

# The Novato Historian

The Quarterly Publication of the Novato Historical Guild, the Novato History Museum, and the Hamilton Field History Museum

*Preserving Novato's History*  
News Section

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July - September 2018

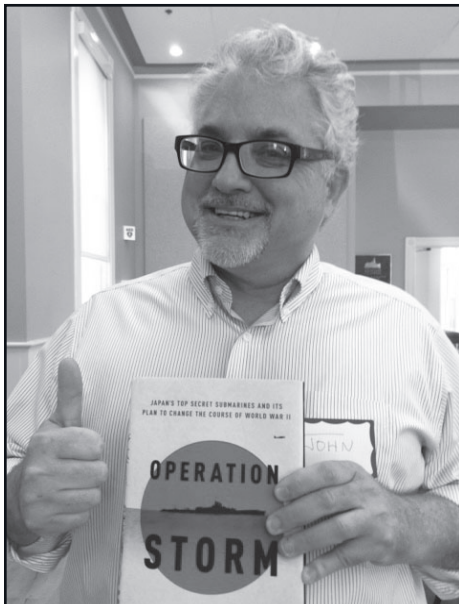
The Novato Historian

Volume 42, Number 3

## Submarines, Art & Wine, and Novato's Annual 4th of July Parade!



Novato Historical Guild's parade entry was Mike Silva's 1941 Cadillac, Series 62. Mike's passenger is Roland Fuette. The Novato Historical Guild has been in every Novato 4th of July parade since the first one in 1993.



John Geoghegan, author and Guild member, gave an excellent presentation about his book "Operation Storm," which documents the Japanese submarine presence off the coast of California during World War II.



Jim Crumpler, Novato's Mayor Pro Tem Pam Drew, and her friend Peter, in front of the Novato Historical Guild Booth at the Novato Art & Wine Festival.

## 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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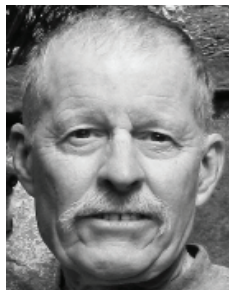
**Deadline for the December 2018 issue is November 1st.**

### City of Novato Staff

*Recreation Operations Manager*  
Elizabeth Tran

### 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.



George Geoghegan, a Historical Guild Member, gave a wonderful talk at the June Members Meeting. George talked about his research for his book "Operation Storm," which documents the fleet of Japanese submarines lurking off the California Coast during World War II. I'm pretty sure all present were surprised by the number and duration of the Japanese subs. Thanks George!

The speaker for the September Members Meeting at Hamilton will be Charlie Taylor. Charlie will be discussing his favorite subject: The Pacific Coast Air Museum, located at the Santa Rosa Airport.

I've been informed that there was an error in the June Historian that I need to correct. In the "Old Houses of Novato" article it was mentioned that two streets in Novato were named after Don Fernando de la Trinidad Feliz. Feliz Drive was named after Don. But Fernando Drive was actually named after Johnny Novak's brother in-law, Fernando Clementino. Johnny Novak was the builder of that track of homes, and many more homes in Novato.

A HUGE "Thank you" to everyone that participated in the Guild's Booth at the Art, Wine and Music Festival. We talked to many old friends and made many new friends in the two day event.

The first ADULT downtown Historical Walk took place on Saturday June 30th. Laurie O'Mara was at the top of her game and gave an informative and entertaining performance to the 20+ attendees. Laurie will repeat her performance on Saturday, August 25 beginning at 9 A.M.

## President's Corner

**Jim Crumpler**

**President, Novato Historical Guild**

### What's New at the Guild

The next Novato Historical Walk will be at Hamilton on Saturday, July 28 starting at the Hamilton Museum at 9 A.M.

Thank you! To Mike Silva, in his immaculate 1941 Cadillac, representing the Guild in the Fourth of July Parade. It turns out that the Novato Historical Guild is one of the few organizations that has participated in EVERY July Fourth Parade since its inception in 1993.

The Board doesn't have a meeting in July. Instead we take a field trip to a local museum. This year we visited the museum at San Quentin. After we checked in at the gate we met Jeff Craemer the founder of the museum. Jeff gave us a very interesting tour... the prison opened in 1851! The museum is open Tuesday and Thursday 10-4.

A big Thank You to all our wonderful volunteers for doing what you do!



Jim Crumpler, with council member Pat Eklund at the Novato Art & Wine Festival.





