

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

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July-September 2013

The Novato Historian

Volume 37, Number 3

New Exhibit at the Downtown Museum

In observance of National Family History Month, a new exhibit will open at the downtown museum on October 5, 2013. Novato's museums are open Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from noon to 4:00 p.m. The public is cordially invited to an open house at the Novato History Museum on DeLong Avenue, October 12, 2013, from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Most of the present city of Novato was originally a Mexican land grant known as the Rancho de Novato, but there are also portions of four other grants within the

present Novato city limits. Rancho de Novato's 8,738 acres were granted to Fernando Feliz by Governor Alvarado in 1839. The Rancho had several owners before Sweetser and DeLong purchased it in 1857. During the next two decades, they built a thriving fruit and dairy business. Several years after Francis DeLong's death in 1885, his son Frank sold 6,000 acres of his property to Mr. Chase, a New Yorker who formed the Home and Farm Company, to survey, subdivide and sell what was to become the "new town of Novato."

So from this beginning, we will highlight the pioneer families of James Black Burdell, Joseph Sweetser, Peter Nave, and Juan Ignacio Antonio Pacheco. In addition to these pioneer families, it is our desire to honor all families, past and present.

Have you ever wanted to research your family's history? Begin now! Someone will be at the downtown museum every Saturday in October to get you started. There will also be hands-on activities for the children.

Ernie and Charlene are Retiring

by Bill Almeida and Mike Clancy

Zunino Shoe Repair is closing as of September 15. The longest lasting family-owned business in Novato was started by Angelo Zunino on Grant Avenue near the railroad station in 1910. His son, Leo, took over the shoemaking business when Angelo became ill, moving the shop to 928 Grant Avenue. In 1955 the business was moved to its present location at 904 Grant Avenue.

Leo's son, Ernie, started in the shoe repair business in the mid 1950's. He and his wife Charlene have operated the store since then. Unfortunately Ernie's ill health has forced early retirement (*53 years in the business is an early retirement?* ed.) Zunino's has been the most popular "old town" place to stop and visit, even when people did not have shoes to be repaired. It was a good place to repair shoes, luggage, saddles, belts, and any-



Charlene and Ernie Zunino and Daisy in front of their shop on Grant Avenue

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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 2013 Officers

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Typography, Layout, Composition

Mike Clancy

City of Novato Staff

Recreation Operations Manager
Kathy Kormos
Museum Liaison
Samantha Kimpel

Original articles and photographs related to Novato history are welcomed!

Deadline for the Dec. issue is Nov. 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

Tom Keena

President, Novato Historical Guild

I'm always impressed with the quantity and quality of talent that our Guild volunteers possess. They are the engine that keeps our museums clicking along. As I've stated in the past, our Guild has many unsung heroes. Most of us are aware of a select few volunteers/docents who go the extra mile. These are the folks who always seem to be available for Guild events.

One such individual is Ray Dwelly. Ray is the heart and soul of our Hamilton Museum. He has spent hundreds and hundreds of hours developing and molding the museum into a first class destination for visitors from all over the country. Ray is quite a unique talent. While he has the ability to direct and organize volunteers working on museum projects, he also will grab the tools and wade into the task at hand. There is no doubt that Ray is directly responsible for the success of our Hamilton Museum.

The next Guild event will be the General Membership Meeting in September. Our Hamilton Museum will be hosting the event; and, as usual, Roland Fuette's BBQ will provide some great food. Ray Dwelly has arranged to have a guest speaker.

Don't forget, our Exhibit committee is planning a new exhibit this October. The Downtown Museum will be showcasing several pioneer Novato families for Family History Month. Edna Manzoni has arranged for the City to display our

event banner over DeLong Avenue the 2nd and 3rd weeks of October. The Exhibit Committee, led by Ron Vela, consists of Edna Manzoni, Roland Fuette and Mike Read. We owe them a great deal of thanks for this upcoming exhibit. They will continue directing/designing exhibits for the Downtown Museum in the months to come.

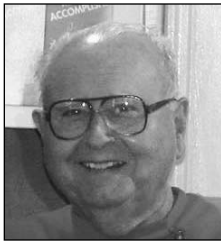
I'd like to personally thank the Editorial Committee for producing and distributing the Historian newsletter each quarter. Like you, I really enjoy reading the wonderful articles they publish. The Historian represents yet another key component of our Guild. However, as with any organization, it requires the talent and energy of dedicated volunteers to be successful. As Guild members, we all need to enlighten our fellow citizens about the Novato Historical Guild. It's absolutely critical that each member reach out to a friend or relative in an effort to recruit new members.

