

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.



July-September 2011

The Novato Historian

Volume 35, Number 3

Oldtimers' Day 2011



The June 18 "Oldtimers' Day" was held in the Old Novato City Hall on Sherman Avenue. Videos and slides were shown of major fires and other events in Novato history. Jerry and Gary Corda spoke of their family's contribution to Novato's history. The Cordas also gave (on loan) an old cash register that can be seen in the Novato History Museum.

On-going Guild Program

The Novato Historical Guild for some time now has conducted very successful tours of old town Novato for 3rd grade

students. This photo and thank you note was sent May 8, 2008. Edna Manzoni is shown with a 3rd grade class taught by Rickie Merritt of Pleasant Valley School. The 3rd grade tours were coordinated by Janice Bazarro, Cindy Motsinger, and Ann Lehan. They were assisted by many docents. The 3rd grade tours have always been well received by the students and their teachers.

Cindy Motsinger said that this year, 16 docents lead five or more tours this year; 480 students attended the tours which were three hours long.



Volunteer on Wednesdays

Consider volunteering on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Novato History Museum. Also every three months when there is a fifth Wednesday, two volunteers are needed. As a docent, you would run the museum from 12 noon to 4 p.m. While there, you are responsible for greeting visitors, answering the phone, taking messages for the museum staff, selling gifts in the gift shop, and sometimes guiding guests through the museum. No experience is necessary and it is a very easy, yet satisfying time.

An orientation will be given to you before you begin volunteering to explain your duties. We are in great need to fill the time slot on the fourth Wednesday of each month. If you could volunteer once every three months, that would be very helpful, too. Please consider these volunteer positions and if you are able to help, please call Cindy Motsinger, Wednesday volunteer coordinator, at (415) 897-4881.

We have had to close the museum a few times because we had no volunteers. We want to be able to keep the museum open every Wednesday, so please give this serious consideration. It is the efforts of the volunteers that make our museum possible.

Late News Flash

Preston Cook has agreed to do a presentation on his eagle collection for the September 10 General Meeting. Mr. Cook will speak at 1:30 p.m. Included will be a 1/2 hour Powerpoint slide show.

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
Mailing	Bill Almeida
Membership	Edna Manzoni
Nominating	Yvette Jackson
Oral History	Jim McNern
Publicity	Bill McDill
Public Outreach	Roland Fuette
School Tours	Janice Bazarro
	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

Recreation Operations Manager
Kathy Kormos

Museum Curator

Samantha Kimpel

Original articles and photographs related to Novato history are welcomed!

Deadline for December issue is November 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, P.O. Box 1296, Novato, CA 94948.



President's Corner

by Michael Read

President, Novato Historical Guild

The Guild participated in Novato's Art and Wine Festival for the first time this year with its own booth. We had a great display which included books and photos, as well as items from our gift shop. The festival hosted 70,000 visitors who all had the opportunity to stop by to discover what our museums offer our community. I want to thank Tom Keena for leading the committee of volunteers who greeted visitors, answered questions, and gave us a wonderful presence to an enthusiastic audience. A big thank you goes out to Chelley Dellara of Eckerstrom Productions for seeing the value of having the Guild participate and providing us an affordable rate. This was a great showcase for us and we look forward to participating again next year. Due to technical difficulties, this was the first year in many we did not have an entry in the 4th of July parade. Many of our members and Board were active volunteers which helped to make 2011's parade one of the best ever. There were over 100 entries. As the 2010 Citizen of the Year I had the honor of riding in Al Nunes' horse and carriage along with my daughter Amanda. Not only did we have a birds-eye view, we had the time of our lives. It was a day we will remember for our lifetime.

Our September General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 10th at the Hamilton Field Museum. We will be serving our traditional barbecue of hamburgers, beans and salad from 1 - 3 p.m. The museum will be open to the public during its normal hours of 12-4. It's always fun to socialize and share stories of times gone by while enjoying the company of historically-minded friends. I hope to see YOU there. It's time once again to fill board member and officer positions for the Historical Guild. Pat Johnstone who has done a fantastic job in the gift store and Ron Vela, past president, both served for six years and will be leaving their respective positions at the end of the year. We thank them for their dedication and service to the Guild. It is volunteers like Pat and Ron who

make our organization a success. If you are interested in becoming more involved by serving on the board, please call me at 717-1412 for more information.

