

# 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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January-March 2013

The Novato Historian

Volume 37, Number 1

## The Passing of the Gavel



*Past President Mike Read passes the presidential gavel to Tom Keena, the Novato Historical Guild's new president. This ceremony took place at the December Christmas meeting.*

## Guild Board Members for 2013



*Novato Historical Guild's 2013 Board of Directors. From left; Ray Dwelly, John Trumbull, Louise Koenig, Janice Bazaruto, Mike Read, Bill McDill, Roland Fuetter, Tom Keena, Kathryn Hansen, Diana Goebel.*

## Novato History Comes Alive With Third Grade Tours

*By Cynthia Motsinger*

Third graders from Novato schools will soon get a glimpse into our local history when they come to visit our Novato History Museum. The museum will then be alive with the energy and enthusiasm of students. Teachers have been calling to schedule a docent-led tour for their classes. Booked already are tours in March, April, and May.

Developed by teachers and local historians for third graders, students are rotated in small groups through three sections of the three-hour tour. In part one, students view the exhibits in the Old Postmaster's House (now our Novato History Museum). They learn about the Mexican rancheros, Francis C. De Long and Joseph Sweetser who developed the largest orchard complex in the world, and farm life in Novato.

In part two, a group is led outside the museum to the hill top above the museum. There through using old photographs of Novato around 1910, students compare the photographs with the view today. Then the group visits the Buggy Room and from there goes to the front porch of the museum where they see artifacts that are in Grandma's Trunk. One item that fascinates them is a pair of clamp-on roller skates that used a key.

Part three is an hour walking tour of Old Town Novato. Each student uses a booklet of old photographs of historic buildings to compare them to what the

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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

President	Tom Keena
Vice President	Mike Read
Secretary	Kathryn Hansen
Treasurer	Kathryn Hansen

### Board of Directors

Cindy Motsinger	Roland Fuetter
John Trumbull	Ray Dwelly
Yvette Jackson	Diana Goebel
Louise Koenig	Bill McDill
Sheila Brossier	Joe Williams
Janice Bazurto	Jim Davenport

### Committee Chairs

Finance	Tom Keena
Fund Raising	Tom Keena
Gift Stores	Pat Johnstone
Hamilton Museum	Ray Dwelly
Hospitality	Sheila Brossier
Mailing	Bill Almeida
Membership	Edna Manzoni
Nominating	Yvette Jackson
Oral History	Jim McNern
Publicity	Bill McDill
Public Outreach	Roland Fuetter
School Tours	Janice Bazurto
	Anne Lehan
	Cindy Motsinger
Sunshine	Diane Campbell

### Newsletter Editorial Board

Bill Almeida	Jim McNern
Pat Johnstone	Tonie Brown
	Mike Read

### Typography, Layout, Composition

Mike Clancy

### City of Novato Staff

Recreation Operations Manager

Kathy Kormos

Museum Liaison

Samantha Kimpel

Original articles and photographs related to Novato history are welcomed!

**Deadline for the June issue is April 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**

During my college days you could always tell when a term paper was due. I'd be cleaning my closet or dusting. There was no way I could concentrate on writing a paper with a dirty closet. Human nature always finds a way to delay a difficult task. Fast forward to 2013 and there I sat, staring at the computer; trying to compose my first editorial. For inspiration I picked up the Guild president's gavel presented me at our December meeting. There on the brass plate was my uncle Barney Keena's name. He was our first Guild president. Barney was a great man and a loving uncle who grew up in Novato. Like my dad, Tom Keena Sr, he dearly loved Novato. They would call Novato "the valley of no regrets." He and his younger brother, Barney, would often reminisce. Dad constantly produced stories of what Novato was like in the 20's and 30's. At the time, I was young and didn't appreciate the tales. Today, I treasure all those

great moments. History becomes far more import as we age.

Our Guild is a fine organization, but like any other, it needs constant care. Just as any machine needs maintenance, it's imperative our Guild receive constant attention from its members. Your membership dues are the Guild's primary means of support; but please don't overlook the numerous other ways you can help. Signing up as a docent, helping with planning quarterly meetings, getting involved with our "Historian" publication, finding new members, or even helping with our 3rd grade program. These are just a few, but there are many other areas you can contribute to our wonderful organization.

We now have a chairman of our Downtown museum "Exhibit" committee. Past Guild president, Ron Vela has accepted the position and will work with his wife Dee and Edna Manzoni. As chairman, Ron will be naming others to the committee in the coming months.

