

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 2015

The Novato Historian

Volume 39, Number 4

From the Iron Horse to the Smart Train



A new train exhibit just opened at the history museum on October 3, 2015. Guests were invited to see how trains changed the city of Novato. A train conductor was available to help demonstrate how trains operated in early Novato. Novato's first train station from 1879 was featured.



Railroad tracks on display



September General Membership meeting at Hamilton Field Museum



Guests enjoyed live entertainment with train music and songs

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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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

Susan Magnone

President, Novato Historical Guild

2015 has been a very good year for the Novato Historical Guild with new exhibits at the museums, interesting speakers at our membership meetings, Guild involvement in the community, great third grade tours, and docents keeping the museums open three days a week. Our success is the result of the work of volunteers. Without them the NHG would only be a very nice social club of people interested in history. While the social part is important to our success, it is the work of the volunteers that make us a Guild, actively preserving and sharing the history of Novato.

To celebrate and recognize the work of the volunteers, we had a "Thank You" Luncheon honoring them on November 7th. The committee of Tom Keena, Roland Fuette, Diana Goebel, Laurie O'Mara, and Diane Campbell created a classy and fun event at the Novato City Hall. Sheila Brossier created a giant poster listing the jobs of the volunteers. There were thirty-six different kinds of jobs listed. Some jobs probably were not on the poster, but the ones that were gave an idea of the variety and importance

of the work of the volunteers. Look for the poster at the December membership meeting. We can always use more volunteers, so think about being a Guild worker in the New Year.

With the work of the volunteers, there have been a lot of changes at both museums this year. But one of the biggest decisions the board made was to make no changes regarding the days that our museums are open. Since September, the board has considered having the museums open on Friday. It seemed like a good idea until we talked with the docents. Working on a Friday would be difficult for many of them. So, we listened to the docents and will not change our Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday schedule.

A great way to combine the social and work of the Guild is to attend the December 12th membership meeting at the Novato City Hall from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. The work part is election of board members and approval of the 2016 budget. The social part is an interesting speaker and visiting with fellow history buffs. Hope to see you there.



Volunteer "Thank You" Luncheon at the Old City Hall on November 7, 2015.



Novato-50 Years Ago

(July, August, and September 1965)

by Bill Almeida and Tonie Brown

This is my last issue of "Novato 50 Years Ago." After 18 years it is time to retire. At 86 years, I do not have the energy to do the column. Yvette Borloz Jackson has agreed to take over the column starting with the March newsletter. I want to thank Tonie Brown for the many years she has typed the column so that it could be sent to Mike Clancy or Carol Aregger for the newsletter. Enjoy reading the names and happenings of 1965.

- A boy was born on October 6 to Mr. and Mrs. John Zerbe of Regent Court.
- The Redwood Sanitary Land Fill, north of Novato, advertised fees at \$0.50 for a carload of trash and \$1.00 for pick-up truck load. "The good old days".
- The new Indian Valley Medical Center at 1615 Hill Road was occupied in mid-October. The Center is located next to Novato General Hospital. Drs. Richard Walker, Fred Newirth, Robert Patocchi, Albert Tong, John Korn, Jacques Couacaud, Leo Wagner were established in the new center. Wilkes Lou Johnson, a registered physical therapist, was expected in on November 1.
- The Novato school board accepted, "with reluctance," the resignation of trustee William H. Kirk on October 18. Mr. Kirk was at home recuperating from a stroke that he suffered in August.
- Joseph B. Rice died October 17 after a long illness. He was 66. Mr. Rice was president of Novato Savings and Loan Association. He was also president of Rice Supply Company and former president of the California

State Auto Association.

