

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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October-December 2013

The Novato Historian

Volume 37, Number 4

Guild Member Dick Altman Honored at Airshow



As a Berlin Airlift participant, Novato Historical Guild member Dick Altman was an honoree at the California Capital Airshow held at Mather Air Force Base, October 5 & 6 in Sacramento, California, marking the 65th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. Dick was stationed in Weisbaden, Germany with the U.S. Air Force during the airlift. Special guest to the Airlift Tribute was the original Candy Bomber, Colonel Gail Halvorson. Pictured in the middle with Col. Halvorson are Altman and his long-time friend and Air Force buddy, Chuck Gardner.

Guild Display—"Women in Aviation"

Hamilton Field History Museum had a booth at the "Wings over Marin" event at Gnossov Field on September 21. Even though it rained, we had a lot of people stop by who were very impressed with our "Women in Aviation" display which was created by Hamilton's curator, Joe Williams. The booth was manned by Dick Altman, Ray Dwelly, Dan Johnstone, Pat Johnstone and John Knebel.



New Exhibit at Hamilton Museum

National Airmail Week, May 15-21, 1938, is one of the new exhibits at Hamilton Field History Museum. For one week in 1938, the Postal Service wanted to promote both Aviation and Airmail services. Each post office had a custom rubber stamp made. Recently, the museum curator, Joe Williams, found the stamp for Hamilton Field in an antique shop in Guerneville. He then found, on Ebay, a stamped letter that had used this exact stamp, and was signed by the base Postmaster, Mr. Chester W. Seely.



Recently found artifacts relating to Hamilton Field and the Air Mail Service.

The staff of the
Historian
wishes everyone
Merry Christmas
Happy Holidays
and
Happy New Year

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.

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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 March issue is Feb. 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

Traditionally, the president's December letter summarizes and celebrates the year and highlights coming events in the new year. 2013 was a great year for our Guild. We've gained new members, installed new Board members and upgraded exhibits at both museums. Ray Dwelly, Joe Williams and their Hamilton Exhibit Committee have led the way with several new exhibits. Ron Vela together with Dee Vela, Edna Manzoni and Roland Fuelle have been following suit downtown with a wonderful set of exhibits celebrating three Novato pioneer families: Nave, Pacheco, and Burdell. Please take some time and visit both museums. At Hamilton, you can sit in an antique Hamilton Theater seat and watch a video chronicling the development of Hamilton. Downtown, check out the Nave "cabbage patch" exhibit or sit at Mr. Cain's roll top desk. Both of our museums' exhibits have successfully transformed us back in time. For me, it's standing in front of the B17 leather flight suit at Hamilton and thinking about just how cold it was in that drafty old bomber. At the Downtown museum it's that foot-peddled grinding stone. Imagine the hours spent sharpening farm equipment. Transforming us back in time is an important role of any historical museum.

There's another key component of history. I enjoy learning about just how we got to the present. Who were the visionaries or key figures that directed our community to what it is today? The *Novato Township* by May Rodgers Ungemach is our finest reference for such a study. But more informally, think about people in your lifetime who have made significant changes to our Novato community. Some have great achievements while others go unnoticed. We all know how the Cain brothers brought utilities to downtown Novato. Their water, electric and telephone infused life into Old Town. On the other hand, very little is written of William "Bill" Cole. Bill was the station

agent who quit the railroad and teamed up with Henry Pini to start a general store. Apparently, Bill complained to Pini that his merchandise was clogging up the train depot warehouse. Pini asked Cole to come and work for him. Bill told my dad he made Pini sign a letter that he couldn't be fired for at least one year. That partnership later led to a prosperous general store and feed mill. Bill pushed Pini to expand and even employ an outside salesman named Tom Keena to drive all over Marin County pre-selling household and farm products. In addition, Bill sold Firemans Fund Insurance out of the back room and even helped organize the Novato Fire District in 1926. Dad told me if you were getting married or having an anniversary, Bill would organize it. He was Mr. Novato.