I have been utilizing a great website at <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc>, for historical research. The California Digital Newspaper Collection contains over 400,000 pages of significant California newspapers published from 1846-1922, including the first California newspaper, *The California*, and the first daily California newspaper, *The Daily Alta California*.

Here is an example of a recent search: I entered "Jones Novato" and retrieved these stories:

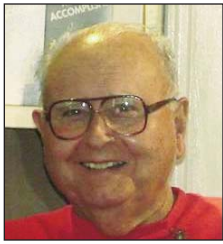
Sacramento Daily, March 21, 1872: Regarding the murder of Harry Jones in Novato, the same mystery clouds the affair; but suspicion has fastened upon certain parties and they have been arrested. Dr. Dubois held a post mortem examination, and testified to the effect that Jones died of strangulation, and not of drowning.

Sacramento Daily, March 25, 1872: The examination of John Brown and Mrs. H.T. Jones, charged with the murder of H.T. Jones, committed in Novato on the night of March 4, was concluded in San Rafael on March 23, before Justice Gardner and resulted in the acquittal of the accused.

Sacramento Daily, July 8, 1872: San Rafael, July 6, the trial of Mary B. Jones, charged with the murder of her husband, Harry T. Jones, alleged to have been committed in Novato, in March last, was concluded in the District Court, before Judge Wallace. A verdict of acquittal was rendered by the jury without leaving their seats.

Daily Alta California, July 28, 1872: San Rafael, July 27 - Mary B. Jones, of Novato, who was tried for the murder of her husband and acquitted July 6, died very suddenly this morning under peculiar circumstance. The Coroner has been notified, and an investigation will be held tomorrow.

Try searching and let us know how you liked the site.



Novato—50 Years Ago

(July, August and September, 1961)

by Bill Almeida and Tonie Brown

“Novato 50 Years Ago” is a collection of items culled by Bill Almeida from the July, August and September issues of the Novato Advance newspapers in the collection of the Novato History Museum and microfilm at the Novato Library. Tonie Brown retypes the articles for the newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading the names and happenings of 1961.

- Russell & Gooch, Mill Valley funeral directors, wrote the city their firm planned to put the Novato cemetery, off Simmons Lane, back into limited operation. The cemetery has been sprayed twice this year in an effort to kill the poison oak. The Mill Valley firm plans to clear brush next spring.

- James and William Hovis, who have worked with their father, Baxter Hovis, at the Pini Hardware store, were to leave Novato to enter business for themselves at Burney, 55 miles east of Redding. They completed negotiations for the purchase of Cook’s Hardware store in Burney. The Hovis brothers planned to be in business the first week of October.

- Jim Berthinier and John Church became permanent members of the Novato Fire Department in July. The Novato Fire District had 16 regulars, including Berthinier and Church, 25 volunteers and Fire Chief George Cavallero. Note: Berthinier later became fire chief.

- Mr. and Mrs. Rene Borloz, of 1851 Marion Avenue, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary with a family dinner at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Max Jackson, (Yvette Borloz). The celebrants were married on June 20, 1936, in San Francisco and have been Novato residents for 21 years.

- Food Fair Market on Front Street, owned by Dan Blaga, was gutted by fire estimated to have caused more than \$100,000 of damage. Firemen were able to keep the fire from spreading to adja-

cent buildings. Blaga lived a few houses up the block on East Court.

- Benign, uncontroversial M.E. Donohue, county tax collector-treasurer of Marin County and a resident of Novato, dropped a bombshell on the county courthouse by announcing that he decided not to resign until the end of his present term of January 1, 1963. The 75-year old Donohue had announced several months ago that he intended to resign at the end of June.

- Patricia Leveroni and Max Cerini were married in June in Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church. Mrs. Rene Borloz played the wedding music and accompanied Mrs. Manuel Medeiros, soloist.