- A 33-acre parcel in the heart of Novato was offered for sale to the parks and recreation commission for \$207,000. The Victor Kretoff property at Hill Road and Tamalpais Avenue was offered to the city as a park site.
- Marin County lost another of its colorful pioneers with the death of Mrs. Abigail T. Rowlands, 75 on October 28. She resided in the 12-room Pacheco mansion at 5495 Redwood Highway across from the main entrance to Hamilton Air Base. The mansion was built in 1881 by her father, Gumesindo Pacheco. Mrs. Rowland was the granddaughter of Ygnacio Pacheco who came to what is now Marin on his appointment in 1834 as alcalde by California's Mexican rulers.
- A minor invasion of "granny dresses" at Novato High School was nipped in the bud on November 1. Five young ladies appeared decked out in the long and frilly dresses. Vice Principal Stanley Onderdonk had no personal objection to the dresses, but added that they would be a distraction in the classroom. The girls were sent home to change clothes.
- The 710-acre Black Point subdivision, planned by Kenny Bros. of San Leandro, on the Sartori ranch was reportedly in the process of being sold. Note: The Sartori ranch is now a golf course and home to many residents, also a wildlife preserve.
- Mr. and Mrs. George Nunes became parents of a second son on November 5 with the birth of Vincent

Thomas Nunes. The new mother was the former Mimi Baccaglio. The Baccaglio family was a pioneer Novato family, as was the Nunes family.

- The Baccaglio property on South Novato Boulevard was being eyed as the most likely spot for a future civic center site. Interest appeared for focus on the 13-acre piece as the place to locate Novato's future complex of city offices, a county library branch, and administration quarters for the Novato Unified School District.
- Frank (Mac) Manzoni, longtime road foreman for the county in the fifth supervisorial district, collapsed while on the job November 11. He was taken to Novato General Hospital where a series of tests indicated he was suffering from a "bad ulcer". He collapsed while meeting with Supervisor William Gness on Harbor Drive in Black Point.
- Groundbreaking was held December 2 for the new Downtown Novato Shopping Center. The center will occupy a 22-acre site at the corner of Grant Avenue and Seventh Street. Longs Drugs and Mayfair Markets were to be the major tenants.
- John A. Trumbull, attorney at law, opened offices for the general practice of law at 1620 Grant Avenue. He came to Novato from West Sacramento and was formerly with the district attorney's office in Yolo County. Born in Connecticut, he spent most of his young life in San Diego. Trumbull attended Stanford University as an undergraduate and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1962. He is a past president of the Novato Historical Guild.

Continued on Page N-4

50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N-3

- Mrs. Sam Marzell was installed as president when the Ladies Auxiliary of the Novato Volunteer Fire Department held its installation dinner and Christmas party December 13 at the San Marin Club. Other officers included Mrs. James Bower, vice-president. Mrs. Pius Zengler, secretary; Mrs. Edwin Warner, treasurer; and Mrs. Richard Beyer, marshal. Mrs. Marie Stafford conducted the rites.

- Sgt. Ed Levine of the Marin County sheriff's department was the best pistol shooter in the county. Levine, 38, and a Novato resident, averaged 99 per cent or more for several years. He scored 100 percent in 1964.

- Joe McNern, 23, a member of the Novato fire department, went duck hunting with 2 Novato friends on December 21 on his day off and wound up being hunted himself in the waters around Bel Marin Keys. McNern was released from Novato General Hospital and back to work the next day. He was fully recovered after all-night treatment for exposure to cold and a case of very cold feet.

- Mrs. Frances Margaret Lewzey, 76, of Adrienne Street passed away December 18 after a long illness. Mr. and Mrs. Lewzey had been Novato residents for 40 years. Bill Lewzey died earlier in 1965. The Lewzeys were well known in Novato. Mrs. Lewzey was a member of the Sylvan Circle and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Novato Volunteer Fire Department.

- The Novato fire district was hoping to buy an aerial truck, powered with a hydraulic system that could elevate ladders to a height of 95 feet. Fire Chief George Cavallero estimated it would take "nearly a year" to build the aerial wagon.



Troop 73 The scouts are Sam, Benji, Dante, Riley, Lucas, Kenny, Joey, Jared, Jake, Sam. (Kirk Not pictured) Scout Leaders are Dave, Bill and Tim.

BSA Troop 73 Builds Seating for Novato Historical Guild's Third Grade Docent Tours

by Roland Fuelle

Jake Fuelle a candidate for Eagle Scout led a team of 10 boy scouts from Novato Boy Scout Troop #73 in completing two benches at the Novato History Museum. These benches will provide a place for 3rd grade students to sit and listen to the docents explain the rules and process of the downtown walk and tour of the museum. In addition to the benches the scouts cleaned windows and raked leaves and pine needles around the museum, they did all this without the use of a cell phone.

