvement and civic engagement for adults 60+.

Treasurer's report – Total assets are \$164,119. Cash flow Year to Date was Cash Receipts of \$10,865 and Cash Disbursements of \$15,164, Net Loss of \$4,299.

Hamilton Museum – Pat Eklund, city council member and HFHM docent, is checking with the city about directional signs and a large sign for the museum. A bike rack has been installed outside the museum.

Museum Stores – March income for both of the stores totaled \$494 and the donation box at HFHM was \$177. So far, the Guild has sold 328 copies of *Novato, Then and Now* and 416 copies of *Hamilton Field History*.

*Congratulations and
Happy 50th Anniversary
to
John and Sandy Groff*

If you are having a milestone birthday or wedding anniversary this year, or know of another member who is, we would love to know about it. Please call Diane Campbell, our Sunshine Committee Chair-person at 415-883-7265 with the details.

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-7

front of Novato Grammar School across from the Parrot Cage. Bob Manzoni would eat a whole pie from Torassa's Bakery all by himself.

• The Parrot Cage Creamery was located next to the new Novato Theater and was a popular hangout place when he was in high school.

• Old Novato families like the Askims, Bertuccis, Brashears, Novaks, Hales, Valims, Rodonis and Lees.

• The biggest changes in Novato have been: the building of the Novato Boys' and Girls' Club; the Novato Police Department facility; the

remodeling of the old Presbyterian Church into the new Novato City Hall; purchasing the properties on Sherman Avenue across from City Hall; the Novato History Museum; the Old Town Novato street upgrade; Redwood Boulevard and the Vintage Oaks Shopping Center.

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



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NOVATO, CA
PERMIT NO. 138

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Value



Notice
General Membership Meeting
of the
Novato Historical Guild

Saturday, June 18, 2011 — 1 p.m.

**Old Novato City Hall
901 Sherman Avenue, Novato**

“Old Timers’ Day” — Old Timers Especially Welcomed — Be There!

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