# Novato-50 Years Ago

## (July, August, September 1968)

by Yvette Borloz Jackson

*Here we are, let's see what was happening in the summer of 1968 in Novato. Some things were hot, some things were not, some things were cold & some things were just right, so like Goldilocks I hope you find the one that suits you.*

- Tollefson's Flying Service, one of the oldest flying schools in the Bay Area, moved Sunday from its location adjacent to the county airport north of Novato to Santa Rosa. Harry Tollefson, who managed the Novato airport for 18 years, until the county took over last year, said he moved his operation to Santa Rosa because he was denied access to the airport here.
- Have to hand it to Novato postmaster Harry Overly- the city's new post office opens tomorrow morning in all its spacious glory. The change of address is to the re-modeled McAfee department store building in Nave shopping center on S. Novato Blvd. There are 948 post office boxes in the new headquarters, 423 more than the total available at the previous locations on First St. The bronze-faced boxes come in for sizes, renting for \$1.70, \$2.25, \$3 and \$4.50 per three- month period.
- Spreading with frightful rapidity, a general alarm fire burned 10 acres of thick pastureland yesterday afternoon on the Frank Pinheiro ranch at Redwood Highway. The blaze threatened the Pinheiro home and outbuildings, stopping traffic on Highway 101. It sent such dense smoke into the Black Point hills that three fire trucks were diverted to Black Point because residents there thought the Crest Road area was on fire. Fire chief George Cavallero said that children playing with matches probably caused the fire. Despite

the quick spread of the fire toward the Pinheiro ranch buildings, firemen were able to divert the flames just before they reached the structures. A fence near the house was badly burned.

- "It's a wonderful teaching situation" said first grade teacher Ferne Struck, after the first week of summer school at the new San Ramon School. With team teaching, for which the school was expressly designed, the teachers have much more time for planning, she said. It also gives each teacher a chance to specialize. First and second grade teachers have use of the central pod of their cluster for interest areas which children can spend time in after their regular work is done. The children are excited about the new school, she said. "Some of them clapped their hands when they saw it".
  - A rabies vaccination clinic for dogs will be held tomorrow from 6 to 8 PM at Marion School. The fee will be \$2 per dog. The clinic sponsored by the county department of public health and then Marin Veterinary Medical Association, is the first of two scheduled for Novato. The second will be held August 13 at Marion School. Last year eight rabid animals were found in Marin, including three in Novato, according to Dr. Carolyn Albrecht, county health officer.
  - "I am sure many of you share my concern for the future of our country----" wrote Elizabeth Smith, a young Novato housewife, in the *Advance* "Letters to the Editor" column last April, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Stressing her concern about white racism, she wrote, I would like to help but don't know how. She invited others who feel the same way to contact her. Several did, and
- in the succeeding weeks the group set up an organization, Novatans for Racial Equality and elected Mrs. Smith's husband, L. Charles Smith as its president. Questioned by the *Advance* last week on the new organization, Liz Smith explained what prompted her to write her letter. "For the past six months I have been reading books on the subject- "Black Power" by Stokely Carmichael and Charles Hamilton; "Crisis in Black and White", by Charles Silberman; "The Autobiography of Malcolm X"; "The Fire Next Time", by James Baldwin; "Soul on Ice" by Eldridge Cleaver. "I hadn't realized fully until then how much the Negroes have to be angry about. I was angry at myself for not paying attention to what was happening. Then came Dr. King's death." "I knew then that I wanted my voice out there with everybody else's. If we can sit back now as comfortable white people and ignore the reality of what he fought against there's no hope left for us." According to Smith, Novatans for Racial Equality is continuing to seek new members and a role to play in the fight against racism.
- Double sessions for high school students for two months when school opens in the fall are a certainty because of the delay in completing San Marin High School on time, the Novato School Board was given the bad news Monday night by superintendent Supt. James Bunker. Novato High School students would attend school in the mornings and students headed for San Marin high school would attend classes at Novato High in the afternoons. More detail would be presented when plans are submitted at an August 5 meeting of the board, Bunker said. Principals Stan-