Service to others is an important part of the Scout Oath "... to help other people at all times." Each year tens of thousands of young men strive to achieve the coveted Eagle Scout rank by applying character, citizenship, and Scouting values in their daily lives.

One of the rank requirements is to plan, develop, and demonstrate leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, school, or community. Through this requirement, Scouts practice what they have learned and gain valuable project management and leadership experience.

Jake Fuelle wishes to thank the Novato Historical Guild for providing this Eagle Scout project, the suppliers of the Building materials, Marin Landscape and Novato Builders. Jake would also like to thank Dave Remppe Scout Master of BSA Troop #73.



Hosing down the cinderblock and wood benches for the history museum's third- grade docent program

Novato Memories

by Jim McNern



Norman (Johnson) Manzer

Norman (Johnson) Manzer was Student Body President and in the second class to graduate from Novato High School in 1960. After he graduated from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, he became Assistant Manager of the Sonoma County Fair and Manager of the Napa County Fair before becoming a State Farm Insurance Agent in the Napa Valley. He now lives in St. Helena. Norm shares his Novato memories in this December issue of the Novato Historian.

Compared to all of my friends growing up in Novato in the 1950's, I was a Johnny Come Lately. We moved from Glen Ellen to Novato in June, 1954 at the time when developers like John Novak were buying up dairy farms and building tract homes. They said that people would buy these houses and drive all the way to San Francisco for work. Old timers thought it was a joke, but it wasn't, and it was the start of big changes for sleepy little Novato – the town with a reputation for giving speeding tickets on Hwy. 101.

In my youth I went by my stepfather's name of Johnson, but took back my birth name of Manzer when I went to college. We lived on the north side of Center Road between Eucalyptus and Sutro, opposite an apple orchard. We bought from a family named Thompson. There were two additional Johnson families in the neighborhood. Even our 4-H leader, Alta Johnson, lived further down Center Rd., but we weren't related to any of them.

Like most of my friends we had about an acre with a house and out-buildings. And like many of Novato's families back then we had a flock of chickens, some ducks and rabbits, and

a couple of horses. Until we were old enough to drive a car, we either rode our bikes or horses to town or to visit our friends.

When the walnut grove at Sutro and Center became homes, it was a gold mine for me. I was about 13 years old, and I would take our empty feed sacks and fill them with manure. I would then load the sacks in a wheelbarrow and sell them door-to-door for \$1 a sack as fertilizer for the new homes' gardens. These same families would also buy my fryer rabbits and broilers that I had raised, killed, and dressed. I would put them in one of my mother's large roasting pans with ice and sell them. Now that I am older, I can't imagine having ever killed all of those rabbits and chickens.

During my first week in my new town of Novato I had ridden my bike down Center to Wilson. Just at that moment a loud siren went off on a nearby utility pole. It was the Cold War era and with Hamilton AFB so close, I feared it was an atom bomb going to be dropped by the Russians. I debated to jump into the adjacent drainage ditch and crawl into the large culvert. I asked myself, "Do I get in there and look stupid or stay on the road and fry from a nuclear blast." I feared the "stupid" part more, so I stayed on the road and survived to tell about it. I soon learned that the siren blast was for our volunteer firemen.

Soon after my arrival in Novato the Schwindt family took me to a meeting of the Novato Valley 4-H Club. When my name was proposed as a new member to our club leader, Alta Johnson, someone said, "The Schwindts brought Norman." And Alta replied, "Well, I guess that means that he is in like Flynn."

The Schwindt family was always very helpful to me. Mr. Schwindt was always teaching me how to care for my animals, and when we would have a playday of the Novato Jr. Horsemen over on Bugeia Lane, he would frequently offer to trailer my horse across town instead of the hour horseback ride each way. Ad Schwindt was a very kind man.

Upon moving to Novato, most of my new friends were from longtime local families; Baccaglio, Ruzick, Stafford, Lautrup, Marzell, Hansen, McNern, and Schwindt. As we grew older and had group photos taken at school or other events, frequently the photographer would say, "And now I want a photo of those who started together at the old Grant Ave School." How I wished that I could have been in Novato those years before to be able to be in those photos with all of my friends.