My point is that we respect and remember our famous local leaders who have guided us to where we are today; but also, we highlight the "unknowns" whenever possible. Late this summer we lost one such individual, Dr. Palmer White. Most of you knew Dr. White from his TV commercials or remember him as a top flight Novato Hospital surgeon. However, let's step back in time for a moment. Few people remember the early 70's when Novato residents waited up to 50 minutes for an emergency ambulance, many times responding from San Anselmo or Fairfax. Thankfully, Novato residents rectified the problem by raising their Fire District taxes and buying the fire department three new ambulances. This was a wonderful improvement for our community. Another little known fact is that the local emergency room was staffed by local on-call doctors. That meant that during the night, patients with a nurse beside them, waited in the emergency room while a local doctor responded from home. All this changed in June 1975. Two bright young doctors, Michael MacQuarrie and Patrick Coonan, took over the Emergency

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Novato—50 Years Ago

(October, November, and December 1963)

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 1963.

- Although many state and federal highways were being renumbered under a new system, highways passing through the Novato area were to remain the same, 101 and 37.

- Davy Crockett, 24 year old direct descendant of the real (as well as the Disney) Davy Crockett, was the first person to move his family into the new \$100 million San Marin planned community. Davy, his wife Kay, and three little Crocketts were former residents of San Bruno. He was with the Internal Revenue Service.

- Councilman Everett Pozzi returned from a month-long hunting and photo-taking trip to the Yukon border in Canada. The trip covered 3,800 miles and Pozzi returned with 1,500 feet of color film and trophies of moose, caribou, black bear and goat.

- Novato’s oldest business, Zunino’s Shoe Store, located at 904 Grant Avenue, originally opened in the 700 block of Grant in 1923. Angelo Zunino began the business, then son Leo took over in 1935 after Angelo retired. Leo eventually turned the business over to his son Ernie. (Ernie and wife Charlene still operate the shoe repair business.) **Note:** Ernie and Charlene retired and closed the shop this mid- September.

- The Novato fire district was looking for “two or three” land sites in various areas, trying to get locations for future stations before all the best possible sites were gobbled up.

- California Ambulance Service was

scheduled to begin operation in Novato on or about October 15. It was to be the first ambulance service for the Novato area. Michael Manick of San Francisco was establishing temporary headquarters at the fire station No. 2 on South Novato Boulevard. He intended on setting up a permanent location in Novato in a couple of months.

- On October 8, the board of supervisors approved the name “Nave Lane” for the new service road which would serve as an access to the businesses on the east side of Highway 101 in Ignacio. Nave Lane also provided access to the Ignacio Bowling alley known as “Nave Lanes.”

- Clarence E. Vogensen, supervisor for grounds and buildings for the Novato Unified School District, died October 3, of a heart attack while on a camping trip to Lake Pillsbury. He was 49.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We will be collecting cans of food for the Marin Food Bank at our Christmas meeting on December 14. Please bring what you can.

- Sgt. Robert DiGrazia was named acting Chief of the Novato police department effective November 1. As long as he “acts” in his new role, DiGrazia was to be paid \$675 month, \$92 more than his pay as a sergeant.

- Charles A. Joseph, city public works director, resigned to accept a position as manager-engineer of the Novato Sanitary District. He begins the new position on January 1. His new salary will be \$12,000. Joseph’s salary with the city was \$9,240.

- Eighty-seven California law enforce-

ment officers applied for the position of Novato’s chief of police. Seventy-five of the qualified applicants were scheduled to take the written examination on November 16 and 17 at a half-dozen locations throughout the state. After tests were graded, the top candidates were to get oral interviews. The “cream” of about six were to be interviewed by the council in December.

- A Requiem High Mass was held November 15 for Margaret L. Sutton, 71, who passed away November 12. Miss Sutton was the sister of the late Lulu Sutton, who was a teacher and principal for 40 years in the Novato school system. An elementary school was named in honor of Lulu H. Sutton.

- City Attorney Clark M. Palmer told the city council that acquiring the cemetery and adjoining properties on Simmons Lane would not be easy. The cemetery and adjoining properties were being considered for a park and recreational site. The difficulty was the city could not acquire the property by condemnation proceedings. “There’s a special procedure for acquiring old abandoned cemeteries to convert them into memorial parks,” said Palmer. He said he needed to do a lot more checking before presenting a formal opinion.