Spring cleaning has come a bit late this year. Docent Carolyn Neer and Board member Susan Magnone are busy reorganizing the upstairs at the Downtown Museum. They're uncovering many items that have been tucked away and forgotten for years.

It's hard to believe that the summer of 2013 is quickly coming to a close. Before it's over, if you haven't popped in at either of our museums, come on in, say hello and see what's new.

*Happy
50th Anniversary*
Congratulations to Carol and Edward Maddox, Jr. on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, August 18.

*Happy
50th Anniversary*
Congratulations to Diana and Phil Goebel on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, June 22.



Novato—50 Years Ago

(July, August and September 1963)

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. Tonie Brown retypes the articles for the newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading the names and happenings of 1963.

- Two Novato police officers nearly got blisters on their hands when they rang the bell at the new city hall on July 4. The bell, weighing more than 500 pounds, was left when the city bought the former Presbyterian Church. Mayor Babe Silva requested the bell be rung, echoing bell-ringing in public buildings throughout the nation. At 11 a.m., Novato police officers Mike Lafferty and Donald Merklely took two turns of one minute each for a total of four minutes of bell-ringing. “It was a pretty tough pull,” said Lafferty.

- James Picchi, local realtor purchased the former Catholic Church at Second and Grant for \$85,000.

- Residents of McClay Road, through attorney Leland Jordan, protested the operation of Ju-Beau Kennels, 753 McClay Road, at a meeting of Marin County Board of Supervisors. Citing barking dogs, ringing bells, loud voices, bright night lights, obscene language, all in one location, Jordan presented a petition signed by 84 persons protesting the continuance of the annoyances. The matter was referred to the district attorney’s office. Note: The kennel remains there today under the name of POSTMORE.

- Wells Fargo Bank opened in the Novato Fair Shopping Center in early July. On hand to celebrate the opening were City Administrator John Baget, Mayor Babe Silva, Bank Manager Elmer Anderson, and Wayne Womack, president of the Novato Chamber of Commerce.

- Carol Tresch, of Shields Lane, returned home after two and one-half

years in Badenhausen, Germany, as a recreation club director. She was under Civil Service and in charge of personal staff while living there. During her stay in Europe she traveled extensively and had many memories to share with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Tresch.

- Bonnie Jane Russell and Howell Leslie Braxton II were wed on June 29 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in San Rafael. The Reverend Peter Farmer of Carmel, formerly vicar of St. Francis Episcopal Church in Novato, performed the ceremony. The newlyweds were planning to reside in Stockton.

- Supervisor William A. Gness expressed deep sorrow over the sudden and unexpected death of his colleague on the board of supervisors, Chairman Walter Castro. Castro, who had suffered a heart attack in February, and had both legs amputated at the knee, died at San Rafael General Hospital on July 16. It was Gness and Castro who led the fight to save the civic center when both were under attack by a so-called “economy block” of the Board of Supervisors.

- Don B. Curran, a resident of Marin Golf and Country Club, was elected as vice-president of the American Broadcasting Company. Curran, general manager of KGO radio in San Francisco, joined ABC in April of 1961. He took over KGO radio in San Francisco in December 1962.

- Jack Sparrow was released by the San Francisco 49ers on July 20 after doctors decided that a previous neck injury might make professional football too dangerous. Sparrow, a 1959 graduate of Novato High, had signed with the 49ers as a free agent on May 24.

- A Requiem High Mass was celebrated on July 20 for Pio (Papa) Lafranchi, 93, who died July 18 in his home at 1723 Novato Boulevard. Survivors included his wife Attila, son Alfred and daughters

Eleonora Lafranchi and Lucia Felder.

- The San Marin community was scheduled to receive its first residents in September, according to E.R. Miller, project manager

- Novato’s administrative center began moving into new quarters in the former Presbyterian Church at Sherman and DeLong Avenues on August 7. The new headquarters opened its doors to the public on Monday, August 12.

- Grading began in early August at John Novak’s shopping center at the corner of Wilson Avenue and Novato Boulevard.

- Gerald Ellyson, Novato High School’s principal for six weeks, resigned his position. He told Supt. James Bunker he had received an offer as assistant superintendent of Fremont city schools in Nebraska, his home state, and was headed there.