- Mr. Charles E. Carlile, 84, died July 17 at the Center Medical Hospital in San Rafael. Mr. Carlile, a pioneer resident of Novato and one of its most respected and best loved citizens, was born on May 20, 1877 in Lima, Ohio. He began working for the railroad at an early age. He left the railroad around 1910 to become a Wells Fargo agent in the store which eventually became his well-known hardware store at 815 Grant Avenue. The store closed in June 1961. Note: the Carlile home was the building which now houses the Novato Chamber of Commerce at Reichert and DeLong Avenue.

- Novato’s first elevator was going through a series of tests and take-offs in the three-story Talbot building at 5th and Grant. The Talbot building, Novato’s newest and most modern, had an opening party on July 20.

- Sharon Lee Baldwin and Edward Texeira Affonso became engaged in mid-July. The bride-elect graduated from Novato High School and was formerly a cashier at the Novato Theater. Her fiancé graduated from San Rafael High School and was employed by Rainbow Plastics, Inc. in San Rafael. A June 1962 wedding

was being planned by the young couple.

- Bonnie Russell, 2 Boulevard Court, was named on the spring Dean’s Honor List at the University of the Pacific in Stockton.

- In July the State Highway Division was still debating the route of Highway 101 through Novato.

- A Requiem High Mass was held July 19 at Our Lady of Loretto for Alban Carlos, 41, of Diablo Avenue, who died of cancer. Mr. Carlos had operated the Liquor Mart at 1403 Grant Avenue for three years prior to his sale of the business before he passed away. Previously, he had been associated with the Pozzi Ready Mix Concrete Company for seven years. Mr. Carlos was born in Merced and came to Novato in 1946 after serving with the Army in World War II.

- Harry Overly, Novato’s acting postmaster, received word in early August that he had passed the non-competitive examination held for the postmaster position. Next step was for Overly’s name to reach the desk of the President, who would officially appoint him. Then he had to be confirmed by the Senate.

- Because of a record of excellence in past 4-H participation, Mary Linda Baccaglio, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Baccaglio, won the coveted directors’ cup in an award ceremony which climaxed the Sonoma-Marin Fair in Petaluma in mid-August. Mary Linda, a member of the Novato Aggies, was the third member of the Aggies to receive the honor. Past winners were Jim McNern and Joan Marzell.

- Henry A. Sandbach of Novato, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry after his final phase of training at ROTC camp at Fort Lewis, Washington. Lt. Sandbach graduated from Marin Catholic High School in Greenbrae in

Continued on Page N-6

Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

May 2011

New Business – Mike Read is getting the fee of \$375 waived for the Guild’s booth at the Art & Wine Festival. The Guild will have an informational booth at Olompali Heritage Day on May 15.

Curator’s Report – NHG has been approved for a grant of \$20,000 from the Marin Community Foundation. A motion to accept the proposed grant and to allocate the funds for the curator’s position until next April was made and passed. The curator said that the Guild’s website has been revamped – both museums will be linked at cityofnovato.org/museum.

Treasurer’s Report – Checking account balance is \$11,403 and the Linsco Investment account is \$157,538. April Cash Receipts were \$591 and Cash Disbursements were \$4,867.

Old Business – The June General Meeting will be held at City Hall from 1-3. Coffee and dessert will be served.

June 2011

New Business – A motion was made and approved not to have a float in this year’s 4th of July Parade because the Guild does not have a truck or driver this year. A motion was made and approved for NHG to open a post office box. Cost is \$60 per year. Cindy Motsinger said that 16 docents lead 5 or more tours this year; 480 students attended the tours which were three hours long.

Curator’s Report – The Curator is almost done with a new flyer and brochure for the volunteer program so that the Guild can launch a volunteer recruitment campaign in July. Both museums have been signed up as Let’s Move Museums. This is part of Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move campaign for fit-

ness and healthier eating.

Old Business – Pat Eklund said that the request for directional signs to Hamilton Field History Museum has been approved by the city. The Guild’s booth at the Art & Wine Festival made \$772. It was agreed that we should have a booth next year.

Hamilton Museum – The museum has wireless capabilities now. A SIRS group donated blinds for some of the windows at the museum.

July 2011

New Business – A committee was formed to update the Guild’s by-laws that have not been updated since 2000.

A motion was made and approved to participate in the 2011 Holiday Crafts Faire. Cost \$80.