Ray Dwelly and Joe Williams continue to amaze me with the Hamilton museum exhibits they produce. I encourage everyone to get down there and enjoy touring our beautiful Hamilton museum.

I'm extremely proud of the 3rd grade program. Cindy Motsinger, Janice Bazurto, Susan Trumbull, Laurie O'Mara as well as a cast of many others conduct more than 30 tours each spring at our Downtown museum. Third graders, teachers and parents from all over Novato enjoy the Downtown museum tour as well as a walking tour of Old Town. Community outreach is critical for the long term health of our Guild. I know of no better way to reach a significant portion of our fellow citizens. Please consider making that call to Cindy or Janice to become a volunteer.

The coming year will include several great events. In addition to the regular

## Meet Your New President

I was born and raised in Novato. I live on property my grandfather, Michael Keena, purchased from the Novato Land Company in 1910. My education includes Marion Grammar school, Our Lady of Loretto Grammar school, Marin Catholic High School ('68), College of Marin, California State University, Chico ('74), and the Stanford paramedic program ('78). I spent 30 years working for Novato Fire District, finishing my career as a Captain. In addition I've been a licensed electrical contractor since 1982. I'm single and have three grown children. Besides devoting time to the Historical Guild, I'm a member and trustee of the Novato Druids.

— Tom Keena

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# Novato—50 Years Ago

## (January, February, and March 1963)

by Bill Almeida and Tonie Brown

*"Novato 50 Years Ago" is a collection of items culled by Bill Almeida from the January, February and March 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.*

- Postmaster Harry Overly announced that postage rates would increase on January 7. First-class mail would be five cents an ounce. Rates for other classes of mail also were increased. Overly also stated that stickers and seals would no longer be permitted on the address side of letters.

- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bruff left Novato to make their home in Larkspur. Bruff, professor of earth sciences at College of Marin, said the move was made so he would be nearer to the campus in Kentfield. The Bruffs had been residents of Novato since 1947.

- Mayor Babe Silva and Councilman Everett Pozzi became engaged in verbal fireworks during the January 8 council meeting when Pozzi became irritated over the extended hearing and comments by citizens during the discussion on rezoning of the Gaut property on South Novato Boulevard. Silva and Pozzi eventually settled their differences amicably.

- A son was born to William and Sandra Tomrose on January 22 at Novato General Hospital. (Yes, Novato's old hospital did have a birthing center.)

- The parents of Arleen Kolby of 1132 East Court announced the engagement of their daughter to Thomas Skinner of 906 Railroad Avenue. Arleen was a graduate of Novato High in 1959 and was employed at Central Valley Bank in Novato. Her fiancé was in the U.S. Navy attending training camp in San Diego. No wedding date had been set.

- George Tocalino, manager of the

Novato office of Central Valley National Bank, was promoted to the position of vice president and manager. The announcement came from Charles P. Partridge, founder president. Tocalino, a veteran of 32 years in banking, was also a director of the Western California Telephone Company and was treasurer of the City of Novato after its incorporation.

- Wayne Womack became the thirty-first president of the Greater Novato Chamber of Commerce. He pledged to continue the work of civic minded men who built the institution before him. Gordon Adams was elected first vice-president; Richard Nave, second vice-president, and Paul Terry, treasurer.

- The Novato Rotary Club was seeking offers of land for development as a family recreational complex. The Rotary Club hoped to obtain land about 10 acres in size. An effort was being made to contact surrounding ranchers and large property owners.

- The death of Novato pioneer Frank Lamont DeLong on January 22 at the age of 95 ended an era that had its beginning here in 1856. Mr DeLong had been living in Piedmont in retirement. He and his family left Novato in 1893 to make their home in San Francisco. DeLong's grandfather, Francis C. DeLong, and Joseph Sweetser bought Rancho Novato in 1856 with its thousands of acres. In 1957 an Advance reporter journeyed to Piedmont to interview Mr. DeLong. He recalled his happy childhood in Novato and told how he dug many artifacts such as bowls, pestles, and arrowheads and skulls from the Indian mound on which his home was located.

- A rumor that council member Everett Pozzi had announced to the council he was resigning was denied by him in early February. The rumor also indicated former Mayor Wayne Womack would be appointed to Pozzi's spot on the council.

