

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.



October-December 2011

The Novato Historian

Volume 35, Number 4

September Meeting and BBQ



Bill Glass, Tom Keena, and Jim Henderson handled BBQ duties at the September meeting at the Hamilton Museum.

General Meeting and Holiday Party

On Saturday, December 10, the Novato Historical Guild will hold its General Meeting and Holiday Party at Novato City Hall starting at 1 p.m.

Delicious treats will be provided by Guild volunteers and traditional holiday music by the Rob Sundberg Combo. There will be a short business meeting to elect a new Board of Directors for 2012 and to present the budget for the new year.

For the tenth consecutive year **the Guild will be collecting canned food for the needy.** The canned food will be donated to the Marin Food Bank on Digital Dr. in Novato. After you sign the guest book, one extra prize-drawing ticket will be given for each can of food that you bring in. Please help to make the holiday season brighter for someone less fortunate than yourself, and take home a door prize at the same time.

Nominees for 2012 Guild Board of Directors

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

President	Mike Read
Vice President	Tom Keena
Secretary/Treasurer	Kathryn Hansen
Board of Directors	
Ray Dwelly	Cindy Motsinger
Roland Fuelle	John Trumbull
Diana Goebel	Sheila Brossier
Yvette Jackson	Joe Williams
Louise Koenig	Janice Bazurto
Bill McDill	

Novato Historical Guild — 2012 Proposed Budget

INCOME

Hamilton retail	\$900
Township resale	\$400
Now & Then retail	\$1,000
Township retail	\$400
Bricks sales	\$1,000
Donations - general	\$2,000
Donations - Hamilton	\$2,000
Fund Raising Event	\$1,000
Gift Shop - general	\$2,000
Gift Shop - Hamilton	\$2,000
Membership dues	\$9,000
Misc.	\$7,200

TOTAL INCOME \$28,900

EXPENSES

Bank and Credit Card Charges	\$500
Brick expenses	\$400
Building Maintenance	
expense - Hamilton	\$2,000
Building Maintenance	
expense - Downtown	\$500
Director's Discretionary Fund	\$2,000

Director's Salary	\$12,000
Dues & Fees	\$200
Education	\$50
Fund.+ Promo	\$1,500
Fundraising Event	\$400
Hospitality Committee	\$800
Membership Drive	\$100
Memorial Plaques	\$50
Merchandise for Gift Shop	\$2,000
Miscellaneous Expense	\$200
Museum archival supplies	\$500
Museum exhibit supplies	
Downtown	\$500
Museum exhibit supplies	
Hamilton	\$2,000
Newsletter Support	\$800
Office & Computer supplies	\$800
Postage, bulk permit	\$800
Sales Tax	\$700
Sunshine Committee	\$100

TOTAL EXPENSES \$28,900

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

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 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

Recreation Operations Manager
Kathy Kormos

Museum Curator

Samantha Kimpel

Original articles and photographs related to Novato history are welcomed!

Deadline for March issue is February 1

Address Changes

The Novato Historian is mailed by bulk mail and will **not** be forwarded by the Postal Service. Please notify us promptly of your address change, at Novato Historical Guild, P.O. Box 1296, Novato, CA 94948.



President's Corner

by Michael Read

President, Novato Historical Guild

President's Corner - December 2011
This year has been a very exciting and rewarding one. Our fund raising efforts resulted in a grant from the Marin Community Foundation which enabled us to fund our curator for another year. Additionally, a generous donation by Novato's 2010 Committee allowed us to expand our involvement in community events and enhance our visibility which was one of our goals for 2011.

Our Fall general meeting and BBQ at Hamilton was a huge success with an unprecedented 80 people in attendance. Preston Cook kept us all captivated with his presentation on the Bald Eagle providing myths and facts of how it became our national symbol. We had a great surprise when Howard Nurse III, Grandson of Captain Nurse, presented us with a plaque from one of the original buildings of Hamilton Air Force Base. It is now displayed in the main lobby. Stop by to visit; it is a wonderful enhancement to our museum.

Our General, Holiday meeting will be held on December 10 at City Hall on Sherman Avenue from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. We will be supporting the Marin Community Food Bank once again. Bring food items and receive a raffle ticket for each item. The more you bring the more chances you have to win a prize. Enjoy

music provided by Rob Sundberg and Company while nibbling on cookies and coffee. Not only will we be enjoying the Holiday season together, we will also be voting on the new budget and changes to the by-laws. We hope you will be there to exercise a benefit of membership and vote as well as share some holiday cheer with friends.