Treasurer’s Report – Cash Receipts for June were \$13,821.05 (\$12,000 was received from the Marin Community Foundation as part of the grant) and Cash Disbursements were \$4,165.02.

Old Business – The Guild’s new mailing address is P.O. Box 1296, zip code 94948. Mail will still be picked up weekly at the Rowland Way address. The curator will have address stamps made with the new address.

Hamilton Museum – An F6F Hellcat engine that was recovered from the Novato Landfill site in 1985 is on display in front of the museum. This navy single engine aircraft crashed at the landfill in 1945. All of the fire extinguishers at the museum were checked and are okay.

Museums/Gift Shops – The Novato History Museum received a \$15 donation from Pleasant Valley PTA for 3rd grade tours. The gift shop made \$85.30 for the month of June. The Hamilton Field History Museum Gift Shop made \$293.00 in June and donations were \$209.00.



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:

Don Curran
Robert Porteous
Ignazio Vella

The Guild Extends Sympathy to

Mrs. Don Curran on the death of her husband Don.

Nancy Porteous on the death of her husband Robert.

Bob Porteous on the death of his father Robert.

Sally Vella on the death of her husband Ignazio.

Bill and Clarice Mazzoleni on the death of his sister, Rose Paganetti.

Novato Memories

By Jim McNern



Yvette Borloz

Yvette Borloz was born in San Francisco Childrens' Hospital in April 1941. Her family moved to Novato from San Francisco in September 1940. She was a member of the first graduating class from Novato High School in 1959. Yvette has lived and worked in Novato all her life. She shares her Novato memories in this September issue of the Novato Historian. Yvette remembers:

- Her parents: Rene and Yvonne Deny Borloz; her grandparents: Maurice and Christiane Deny; and her siblings: Claudette and Rene Borloz.
- Living at 690 McClay Road until 1946, and then moving to 1851 Marion Avenue and living there until she married.
- Her neighbors: the Kingsley, DeLucchi, Ambrosini, Orr and Glass families.
- Her father commuting in a car pool to Mare Island each day to work as an electrician until he retired in 1966.
- Attending Novato Grammar School and later Marion School and having Mrs. Hulme in 1st Grade; Miss Dalessi in 2nd; Miss Dolcini in 3rd; Mrs. Clark in 4th; Mr. Farris in 5th; Mrs. Moore in 6th; Miss Maguire in 7th; and Mr. Wineland in 8th Grade.
- The rings, seesaw and merry-go-round in the playground at Novato Grammar School.



From the Staff Desk

by *Samantha Kimpel*
Museum Curator

Interns and Recent Graduates at Work!

In the past few years, I have talked much about the valuable contributions of volunteers in operating and maintaining the museums. I would like to highlight one group of individuals who have been invaluable: undergraduate and graduate-level interns and recent college graduate volunteers.

The museum field is highly competitive. Like many nonprofits, internships tend to be unpaid or have very small stipends. Although in times of recession visitorship to museums does often increase (as people look for inexpensive, local entertainment), budgets remain strained and staffing freezes or layoffs ensue. Also, there isn't a lot of turn-over in museum staffs: once people secure a museum position — at least at mid-size and larger institutions — they tend to stay.

During this recession, I've received many requests for internships or requests from recent grads wanting to volunteer to gain museum experience. (I have also recruited interns through local colleges and universities.) I am always thrilled to identify these volunteers as I receive much-needed help on specific projects, and the museum gains by adding diversity in skill and age to our volunteer corps. These students and recent grads have served as docents, as well as have completed projects such as scanning special collections of photographs into our data-

- Playing the bells in a music program in the First Grade.
- Delivering coffee with Joan Marzell to the teachers in their classrooms at the old Novato Grammar School.
- Being very shy in the primary grades, but became much more confident and outgoing with the help of Miss Dolcini.

Continued on Page N-7

base, inventorying our collections, and assisting with collections accessions.

Of course, the down side to "hiring" these interns and volunteers is that we don't have the budget to keep the good ones on staff! Although we are sad to see them go, we're particularly excited when they go on to paid museum jobs. In the past few months, two of our volunteers have been hired to new positions.

When she came to us, Diane Mourgos was particularly interested in WWII history and expressed her interest in research. Diane is a recent graduate of Sonoma State University with a major in history; she served as a docent at the



Diane Mourgos with the California Mission Model Museum 4th of July float.