No truth to the rumor.

- News from Dr. and Mrs. Weseman revealed they would be leaving Montemorelos, Mexico, the end of February. Dr. Weseman had been serving on the staff of the Hospital Y. Sanatorio Montemorelos for the past six months. They planned to tour Mexico before Dr. Weseman resumes practice in Novato in April.

- Bette Ann Benaski, daughter of Leonard and Mildred Benaski, of Peach Street, was named Novato High School 1963 Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow. Bette was selected on the basis of homemaking knowledge and attitude. She became eligible to compete at the state level where a \$1,500 scholarship was at stake.

- Donald Swan, 49, died on February 3 after a long illness. Mr. Swan was well known in Novato in civic and business circles. He also worked on the Citizens Committee for Incorporation and acted as real estate appraiser for the Novato Unified School District.

- The price of stock in Novato's independent telephone company, Western Cal, reached an all-time high of \$41 in February. Six years earlier it was \$10 and in 1962 \$30. A source said one of the reasons for the climb was an unconfirmed rumor that General Telephone was interested in buying Western Cal.

- A private funeral service was held February 16 at Redwood Chapel Funeral Home for Augustino Quilici, 80, of 375 Sunset Trail in Black Point. Mr. Quilici was born in Italy on December 19, 1882, coming to this country as a young man. He and his wife, Rose, were married in San Francisco in 1912. He was known as a poultry rancher in this area. He also had a vineyard at one time. He was survived by a daughter Marina Ventura and sons Mariano and Gordon of Novato.

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# Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

## November 2012

*New Business* – The Pioneer Park Cemetery Committee, which has been responsible for any proposed action involving the cemetery, was abolished. Joe Giari has chaired that committee for years.

*Treasurer's Report* – Checking account, \$14,797.70, Investment account, \$167,925.13.

*Reports* – So far, 386 members have

paid their dues for next year. Total sales and donations from both museums for October were \$674.75.

## December 2012

*New Business* – Edna Manzoni suggested that the guild purchase a banner to hang across De Long Ave. announcing October as “National Family History Month.” The City of Novato would pay half the cost of the banner estimated at \$1,000. The board approved purchasing the banner.

General Meetings for 2013 are set for March 9, June 15, September 14, and December 14.

*City Report* – The contract between the Guild and the City of Novato is going

before City Council tonight. The board asked Kathy Kormos if the city could provide a better sign for the Novato History Museum. She will check with Public Works or Ways Sign Committee.

*Reports* – Novato Museum: Diane Campbell and Tom Keena pruned, weeded and painted.

Hamilton Museum: A Flight Simulator has been installed thanks to John Trumbull who donated the computer and Joe Williams who donated and set up the equipment.

E-news has 26-30 new subscribers.

## January 2013

*New Business* – 3rd Grade Docent meeting is scheduled for February 19 at 10:30. There was discussion about charging for 3rd Grade Tours as other museums charge the school a fee, but all agreed not to. There was discussion on standardizing the procedures to accession items at both of the museums. A committee was formed.

*City Report* – New museum signs will be going up next fall when the City Hall construction is complete.

The City Council passed the agreement between the Guild and the City of Novato.

*Treasurer's Report* – December's income was \$4,775.55 (Membership was \$3,800.00) and expenses were \$1,367.09. Year to date income was \$44,912.82 and expenses were \$32,758.73.

*Reports* – Insurance is due for the “Hap Arnold Exhibit” at HFHM.

North Bay Children's Center brought 22 students to Hamilton Museum for a tour and three more school tours are scheduled.

A procedure for where to place donated items at the Novato Museum needs to be identified.

The Rotary will donate and install some basalt blocks outside the Novato Museum for students to sit on when they participate in 3rd Grade Tours.

Total sales and donations from both museums for December were \$797.80.