- The pear crop on Novato General Hospital grounds was ready for picking, according to Milton Scott, hospital administrator. Scott asked people to bring their own container and make a \$1 donation to the Novato Hospital Volunteer Service.

- Novato Police Chief Roy C. McLaren submitted his resignation effective November 1. McLaren has accepted a post with the International Association of Police Chiefs in Washington, D.C. He came to Novato October 23, 1960, as Novato’s first police chief, from Daly City where he was assistant police chief.

- Novato’s favorite stock – General Telephone and Electronics Corp. – hit a new high on the stock market on August 26, \$27 a share.

- Novato had two former churches serving in other capacities. The Presbyterian church was the new city hall and Our Lady of Loretto was a real estate

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Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

May 2013

New Business – Carolyn Neer who has volunteered at the Novato History Museum proposed to reorganize and digitize archives at the Novato History Museum. The proposal is for 108 hours, from June 3 to August 3 at \$15/hr.= \$1,620. The board approved the proposal (8 in favor and 4 against).

Herb Rowland’s sister, Ann Rowland Meves, passed away and it was suggested that the Guild make a \$100 memorial donation. The motion passed. The Rowland family has donated the Pacheco Ranch Winery facility for various Guild functions.

It was suggested to network with the History Teachers in Novato and work on

curriculum for middle and high schools related to Hamilton Field History Museum. The board agreed to pursue the idea.

The Guild will not participate in Olompali Heritage Day this year, but they will have a float in the 4th of July Parade.

St. Isabella’s Elementary School participated in the 3rd Grade Tours this year. So far, six tours have occurred and four more are scheduled. The Novato DVD used during the tours needs to be updated.

City Report – Dave Myers, Superintendent of the Parks & Recreation Department, needs to be contacted to find out when they are scheduled to work around the Novato History Museum. The city used to pay a reproduction graphics employee one day a week, but has changed that to one day every other week which may cause “The Historian” to go out late if not coordinated early enough.

Reports – Ray Dwelly suggested having Eric Paulsen Consulting Engineer for the flooding of the marsh land at Hamilton Field to speak at the September General Meeting. All members agreed.

On May 18 Hamilton Field History Museum will have a used book sale of donated military books & DVD’s not related to Hamilton Field. Most of the

books were donated by Iva Young. The landscape project to put pavers in the front patio area at Hamilton Field History Museum is in the planning stage. Kathy Kormos suggested contacting the City Building Department, for approval before installing. The Rotary has volunteered to help with the installation.

The Guild currently has 349 paid members.

June 2013

New Business – Jim Davenport has resigned from the board but will continue as archivist for Hamilton Field History Museum. Carolyn Neer has been organizing the photo files and redoing the labels. Next she will get newspaper articles in alphabetical order.

The June General Meeting is dedicated to “old timers.” Bill Almeida is the primary speaker. He will show a home movie that Dr. Weseman made in the 1930’s.

City Report – Kathy Kormos reported that Exhibit Committee Members reviewed the proposed City’s Exhibits Policy. The City will review the policy in June and Kathy will report back in July. The City will review the quote of \$632 to remove bats from Hamilton Field History Museum that are under the tile roof.

Old Business – Digitizing Novato Advance microfilms is in progress in cooperation with the Marin County Library.

Reports – Ray Dwelly reported that six more bricks and five more memorial tiles have been installed at Hamilton Field History Museum.

Travis Air Force Base Museum gave Hamilton Field History Museum a video of a 1988 air show “Wings over Marin” and the Museum Curator will visit Hamilton Field History Museum this Saturday.

Tom Keena reported that Mike Read bought a map that shows the pioneer family ranches and that it has been redone. It is hanging in the museum. Bill

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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 member:

James H. “Jimmy” Hill

The Guild Extends Sympathy to

Leta Hill on the death of her husband, James.

Debbie Lara on the death of her father, James Hill.

Maria and Edmundo Ramos on the death of her father, Antonio Batista.

Genoveva Dias on the death of her brother, Gilbert Medeiros.