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# 50 Years Ago

*Continued from Page N-3*

- ley Onderdonk and Henry Moroski are drawing up the plans now for sharing the facilities at Novato High.
- The raging controversy over gun control continues, with the anti-gun control advocates waging a successful comeback following the public reaction after Senator Kennedy's assassination. Stiffer state, federal and county gun-control measures are taking a beating from gun lobbyists; although polls show a substantial majority of the public supports such measures. Locally the Council has decided to appoint a citizens group to keep it advised of gun-control measures it might support.
  - Although two members urged an even higher raise, the three-man majority of the fire commission, last Wednesday night, pushed through an average 5% salary increase for Novato District personnel, retroactive to July. Chief George Cavallo's monthly pay was increased \$61 from \$1089 to \$1150. He is now going to receive just \$3 less than Police Chief Robert di Grazia, who was recently given a pay boost to \$1153. The pay for assistant chief was increased from \$927-\$980; captain, \$839-\$885; Lieutenant, \$756-\$800; and firemen, \$609-\$630. The top pay for a fireman after a three and half year period will now be \$770 instead of \$730.
  - Traffic on Highway 101 through Novato was lined up bumper-to-bumper all the way to Petaluma Sunday evening and the customary week-end rush, as the usual horde of pleasure seekers headed back to San Francisco bay area from recreational spots in the Redwood Empire. Traffic on the way north also clogs the northbound lanes Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. The State schedule for constructing the freeway bypass through Novato is in 1972.
  - The city swimming pool at Novato high is no place these days for people who want to be alone. As temperatures rise, so does attendance - up to 300 paid admissions daily and this could be a record high summer of pool use because June's 7100 customers more than double the June 1967 total of 3400. July may top 10,000. Admission to the swim pool is \$.25 for children \$.35 for teens and \$.50 for adults.
  - Several children from San Francisco and Oakland ghettos have already arrived in Novato for a 10- day visit with local families that officially was to start the first week of August. The host families have been asked to carry on their normal family life, rather than go in for a round of sight-seeing or special events while their guests are here, Reuben Kaehler said. The project is being tried here this summer as a pilot project. "Next year we hope it will be a much larger program," Kaehler said the idea for the "Friendly Town Program" originated in Walnut Creek.
  - The City council's budget sessions, at which many of the most important decisions affecting the city are made, are notable for their lack of audience appeal. Usually the budget drama is played to a near-empty house. There are two spectators, however, who are almost sure to be on hand. Mrs. John Machado and George Amaroli, "watchdogs" of the city government. Like all good watchdogs they are far from silent. Betty Machado goes so far as to prepare her own annual budget message. The one she submitted at the budget session this month was her fifth. For Mrs. Machado this involvement in "grassroots politics" is a hobby. Amaroli does it as a member of TAB (Taxation after Balloting) a group he founded in 1965 to guard against a repetition of the action taken by the council this year- approval of a special 30-cent tax for the parks and/or civic center and increase of the total tax rate from 33 to 92 cents. Amaroli questions items throughout the budget in hopes of paring it. Other members of TAB attend council meetings and meetings of the fire, sanitary and water districts.
- A frequent spectator at Council meetings is TAB member Wilfred Lieb.
- It appears one of those all-enveloping community -inspired and involved project is about to get off the ground -development of Pioneer Memorial Park. Contractors under the leadership of the Novatan, Marvin Soiland are to do about \$20,000 worth of grading for \$5000.
  - Charger rookie Martin Baccaglio of Novato saw at least 30 minutes of action in Saturday night's San Diego -Oakland American Football League exhibition game at the Oakland Coliseum. Baccaglio, a 1962 graduate of Novato High saw limited action during San Diego's win over the 49ers.
  - As the ominous news about the Russian takeover of Czechoslovakia filtered through the community today by newspaper, radio and television, normal activity continued while residents quietly attempted to estimate the changes in their lives that might result. Those involved with national politics attempted to measure the impact on the Democratic Convention and November election. Those with sons in Vietnam pondered the future of Vietnam. Additional call-ups at Hamilton are not possible, as the big 349th reserve wing there had already been recalled to active duty at the time of the Pueblo incident. Although aware of the queasiness pervading the community, today's newspaper concentrates on the ebb and flow of local events.
  - An unseasonal rain fell on Novato today, the second time in a week. The rainfall on Monday was just a trace- not enough to measure, according the Fire Chief George Cavallero. "After a half-an-hour of sunshine it will be dry as before," he said. Fire conditions are normal for this time of year, said Cavallero. The ban on afternoon burning will not be removed until the winter rains set in usually in November, he said. (8/21/68)
  - On the recommendation of the Marin County Aviation Commission, Marin

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# 50 Years Ago

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supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday morning to name the Marin County Airport at Novato, in honor of Novato Supervisor William A. Gross. Supervisors, during a joint meeting with the Aviation Commission, approved the motion of Supervisor Thomas T. Storer that Gross's persistent efforts to make the airport possible would best be acknowledged by naming the facility "Gross Field".