- A Requiem mass was held for Arthur L. D’Ambrogio, 57, who passed away November 15 while visiting his daughter in El Cajon. He was a Novato resident of 25 years and had worked in several food markets here.

- The Novato High Hornets closed out their 1963 football season by defeating arch rival Redwood High Giants, 13-7, at the college of Marin stadium in Kentfield.

- Novatans flocked to churches in mourning President John Kennedy’s death. Most churches held numerous

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Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

August 2013

New Business – Carolyn Neer reported that all the tasks outlined on the proposal for the Novato History Museum Special Project (to reorganize & digitize archives) have been completed. She submitted a document listing future work that should be done. Two seats from the old Novato Theatre are ready to be picked-up, cost \$40. Susan Magnone submitted a proposal asking for assistance in improving technology, (1) how to preserve videos and oral history tapes, (2) streaming video & audio, (3) upgrading website to be interactive.

City Report – A sample of the banner to hang across Delong Ave. for Family History Month was passed around.

Treasurer's Report – July's income was \$1605.10 and expenses were \$2,604.84.

Old Business – The Marin County Free Library has sent the Guild a proposed contract for digitizing Novato Advance microfilm. John Trumbull commented

that the contract is between the library and the digitizing company. Since the Guild is paying for the digitizing, the Guild should have a written agreement with the Marin County Free Library. John will draft an agreement and the check will be held until the agreement is signed.

Reports – Ray Dwelly reported that HFHM has two new displays, "Nose Art" and "Women in the Military." Also, a gun stand from the 1920's is on loan from the Mill Valley Air Station, market value approximately \$1,000. A prototype of the P-51 model that will hang from the balcony of HFHM was shown. Roland Fuetter reported that the NHM exhibit committee is working on the new exhibit featuring the Nave Family, Pacheco Family and the Black/Burdell Family. They are also constructing the Cabbage Patch that is 6 feet high with old wooden boxes.

September 2013

New Business – The Board agreed to accept Janice Bazarro's resignation. Nominations for new board members should go to Roland Fuetter for review.

City Report – Kathy Kormos N/A

Old Business – The draft agreement, written by John Trumbull, between the Marin County Free Library and the Novato Historical Guild was approved by the Board of Supervisors. A signed agreement and check to be delivered to the Library.

Reports – The SIRS have donated and set up new projectors at Hamilton Field History Museum. The wooden floor at Novato History Museum needs refinishing. Roland Fuetter reported that the computer at NHM is not working properly. A Past Perfect Software module needs to be purchased called "Gather and Scatter." The board agreed to approve funds for a new computer and hanging files. Pat Johnstone reported that total sales and donations from both museums for August were \$655.85.

October 2013 (Minutes N/A)

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.

In Memoriam

George Hale
Hank Listman
Virginia Orr Reed

The Guild Extends Sympathy to

The family of George Hale.
The family of Hank Listman.
Bill and Clarice Mazzoleni on the death of his brother Horace "Tiny" Garzoli.
The family of Virginia Orr Reed.
Jennifer Goldfinger and family on the death of her husband Dan.

Happy 50th Anniversary
Congratulations to Erwin and Elke Scheller on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

President's Corner

Continued from Page N-2

Room on a 24-hour contract. I asked Dr. MacQuarrie why he came to Novato Hospital. He told me Dr. Palmer White had approached him during a San Francisco medical conference and encouraged him to bid on staffing Novato's Emergency Room. The rest is great history. Dr. MacQuarrie and Dr. Coonan were an instant success and became the driving force to get paramedic service to Novato three years later. One man, Dr. White, put in motion a positive change that we all enjoy today. Thank you, Palmer. There are many other unsung heroes in our Novato history. I'm sure each of us can think of one.