Novato Memories

by Jim McNern



Michael Silva

Michael Silva was born at St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco. His father, "Babe" Silva was elected to the first Novato City Council, and served as Novato's second Mayor from 1962 to 1964. Mike's grandfather, Frank Silva, bought Manuel Dutra's general store and saloon at 824 Grant Avenue in 1906. He constructed the building at 826 Grant Avenue in 1913, which became Novato's first bank. Mike shares his Novato mem-

ories in this September issue of the Novato Historian. Mike remembers:

- His parents: Manuel E. "Babe" Silva and Marion Hoppe Silva.
- His brother: Frank Silva, who now lives in Lincoln, California.
- Grandparents: Frank J. Silva and Rosa Pacheco Silva and Joseph and Delia Respini Hoppe.
- Aunts and Uncles: Mary Silva Hagedohm, Fred Hagedohm, Rose Silva Rocha, Joseph Rocha, Josephine Hoppe Baccaglio, Frank Baccaglio, Henry Hoppe, Thelma Hoppe, Frances Hoppe Andreson and Tony Andreson.
- Living at 837 Sweetser Avenue near Henry Hess Lumber Co.
- His neighbors: the Mattos, Simontacchi and Torassa families and Grandma Silva.
- Attending St. Vincent's Elementary and High School in Petaluma and getting there by Greyhound bus until he started driving in his sophomore year.
- Other students from Novato were

John Setlak, Barbara Luddy, Georgina, Cleo and Nancy Tocalino and Bob and Ron Renati, and Hank and Mike Sandbach.

- Playing baseball (3 years) and football (2 years) at St. Vincent's High School.

- There was no television in the early 1950's

- Graduating from St. Vincent's High School in June of 1961.

- Playing Little League baseball with Jack and Moe Sparrow, George Gnos, Paul Ferrarese and Ron Manzoni. The coaches were: Tauno Sjoblom, Mac Manzoni, Walt Halkovich and Frank Baccaglio.

- Playing CYO basketball and football under coaches Lou Skowronek and Mike Sandbach.

- Putting pennies, nickels and quarters on the railroad track and waiting for the train to come and squash them.

- Living on Sweetser Avenue, there would be hobos that would come by the house asking for food. His mom would prepare a quick meal or sandwich for them and tell them to leave the dish on the porch.

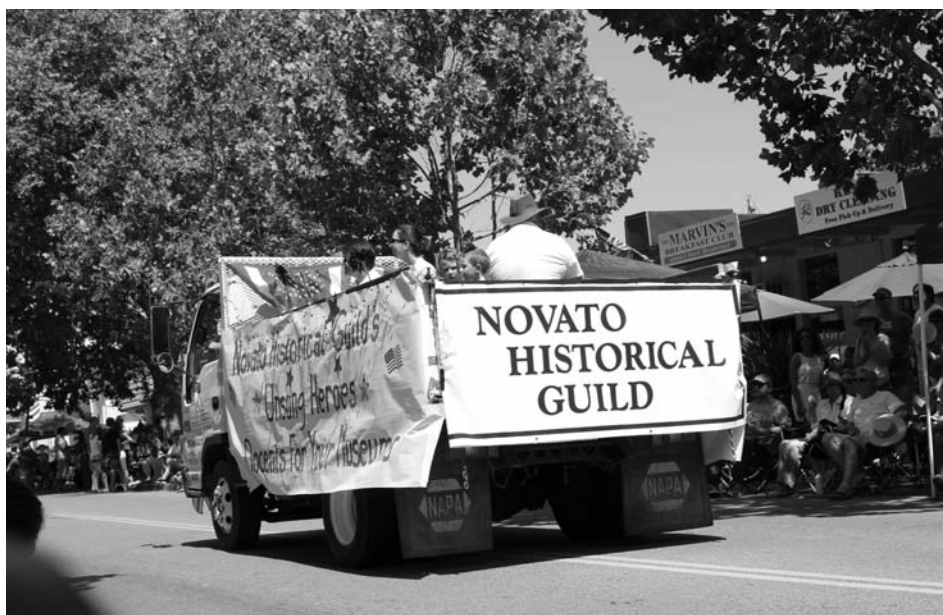
- Grant Avenue was the business area of Novato for banking and shopping. Everybody knew everyone in town. Word would travel fast on Grant Avenue. You didn't really need a telephone. All the business and shop owners were very helpful and friendly to everyone.

- The family shopped and did business at Asherman's Grocery, Curt's Market, Rayburn's Market, Ben Franklin Variety Store, Dean's Rexall Drug Store, Jim's Sport's Store, Irv Link's Mens' Store, Pini Hardware, Zunino's Shoe Store, Carlile's Hardware, Taylor's Variety, Henry Hess Lumber Co., and Irene's Cleaners.