Volunteers are who keep the museums going and we can't thank them enough. Without docents the museums would close. As always, docents are needed, especially at the Novato Museum on Wednesdays from 12-4. If you would like to support your museum while sharing your knowledge of our city with visitors, please contact Samantha at 897-4320. Help share our message and keep our doors open—become a docent; it is a very rewarding experience.

I would like to thank three Board Members who will be leaving their positions at the end of this year:

Ron Vela who served as the President for two years and was very instrumental in the making of "Novato Then and Now" publication.

Pat Johnstone who keeps our Gift Shop professionally displayed, well stocked and up to date. She also provides input on our displays at community events. Pat also provided the heroic task of scheduling docents at the Hamilton Museum.

Charlotte Urban who has been our loyal Treasurer for eight years.

Without the dedication of people like Ron, Pat and Charlotte we would not be where we are today. My personal thanks to all of you for all that you do for our community.

With the Holiday Season upon us, consider a gift of membership to family and friends or to immortalize them in a most special way by presenting them with a brick on the patio of our Hamilton Museum. For additional information contact John Trumbull at trumbullesq@yahoo.com.

I wish for all of our members and their families a very Happy Holiday Season and another wonderful and historical year in 2012.

Will Lieb

Wilfred Lieb, 87, lifelong resident of Novato, passed away on September 6.

"Will," as he was known, grew up during the era when Novato was rich with chicken ranches and orchards. He carried on his family's chicken operation for decades on Hill Road. He attended Novato Grammar School, San Rafael High School, and Marin Junior College. Will also served in WW II in the South and Western Pacific. He had a strong sense of civic duty and community service. Will was a volunteer fireman for many years, and a charter member of the board of directors of the Novato Historical Guild. He also ran for Novato City Council in the 1970's.



Novato—50 Years Ago

(October, November and December, 1961)

by Bill Almeida and Tonie Brown

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

- City Administrator John Baget announced the appointment of Wayne Knutilla, 40, as Novato’s second police sergeant, effective October 1. Knutilla was recommended by Chief Roy McLaren based on performance of his work.

- Robert Manzoni, 1400 Chase Street, was elected vice president of the Novato Volunteer Firemen. He replaced James Hovis, who recently left Novato to enter the hardware business in the northern part of the state.

- Three talented young musicians from Novato were selected to play with the Marin Youth Orchestra. Phil Edwards, Clifford Craig, and John Rockwell were the local musicians. Edwards, flute and piccolo; Craig on drums; and Rockwell on trumpet.

- Two Novato deputy sheriffs emerged as heroes in a gun battle in Tiburon. Deputy Sheriffs Ernest Nielsen, 27, and George Johnson, 30, shot and killed a robber who had fired his gun at them after the stolen car in which he was fleeing crashed into the deputies’ patrol car.

- In October, Judge Joseph G. Wilson signed the findings and the judgment in the case of the city of Novato versus the Novato Community Club. In his judgment, Judge Wilson named Deputy County Clerk George Gness as trustee for the club property and ordered him to sign a deed for the property giving the Community House to the City of Novato. Gness did so.

- Councilman Everett Pozzi returned

from a safari to Africa’s Kenya country, as a very happy man. He hit the “big five”, which is the greatest prize a hunter can achieve. The “big five” consists of an elephant, lion, a rhino, buffalo and leopard. Note: This is not considered a good achievement in today’s world.

- Councilman M. E. (Babe) Silva was extremely critical of the city’s hiring policy. He indicated he wanted the council to have more say in hiring employees and also to encourage more local hiring rather than employing outsiders. City Administrator John Baget told the Novato Advance he was merely following the administrative ordinance under which he was hired and which spells out his authority and responsibilities.

- Novato’s Bob “Moe” Sparrow, 17 quarterback for the Marin College “Tars,” was walking on crutches on Oct. 25 because of a knee injury suffered in the “Tars” 1961 opener against Sierra College. Sparrow was playing on defense, started to tackle a Sierra ball carrier and twisted his right knee when the runner spun to the side of the field.