Novato Memories

by Jim McNern



Jack Sparrow

Jack Sparrow was born at Cottage Hospital in San Rafael. His parents bought the Novato Advance from William Hanen in 1940, and published the paper for twelve years until selling it in 1952. His mother wrote a popular weekly social column called "A Little Bird Told Me." Jack was a member of Novato High School's first graduating class of 1959. He now lives in Santa Maria, California, and loves returning to Novato to visit friends. Jack shares his Novato memories in this December issue of the Novato Historian. Jack remembers:

- His parents: Arthur John "Jack" Sparrow and Barbara Sue Whitman Sparrow.
- His siblings: Brother, Bob "Moe" Sparrow, and sister Suzanne Sparrow Watson.
- When he was born, his parents were living in the apartment over Dr. Weseman's office on Grant Avenue across from the original building for the Novato Advance, which his parents owned.
- Moving to a house at the corner of Eucalyptus and Center Road when he was six years old, and then to a two story house on an acre on Tamalpais Avenue and lived there through high school and college.
- His neighbors: the Thompson,

Johnson, Hansen, Matz, Hale, W.J.J. Smith and Hamilton families while living on Eucalyptus and Center; and the Thomas, Knudson, Kruth, Jacoby, Sanford, Barnwell, Kreloff, Zanco and Avery families while living on Tamalpais Avenue.

- Attending Novato Grammar School from First through Fourth grades and having Mrs. Hulme, Miss Dalessi, and Mrs. Clark as his teachers; then moving on to Marion School and having Mr. Farris, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Wineland as his teachers.

- His friends and classmates: Yvette Borloz, Walter "Chick" Hale, George Gness, Chuck Coleman, Pete Ferrarese, Dick Olrich, Jay Johnson, Ross Redding, Bob "Howdy" Gaut, Michelle "Mike" Mareck, Nikki Brashear, Nancy Phinney, Geoff Lang, Jim Mizell, Gene Hansen, Tom Mace, Mike Stafford, Jud Bird, Bob Ruzick, Pam Kingsley, Marcella Bess, Lenore Zanco, Joan Marzell, Bonnie Russell, Linda Schwartzberg, Linda Tomlinson, Judy Koehler, Frank Antonio, Carol Lantz, Ron "Butch" Manzoni and

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NOVATO HISTORICAL GUILD 2014 Proposed Budget

Income

Books	1,700.00
Bricks & Tiles	3,100.00
Donations	4,200.00
Fund Raising Event	0.00
Gift Shop Income	3,200.00
Interest	2,050.00
Membership	8,000.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
Total Income	\$ 22,250.00

Expenses

Archive Supplies	500.00
Bank & Credit Card Charges	700.00
Brick & Tile	500.00
Building Maintenance-Hamilton	2,000.00
Building Maintenance-Downtown	1,000.00
Contract Services	0.00
Dues & Subscriptions	300.00
Fees	400.00
Fund Raising & Promotion	0.00
Gift Shop Merchandise	2,000.00
Hospitality	500.00
Insurance	1,500.00
Membership-Drive	100.00
Memorial Plaques	100.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
Museum Exhibit - Downtown	2,000.00
Museum Exhibit-Hamilton	2,000.00
Newsletter	2,000.00
Office & Computer Supplies-Downtown	2,500.00
Office & Computer Supplies-Hamilton	1,000.00
Postage	100.00
Recognition	500.00
Sales Tax	500.00
Sunshine Committee	100.00
Federal & State Tax	300.00
Third Grade Tours	300.00
Total Expenses	\$21,000.00

Net Ordinary Income \$ 1,250.00

50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N-3

memorial services in honor of our president. Former Novato Police Chief Roy McLaren, reached by telephone in Washington D.C. an hour after President Kennedy's death, said the effect of the tragedy was evident by a glance at the streets. "Hardly anything was moving in the streets" said McLaren.

- The December 4 issue of the Advance announced a crackdown on smoking at Novato High. Even students were complaining through their newspaper about smoke-filled restrooms. Those caught smoking on campus or within sight of the campus were going to be suspended, a policy that unfortunately would not receive full parental backing.