- He loved exploring around in Vogel's Emporium (Junk Shop).

- His first car was a 1949 Ford Sedan

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As in past years the Novato Historical Guild entered a float in Novato's annual Fourth of July Parade.

50 Years Ago

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office. That was a switch – two churches “converted.”

- Rickey’s Rancho Rafael, 6045 Redwood Highway, was sold to a San Francisco hotel man, Max Key, who planned to operate it under the name of Rancho Rafael. Reportedly one million dollars was paid for the land and business.

- Carrier boys for the Novato Advance brought in a total of 306 new subscriptions in August, bringing paid circulation over the 4,500 mark, according to John Stanos, circulation manager.

- The September 4 issue of the Advance called for a crackdown on the big trucks passing through Novato on Highway 101. Too many were trying to beat the lights at Grant and 101.

- Mary Linda (Mimi) Baccaglio and George Nunes chose January 25 to be their wedding day. Mimi graduated from Novato High School in 1961 while

George was a graduate of Marin Catholic High.

- Councilman Howard Schoof submitted his resignation from the city council “effective no later than October 31.” He informed City Administrator John Baget he had accepted a position with the California Division of the American Cancer Society on September 1 and had been in training since that time.

- The request of the Nave family to have the frontage road in Ignacio named after their ancestor, Novato’s pioneer Peter Nave, struck a snag in the Board of Supervisors meeting on September 24. It was revealed the name is being held up because there is another street named Nave Court in Novato. Planning Director Bill Dobbs said he would discuss the matter further with the Nave family to see if something can be “worked out.”

- A son was born to Ernie and Charlene Zunino on September 8 at Novato General Hospital.

More Memories of Fern Weseman

Last issue we ran out of space for some of Fern’s memories. Here are the ones we didn’t include.

- The Roberts and Pinheiro homes were located on Redwood and Olive. Playing with Peggy Roberts and the three Pinheiro girls.

- Attending a barbecue at Jim and Rose Grossi’s ranch to discuss the building and financing of the new hospital.

- Plans began in 1959 to purchase the 8 acres for \$40,000 from John Novak at the corner of Canyon and Hill Roads. The Hospital Foundation was formed with Dr. Weseman as Founder and Chairman of the Board and Dr. John Siemans as Secretary/Treasurer. The cost was \$350,000 to build the 30-bed hospital. The hospital opened in 1961 and included a maternity ward. The ER fee when the hospital opened was \$3.50 - BUT each emergency room visit would cost the hospital \$9.00.

- Old Novato families with the names: Pimentel, Askim, Valim, Pinheiro, Corda, Magetti, Wright, Lieb, Leveroni, Strozzi, Pronzini, Simontacchi, Baccaglio, Cazzaniga, Tharp, Dep, Binford, Lewis, Pozzi, Tamborini, Nave, DeBorba, Rodoni, Lafranchi, Wise, Simmons, Clarkson, Grossi, Minehan, Mattos, D’Ambrogio, Kidder, Carlisle, Morrison, Cain, Tresch, Rayburn, Borloz, Deny, Ruhlman, Anderson, Rudolph, Stafford, Azevedo, Gness, Cole, Tracy, McClelland, McNern, Silva, Silveira, Crandall, Renati, Worden, Thorsson, Tobin, Almeida, Quilici, Clementino, Gallo, Westlund, Mahoney, Mazzoleni, and Marzell.

- The many changes she’s seen in Novato: the westward movement of businesses across town; the loss of all the farms and ranches; the changes to the area known as the “flats” (1st Street through 8th Street); more congestion, noise, traffic and crime; the Millworks Building at the entrance to town. You used to know many people when you went shopping in town, but no more.

- Novato was a very safe place to grow up.

Welcome New Guild Members

Novato Historical Guild Membership Report September 2013

Individual Memberships:

Robert Langley

Please support our Guild

Business Members:

Acme Digital and Screen Graphics

Andrew McAghon Landscaping

Bank of Marin

Marin Landscape Materials

McIsaac Dairy

Nave Enterprises

Pini Hardware

The Wright Salon

Trumbull Manor Inc. – Novato

Zenith Instant Printing

Did you know that you receive the *Novato Historian* with your paid dues each year? Some will not receive the September issue of the *Novato Historian* because of unpaid dues. **Do not delay. It is now time to renew your membership for 2013.**

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

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

Novato Memories

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he purchased from Florence Baccaglio. He used it to drive to St. Vincent's High School in Petaluma, and could make the trip in 10 minutes.