- Arthur W. Scheller, 1890 Marion Avenue, marked his retirement from Hamilton Air Force Base in November. He was a civilian carpenter with the Civil Engineer Division and retired after 20 years service. Mr. Scheller retired at age 70. He was the father of Erwin and Paul Scheller. Erwin lives in Germany while Paul, contractor and businessman, still lives in Novato.

- Half the shares of the Marin Publishing Company, owned by Fred Volz, were in the process of being sold to George A. Barnwell, editor, and Gordon Adams, Advertising manager, of the Novato Advance. An agreement was signed in November by Volz, Barnwell and Adams. Volz and Barnwell have owned the newspaper for the past six years, each owning half of the business.

Barnwell now becomes majority stock holder of the company.

- Marin County telephone prefixes will convert to all numbers in November and December, according to Western California Telephone Company. The change was to be made in two steps the firm said. Customers with two-letter prefixes, whose last names start from A through E were to be converted in early November. The remainder of customers with letter prefixes will be converted on December 8.

- Rancho School was the newest school in Novato. It was so new that Principal Rex Rolle was working at a student table, his desk not yet having arrived. The library contained 400 books out of a planned 2,800. The nine rooms housed some 306 children and 9 teachers. Including the price of the land, Rancho was built for approximately \$421,000.

- Robert Porteous, 35, a resident of Oak Knoll Road, was selected by the Bar Pilots Association to serve as skipper of the pilot motor ship, Golden Gate, stationed 11 miles outside San Francisco Bay. Porteous had previously served for 14 years with the pilot ship, California. A resident of Novato for 12 years, he is married and the father of three children.

- Todd’s department store in the Nave Shopping Center was the successful bidder for a contract post office, Postmaster Harry Overly announced on November 29. The branch office opens December 1, “just in time for the Christmas rush,” said Overly. Note: The main post office was located at 1118 First Street, next to the carwash.

- The Novato fire commission authorized the hiring of a new regular fireman in late December. Starting work on January 2 was Walter J. Nolan, 21, of 590 Wilson Avenue. His starting salary was \$415 per month. He was to be the 17th

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Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

August 2011

New Business – Discussed program for September 10 General Meeting which will be held at Hamilton Field History Museum.

Curator's Report – The cheese exhibit has been delayed due to lack of volunteers. The curator will be making a presentation at the Marin Volunteer Center as outreach to get more volunteers for the guild's two museums. Job descriptions for volunteers are posted on the City of Novato website.

Old Business – Signage for Hamilton Field History Museum has been approved by the city but not yet sched-

uled to be installed. The Bylaw Committee will meet August 15 to finalize changes before presenting them to the Board for approval. Kathy Kormos will get the City's approval before removal of the flag pole at the Downtown Museum. The Board received a check for \$12,612.89 from the 50th Birthday Steering Committee.

Museum Stores – Total sales and donations from both stores for July was \$570.90.

September 2011

New Business – It was suggested that we plant something tall by the Memorial Wall at Hamilton Field History Museum to prevent graffiti. We will check with the City to see if they can provide anti-graffiti paint or if they have

suggestions/restrictions regarding appropriate plants.

Curator's Report – A monthly newsletter will be sent to docents and volunteers. Pleasant Valley School asked for docents to participate in their History Day. Request for volunteers (4 hours once a month) was submitted to the Marin Center for Volunteers & Non Profit Leadership. The Marin Community Foundation will be given a quarterly report on the success in obtaining volunteers.

Treasurer's Report – Cash flow for January-August was Cash Receipts of \$40,364.77 and Cash Disbursements of \$31,953.29.

Old Business – The revised bylaws were reviewed and changes will be made. John Trumbull has volunteered to take charge of obtaining and installing bricks at the Hamilton Museum. A motion was made and passed to call the memorial wall "Patriots Wall" at Hamilton Field History Museum. Hamilton Hometown Festival will take place at the Unity Church on November 5 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hamilton Museum – A college group will be coming to video the museum in conjunction with the signing of the United Nations Charter. Hamilton Elementary School has requested four tours in January.

October 2011

New Business – A motion was made and passed to accept the Novato Historical Guild 2012 Proposed Budget of \$28,900. A motion was made and passed to nominate Janice Bazarro and Joe Williams as new board members. The board discussed a "Thank You" event for docents that will be held in January 2012, hopefully, at the Pacheco Ranch Winery. A fund raiser is in the planning stages for 2012.