## In Memoriam

The Guild mourns the loss of the following members:

**Patricia Browder**

**John Rucker**

**Eva Linn**

**Sheila Berg**

**Gordon Quilici**

**Evelyn Silveira**

**Barbara Sparrow**

## The Guild Extends Sympathy to

**Edward Browder** on the loss of his wife Patricia.

**Peter and Connie Ferrarese** on the loss of his sister, Patricia Browder.

**The family of John Rucker** on the loss of John.

**The family of Eva Linn** on the loss of Eva.

**Margie and Jim Yates** on the loss of her sister, Eva Sue Escamillo.

**The family of Gordon Quilici** on the loss of Gordon.

**The family of Evelyn Silveira** on the loss of Evelyn.

**Gordon Berg** on the loss of his wife, Sheila.

**Cathrin and Pieter van den Toorn** on the loss of their 7-year old granddaughter.

**Jack and Bob Sparrow** on the loss of their mother, Barbara.

**Suzanne Watson** on the loss of her mother, Barbara Sparrow.

## 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.

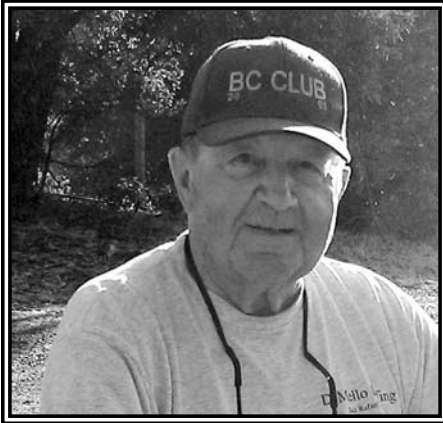
## MEMORIAL GIFTS

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.”

# Novato Memories

by Jim McNern



**Bill Mazzoleni**

*Bill Mazzoleni was born in 1927 in the ranch house on the Mahoney Ranch, which is now known as Bahia. The ranch property stood alone on about 2 miles on the Petaluma River. At high tide you could see boats going to San Francisco on the river and they would blow their horns so the Black Point train and car bridges could be raised to let them pass.*

*The Mazzoleni family had a Grade B dairy and raised horses, pigs, turkeys, chickens and ducks of all kinds.*

*After the dairy cows were sold in an auction in 1941, the Mazzoleni family moved to a 32-acre property they bought from the Bunt family at the corner of H Lane and Bugeia Lane.*

*Bill Mazzoleni shares his Black Point and Novato memories in this March edition of the Novato Historian. Bill remembers:*

- His parents: His father, Edward Mazzoleni, who emigrated to this country in the 1920's from Minusio, Switzerland, and his mother, Petronilla Bondietti, who was born in 1892 in Bolinas.

- His siblings: Richard, Louis, Helen, Dorothy and Rose.

- Attending Black Point School on School Road, off Atherton Avenue, and having only one teacher, Miss Bonetti, who taught all students in 1st through 8th grade in the one-room schoolhouse that

had a woodburning stove in one corner to keep the students warm. There was an outhouse located in the yard and only one little sink with one faucet in the ante room.

- Games like Annie Over, Prisoners' Base, and Stealing Sticks were popular with Black Point students. The little kids loved the Teeter Totter.

- Walking several miles each day to school from the ranch on a dirt road.

- His classmates and friends: Frank, Eva and Dorothy Bruce; Barry, Wilson and Josephine Dep; Ruth Riebli; Dolly Peterson; John and Isadore Fomasi; Morey and Gordon Quilici; Don Jacobs; and Butch and Greta Buchanan.

- His neighbors: the Bugeia, Pivato, Stubbe, Peterson, Bruce, Sjoblom, Riebli, Quilici, Hinie Brown, Dep Chan, and Strozzi families.

- Graduating from Black Point School in June 1942.

- Attending San Rafael High School for 2 1/2 years, and then joining the Merchant Marines to sail until May 1942.

- Playing football with Rich Nave and running track at S.R.H.S. and having Paul Miller as his P.E. teacher.

- Other Novato guys who were in the Merchant Marine in the forties were: Harry Eide, Ray Wilson, Leland Hill, Dewayne Tharp, Lester Taylor, Jim Ruhlman, Tony Pimentel, Jess Bates and Jack Venton.

- Spending five years in the Navy Reserve from 1950 to 1955 during the time of the Korean War.

- Sleeping overnight at the Alberelli Ranch on Wilson and Vineyard Road when he was a kid. (The Alberellis were his cousins.)

- Knowing Johnny and Louie Bugeia really well. John always had a smile on his face. Louie was very hard of hearing and we had to speak really loud so he could hear us. They had many cows and

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## President's Corner

*(Continued from Page N-2)*

quarterly General Membership meetings, we will again be participating at the Art & Wine Festival this summer. Janice Bazurto is looking into a possible booth at the Marin County Fair, and Edna Manzoni has arranged to have a banner installed over DeLong Avenue next October, highlighting our two museums.