- Mass will be celebrated for the first time Sunday in Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, the newly formed second Catholic parish in Novato. The celebrant will be the Rev. Daniel J. Sheehan, who arrived here Friday to take over his duties as pastor of the new parish.

**• Weddings during the July thru September 1968 months were:**

- Diana Mae Cey- Richard Thomas Born
- Dianne Eleanor Loveland-Phillip Salvatore Silvestri;
- Joyce Ann Richards –Gary George Homenko;
- Ronelle Grow-Richard Lewis Wood;
- Jeanette Marie Hanes-Dennis Grudzielanek
- Susan Darlene Schenck- Bert Brommel
- Christine LaVasseur-Sgt. W. John Heinrich Jr.
- Anita Ellen Watson-James Albert Franzi;
- Diane F. Thorsson-Sgt. Jesse Claud Hoffman
- Judy Layne Dreusike-Dennis James Fay
- Linda Jo Hill-William Carey Burchell
- Kristine Elizabeth Curcio-Darryl George Klose
- Susan Louise Bloyd-James Peter Pozzi
- Dorothy Ann Kossup- Ronald Lynn Grayson



Allison MacCarthy earned her Girl Scout Gold Award by creating five short videos about the history of Novato and giving them to the Novato History Museum. The videos will be part of the third grade program. At the June membership meeting Allison was recognized and thanked by the Historical Guild for her creative and helpful gift.

## Attention Members:

Next year we will be collecting membership dues differently than in prior years. The December issue of the Novato Historian will contain a self addressed envelope. Please fill it out, enclose your check, pay on line through Pay Pal, or mark it for credit card purchase, seal and mail back to the museum.

YOU WILL NOT receive a letter in the mail as in the past - this will be cost cutting and will save many hours of writing letters, mailing, etc.

Thank you in advance for renewing your membership in a timely manner.

This does not apply to Life Members.

Edna Manzoni

*Membership Chairman*



June General Membership audience.

- Patricia Ann Collins- Sgt. Brian Ladd Hembling
- Barbara Ann Martin-Stephen F. Curtin
- Boni Nell Williams-Paul J. Mahoney
- Lois Cubley-Paul Norman Gockel
- Leslie Lyn Giannini- Joseph Michael Wright
- JoAnn Dunn- Roger L. Schlager
- Sharon Kay Hallett-Gary Monnich
- Melissa A. Harris- Lt. John A Lewicki
- Maureen Giari-Gary Muir
- Kathleen Ann Rathlesberger-Dr. Marshall J. Taylor
- Kathleen Weiss-Graham Clark Buetzow
- Lynette Buckingham-Paul Howard Jr.



# Novato Memories

Jim McNern



## Sheila Brossier

*Sheila Brossier is the daughter of the late Alice and Tom Keena. She is a member of the Novato Historical Guild and served on the board for 6 years. Sheila is a retired nurse from Novato Community Hospital and shares her memories of growing up in Novato.*

I will start by saying that I wish my Dad were here to help me write my memories because he had the most amazing recollection of life in Novato. His parents, Michael and Mary Keena, my grandparents, both were born in Ireland. Michael and Mary came to Novato by boat then train from San Francisco to view prospective property. The year was 1910 and my grandmother had seen an ad in the paper that the Novato Land Company was selling parcels. They purchased 20 acres on McClay Road that was across the street from my Grandmother's sister Margaret (Maggie) Leavy. Property owned by another aunt, Rose Grady was also nearby.

My father was the first to move to Novato and he lived with Aunt Maggie. A year later Dad was later joined by his mother, father, brother Bernard and sister Margaret. His little brother John had been run over and killed by a street car on Castro Street in San Francisco. He was 4 years old and chasing a ball. The family had been living on 19th Street where many Irish people settled. After the accident my grandparents felt the country would be safer.

The family all lived together with Aunt Maggie until after Dad's graduation from San Rafael High. He was work-

ing as a salesman for H. Pini & Co., and helped his parents design their new home on the 20 acres across the street.

They raised a few cows, pigs, and chickens and sold milk for cheese. At that time my grandfather was retired. During their early marriage my grandfather traveled to Alaska each spring to work in the gold mines.

My husband Paul and I live on the property today where we raised our children Mike, Kerry and Allison. My brother Tom Keena, sister Eileen Burrous, and my cousins Jim and Joe McNern also reside there. My uncle Bernard Keena's family also own part of the original property.