Curator's Report – Samantha Kimpel and Cindy Motsinger worked with Pleasant Valley Elementary School to help plan their History Day event; the

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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:

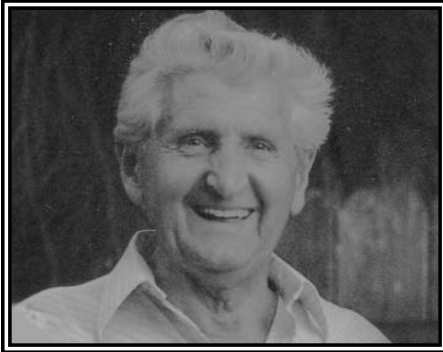
- Robert Myers**
- Margaret Bingelli**
- Wilfred Lieb**
- Clyde Westlund**
- Maria Lea Nunes**
- Harrison Hoes**
- Maria Nunes**
- David Milano**

The Guild Extends Sympathy to

- Carolyn Myers** on the death of her husband Robert.
- Family** of Margaret Bingelli.
- Family** of Will Lieb.
- Jean Westlund** on the death of her husband, Clyde.
- Family** of Maria Lea Nunes.
- Alice Mazzoleni** on the death of her brother Clyde.
- Family** of Harrison Hoes.
- Family** of Maria Nunes.

Novato Memories

By Jim McNern



Martin Beebe

Martin Beebe was born in Reading, Ohio, ten miles north of Cincinnati. He was one of eleven children. He moved to Novato in 1953 to work for his sister and brother-in-law, who owned R&W Market. Marty has lived here for 58 years. He shares his Novato memories in this December issue of the Novato Historian. Marty remembers:

- His parents: Martin and Catherine Beebe; his siblings: Marie, Paul, Rita, Ralph, Eva, Don, Cathaleen, Anna, Fred and James.
- Moving to Novato in July of 1953 to work in the R&W Market with his sister Marie, and her husband, George Warden.
- Living in houses on Orange and Olive Avenues.
- His neighbors: Bob Wakeman, Tony Valim, Jim Hill, Mateous Freitas and the Kemerer, Martin, Peterson, Bishop, Alcorn, Crandall families.
- Novato was a small town in the 1950's with a country atmosphere. The population was around 7,000. There were many dairy ranches and Hamilton A.F.B. was in full swing. Center Road ended at Sutro. The 101 Highway ran right through town,
- Working for Andy Rayburn at Rayburn's Market, and Bill Jonas at the Food Fair on Front Street, and later Roger Wilco Market. Mr. Blaga was the owner of Food Fair when it burned down.



From the Staff Desk

by Samantha Kimpel
Museum Curator

Educational Outreach

As most of the Novato Historical Guild members are aware, one of the Novato History Museum's most successful programs is the 3rd Grade Tour Program. Each spring, almost all of the Novato third-graders visit the museum and take an historic walking tour of the downtown. This program brings hundreds of children into the museum, along with their parents and teachers.

The 3rd Grade Tours also bring us additional visitors; in the summer, we always have some of the children return with their families – they've asked their grandparents, parents and siblings to also come and see the museum. This shows that our docents and the program is a great success – it has impact beyond just the three hours that those students spend with us.

Many of our school tour docents are retired teachers, and that connection to local schools is an invaluable partnership. Cindy Motsinger, one of the 3rd Grade Program leaders, followed up on a contact from Pleasant Valley Elementary this

- Customers in the early days were like family friends.
- Working in the markets with Marie Salmina, Art D'Ambrogio, Frances Manzoni, Kenneth Rowland, Bill, Adele, Barbara and Beverly Jonas.
- The day a delivery man was pulling a hindquarter of beef off a truck and fell to the ground dislocating his shoulder from the weight of the meat. Today, everything is delivered precut and packaged.
- In the old days there were no computerized registers or bar code scanners.
- Was nicknamed "the hugger" for hugging the lady customers who entered the store.
- Being called "Novato's Cassanova"

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past spring; it ended with Cindy and I serving on a committee to help plan a History Day event. The K-5 school celebrated Novato's abundance, especially its historical orchards; we wrote living history scripts on the early ranchos and on the Sweetser/Delong orchards, and two of our 3rd Grade Docents, Susan Trumbull and Laurie O'Mara, volunteered to participate as actors.