Back in the 70's, I remember my Dad talking about the Historical Guild with great joy. However like many of our members I really never knew the organization or exactly what functions it performed. After becoming a Board member I was amazed at what a small band of dedicated volunteers accomplish. Whether it's coordinating docents, planning exhibits, maintaining membership records, coordinating 3rd grade tours or producing our Historian quarterly publication. We even have a member producing a monthly e-news letter and another writing get well, birthday and sympathy cards to members and their families. Let's not forget our General membership meeting refreshment coordinator. My point is, the more involved you get the greater your appreciation for the people who keep our Guild vibrant.

I'm honored to be your Guild president and pledge to do my level best to keep our Guild strong, thus honoring all those wonderful volunteers who founded the Guild and those who have tirelessly contributed to it since it's inception.

## Things To Do Today

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

## Special Announcements

Please call Diane Campbell, our Sunshine Committee Chairperson at 415-883-7265 with the details of any special announcements you would like published.

# 50 Years Ago

*Continued from Page N-3*

• Drs. Roland Vetter and George McDaniels, Jr. combined their veterinary practice at 1819 Novato boulevard. Their venture will be known as North Marin Veterinary Hospital. The location was formerly Dr. Charles Stafford's veterinary hospital.

• Mr. & Mrs. Reno Pronzini of Indian Valley Road opened a guest ranch in Sonoma county in February. It was located at 3268 Old Adobe Road. It was a working western cattle ranch with Herefords, horses and sheep. Facilities included horseback riding, hiking, camping, swimming, square dancing and hay rides.

• W. T Grant Co. opened its new department store in Novato Fair Shopping Center on March 14. It was the sixth occupant of the 70,000 square foot shopping complex, whose first tenant was the Safeway supermarket near the Diablo Avenue entrance-exit.

• The 78th Fighter Wing of Hamilton

Air Force Base was rated outstanding in a surprise visit by an Air Defense Command Inspection team. The 78th Fighter Wing was an Air Defense Command unit primarily responsible for the air defense of the San Francisco Bay Area and was a component of the North American air Defense Command.

• Acting on a petition signed by 75 residents of the McClay Road area, Mayor Babe Silva instructed Public works Director Charles Joseph to consult with the county public works department to take the "thrill" out of "Thrill Hill." The provocative crest had proven to be a hazardous challenge to juvenile drivers in particular. Removing some of the top of the hill would have given the visibility needed to travel the road safely and would take away the roller coaster feeling which excited young drivers. Note: "Thrill Hill" was eventually cut down drastically. It was located between Brookside and Saddlebrook Courts on McClay Road.

• The Sanchez Ranch was in the process of being sold in late March, according to owner Joseph Sanchez. Purchaser was rumored to be Roberts & Aguirre Inc., of Santa Maria. The firm wanted to buy 350 acres of the 600-acre ranch immediately west of Sutro Avenue, with a total of 1,400 residential lots planned. Note: This area is now known as Pleasant Valley.

• In late March a move was underway to convert the largest of the railroad buildings at the end of Grant Avenue to a local historical museum. Al Lerch, recreation commissioner and president of the Marin Historical Society, said that a Senior Citizens group was "very interested" in the project. Note: Nothing came of this proposal.

• Principal Robert Patterson resigned as principal of Hill Junior High School in late March. In his letter Patterson asked for reassignment as a teacher at the high school level in the following fall. He cited "personal reasons" for his resignation.

## Welcome New Guild Members

### Novato Historical Guild Membership Report March 2013

#### Individual Memberships:

Emilia Alioto  
Rosalie Mack  
Barbara Whitworth  
L. S. Witter  
Susan Magnone

#### Family Memberships:

Andrew and Sally Schafer

#### Student:

Chase Caligiuri

#### Please support our Guild

#### Business Members:

Acme Digital and Screen Graphics  
Bank of Marin  
Marin Landscape Materials  
McIsaac Dairy  
Novato Horsemen  
Pini Hardware  
The Wright Salon  
Trumbull Manor Inc. – Novato  
Zenith Instant Printing

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

**It is now time to renew your membership for 2013.**

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

## 3rd Grade Tours

*(Continued from Page N-1)*

buildings are today. An example is the Fashion Shop is now Dr. Insomnia's.