Continued on Page N-6

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-5

I was very lucky to have such great friends as a boy growing up in Novato. My friends' parents were always looking out for me and giving me good advice. I have never forgotten all of their kindnesses.

My first real job was working for Harold Bloom on his chicken ranch in Indian Valley with Bob Ruzick. We did everything, but most of all we shoveled the never ending chicken manure. Town's people would drive out there to buy eggs. Normally they would ask us, "How can you stand working here with that smell?" Bob and I would look at each other and say, "What smell?" Our nostrils had no doubt been overwhelmed to where we no longer smelled the manure.

It was my senior year at Novato High and Harold had a nice cow that had just calved. He had tired of having to relieve his full-time hired hand at milking and decided to sell them. I foolishly decided I would buy the cow and her nursing calf. It was a wonderful experience, but at age 17 I had no one to relieve me milking, not even if I got sick. After 90 days that veal calf was ready to sell.

The Baccaglios had sold some calves to a kosher butcher from San Francisco named Israel Goldanski (how I can remember his name, I'll never know). He was coming to buy my beautifully finished calf, so I had borrowed a scale to weigh it before he arrived. With knowing the weight and current market price per pound, I then knew what price I needed to get. Goldanski came, and being a big man he put both arms under the calf to estimate its weight. The price he offered was too low, so I refused it. He raised it a bit, twice, but still not enough. Disgusted, he walked to his truck and started the engine. I was starting to regret the possible loss of a sale when

he turned off the truck engine and came back to pay me my price. He then drove off with my milk-fed calf. The cow sold the next day.

Harold had a big problem with rats at the ranch, so he asked Bob and me to come out at night and shoot them with our .22 rifles using birdshot. We would tape a flashlight to the rifle barrel, and wherever we shined the light on a rat, we'd pull the trigger and kill them. I don't think we got paid for this, but Harold did buy the birdshot shells for us. It was good fun for a teenager.

In the summer of 1959 Bob, Manny Correia, Jon Pronzini, and I made hay for Reno Pronzini. One day while loading a truck with hay a family of field mice scrambled when we turned over a bale of hay, and one of them ran up the inside of my pant leg. I dropped my hay hooks and kept grabbing my pant leg hand over hand as it quickly ran up my leg. Just before it got to my crotch I was able stop it with a very tight squeeze. When I had unbuttoned my Levis, I had squeezed so hard it was difficult to know that at one time it had been a mouse.

I have fond memories of the annual

4-H Ham Dinner fund-raiser at the Marion School. To this day when I stack tables and chairs at an event, I remember my 4-H training in Novato.

Back in those days it was never a problem for anyone to go horseback riding on the C Ranch, the F Ranch or the Hill Ranch. It was there that I learned The Rule of the Gate. If the gate is open, leave it open. If it is closed, close it again when you have gone through.

Western Weekend was always a fun filled time with the carnival coming to town and the annual parade. We either rode our horses as part of the Novato Jr. Horsemen, or the Thunderbird Bareback Mounted Drill Team that my mother had created. She was the drill master. Our biggest outing with the Thunderbirds was to haul our horses to Reno for the big parade and to perform our drill in their rodeo as the feature event.

I loved the Portuguese culture of Novato and the annual Holy Ghost festival, the parade from the Catholic Church to the I.D.E.S.I. Hall, the sopas to eat, and dancing the

Continued on Page N-7



The Novato Thunderbird Drill Team getting ready for a parade.

Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-6

Chamarita. I was even lucky enough to have a Portuguese girlfriend at one time.

My biggest 4-H project was in my senior year when I had about 60 laying hens. Each Wednesday I would empty the refrigerator in the garage and load up the 30 dozen cartons of eggs in the back seat of our '52 Chevy and deliver them all over town at 50 cents a dozen. One Easter Linda Azevedo's grandmother baked me a sweetbread, and when I cut into it there were some of my whole eggs with shells baked inside. I thought it was a joke on me because I had sold her the eggs, but it turned out to be a Portuguese tradition.

Hank Lautrup's father had torn down their chicken houses and created the trailer park at Atherton and Railroad Avenues. Hank's dad was a clever and thrifty man. Instead of paying Louis Garaventa to haul away the park's garbage, he had Hank collect it once a week and haul it to Petaluma where you could dump for free.