The teachers, principal, and parents of the school were excited about the event, and we talked about the possibility of creating other living history programs that we could take to other schools.

We also just presented our 3rd Annual "Meet the Ghost of Henry Jones" event. This is an idea spear-headed by Edna Manzoni in conjunction with the Downtown Novato Business Association's Safe Trick-or-Treat event. The museum docents tell the "true" ghost story of Henry Jones, and children also participate in a fun, quick pictorial scavenger hunt inside the museum. It's a great opportunity to bring new visitors into the museum, and also to share a fascinating Novato story.

For Hamilton Field History Museum, we plan to develop simple curriculum for teachers so that we may begin to bring in more school groups from Novato and the greater region. If any of our wonderful corps of retired teachers would like to participate in brainstorming creative lesson plans based on Hamilton collections, we'd love to hear your ideas.

Every one of these programs and events reaches new audiences, and creates awareness about our museums and their collections. As always, your creative ideas for new outreach venues, projects, or programs are welcome! I look forward to hearing them call 415-899-8236 or email me at skimpel@novato.org.

50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N-3

paid regular fireman employed by the district, including Fire Chief George Cavallero. The men are divided into two shifts stationed at two fire houses.

• In late December, School Superintendent W.J.J. Smith submitted his resignation, effective June 30, 1962. That was the expiration date of his contract with the school district. His resignation was accepted by Earl Marshall, Chairman, N.U.S.D. Board of Trustees. Superintendent Smith had become involved in a growing controversy with a majority of the school board.

• Stately Monterey Pines along Novato Boulevard were in an advanced stage of maturity and in a process of decline, a tree expert told the city council in December. Because three dying trees were regarded as a hazard to the safety, the council ordered quotations be sought on cutting three of them to stumps. The council was also warned that more trees would have to go.

• Lulu Sutton served the Novato school system for 40 years. When she came here in 1918 as a young graduate from San Francisco State College,

Novato boasted 1 school, 4 teachers and 120 pupils. Upon her retirement in 1958, the Novato Unified School District was serving upwards of 3000 students in six schools. The four teachers had grown in number to 117. Miss Sutton worked for 30 years as principal of the old Grant Avenue School and had been principal at Olive School since 1952. Work on Lu Sutton elementary school was completed on August 27, 1959. Lulu Sutton died on April 7, 1959, four months before completion of the school named in her honor at 1800 Center Road.

• On November 17, Mayor Wayne Womack issued his personal endorsement of unification. The mayor said "I am in favor of unifying the school districts to better the entire community of Novato. I feel it is definitely the right move." The move involved the Novato and San Jose (Ignacio) school districts.

• A crew of four men from the County Humane Society arrived in Novato in early October going on a door to door campaign to collect delinquent dog license fees. All dogs over four months of age were required to have licenses.

Novato Historical Guild Bylaws Changes for 2012

The Bylaws committee got together and made some minor changes to our bylaws. At the December general meeting the membership needs to vote on these changes. The only changes are below. The bold face words are being removed and the underlined words are being added.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section C: Amount of dues – The annual dues for each classification of membership shall be set by the Board **from time to time** annually at the October Finance Committee Budget meeting. Amounts shall be unchanged from year to year unless altered by a majority vote of the Board the result of which is published to the membership no less than twelve (12) days prior to the September general membership meeting and approved by a majority vote of the eligible members present at said meeting.

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section A: Number – The Board of Directors of the Novato Historical Guild shall be comprised of no less than eleven (11) and no more than fifteen (15) members. The officers of the Guild shall be members of the Board.

Section B. Term of office –

1. The term of Director shall consist of a calendar year. Immediately after the election is held in December, the President-elect may recruit committee chairpersons to serve during his/her term of office.
2. A Director may not serve more than six (6) consecutive terms **with the exception of the Treasurer**. After an interval of a least one (1) year out of office, a former Director may again be elected to a full term as a Director.
3. Term limits are two years for all officers however the Board has the right to extend the terms by one year.

Welcome New Guild Members

Membership Report December 2011

Student Memberships:

Kathleen Pereira

Individual Memberships:

Terry Arnaud

Family Memberships:

Tracy and James Boothe

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 2012 IT IS TIME TO DO SO!