- Erwin A. Scheller, formerly of Novato, and Elke Hahn of Heidelberg, Germany, were married in the Rathaus, Heidelberg. Mr. Scheller was teaching eighth grade social studies and English in the U.S. Army's dependent's school, Heidelberg American High School. The bride was employed as a librarian at Heidelberg American Elementary School.

- A proposed "City of Novato" seal was to be considered for adoption by the city council in early December. Prepared by local artist, Carl Rangell, the seal showed the original Indian Village of Chocheche on the left side and on the right side the city hall (formerly the Presbyterian Church). 1960 was the year of incorporation.

- A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sundberg on December 3, at Novato General Hospital.

- San Marin, 2,354 acres, was annexed to the city by a vote of 4-0. Councilwoman Lucille Cannon was absent. It was one of the largest annexations in recent history of Northern California.

- The Pacheco Ranch, near Loma Verde, was being purchased by the Marin Junior College District. Reported price of the 240 acre ranch was \$860,000.

- Annette Garatti and Kenneth Goltermann were married December 21 in the Novato Presbyterian church. A

reception took place in the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Petaluma.

- In an uncontested election in mid-December, Aldo Paladini, was elected the 1964 president of the Novato Volunteer Fireman's Association. Richard Beyer was named vice president; George Gness was elected treasurer; Wilfred Lieb, secretary; George Hale, property clerk; and Tom Tharsing, sergeant-at-arms.

- Paul Brindel arrived back in Novato on December 21 after spending eight weeks in the hospital in Rome. He was in Italy covering the Ecumenical Council Sessions. He was met at the airport by his wife, Marie. Brindel planned to resume his regular schedule after a few weeks rest.

- Members of the Novato V.F.W. post met in their new quarters for the first time on December 27. Post Commander Louis Cavallero invited all post members and friends to the new building at 844 Sweetser Avenue. The local post had been on Machin Avenue for several years.

- Tresch Electrical company of Novato was the successful bidder for electrical subcontractor for the new Sonoma County courthouse and jail at Santa Rosa. The successful bid was for \$327,000. Work started in late December.

Welcome New Guild Members

Novato Historical Guild Membership Report—December 2013

Individual Memberships:

LeRoy Everett, Jr.
Paula Neese
Jolene Tompkins
William E. Damon

Family Memberships:

Ellen Sue & Richard Martz
Norbert Feyling

Life Memberships:

Carole & Sherrell Pyles
Mary & John Grillo (upgraded membership from Family)

Please support our Guild Business Members:

Acme Digital and Screen Graphics
Andrew McAghon Landscaping
Bank of Marin
Burrous Bros. Floor
Marin Landscape Materials
McIsaac Dairy
Nave Enterprises
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.*

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

Nominees for 2014 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: Tom Keena
Vice President: Susan Magnone
Secretary/Treasurer: Kathryn Hansen

Board of Directors:
Ray Dwelly Roland Fuette
Diana Goebel Bill McDill
John Trumbull Pat Johnstone
Louise Koenig Sheila Brossier
Edna Manzoni Jim Crumpler
Cindy Motsinger

Novato Memories

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Maureen Tresch.

- Having Lee Thompson as a classmate in every class from First through Eighth grades.

- Dressing as a pirate one Halloween and was thus the original "Captain Jack Sparrow."

- Gene Hansen and he were the only two left-footed kickers in a kickball game and could kick the ball off the school grounds and across Grant Avenue.

- Losing his purie marble boulder to Miss Sutton in a game of marbles, and he's still mad she didn't give it back.

- Sitting at desks at Novato Grammar School with inkwells that were no longer used.

- Thinking that Mrs. Hulme, Mrs. Busher, Mrs. Steele and Miss Sutton were the oldest people he'd ever seen.

- Having fun on the rings, bars and merry-go-round on the school playground.

- Riding a bike off the hill down onto Grant Avenue.

- Playing baseball on Saturday mornings at the upper playground of Novato Grammar School with older Novato kids: Frank Scheckenbach, Johnny D'Ambrogio, Bronce Chapin, Red James, Emil and Rocky Renati, Bob and Ron Manzoni, and Eddie, Jackie and Howard Smith.