I went along with Hank a couple of

times, and since they burned the garbage at the dump back then, the fire had sneaked up on one side while we were unloading. Hank was barely able to get the truck started and escaped the truck burning up as well.

I graduated from Novato High in 1960, did one year at Marin J.C., and then headed to Cal Poly where I graduated in 1966, majoring in Agricultural Business Management. Cal Poly was like still being in Novato – an agricultural college with lots of Portuguese, Italian and Swiss Italians going to school there.

For the past 47 years we have lived in the upper Napa Valley where I recently retired as the State Farm Insurance agent in St. Helena. Craig Bond, who was two years behind me in school, has also lived here for many years.

I only lived in Novato for seven years before my family moved to Alexander Valley in Healdsburg, but they were the best years of my childhood, and they give me fond memories to this day.



Novato's Thunderbird Bareback Mounted Drill Team at the San Jose Firemen's Rodeo. Norman Manzer's mother was the drill master of the team.

In Memoriam

**Jack Burgi
Ernie Gray
Carol Simonds
Paul Terry
Edith Willat**

The Guild Extends Sympathy to

The Burgi family on the loss of Jack Burgi.

Mary Gray and family on the loss of Ernie Gray.

The Simonds family on the loss of Carol Simonds.

Virginia Terry and family on the loss of Paul Terry.

Leon Willat and family on the loss of Edith Willat.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE GIFTS

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.

Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Kathryn Hansen and Louise Koenig

August 2015

New Business

September General Membership Meeting – Edna & Ray – at Hamilton Field History Museum will be a BBQ. Ron Vela secured a speaker, Mike Pechner, who will talk “Trains in Novato” and Matt Stevens (SMART) future.

Volunteer Appreciation – Tom – possible dates in Oct./Nov. at City Hall, more planning to be done.

Future Projects – Susan – Enhancing exhibits plan for hardware and software (48” TV, computer, finish digitizing pictures in the collection, electronic picture frame and computer for oral histories and searching Past Perfect. A motion was made and passed (Louise 1st, Yvette 2nd) to fund approximately \$4035 for the projects

Accession Artifacts – Susan & Bill – A motion was made and accepted (Tom 1st, Bill 2nd) to accession the items shown.

Old Business:

4th of July Parade – Tom – Disappointing not to get any volunteers to help decorate the float. Once the docents in costume and students were on the truck it became very festive. It was suggested that the Guild buy two/three permanent banners that could be attached to the trucks each year (40 in. by 12 ft.)

Tomales History Museum Field Trip – Bill – all who attended felt they learned a lot and were impressed by the wonderful displays and building.

Board Nominations – Louise & Susan – to date there are two nominations: Ray Dwelly and Lonnie Karste. There is one more vacancy.

Logo – George – we are still working on a streamlined unique logo.

Committee Reports & Updates

Public Outreach – Jim – the five museums are meeting again.

Hamilton Museum – Ray Dwelly – new exhibit Tuskegee Airmen is nearly complete. The daughter of a Tuskegee Air-

man has visited the museum and lives in Marin Co.

Downtown Museum – Susan Magnone – new Train Exhibit opening October 3rd Saturday 11:30 – 3:00 PM. The committee is looking for a banjo player who knows the old railroad tunes.

Membership – Edna Manzoni – as of 8/11/15: 456 current members = 375 current paid members, 81 Life Members and 45 overdue members.

Museum Stores – Pat Johnstone – Holiday Faire Dec. 4th and 5th. The Guild will have a table again.

September 2015

New Business

2016 Budget – Susan & Kathryn – last year’s budget was distributed. There was a discussion about next year’s budget. Action Item: A revised worksheet will be e-mailed to the Board incorporating the suggestions for the 2016 Budget.

Historian – Susan – Bill Almeida is retiring from writing the “Novato - 50 Years Ago” article for the “Historian”, Yvette has volunteered to take his place.

Old Business:

September General Meeting – Edna, Susan – Forks & Finger’s will charge \$10/ per person and provide a cook. For \$30/hr. Ray would appreciate volunteers to help set up Friday afternoon.