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

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-5

by Lefty Gomez, who came into the store often.

- Sometimes on busy holiday weekends, it would take 15 minutes to cross to the other side of Grant Avenue because the traffic on the 101 Highway was so heavy.

- Hamilton Air Force Base was known as "The Country Club" of U.S. Air Force Bases

- At one point the government paid air-men in \$2 bills to check the circulation of them in the Bay Area.

- The old Novato Grammar School sat on the hill in the center of town and Miss Sutton and the other teachers did their shopping in the R&W and other local markets.

- Theresa Knutte was a very generous and giving lady who would buy large quantities of groceries for herself and others in town who were down on their luck.

- He would always ask banker Pete Ferrarese if he was giving out any samples that day, and Pete would always say, "No, I just ran out."

- Getting haircuts from Ray Lightner.

- Dr. Ralph Weseman was Novato's doctor. He made many house calls to the Beebe house over the years and many times wouldn't charge.

- Don Donahue, who owned the Novato Theater, hated "gum poppers" and would have them spit their gum into his hand.

- Phil Paschel, who owned the Sanitary Meat Market, would always give you a slice of bologna when you visited his butcher shop.

- Buying eggs from the Bloom Ranch off Indian Valley Road.

- The Flying A service station was at the corner of Grant Avenue and the 101 Highway and was owned by Manuel Pimentel.

- Smith and Sjoblom's was another service station in town.

- Our Lady of Loretto Church was located at the corner of Grant and Second Street.

- Being a member of Our Lady of Loretto's choir, the Knights of Columbus and the Novato Community Players.

- Having many great times with the talented people in the Novato Community Players' group. Being a member of the group's first musical production with

Vivienne Terry, who was known as "Vivacious Viv."

- Started whistling as a young boy. He would imitate the melodic calls of birds, and was known as "the one who talked to birds." He performed at many events in Novato and across the state with his "whistling" shows.

- The extension of 7th Street to Novato Boulevard.

- Eating many meals at the 101 Cafe.

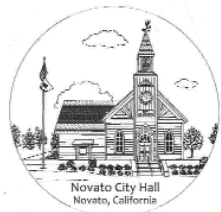
- The many interesting conversations he had with Bruno Schultz over the years. Another old friend was Milton DeBorba. Milt never parted company without saying, "Thank you for sharing your time with me." His life was enriched by both men.

- The many old Novato friends he knew over the years: Maria Novak, Josephine Marzell, Margaret McNern, Tom Keena, Reno and Babe Pronzini, Theresa Knutte, Jid Baccaglio, Mae

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New Ornament at Museum's Gift Shops

We have a new custom made ornament of Novato's iconic red City Hall. This porcelain medallion ornament is light weight and has a gold cord hanger. On the back of the ornament is a ninety word short history of this historic building. This keepsake ornament costs \$13 (includes tax).



You can purchase this ornament at Novato History Museum, Hamilton Field History Museum or at the Holiday Crafts Faire on December 2, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. or on Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the NHG's Booth in the lobby of Margaret Todd Senior Center.

—Pat Johnstone

Long-time Guild Member Dave Milano

David Milano, 79, passed away October 23 in Novato. He was a former city council member and mayor, successful businessman (Aaero



Heating and Sheet Metal); 50-year Novato Rotarian, "Citizen of the Year" in 1979, square dance caller for

many years, one of the spearheads of the Novato Boys' Club (now the Novato Youth Center.) He was also an active hunter and fisherman, and a faithful 49'er fan.

Dave leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Virginia "Bunny" Milano, and a large family of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is also survived by four siblings. He was a devoted family man who also found time to perform community service for others for over 60 years. He will be greatly missed.

Special

Announcements

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.

Board Highlights

Continued from page N-4

event theme was to focus on the fertile abundance of the early 19th century ranchos up to Sweetser/Delong orchards area. The mid-point review of the grant for the volunteer program from the Marin Community Foundation is due Oct. 31. Samantha will be sending out surveys to all the current volunteers to assess how well the volunteer program is working and where improvements are needed.

Old Business – A motion was made and passed to approve the proposed amendments to the Novato Historical Guild Bylaws which will be voted on at the December General Meeting.

Museum Stores – Total sales and donations from both museums for September were \$388.50.