- There was no home mail delivery service in downtown Novato. The family got their mail at Box 64 in the post office. (They still have the same box.)

- The Silva family's phone number was 13-J. It later became TWinbrook 2-2520 and then TWinbrook 2-2248.

- Dr. Weseman was the family's Novato doctor. They also went to Dr. Kisler in San Francisco, who was his dad's hunting partner. The family dentist was Dr. Walter Anderson in Petaluma.

- Serving Mass at Our Lady of Loretto Church for Father Denis Kelly in the old church at 1200 Grant Avenue, and then in the OLL Parish Hall while the new church was being built.

- Taking religion classes from Father Charles Farrell.

- Attending CYO dances in the parish hall.

- His dad started Little League baseball in Novato.

- The traffic on the 101 highway would sometimes back up to the Silveira ranch, especially on busy three-day holiday weekends.

- Wearing a satin suit his Grandmother Silva made for him for the 1947

Bill Almeida, June Meeting Narrator



Long time Novato resident and past postmaster Bill Almeida narrated a film, taken by Dr. Ralph Weseman, of old town merchants in 1939.

Portuguese Festa Parade down Grant Avenue.

- Winning first prize wearing a cat costume at a Halloween party in the IDESI Hall.

- Some of the early active members of the Portuguese community were: President Angelo Lopes, Manuel and Mary Nunes, Joseph and Evelyn Silveira, George and Alice Silveira, Louie and Grace Moraes, John Cardoza, John Azevedo and Bob Mattos.

- Attending Saturday morning movies at the Novato Theater where they showed cartoons and westerns featuring Hopalong Cassidy, Buck Rogers and Roy Rogers.

- Watching Bruno walking down Grant Avenue waving his cane.

- The fire department chicken barbecues held in June at Joe's Crossroads and later at the Silveira Ranch and searching for pennies buried in sawdust.

- Bill Almeida umpiring behind the plate in Pony League Baseball.

- Henry Alvernez umpiring with his oldest son in Little League.

- Joe Silveira and Henry Alvernaz flipping a quarter to determine who would be the new fire commissioner. (They tied in previous balloting and Joe Silveira won.)

- Walking to the fire house after the Saturday morning movie to meet Santa Claus (Peck Warner) and telling him what he wanted for Christmas and then getting some candy and an apple or orange.

- Working for Al and June Fields at Novato Taxi as a dispatcher.

- Deer hunting on the F Ranch at the end of Vineyard Road and the Gonzalez's "Big Rock Ranch" with Charlie Russell, George Gness and Shorty Ferrera.

- Hunting ducks in the sloughs behind the Bugeia ranch where the cemetery is now located with Bill Rudolf, Arnold Heise, Frank Baccaglio, and his dad.

- Being president of the fire department volunteers in 1974.

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Board Highlights

Continued from page N-4

McDill has volunteered to catalog and preserve the maps that are stored at the Novato Museum.

Pat Johnstone reported that total sales and donations from both museums for May were \$517.50 and that the Guild made \$591.00 at the Novato Art & Wine Festival.

July 2013

New Business – Carolyn Neer has completed documenting the video and transcription archives and is in the process of cataloging the photo files, relabeling the front of the document archives and she is preparing a guide to the numbering system.

The e-news service contract is up and Janice Bazaruto does not want to do it any more.

City Report – The Exhibit Policy has been approved by the City of Novato and by the Guild Exhibit Committee Members. A motion was made and approved to accept the City's Exhibit Policy. Kathy Kormos will be point person for a proposed project to purchase and mount a fiberglass P-51 airplane that will hang from the balcony at the Hamilton Field History Museum. Dick Altman donated \$1,000 for this project.

Treasurer's Report – June's income was \$3,037.25 and expenses were \$2,028.33.

Reports – Ray Dwelly reported that the City approved the landscape project to install pavers in front of Hamilton Field History Museum.

Roland Fuelle reported that Bldg. 500 needs organizing and that the Novato Exhibit Committee is working on the banner that will hang across DeLong in October.