- His mom and dad working late into the night on Wednesdays making sure the paper got out on Thursday.

- When the paper came out on Thursday, his dad had him deliver some of the papers on Grant Avenue.

- When the press would break down, his dad's assistant, Pete, could always fix it.

- After the papers were printed, his dad celebrated by taking the family out to dinner at DeBorba's where they enjoyed Sid's great Chinese food.

- Going up to the Russian River to go swimming.

- Hanging out at the Hi-Fi where you

could get a burger for 19 cents, french fries for 11 cents, and a milk shake for 25 cents.

- A real treat was when his dad would take Bob and him to Seals Stadium to watch the San Francisco Seals play in the old Pacific Coast League.

- Hiking in the hills around Novato.

- Being a member of Boy Scouts and Explorers, Little League and the Presbyterian Youth Club.

- Knowing all the merchants in town and going to school with their kids. It was fun to walk by Torassa's Bakery and smell all the freshly baked goods.

- Seeing the farm supplies at Carlisle's Hardware.

- People grocery shopping at Rayburn's, or getting a haircut at Dave's, Ray's, or Pete's Barber Shop.

- Stopping in to see George Morrison, who managed the Central Valley Bank, and as a Stanford alum, always got us tickets to the Big Game.

- Pete Ferrarese Sr. was manager for the First National Bank.

- Having a milk shake at the Parrot Cage on Grant Avenue.

- Getting shoes repaired at Zunino's.

- Visiting the fountain/drug store on the corner of Highway 101 and Grant Avenue.

- Hearing the firehouse's noon whistle blow every day at noon.

- Welcoming Novato's first sports store, Jim's Sports Shop.

- Visiting Ashermans grocery store and Pini Hardware - the 'modern' hardware compared to Carlisle's Hardware.

- Having an ice cream cone at Creamy Corner.

- Attending events at the Druid's Hall.

- Watching the old blacksmith work.

- Cutting through the Trumbull Ranch on the way to Marion School.

- Attending many events at the Community House.

- His first car was a green 1952 Ford flathead he called "The Green Mist," but sometimes it was "The Green Missed."

- Graduating from Novato High School in June 1959.

- After his dad sold the Novato Advance, he opened a print shop and he worked there running the press and doing other things.

- Working for George Warden at R&W Market, stocking shelves and delivering groceries on Saturday.

- Worked for the telephone company during and after college.

- His family shopping at Rayburn's, R&W Market, Irv Links Mens Store, Harley McAskill's, Wayne Womack's Variety and Mode-O-Day.

- Western Weekend was probably the biggest event in town during the late 50's through the 60's.

- Going to the Saturday matinee, usually a serial at Don Donohue's Novato Theater for 25 cents. Double features were standard - first movie, a cartoon, and then a second movie. Don Donahue would walk around with a flashlight to make sure there was no "monkey business" going on during the movie.

- When he was about four or five years old, while visiting his grandma and grandpa in San Rafael, he put a toy truck on the running board of his grandpa's car, then he and Grandma got on the train to ride it up to Novato while Grandpa drove the car up to Novato to pick them up at the train station. When he got there the truck was still on his running board. (The Northwestern Pacific ran a train out of San Rafael and on up to Eureka.)

- He rode the Greyhound bus a few times to San Rafael.

- It was always fun to run out to the mailbox each day to see if they got any mail. One Christmas vacation he worked for the post office delivering parcels. Harry Overly was postmaster and Bill Almeida was an important postal worker.

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Novato Memories

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He was intrigued when his grandmother was in Europe and mail would come with the postmark that said "PAR AVION."

- People were on 'party lines' for telephone service. Kitty was the local operator. You would pick up the phone and tell her what number you wanted, and then she'd connect you. The Sparrow's first telephone number was 24-J. Their next number was 284-W, then it was TWinbrook 2-3537. Ross Wright was the head of the phone company.

- Dr. Weseman was a great guy and brought my brother and me into the world. Mom delivered both of us in the same room at the Cottage Hospital in San Rafael. Dr. Weseman made house calls and came to visit Bob and me when we

had chicken pox one Christmas and treat us. Wherever he went, he always carried his doctor's bag.