Hamilton Field History Museum over the past year. Diane recently accepted the position of Executive Director for the California Mission Model Museum, which showcases "one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted models of all 21 California Missions made for the 1939 World's Fair." The collection is owned by and housed at Cline Cellars in Sonoma, www.californiamissionsmuseum.com.

Kelsey Monahan graduated this spring from San Francisco State University with a degree in anthropology. Kelsey came to the museum with an interest in learning different museum jobs, and over the past few years she has worked as our collections and curatorial assistant. Kelsey

Continued on Page N-6

Staff Desk

Continued from Page N-5

is now the Assistant Executive Director at the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame in Davis, www.usbhof.org. The museum recently



Kelsey Monahan with docent Ann Ramsay at the Novato History Museum.

relocated from New Jersey, so

she is currently busy with unpacking the collection.

Congratulations Diane and Kelsey! And if you, our Guild members, visit either of the museums, please stop and say hello to them.

And if you happen to know of an undergraduate or graduate student or a recent grad who is interested in gaining experience in the museum field, have them contact me at either museum. We are happy to assess their interest areas and put them to work!

50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N-3

1956 and the University of San Francisco in 1961.

• The August 23 issue of the Novato Advance announced that sale of the paper by co-publishers George A. Barnwell and Fred J. Volz appeared imminent. West Coast Publisher Sheldon Sackett was studying a number of options in the newspaper purchase.

• A final inspection of the completed Novato High football bleachers was scheduled to be made in early September. Cost of the bleachers came close to \$19,000 which emptied the Bleacher Club treasury. Visiting stands will hold 500 spectators while the home side will

seat 1,100. A section of 500 seats will be reserved for the student body, with the remaining 600 seats for the general public.

• The “Memos From the City Desk” column of the September 13 Advance issue noted that Novato police were issuing tickets to kids near Novato High. Residents in the area had complained about speeding; however, some later claimed the police were “picking on their kid” when their kid was cited. The police checks were called off for a while.

• Judge Joseph G. Wilson issued a ruling in favor of the City of Novato in its law suit against the directors of the Novato Community Club for possession of the club property at 906 Machin (Community House). The ruling was issued on September 15 and ordered the immediate conveyance of the property to the city with no strings attached. Judge Wilson approved point by point the argument waged by Attorney William O. Weissich who represented the city and Al Bowman in the matter. Bowman had initiated the suit on behalf of the people and was later joined by the City of Novato.

• A big and experienced Analy High football team handed the Novato High School Hornets a 12-7 defeat in the season opener at the Novato High football field on September 16. Novato’s lone touchdown came in the second period when Don Scribner intercepted a pass and raced 70 yards to pay dirt. Dennis McCormick ran for the extra point.

• Superintendent Phillip Schneider of the San Jose School District was invited to appear before the Marin County Grand Jury at its September 28 meeting to explain a weekend junket to Hoberg’s Resort (Lake County) by himself and 19 board and staff members of the San Jose School District.

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

Welcome New Guild Members

Membership Report September 2011

Individual Memberships:

- Lucille Allison
- Gene Marcinkowski
- Joan Davis
- Stephanie Miller
- Chuck Doolittle
- Kathryn Mitchell-Ball
- Carol Fitzgerald
- Fred Oberding
- Laurie Gratiot
- Laurie O’Mara
- Bobbie Kettler
- Rudy Picarelli
- John Knebel
- Tony Schmdt
- Lauren Long

- Bill Smith
- David Williams
- Julia Yost
- John Zerbe

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.

Things To Do Today

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

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-5

- Her classmates and friends: Pam Kingsley, Geoff Lang, Maureen Tresch, Jack Sparrow, George Gness, Elaine Hale, Lee Thompson, Joan Marzell, Paul Hughes, Geraldine Antonio, Nancy Phinney, Rebecca McClelland, Carol Lantz, Roy Wilfert, Penny Lindley and Frank Antonio.

- Dressing up in costumes at Halloween and having a parade at school.

- Making decorations to decorate the classroom for Christmas and using lots of school paste in these projects.