I was born in San Francisco and was brought home to my parent's new house on 2nd Street. It was located kitty-cornered from Our Lady of Loretto Church. Siblings Pat, Kathleen, Tommy and Eileen later joined me. One of the town wells was next door to us. There were many vacant lots on our street. Our neighbors were the Rossers, Pimentel, Silva, Amaral and Milano families. Later came the Butti, Rodoni and Fisher families.

Because of our prime location everything was handy. The Greyhound bus depot was at Redwood and Grant and my aunts Mary and Theresa made many trips to visit us from San Francisco. We always knew when it was noon because the firehouse whistle blew. The train also was heard each day as it ran past old town even

though it was 6 blocks away.

Growing up downtown had many advantages. We were able to sleep a little later on Sundays because the church was across the street. Father Kelly sometimes would wait for the Keena girls who were running a few minutes late. People visited after church on Sundays or we had gatherings with family.

Some of my early memories were:

- Going to Novato Bank with my Mom where there were bars in front of the tellers
- My parents making phone calls from a booth in Old Town
- The excitement when we got our first telephone and had to have a party line, which meant you, had to wait to get on until others were off
- Waving goodbye to my Dad from our back gate when he caught the Navy bus in front of what is now Perry's Deli. He worked at Mare Island on the atomic submarines during and after the war.
- Starting kindergarten at Grant Avenue School where my teacher was Mrs. Lockwood and we had to take naps. (The school was on a hill across the street from the Novato Theatre. Eventually the school was torn down and the hill graded. Copperfields and McDonalds are now located there)
- Walking to school and the constable taking you across what was then 101 Highway.

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# Novato Memories

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- Bringing milk money to school and getting graham crackers with the milk.
  - Bank days when you brought your bankbooks and made a small deposit.
  - My teachers were Mrs. Olsen, Mrs. Hulme and Miss Dolcini.
  - Third Grade Miss Dolcini sending me across the street to buy her an ice cream cone at Novato Drug Store, where there was a soda fountain.
  - Trying to carry the cone back up the steps not dropping or licking it.
  - Governor Earl Warren stopping at our school.
  - Sitting on the school hill watching them build the First National Bank.
  - Taking dancing lessons and performing at the Community House (Animal Crackers in My Soup). Years later singing many times there with the Novato Music Association.
  - Moving to Marion School where everything was so fresh and new. Big playgrounds with 4 square
- dodge ball, tetherball and softball.
  - Pini Hardware was the hub of activity especially on Saturdays. Dean's Rexall also was popular.
  - Grocery shopping for Mom at Ashermans which could be entered thru Pini Hardware and stopping to watch a show on the televisions that were sold there.
  - Joe, the milkman, delivering milk to our house.
  - My sister Pat and I were in the Portuguese Parade thanks to Len Pimentel. We got to wear beautiful long dresses and carry bouquets and wear flowers in our hair.
  - Summer time in Novato always seemed hot and you could hear the ice cream truck music a block away.
  - Carnivals would come to town in the summer.
  - Mom always peeled apples on the porch for applesauce and canned fruits and vegetables.
  - Roller-skating on Sundays in front of Pini Hardware was fun when Grant Avenue was very quiet and the



On front steps of Our Lady of Loretto Church on Grant Avenue

stores were all closed.

- CYO summer crafts at the Portuguese hall and then piling into a big truck to go swimming at the Marist Fathers' pool in San Rafael.
- Joining 4-H club and taking sewing and cooking. Entering things at the fairs.
- 4-H friends: Linda Roos, Bette Benaski, Linda Azevedo, Diana McIsaac, Carol and Cherita Murphy, Andrena Ruzick, Joan Marzell, Jan Smith, Mimi Baccaglio and Catherine Young.
- Attending 4-H camp at Las Posadas for many years and loving it.
- 4-H was the best thing growing up in Novato.
- My first job at 12 years old was cleaning Our Lady of Loretto church, which included sweeping up the rice on the main street.
- The many sonic booms over our house and the fun Visitors Days at Hamilton where we toured the planes.

Novato "The Valley of No Regrets" was truly a wonderful place to grow up and I still love living here.



Sheila with her sister Pat Keena in the Portuguese Parade



## NOVATO'S TREASURES

### 917 Sherman Avenue - Scott/ Buser Home



Picture of the first Scott home after it was moved to Grant Avenue



A 1950's picture of Sherman Avenue with the Buser house in the center of picture.



Picture of the Buser house today. The City of Novato now owns the house

In 1913 A.D. Scott moved his old house from Sherman Avenue to Grant Avenue to make room for a modern residence on the old home site. This old home probably could have been the Block store that shows on the 1856 Platt map of Rancho Novato. In 1889 Scott added a second story to the store and then moved it to Sherman Avenue in 1890.