Board Nominations – Louise – three applications have been received: Judy Brady (docent), Ray Dwelly (Hamilton F.H.M. manager) and Lonnie Karste (member).

Volunteer Appreciation – Tom – November 7th at City Hall from noon - 4:00 PM. Action Item: Board members to send Tom a list of volunteers for invitations.

Committee Reports & Updates

Public Outreach – Jim displayed a banner that lists the six museums, title “Novato Museum Association.” There was a discussion on changing the days that museum is open (from Wed. to Fri.) to be

in line with the other museums open days. Action Item: Ray and Susan will poll their volunteers.

Hamilton Museum – Ray Dwelly – 35 visitors attended “Nerd Night” the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Downtown Museum – Susan Magnone – Tom will install an outlet for the flat screen that will be on a swinging arm at the Downtown Museum.

Membership – Edna Manzoni – as of 9/8/15: 381 current paid members, 32 new members since January and 45 overdue members.

October 2015

New Business

Review of Sept. Membership Meeting – Board members felt that the Sept. Membership Meeting was very successful with a large attendance and the barbeque lunch catered. There was discussion about how much to charge people for the lunch. The current amount is \$5.00, but the lunch costs \$10.00 per person with the Guild paying the difference. It was decided to continue to have the lunch catered and to decide how much to charge at a later date.

2016 Budget – The revised Budget for 2016 was reviewed and approved by the Board. It will be voted on by the membership at the December 12th Membership Meeting.

Volunteer Appreciation – A catered lunch to honor the Guild’s volunteers is scheduled for November 7th at 12:00 at the Novato City Hall. Board members will help set up, serve and clean up. Tom Keena suggested having a big chart with all the functions that the volunteers do. Sheila Brossier will make the chart and Susan Magnone and Ray Dwelly will provide the list of functions.

Board Nomination Slate – The slate of Nominated Board Members is complete. Per the revised By Laws, six Board Members will be elected for a two year term at the Membership Meeting in December.

Continued on Page N-10

Novato Historical Guild 2016 Budget

Income

Books	\$2,000.00
Bricks & Tiles	1,000.00
Donations	9,000.00

Interest	3,000.00
Membership	10,000.00
Program Services	100.00
Total Income	\$30,100.00

Expense

Advertising	\$1,000.00
Archive Supplies	3,000.00
Bank & Credit Card Charges	460.00
Brick & Tile	500.00

Building Maintenance-Hamilton	3,000.00
Dues & Subscriptions	300.00
Fees	400.00
Fund Raising & Promotion	600.00
Gift Shop Merchandise	3,490.00
Hospitality	500.00

Membership-Drive	200.00
Museum Exhibit - Downtown	1,600.00
Museum Exhibit - Hamilton	1,600.00
Newsletter	2,000.00
Office & Computer Supplies-D	2,000.00
Office & Computer Supplies-H	2,000.00

Sales Tax	800.00
Sunshine Committee	100.00
Tax - UBIT -Federal & State	700.00
Third Grade Tours	300.00
Website	500.00
Total Expense	\$30,100.00



Welcome New Guild Members

Novato Historical Guild Membership Report September 2015

Individual Memberships:
Ralph Kloopping

Student Memberships:

Family Memberships:

Patron Memberships:

Life Memberships:
Patricia and David Jones

**Please support our Guild
Business Members:**

- Acme Digital and Screen Graphics
- Andrew McAgthon Landscaping
- Bank of Marin
- Burrous Bros. Cleaning
- Goltermann Garden & Country Inn
– Petaluma
- Indian Valley Golf Club
- Marin Landscape Materials
- Marin Trophies
- 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.*

NOVATO'S TREASURES Hamilton Field Fire House and Museum



1934

An aerial view of the fire house.

One of the earliest architecturally unique buildings on the base, the fire-house was the fire, police, ambulance, crash, and undertaker service center of the Hamilton community. It was completed on August 18, 1934, at a cost of \$37,799.34.

The ground floor area housed an ambulance, fire engines, and a crash truck with a traditional fireman's



1998

Hamilton Field Fire House after the prisoner wing was removed.

brass pole from the dormitory on the second floor.