Correction to “Speculations on the Death of H.T.Jones” As published in the Novato Historian in 2001.

By John A. Trumbull

As a result of the information regarding Mrs. Henry Jones obtained from the Sacramento newspapers of 1872 by Michael Read and presented in the President’s Corner of our July-September issue, I revisited the lengthy article I prepared in 2001. I found several mistakes of spelling and grammar, for which I offer apology but not correction at this time. There is one glaring error I wish to correct.

On page 7 of my article I gave an erroneous date for the death of Mary B. Jones. My date was actually when the Final Accounting and Request for Distribution

of her estate was presented to the Marin County Superior court. This was the same date Henry’s estate was also concluded. As Mike Read’s column noted, Mary’s death actually occurred on Saturday, July 27, 1872, only about four months after Henry’s on March 22, 1872. (This means the two children were orphaned much more tragically than I previously thought.)

The report in the Daily Alta California newspaper of July 28th implied that there were mysterious circumstances surrounding Mary’s death. They cited the involvement of Dr. Charles C. O’Donnell of San Francisco “...who has figured notoriously in several abortion cases..” The aspersions implicit in this reporting prompted Dr O’Donnell to purchase a paid advertisement in the August 3, 1872, edition of the Marin County Journal (a weekly paper) to respond. He notes that the formal post mortem inquest found that Mary was taken suddenly ill after working all day in the harvest field, and that the cause of her death was advanced typhoid fever. Dr. O’Donnell supports the findings of the autopsy by affirming that he had been treating Mary for typhoid fever, but that she came to him after the malady had reached the incurable stage.

One change from modern reporting is the lack of coverage given to Mary’s death by the Marin County Journal despite her recent notoriety. The fact of her death so near to that of her trial casts a new light on the reporting during Mary’s trial for murder from which she was acquitted on July 6th, 1872, and during which the Journal commented on her composure. That must have been a strain for one with advanced typhoid fever.

We are still left the questions I raised in 2001: who cared for the newly orphaned kids, and how did the property, other than that listed in the final accounting in the estates, get transferred? Henry was both an involved businessman and a land owner in Novato, and the post death documentation leaves much to be wondered about regarding resolution of his affairs.

[Submitted Oct 29, 2011]

Novato’s Treasures

NAVE GARAGE BUILDING



Nave Garage ca. 1923



Expanded building ca. 1933

This March 1923, *Novato Advance* reported - *Novato’s New Garage Formally Opened – Saturday night will go down as a memorable one in the history of Novato. The occasion being the formal opening and dedication of the fine new garage erected by our enterprising and public spirited citizen Louis J. Nave. The imposing structure graced the northeast corner of Grant Ave and the State Redwood highway. Built of reinforced concrete with large plate glass windows facing both thoroughfares. The garage is not only a substantial and imposing structure but its architectural beauty makes it an appreciated ornament to Novato. The new Midway Garage will specialize in the Buick and Star automobiles.*

In 1933, Nave expanded the building, added a second story and moved the garage to the north end of the building. By 1950 the building housed Knuttle Realty, the drug store, barber shop, shoe repair and feed store, plus apartments above them. He also opened a show room (now Perry’s Deli) for his Dodge dealership just north of the building. Louis Nave sold Nave Motors to John Angeloni in 1951.

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-7

Trabucchi, Pete Ferrarese, Agatha Ryan, Leo Zunino, Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Cole, Lefty Gomez, Hector Paris (owner of the 101 Cafe), Dave Crandall at the Village Inn, Don Donahue, the Corda, Grossi, and McClelland dairy families.

- The many changes he has seen in

Novato over the years:

POSITIVE CHANGES: the large selection of markets, restaurants and banks; the two high schools; the 101 Bypass; the flyover at the Novato Landfill; street sweeper keeping streets clean.

NEGATIVE CHANGES: too many

businesses going under; too many homes being foreclosed; too many people on welfare; the closing of the Community House and movie theater; gangs; graffiti; too many "No Parking" signs; roadside dumping; littering; and old newspaper racks all over town.

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

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The Novato Historical Guild

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

*December General Meeting
Election of Officers and Christmas Party*

Saturday, December 10, 2011, at 1 p.m.

Old City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue

Music by Rob Sundberg Combo

Members and prospective members are welcome

Novato History Museum—815 Delong Ave.—897-4320
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