- Exchanging “penny” valentines with friends for Valentine’s Day and having a class party with refreshments. Each classroom had a beautifully decorated valentine box to hold the cards.

- Novato High School opened in 1955 at Marion School with the freshman class sharing classrooms with the elementary kids. Everyone was on double session. The high school students went from noon until 5 o’clock. The school colors and mascot were chosen by the first class when they were in the 8th grade. Some of the early teachers were: Joyce Palmer (Math); Ray Denegri (French); Fred Rodack (History); Vince Clement (English); Marie Stafford (Art); Jan Hunninghaus (P.E.); and Ralph Cutler (P.E.); Mrs. Mayo, Mrs. Lester, Mr. Weston, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Best, Mr. DeTuncq, Mr. Garguilo and Mrs. Bingelli.

- Mr. Robert McKeay was the first principal of Novato High School.

- Mr. Bob Patterson was an 8th grade teacher at Marion School and then moved on to the high school as Vice Principal and Director of Student Activities. He was a real advocate for students.

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 Chairperson at 415-883-7265 with the details.

- Gary Edwards was the first student body president at Novato High School.

- Being the first head cheerleader at Novato High School.

- Knowing all the teachers on the high school staff. If you didn’t have them in a classroom setting, they were involved in student activities and clubs.

- Moving to the new campus in January 1957 after Christmas break. By that time there were two classes in the school with a total population of about 200 students.

- There was a school band and jazz band; drama club and choir. We started language clubs, Girls’ League, Girls’ Athletic Association and Novato Scholarship Federation. There were variety shows and pep rallies.

- In 1958-59 we had a full four-year school and the campus continued to grow. The students who were a part of that unique group still remain friends and close to this day. We have a great deal of pride in being the founding four classes of Novato High School.

- Her first job was cleaning eggs at the Bloom Egg Ranch on Indian Valley Road. After working there for over a year and a half, she discovered she was allergic to the dust and chicken feathers.

- She was the representative from Novato High School in Macy’s Teen Program in 1958 and worked there after school.

- The “Hi Fi” was a very popular hangout for teenagers in the 50’s and 60’s. They sold hamburgers for 19 cents. It was located where the Quick Oil Change on Redwood Boulevard is now located. The “Carousel Drive In” was another gathering place for teens.

- Novato kids spent a lot of time outside and made their own fun. We had Mt. Burdell for hiking and Novato Creek for doing all manner of things. Playing baseball and basketball were always fun.

- Spending hot summer days swimming in the Dwelly’s pool. There were also a few spots in Novato Creek where you could get wet in the early summer

when there was still running water.

- Taking Red Cross Life Saving lessons at the San Rafael High School pool.

- Being a member of the Novato 4-H Club and attending meetings in the club car located behind the Community House. Learning to sew and participating in dress revues and exhibiting projects at local fairs.

- Attending 4-H Camp at Los Posados in Angwin was lots of fun.

- Shopping at Rayburn’s Market, Simmons Meat Market, Pini’s, Carlisle Hardware, Ascherman’s Market, Food Fair, Creamy Corner and the Pini Mill.

- Getting around town by walking and riding bikes. If you wanted to go out of town you took the Greyhound bus.

- Working at Dean’s Rexall Drug Store for ten years.

- Burge’s Drive-In in Ignacio was a popular hangout for Novato kids. They had car hops who would bring food to your car. Some Novato girls met their future husbands there because it was popular with airmen from Hamilton A.F.B.

- Grant Avenue was “town.” All shopping was done in the three to four blocks on East Grant Avenue. On the West side of Grant we had Ascherman’s Market and Pini Hardware.

- Brice Brothers’ Market opened in the Nave Shopping Center in the 1950’s.

- Her mother giving piano lessons to many Novato students from 1944 to the early 1980’s. Some of her students were: John Stuve, Jack Sparrow, Ann Fredrickson, Martha and Dietrich Stroeh, Bob and Shirley Mayo, Julie Berkov, Rosemary, Hannah and Linda Lausman, and the Schwindt and Dwelly kids.

- Watching the annual Portuguese and Western Weekend parades.

- Going to the Novato Train Depot with parents to ship rabbit skins that her dad had put on frames and dried.