Fred Mahlstedt was the contractor for the new house. Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Scott moved into the new house in November 1913.

Death would come to Alexander D. Scott after an illness of five months on January 19, 1945. Scott was a pioneer resident of Novato who had been active in the business life of the town since 1884. His life history is a record of untiring activity and he attained his success by devoting himself to his work. Scott was born in Nova Scotia, a son of the late David and Jane Scott, on January 23, 1860, so he would have been 85 years of age on the 23rd of January. He was educated in the public schools in his home neighborhood and took a course in a business college. In 1882 he came to California, locating in Humboldt County, where he remained for two years.

Scott had started to write the story of his life in Novato, but death prevented him from finishing it. Quoting from Scott's record: "I came to Novato on May 1, 1884 and went to work for the McDonald brothers store in old town. It was just across the road where the Baccaglio home is now, but after a few months McDonald closed the place of business and I went to work for them in their main store which is located about where the Sutton girls now live. Senator Frank DeLong owned 12,000 acres of land which included all of Black Point and pretty nearly all of Novato, so he formed a company and sold about 6,000 acres. Then agents for the selling of the land were on hand and induced me to move to what is now Novato. The name of the post office was Black Point, and after I moved my store, which I had bought from the McDonalds. I made an application to the government to have the name changed to Novato, which was done without question. I was postmaster at the time, having succeeded J.B. Redmond and I remained postmaster for 20 years."

Scott conducted a general merchandise store, the first store established in Novato, and continued in business until he retired about 3 years before his death. Mr. Scott was married twice, first marriage to Miss Mattie Benedict, taking place in 1889. They had two children. Mrs. Scott died in 1893. The lady was attacked with an apoplectic fit on the evening of May 8th and died on Wednesday the 10th. In 1895, Scott was united in marriage to Miss Frances Peters, who has also passed away at the time of Mr. Scott's death.

He was the father of the late Alger B. Scott and Miss Jessie H. Scott, a retired school teacher.

The *Petaluma Argus-Courier* reported on July 5, 1945. "A.E. Pulley, who has purchased the former A.D. Scott building on Grant Avenue, at the corner of Sherman, has leased the place to the Pini Hardware Co., who will take possession as soon as the present tenants find other quarters. Mrs. W.H. Buser has bought the A.D. Scott home on Sherman Avenue, in which she has an apartment. As soon as the Scott estate is settled the only surviving heir, Miss Jessie Scott, who occupies the family home, will move and make other plans."

Mrs. Buser was Iva Lois Gage daughter of James Gage of the famous James Gage Breeding Farm and Indian Valley Hatchery. She married Dr. Walter H. Buser in 1913, a veterinarian. He passed away in 1935. She passed away July 24, 1957.



# Born to Fly

By Michael Corlett

Tom Crull was born in Portsmouth, Ohio in 1924. When he reached his 18th birthday, 2 months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Tom decided he wanted to be an aviator.

After two years of Army Aviation Cadet training, he graduated in March of 1944. After an additional 6 months of training on P-47 Thunderbolts, he was assigned to the 12th Air Force in Italy.

During WW2 he flew a total of 112 Combat Ground Support missions. Ground support consisted of destroying tanks, railroad cars, troops, or in his words, "anything that moved." Crull received the first of his careers four Distinguished Flying Crosses for action on March 30th, 1945. Although his P-47 had been heavily damaged by ground fire, he continued to lead his squadron directly over the target resulting in a highly successful attack on a marshalling yard in Mortara, Italy.

In 1947 he was assigned as an Operations Officer in a Transport Command in Washington, DC. He said, "he felt like a square fighter peg, in a round transport hole." Unhappy in that position, he volunteered to go to Korea. He flew 100 combat missions in the Korean War, first flying P-51's and later the F-80's.

During the Korean War, it was necessary to get U.S. fighter planes to staging areas in Japan. The planes were "packaged" and shipped via the Navy from the West Coast. Upon arrival in Japan, the planes were unpacked, assembled and deployed for service. A very time-consuming process.

In July of 1952 Crull participated in Fighters Pacific Operation No. 1, the first inflight refueling of a squadron of jet fighters over the Pacific Ocean. From then on, inflight refueling became standard, and greatly reduced the time necessary to move fighter aircraft from the U.S., to the Korean War zone.