- Dr. Cranz was our dentist. He had retired as a Met Life dentist in San Francisco and was a good friend of his parents. Dr. Cranz would stuff his mouth with cotton and clamps and then ask how my parents were doing. (It was a little hard to talk.)

- Going to scout camp at Marin-Sierra Boy Scout Camp at Chub Lake in the Sierras.

- Playing baseball on Novato's first Little League team.

- Attending Firemens' Picnics at the Silveira and Corda ranches.

- Driving around with his good friend Chuck Coleman in his brother's Corvette convertible on Western Weekend.

- Graduating from Marion School in June 1955.

- Novato High teachers: Ray Denegri, Vince Clemente, Joyce Palmer, Fred Rodack, Joe Garguilo, Margaret Bingelli, Bill Washburn. Ralph Cutler and Coach Bill Wood.

- Played quarterback in football; center in basketball and pitcher in baseball on Novato High School sports teams

- Novato High lost only four games in four years. The best win was against San Rafael in senior year and the heartbreaker was losing to Analy for their only loss and league title in senior year. (Bob Ruzick was the only junior to start on offense during the San Rafael game when he replaced starting center, Russ Johnson, and played an outstanding game.)

- Earning All-League Honors and being selected to play and being the starter for the California North-South Shrine game played in the Los Angeles Colosseum, and the 20-30 Club East-West game played in San Francisco's old Kezar Stadium.

- Pitching a one hitter in high school baseball against Napa and winning the League Championship in senior year under Coach Bob Melton.

- Being Student Body President in senior year and being in Letterman's Club and writing for the school newspaper, Hornet's Buzz.

- Attending sock hops in the gym and the Senior Prom at Bob's Edgewater Inn in Corte Madera.

- Double dating at one of the school dances with Howie Broxton and Bonnie Russell, who have now been married for 50 Years!

- Receiving many offers to attend college on a football scholarship.

- Our class of 1959 was so small (around 80) that we really were ALL FRIENDS. You knew everyone, some

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Novato's Treasures BUILDING 500



Building 500 1934



Building 500 2013

This Novato treasure was completed on November 16, 1934, at a cost of \$82,292.51. The area above the basement is 12,830 sq. ft.; the area for the basement is 8,910 sq.ft. (which now houses the artifacts for the Guild). Building 500 was the headquarters for the U.S. Army Air Corps. The structure is T-shaped, with a central two-story building

flanked by one-story wings. The second floor housed the war room. The City of Novato now owns the building. The building has been repurposed and restored and serves as the Novato Art Center, which houses artist studios, the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, galleries, and a gift store.

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-8

more than others, but you knew every-one.

• Attending College of the Pacific (now University of the Pacific) on a foot-ball scholarship.

• Old Novato families with the names: Gnos, Hanson, Lang, Pinheiro, Renati, Hale, Silva, Silveira, Clementino, Novak,

Corda, Paladini, Nave, Leib, Wright, Oliver, Tresch, Glass, Pronzini, Marzell, Edwards, Bagshaw, Page, McNern, Kingsley, Garaventa, Zanco, Baccaglio, Connell, Sjoblom, Robertson, Mayo, Frederickson, Warner, Simontachi, Busher, Rudolph, Hovis, Hall, Knizer, Howell, Borloz, Thompson, Johnson,

Trumbull, Manzoni, Panfiglio, Almeida, Lathrop, Nunes, Pimentel, Hall, Haymart, Worden, Taylor, Oliver, Schwindt, Smith, Stafford, Perichotti, and Angeloni.

• The many changes that have taken place in Novato over the years: the town is so much bigger than Grant Avenue; the 101 Highway doesn't go through 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
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- 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

- Student (full time) membership \$10 year
- Individual membership \$20 year
- Family membership \$30 year
- Patron membership \$100 year
- Supporting membership \$200 year
- Life membership, individual \$350
- Life membership, joint \$500
- Benefactor \$1,000 year
- Business membership \$50 year
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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 14, 2013, 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

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