- People were on “party lines” for tele-

Continued on Page N-9

New Book at Hamilton Museum Gift Shop

By Pat Johnstone

Hamilton Field Diary by Major F. H. Oberding USAF (Ret.) is on sale at the Hamilton Field History Museum. The book lists the events occurring at Hamilton Field from the fight to get the Federal Government to select the Marin County site as the location of the new air-base on the West Coast, to its eventual closure to become a civilian town with homes, recreation facilities and job sites. This soft-back book has 385 pages, 54 photos, numerous charts and sells for \$22.

Major Oberding was never stationed at

Hamilton but was at McClellan AFB in Sacramento. He made many trips to Hamilton in the early 1960's to discuss the installation and depot maintenance of electronic equipment with the 4th Air Force, 28th Air Division and the Communication Service Squadron and Group. The Height Finder Radar that is still on Mr. Tam was installed by one of his teams from McClellan and it is presently being used by the FAA. Major Oberding is a docent at Hamilton Field History Museum on the third Wednesday of the month. So stop by and ask him why he wrote this history of Hamilton, buy his book, and get a free autograph.

Also on sale at the HFHM Gift Shop are the Guild's books: *Hamilton Field History*, *Novato*, *Then and Now* and *Novato Township* by May Ungemach.

The Novato Gift Shop has beautiful leather coin purses, business cardholders, and cosmetic bags or small purses all with a color picture of Novato City Hall on them. These leather items were made by a local Novato company. We also sell wine glasses with a picture of the Novato History Museum (old Postmaster's House) on them, Museum tote bags and a large assortment of notecards.

Reminder! General Membership Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 10
Noon

Hamilton Field History Museum
555 Hangar Avenue

Barbecue Lunch

Novato's Treasures

PACHECO HOUSE



Herb, Sr. and Frances, 1975



Herb, Jr. and Debbie, 2010

This Novato Treasure is located at 235 Alameda Del Prado (old address was 5495 Redwood Highway). Santiago Gumesindo Pacheco had this two-story, twelve-room house built some time between 1878 and 1882, by George W. Bond for \$6,000. Gumesindo passed away in 1916 and his wife Rosa (Tanforan) followed in 1921. At the time of Rosa's death, two of their daughters, Mercedes and Abigail, were also living in the home.

A second house was built on the property in the 1950's for their brother Tomas. Mercedes passed in 1950 leaving Abigail Pacheco Rowland, (divorced from Clarence Rowland) alone in the house until her death in 1966. After her death, Abigail's son, Herbert, Sr. moved in and made some major changes to the home. He installed new plumbing which included upgraded bathrooms; and since there wasn't an electrical outlet in the house, he also installed all new wiring. Over the years while renovations have been completed the integrity and the original feel of the home still remains.

Herb, Sr. passed away in 1977, two years after this picture was taken. Herb, Jr. moved in to Tomas's home and eventually moved to the mansion after his mother, Frances, died in 2003. The second picture shows the house as it is today along with Herb, Jr. and his wife Debbie.

Help Wanted

Docents for
Hamilton Field History Museum



Positions available for
Wednesdays and Saturdays
from 12 noon-4 p.m.

Please call Museum Curator

Samantha Kimpel

at 899-8236 or email at
Kimpel@ci.novato.ca.us.

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-7

phone service. The family's early phone ring was 2 long and 1 short. Novato's later telephone prefix was TWinbrook.

- Her mother being the choir director for many years at the old Our Lady of Loretto Church on Grant Avenue and then for a few years when the new church was built.

- Many people took the Greyhound bus to commute to San Francisco jobs each day.

- Old Novato families with the names: Clark, Lang, Kingsley, Dwelly, Glass, Schwindt, Delucchi, Ambrosini, Giari, Scheller, Nolan, Johnson, Lafranchi and DeSousa.

- There have been many changes in Novato over the years. There are now many more buildings; not as many open places for kids to play; more rules and regulations, and it takes much more time for the "City" to get things done. We do have more parks which help replace the open space.

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, P.O. Box 1296, Novato, CA 94948.**

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
P.O. Box 1296
Novato, CA 94948



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, September 10, 2011 — Noon

**Hamilton Field History Museum
555 Hangar Road**

“Please Join Us and Enjoy a Barbecue Lunch”

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