While stationed in Great Falls Montana in 1956, three black suited, red-tied civilians came to visit him. After a couple of clandestine meetings in a local hotel room, he found himself out of the Air Force after 14 years and going to work as a civilian for the Central Intelligence Agency, flying the U-2 spy plane. The U-2 was a very difficult aircraft to fly. In addition to excellent piloting skills, the strain of flying at extreme altitudes for 8-10 hours, required the candidate to pass rigorous psychological and physical screening before being selected.

He made his first flight in the U-2 August 14th, 1956.

Flying out of Eielson AFB near Fairbanks, Alaska, Crull flew the 18th Soviet Overflight Mission on March 2nd, 1958. Although the U-2 he was flying was a "dirty bird," (one that was supposed to deceive or hide from Soviet radar) the Soviets tracked his entire flight.

However, the U-2 flew at 70,000 feet which was out of the range of Soviet fighters or missiles.

Crull made an infamous U-2 flight on September 24th, 1959. While flight testing a new model of the U-2, the U-2c, the plane suffered a flameout. The flight had originated at a U.S. military base in Atsugi Japan, but Crull was forced to make a dead-stick, wheels up landing on a civilian glider strip 10 miles away from the air base. No one was injured, but there were civilians in the area and this black, unmarked, strange looking aircraft generated much unwanted publicity. Pictures of the highly secret U-2c began appearing in the Japanese press. Soon there were public demonstrations against a continuing presence of the U-2. The following year the U-2's were removed from Japan.



After the crash landing, the plane, known as Article 360, was shipped back to Burbank to be repaired and returned to service. The plane became known as a "Hangar Queen" because it spent so much time in the hangar being repaired. Article 360 eventually came to an inglorious end when on May 1st, 1960, piloted by Francis Gary Powers, it was shot down at 70,500 feet by a Soviet SA-2 missile.

Crull flew the U-2 spy plane for the Central Intelligence Agency for 5 years.

In 1961 he returned to the Air Force and came to Hamilton Field flying helicopters in the Air Rescue Squadron. He then served one year in Vietnam as a Forward Air Controller and flew 360 missions. He received another Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on September 23rd, 1968. The award reads in part, "... despite hazards of intense ground fire, he courageously pressed the attack and directed highly effective tactical air missions with outstanding skill and precision, completely devastating the hostile positions."

His last assignment was at Hamilton Field in 1969 for a second stint as a helicopter pilot in the Air Rescue Squadron.

After his military retirement in 1973 he returned to school and obtained his MBA in Accounting. He worked for Bank of America in the Trust department for a while, but decided that was not what he wanted to do. Lt. Col. Crull's family donated a number memorabilia from Crull's Aviation career to the Hamilton Field History Museum. Items include his 4 Distinguished Flying Crosses, numerous photos, patches and various documents and citations. The display case featuring his career is at the bottom of the ramp that leads to the lower level of the museum. It is well worth a visit.

Sources: Spy plane, The U2 History Declassified, Norman Polmar, 2001

[www.spyflight.co.uk/U2](http://www.spyflight.co.uk/U2)

[www.trvisaeroclub.com/tom](http://www.trvisaeroclub.com/tom)

[www.wikipedia.org/wiki/portal/aviation/aniversaries/september-24](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/portal/aviation/aniversaries/september-24)



Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Crull earned 4 Distinguished Flying Crosses during his Air Force career.

## Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Kathryn Hansen

### May 2018

#### City Report

- The tax refund is at City Hall
- May 22nd the City will recognize the Eagle Scout project at the Downtown Museum. Board members are encouraged to attend.
- **Hamilton Brick Patio Project** – The Rotary's Board won't approve the contract because it is written with so many disclaimers.

#### Unfinished Business:

##### Strategic Plan:

- **Goal 2** – assigned to Jim – engage new business partners by offering membership and the value of being listed in the Historian. Add business members to the website and give the business a decal or plaque to hang in their shop/office recognizing them as members.

#### New Business:

- **Novato Art & Wine** – Need volunteers for the event June 9th & 10th.

#### Committee Reports & Updates

##### Hamilton Museum

- The new kiosk is not running because it doesn't have enough memory.
- Attended Tour of Novato in City Hall as the last stop on the Passport route. Jim Crumpler and Bill Graves assisted.