General Meeting

The next general meeting of the Novato Historical Guild will be on **Saturday, September 14** at the Hamilton Field History Museum. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Eric Polson. Mr Polson is the consulting civil engineer for the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project. Starting time will be noon with a barbecue lunch at 1 p.m.

Novato Memories

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• Working as a volunteer fire fighter with Lou Saffores, Tike Lieb, Reno Pronzini, Jack Kidder, Louie Salmina, George Gness, Mike Ryan, and Bob and Mac Manzoni.

• The fatal fire on Atherton Avenue where a 15 year old boy died and the other fatal fire as a volunteer when a 4 year old girl lost her life.

• Working for six years (1964-1969) for George Tocalino at Central Valley Bank as a teller and operations officer and then moving to the Marin County Clerk's office and working for George Gness as a deputy court clerk (1969-1975).

• Working for the Novato Fire District as a Firefighter - EMT from 1969-1975 and then retiring as an engineer in 1999.

• The worst fire he fought was the 1991 Oakland hills fire when he saw miles and miles of total destruction. (The Novato Fire Department sent men and equipment over to Oakland to help fight the disastrous fire.)

• Old Novato families with the names: Baccaglio, Gness, Keena, McNern, Rudolf, Benaski, Heise, Almeida, Angeloni, Sparrow, Wright, Pimentel,

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Zunino's Retiring

Continued from page N-1

thing of leather that needed sewing up.

Both Ernie and Charlene will be greatly missed by customers and friends, not only for their repair skills, but for their cheerful outlook in the difficult times they have faced in recent years.

All of us at the Guild wish the very best to the Zunino's (and their dog, Daisy) in their well-earned retirement.



Ernie working on his last repair job. Here he is with Daisy who spent every day in the shop with Ernie.



The last job. Ernie just finished this repair job for a long-time customer, and as he often did for his friends, he would not accept any payment for the job.



Ernie said that he won't miss the work much but he will very much miss the people—both his customers and his drop-in friends. Here is a typical group of friends just hanging out.

Novato's Treasures 872 GRANT AVENUE



ca 1925



ca 2013

This Novato treasure is located at 870-2 Grant Avenue and was built prior to 1911. On a map dated 1911, 870 Grant Avenue is shown as being used as cement storage. The 1924 map shows it being used as hardware storage.

In March of 1925, the Novato Advance reported that "A. S. Peoples has taken the local agency for the Hudson-Essex motor cars. Mr. Peoples has rented the rooms recently occupied by the Chevrolet agency in the Novato Salvage Co. building and will add a repair shop" (872 Grant Avenue). In April they

reported: "A.S. Peoples is making elaborate preparations for his repair shop and Hudson-Essex showroom." By September 1927, they reported "The building next door, recently occupied by Peoples' Motor Sales, is being painted and lettered for G. T. Gould, who will move his plumbing shop into it. Dick Benning is wielding the brush and doing a good job."

In 2004 the 870 Grant Ave side was torn down and is being used as seating for the restaurant next door. 872 Grant Avenue is Pete's Barber Shop.

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-8

Young, Tresch, Tharsing, Stafford, Skowronek, Corda, Dwelly, Silveira, Scheller, Sandbach, Ruzick, Salmina, Hale, DeBorba, McIsaac, Bundeson, Lafranchi, Lieb, Manzoni, Marzell, Moraes, Nave, Nunes, Paladini, Panfiglio, Perachiotti, Ryan, Renati, and Sanchez.

• The many changes that have taken place in Novato over the years.

GOOD CHANGES: Incorporation in 1960. Formation of the Water and Sanitary Districts. Getting Russian River water to enhance water supply. Our excellent fire department with modern ambulance service.

BAD CHANGES: The population growth. In the 1950's and 60's you knew most everyone in town. Today, you can shop in Novato and not see a single person you know.

The building of the Whole Foods Building, which took the small town charm out of Old Town.

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* \$3.00

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) \$18.00

- Novato History Museum (blue or green)

Ornaments

- Novato City Hall \$12.75

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 \$12.50
- 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 |

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E-mail address _____



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P.O. Box 1296
Novato, CA 94948



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Notice

General Membership Meeting

Novato Historical Guild

Saturday, September 14, 2013, at 12 noon

Hamilton Field History Museum

555 Hangar Road

Please Join Us and Enjoy a Barbecue Lunch at 1 p.m.

Guest Speaker is Eric Polson, speaking on the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project

Members and prospective members are welcome

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