Each docent has a special way of presenting the information. A few even dress up in costume. Without our dedicated docents, these tours would not be possible. We are always in need of more docents to lead the nearly thirty classes that come each year for the tours. If you are interested in being a third grade docent, please come to the orientation meeting on Tuesday, February 19, to be held in the library at Hamilton Field Museum or contact Janice Bazurto at jnbazurto@sbcglobal.net. No experience is needed and you will be able to shadow an experienced docent as part of the training.



# Novato Memories

*Continued from Page N-5*

horses on their ranch. There were many stacks of horseshoes lying around. Louie took Bill to Bay Meadows Race Track for four days to race his horse, Mar Pell. The horse came in second, and it was his job to exercise the horses after racing and training to cool the horses down. He also knew Theda Bugeia, who delivered mail throughout Black Point and west Novato.

- Getting ice cream at the Potter Service Station in Black Point was a real treat.

- Hearing lots of stories about "The Bucket of Blood Dance Hall." They had bands and people would dance, drink and fights would break out. It was located on Atherton Avenue, a few miles from the ranch. (He was too young to go there.)

- Hunting birds, ducks, rabbits and bass fishing in Black John's Slough. (It was where Rush Creek is today.) Also,

fishing year round in the Petaluma River next to the ranch.

- There were three duck clubs on the ranch.

- When hunting along the Petaluma River you could hear the fog horns from San Pablo Bay.

- Doing lots of hunting with BB guns.

- Milking 35 to 40 cows daily on the ranch. The skim milk was fed to the pigs. (There were always 3 or 4 sows and a boar.) The cream was shipped to Petaluma in 10 gallon cans.

- Helping Mrs. McClelland deliver milk bottles to the stores in town.

- Working on the Buzzine and Pozzi hay balers.

- Picking ducks at the Louie Wing duck farm on Olive Avenue and earning

*Continued on Page N-8*

## DeLong and Sweetser Visit Pleasant Valley School

*Continued from our last issue regarding their Novato history. The conversation continues:*

**DeLong:** We also knew there was not much fresh fruit out west, so together with our families and farm help, we planted 44,000 fruit trees. Some said, and we like to believe it is true, that we owned the largest apple orchard in the world.

**Sweetser:** The produce from all the fruit trees with the exception of the apple trees were sent at once to market. Of the apples, a large portion are crushed, and cider was made from the sweet juice.

**DeLong:** We would cut the apples and put them in trays, set them in the sun and dry them or for a quicker result, we could put them in an oven called a dryer and build a fire in it while the apples slowly dried.

**Sweetser:** The dryer kept the fire's temperature down. Once the apples were dried to a certain degree we would sack the apples and sell them at markets as dried apples.

**DeLong:** Today people remember us as founders of Novato, historical men closely identified with the early history and development of the area you now call Novato.

**Sweetser:** But it is the fruit and the orchards that we hope will be our legacy and it is our hope that we can inspire others, like you students, to take care of the trees in Novato so they continue to grow and to flourish.

*The Pledge that students shared with the actors playing Sweetser and DeLong to take care of the trees planted at the school.*

I promise to take care of these trees so that their roots will grow deep, their limbs will grow strong, their leaves will color the seasons and their fruit will offer nourishment. I promise, that as I grow, I will watch over these trees knowing they will carry the history of today's Giving Day into tomorrow.

**2013 Dues are Due Now.**



*Some of the hard working Guild members doing the mailing for the Historian. From left to right are; Dan Johnstone, Yvette Jackson, Jim McNern, and Pat Johnstone.*

## Scott Building Has New Owners



**Skip and Sally Schafer** are the new owners of the Scott Building at the corner of Grant and Sherman Avenues. The Scott Building was constructed in 1890 and is one of Novato's historic old town structures.

The Schafers have been Novato residents since 1973, and purchased the building as an investment. The second story houses a State Farm Insurance office and Giant Properties, Inc. The first floor has the Wright Salon, a Guild member, and Artrageous Gallery. Novato Video Transfer is in a small building to the rear.

# Novato Memories

*Continued from Page N-7*

10 cents for each duck picked.

- His mom making a delicious black-bird stew with the birds that were hunted.

- The Stubbe and McAllister turkey ranches.

- During the depression years, the family didn't go into town very often.

- Eating lots of "milk soup" made by his mom with milk, rice, potatoes and onions.

- Harry Hale would come out to the ranch to buy cows and calves. Harry was the auctioneer who sold the herd in September 1941.