##### Downtown Museum

- Edna suggested using an envelope with a space for donor information on it rather than a plain envelope. This would cut down on the donor having to send back a form with their membership renewal. Samples were shown. The envelope would be an insert in the December newsletter. All agreed to design a new envelope
- The Petaluma Dairy Women visited the Dairy Exhibit. They know many of the ranchers featured in the exhibit.
- Several members visited the Presidio Museum to get ideas and were impressed with the advanced technology that was user friendly.
- Several members went to the City sponsored meeting regarding the Depot Building & Location. Key Themes were:

- Placemaking – A Sense of Identity
- Our Historical Roots – Community
- Economic & Community Vitality
- Sustainable Infrastructure/SMART
- Downtown Revitalization
- Civic Pride & Engagement

### June 2018

#### Unfinished Business:

##### Strategic Plan

- **Goal 3** – The Guild has three presentations (SM & RD) completed. Suggestions for future presentations are *Crime in Marin*, *Schools*, and *Pioneer Cemetery*. Two new ones to be developed in the next two years.
- Purchase equipment for Power Point presentations is complete and two kiosks have been purchased. Loading the information is in progress as soon as the memory is expanded.
- Develop a speaker's list and offer to provide speakers to various professional organizations. We have Susan, Ray & Jim who can make presentations.
- Develop monthly historical walking tours. Kate is adding two *Walking Tours of Hamilton Wetlands Restoration*. Laurie (3rd Grade Tours) is adding two *Walking Tours of Downtown*. They are scheduled for July – September.

**Kiosks** – Bill Graves & a technician from the Kiosk Company are working on the bugs to the program. The memory was corrupted in Windows 10.

#### New Business:

- **History Walk** – Kate Johnston – the first walk, Hamilton Wetlands, is scheduled for June 30th.
- **Fourth of July Parade** – the theme is "Community Spirit Alive." Mike Silva will drive his 1940 Cadillac.
- **July Field Trip** – possibly San Quentin Museum, Jeff Cramer is the contact.

### July 2018

*There was no meeting in July.*

## Welcome New Guild Members

### Novato Historical Guild Membership Report September 2018

#### Individual Membership

Mari Avedano  
Gary Edwards  
Tony Ferriera  
Jim Rolka  
Lowell W. Smith

*If you have questions about  
membership, call*

*Edna Manzoni,  
Membership Chairman,  
415-892-9603.*



### Please support our Guild Business Members:

Acme Digital and Screen Graphics  
A. D. Scott Building  
Andrew McAgnon Landscaping  
Bank of Marin  
Goltermann Garden & Country Inn,  
Petaluma, CA  
Indian Valley Golf Club  
Marin Landscape Materials  
Marin Trophies  
Marin Volvo/Saab  
Mclsaac Dairy  
Nave Enterprises  
Novato Builders Supply, Inc.  
Pini Hardware  
The Wright Salon  
Trumbull Manor Inc. – Novato  
Valley Oak Wealth Management  
Zenith Instant Printing



**2018 Board Meetings**

Second Tuesday of the Month

**Margaret Todd Senior Center**

1560 Hill Road

Time: 1:30- 3:30 PM

Jan. 9	July (no meeting)
Feb. 13	Aug. 14
March 13	Sept. 11
April 10	Oct. 9
May 8	Nov. 13
June 12	Dec. 11

**Membership Meetings**

March 10	Margaret Todd Center
June 16	City Hall
Sept. 15	Hamilton Field Museum
Dec. 15	City Hall

Guild members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. Please check with the President, Jim Crumpler at NHG1850@yahoo.com or 415 897-5705, in case a meeting has been changed.

**In Memoriam**

**In Memoriam**

**Robert "Bob" Busher**  
**Donald Read**  
**Theodore "Teddy" Russell**  
**Bob Wilkinson**

**The Guild Extends Sympathy to**

The Busher family on the loss of Bob Busher  
 Mike Read and family on the loss of his father Donald Read  
 The Russell family on the loss of Theodore "Teddy" Russell  
 The Wilkinson family on the loss of Bob Wilkinson

**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.

**Contact Us**

**Hamilton Field History Museum**  
 Manager: Ray Dwelly  
 Museum phone: 415-382-8614  
 Email: Hamilton\_museum@att.net  
<https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonFieldHistoryMuseum/>

**Novato History Museum**  
 Manager: Susan Magnone  
 Museum phone: 415-897-4320  
 Email: NHG1850@yahoo.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/NovatoHistoryMuseum/>

**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, September 15, 12 noon - 2:00 pm**

**Hamilton Field History Museum, 555 Hangar Ave.**

A catered barbecue lunch will be served for a donation of \$10. Followed by a presentation by Charlie Taylor, on the Pacific Coast Air Museum, located in Santa Rosa.

Guild Members and anyone interested in Novato 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**