There was a prisoner wing on the back of the firehouse, which was torn down in 1998 to make room for more houses. It had three sections for the prisoners, there was a class A, B and C prisoners, and there was one solitary cell.



2015

The front of the museum today.

The guards had a dormitory on the second floor of the fire house with a stairway that connected them to the guardroom on the first floor. The Novato Historical Guild and the City of Novato would renovate the building and open the Hamilton Field History Museum on May 12, 2010; on the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Hamilton Air Field in 1935.

Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

Continued from Page N-8

Museums Open on Friday – After discussion, it was decided that the two museums should be open on Friday and closed on Wednesday. The two museum managers were to decide on a date early in 2016 to start the new schedule.

New Business

Calendar for Membership and Board Meetings – The calendar for the Membership Meetings for 2016 was approved, March 12th, June 18th, Sept. 10th, and Dec. 10th. The times are 10:00 am - noon, except for the Sept. meeting, which will be 12:00 -2:00 pm.

Having fewer Board meetings was discussed. It was decided to schedule a meeting every month, except for July. If there was a month with no required

business, the meeting could be canceled. The first board meeting of the year will be Jan. 12th.

December Membership Meeting – Jim announced that at the December Membership meeting there will be a speaker on the history of West Marin. There will not be Holiday singing as in the past. It will still be a fun event.

Tree Lighting – It was decided that the Guild would not have a booth at the Tree Lighting event in December.



A train conductor helps guests at the opening of the Novato History Museum's train exhibit

Proposed Slate for Board of Directors of the Novato Historical Guild

The candidates listed below are recommended by the Nominating Committee to serve on the Board of Directors of the Novato Historical Guild for 2016 and 2017.

Judi Brady
Docent/Retired Art Historian

Sheila Brossier
Incumbent/Retired Nurse

Ray Dwelly
Built and Manager of Hamilton Museum

Pat Johnstone *Incumbent/
Museums Gift Shop Manager*

Lonnie Karste
Retired Antioch Director of Parks and Recreation

Edna Manzoni
*Incumbent/Retired Staff Secretary
NUSD*



Unique Holiday gifts available at Museum's Gift Shops

by Pat Johnstone

Christmas will be here before you know it! If you want something unique for that special person, we have warbird design T-Shirts and Polo Shirts with P-38 Lightning and P-51 Mustang designs on them. So far, the guild has sold 558 of these shirts that sell for \$18 to \$20.

We also have a large selection of note cards with historic buildings on them, coffee mugs, tote bags, sweatshirts, caps in

2015 Board Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month
Margaret Todd Senior Center
1560 Hill Road
Time: 1:30- 3:30 PM

Jan 13	July 14
Feb.10	Aug 11
March10	Sept 8
April 14	Oct 13
May 12	Nov 10
June 9	Dec 8

Guild members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. Please check with the President, Susan Magnone at NHG@Yahoo.com or 415 892-8458, in case a meeting has been changed.

several colors with "Novato" on them and our books: *Novato Township, Novato, Then and Now* and *Hamilton Field History*.

Stop by one of our museums on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 12-4pm and buy that unique gift for that special person. You can also purchase these items at the 2015 Holiday Crafts Faire at the Margaret Todd Senior Center on December 4th from 6-9pm and December 5th from 10am-4pm. We will be at booth # 12.

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 | Name _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership | \$20 | year | Address _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership | \$30 | year | City _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership | \$100 | year | State _____ Zip _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership | \$200 | year | Phone _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, individual | \$350 | year | Additional donations? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, joint | \$500 | year | Interested in volunteering? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1000 | year | Email address: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business membership | \$50 | year | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate membership | \$1000 | year | |



Novato Historical Guild
P.O. Box 1296
Novato, CA 94948



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YOU ARE INVITED

General Membership Meeting
Novato Historical Guild

Saturday, December 12, 2015 - 10:00 am - noon
Novato City Hall - 901 Sherman Avenue, Novato

Election of 2016 Board Members and Budget Approval
Presentation by Dewey Livingston on "The History of West Marin"
A continental breakfast will be served.

Guild members and anyone interested in Novato history are welcome.

Novato History Museum

815 Delong Avenue

(415) 897-4320

Hamilton Field History Museum

555 Hangar Avenue

(415) 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