- Going to see Dr. Allen and then Dr. Weseman when a doctor was needed.

- The noon whistle blowing each day at noontime in downtown Novato.

- The passenger trains going through Novato.

- The platform for dairymen to put their milk cans on for pickup for Marin Dell that was located on Diablo Avenue.

- Hunting at the Laurel Gun Club on the Pacheco Ranch where Indian Valley College is today from 1939 to 1966.

- His dad plowing fields and vineyards with horses pulling the plow.

- Chicken ranches owned by the Marshall, Fisher, Cervich and Dep families.

- People in need were too embarrassed to ask for help.

- Eating delicious clam chowder at the Cliff House Restaurant, which was located on a hill near the Black Point bridge.

- The day two men got off a Greyhound bus in Novato and started selling newspapers and shouting, "World War II has started!"

- The night he met his future wife, Clarice McAbee, in the Novato Theater.

- Wednesday night was the night to go to the theater.

- The family mail box was on School Road.

- Working hard as a hod carrier and

*Continued on Page N-9*

## Heard from Hamilton

*by Pat Johnstone*



*Hamilton Field History Museum Docent, Chase Caligiuri, took Cub Scout Pack 42 on a tour of the museum. In this picture Chase is explaining the importance of a High Altitude Flight Suit that was worn by pilots in the 1940's when the aircrafts did not contain cabin-pressure.*



*North Bay Children's Center brought 22 students to Hamilton Field History Museum for a tour. Docent Roland Fuetie is explaining, to some of the students, the various aircraft models that were based at Hamilton Field. The museum has become a popular destination for school groups of all ages with free tours occurring on a regular basis. Tours can be arranged by contacting the museum at 382-8614.*

## Novato's Treasures

824/818 GRANT AVENUE



*ca. 1906, 824 Grant Avenue*

*In 1906 Frank Silva bought Manuel Dutra's general store and saloon at 824 Grant Avenue. The store was in front with the saloon partition separated from the Silva living quarters.*

*In 1925, Frank moved his*



*ca. 2013, 818 Grant Avenue*

*entire business and residential complex to his next lot east and remodeled that building into one large store with a three-room apartment in the rear.*

*The boy in the picture is "Babe" Silva, who became one of Novato's first councilmen when the town was incorporated in 1960*

*Frank Silva's grandsons, Michael and Frank Silva now own the building, rented out to Always Pampered at 818 Grant Avenue.*

# Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-8

plasterer in 1947, and working 25 years for Venton Plastering.

- His first car was a 1939 Plymouth convertible.

- You could buy 5 gallons of gas for \$1.00.

- Businesses in downtown Novato were H. Pini & Co., Pini Mill, Novato

Drug Store, Meyers Bakery, Zunino's Shoe Store, Ambrogio's Store and Meat Market, Harry Hale's Meat Market, Torassa's Bakery and Carlile Hardware.

- Bill Cole was a great man. He could take care of any problem you had. He could have been in the movies!

- Old Black Point and Novato families

with the names: Ambrogio, Salmina, Hale, Torassa, Zunino, Hill, Bugeia, Pozzi, Strozzi, Quilici, Sjoblom and Binford.

- Everything is better in Novato today. The stores in town are much better with a great variety of merchandise.

- Novato was a very safe place to live.

## 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](mailto:patjohnstn@aol.com) for shipping charges and information. Supporting and Life Members receive a 10% discount at the Gift Shoppe!

## Membership Form

Please mail checks to **Novato Historical Guild, P.O. Box 1296, Novato, CA 94948.**

Yes, I want to join the Novato Historical Guild and help preserve Novato history! ☐ new ☐ renewal

- |   |         |      |
|---|---------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time) membership | \$10    | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership          | \$20    | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership              | \$30    | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership              | \$100   | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership          | \$200   | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, individual    | \$350   |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, joint         | \$500   |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor                     | \$1,000 | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business membership            | \$50    | year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate membership           | \$1,000 | year |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donations? \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in volunteering? \_\_\_\_\_



**NOVATO HISTORICAL GUILD**  
P.O. Box 1296  
Novato, CA 94948



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# Notice

## *General Membership Meeting* *Novato Historical Guild*

**Saturday, March 9, 2013, at 1 p.m.**

**Old City Hall**

**901 Sherman Avenue**

**Bill Glass will be speaking on the Druids and their history in Novato.**

*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**