

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 2018

The Novato Historian

Volume 42, Number 4

Adult Walking Tours for Public Started This Summer



The Novato Historical Guild started offering historical walking tours in Novato this summer. The walks were held on Saturdays and each walk lasted about an hour. Laurie O'Mara presented the downtown history tour, Kate Johnson led the Hamilton Air Field tour, and Marcie Miller led the tour at Pioneer Park Cemetery.

In picture on left, Laurie O'Mara is standing in front of the old Yelmorini saloon. Mr. Yelmorini, a Swiss immigrant, first worked on a dairy until he was able to buy his own. He later sold his dairy in the 1900's so that he could move into town and build his saloon near the train depot. The former saloon is located behind the Whole Foods building.

September Member Meeting and Pioneer Park Cemetery Tour



Charlie Taylor, from the Pacific Coast Air Museum in Santa Rosa, gave the general membership meeting's special presentation



Historical Walk of Novato's Pioneer Cemetery lead by Marcie Miller on Oct 20th.

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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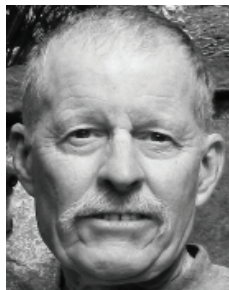
Deadline for the March 2019 issue is February 1st.

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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

Jim Crumpler

President, Novato Historical Guild

What's New at the Guild

Hope you all enjoyed the BBQ at the September Member's Meeting, provided by Forks and Fingers. Following lunch a very interesting talk was given by Charlie Taylor, about the wonderful but unappreciated Pacific Coast Air Museum, located at the Santa Rosa Airport. A couple of months prior, I was fortunate to be given a tour by Charlie. What made Charlie's tour really interesting was that not only did he know everything about the aircraft we were looking at, but he had actually flown many of the aircraft as well.

The speaker for the December Member's Meeting is Mike Moyle, the chair of the Sausalito Portuguese Cultural Center, History Committee. Mike's expertise is the many Portuguese Dairies in Marin County.

One of the projects that the Guild accomplished in 2018 was a series of free, community history walks. The five walks, one per month, began in June and included two downtown walks, two Hamilton walks and a walk in Pioneer Park.

The downtown walks were led by Laurie O'Mara. Laurie has been doing an incredible job with Third Grade Tours for years. The Board thought that it was time for the adults of Novato to experience what the third graders had been

enjoying. So the last Saturday of June and August saw Laurie show off her talent. Both walks had a very positive public response with about twenty attendees at each walk.

Kate Johnston was the leader of the Hamilton Walks. Kate has been doing interesting walks in Marin and Sonoma counties for a few years. Kate's Walks had impressive turn outs, especially with the residents of Hamilton.

Marcie Miller and Sharon Azevedo were in charge of the Pioneer Park Walk. Marcie has been doing history walks for The Marin History Museum for years. She really does a terrific job.

Sharon did the research for the Pioneer Park Walk. She put together a wonderful binder containing pictures and history of many of the "residents," which really added some "life" to the walk. About 16 attendees showed up on a beautiful October morning and enjoyed Marcie's talk, supplemented with Sharon's historic pictures.

For those that missed these walks, the Guild is planning on repeating them in the summer of 2019.

Finally I would like to thank all the volunteers that support the Guild. We wouldn't exist without you. THANK YOU!



Novato Historical Guild's members enjoying a catered barbeque lunch at the Hamilton Field History Museum.



Novato-50 Years Ago

(October, November, December 1968)

by Yvette Borloz Jackson

*The following items are from the October through December 1968 Novato Advances. It is hard to believe that this is the last 50 Years Ago for this year. I want to thank all for your kind comments and I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season. **

- Novato Valley 4-H Club will present a display entitled "Keep America Beautiful" at the Downtown Novato Shopping Center Saturday, as part of National 4-H Week and as a reminder of the Novato Clean-Up campaign to begin the following week. Novato Valley members plan to distribute over 600 car litterbags free of charge Saturday and on the following weekend will participate in the clean-up of empty lots in this same area of Novato. National 4-H Week, October 5-12, aims to acquaint the public with many ways in which young people can participate and to urge youth 9 to 19 to join.
- A resolution calling for the bombing of all strategic military targets in North Vietnam "to end the war as quickly as possible" was endorsed Monday night by the Novato unit of United Republicans of California, which met at the home of J. Dietrich Stroeh. The resolution noted that, "the good faith which the United States has shown toward the North Vietnamese by halting the bombing around Hanoi has resulted in the escalation of attacks upon South Vietnam". The group also supported a resolution that noted that California farm workers make wages above the national average and that urged Governor Reagan to make continued efforts to resolve the boycott of California grapes.
- Look for a grand opening and dedication ceremonies in about 30 day at the ne Marin County Humane Society headquarters, 171 Bel-Marín Keys Blvd. The move was made Thursday from previous San Rafael quarters. Only final touches such as installing a portico touch up painting and patchwork remain to be done, according to Dean Southwell, director of operations. The new animal center contains 94 dog kennels, 50 cat cages, six large puppy pens, an observation and quarantine area, an education room where meetings can be held and offices. Incidentally, the new telephone number for Novatans is 883-4621.
- Army Air Corps First Lt. Donald J. Pedrazzini, son of Mrs. Helen C. Pedrazzini, is now flying helicopters in Vietnam after receiving the most unusual birthday "present" of his life. Lt. Pedrazzini, a member of the Novato High School graduating class of 1963, was flying a fixed wing aircraft August 19 as a pilot with the 74th Reconnaissance group "somewhere in Vietnam" when he was shot down. August 19 was his 23rd birthday. His mother said he was uninjured and was picked up by ground troops, while his aircraft was hauled out by helicopter. Because of a shortage of helicopter pilots, she said, and even though Donald hadn't flown them before, he was transferred several weeks ago to the Headquarters 11th CAB, a helicopter wing. Lt. Pedrazzini received the air medal for flying more than 25 missions in a 10 day period in March, soon after he arrived in Vietnam. His mother said that because a shortage of pilots, he was unable to obtain scheduled rest and recuperation in Australia in September and is now stationed near Saigon..
- What will happen to the "Utopian" community at the Olompali Ranch now that it's the leader, philosophical mentor, and bankroll, Don McCoy, has split and gone to India to commune with the holy man? McCoy is the 35-year-old Sausalito businessman turned hippie who has gone through \$300,000 of his half million dollar fortune in the last nine months, supporting some 50 close friends on the 450 acre Burdell Ranch north of Novato. McCoy and his adversaries worked out an out of court agreement under which he received \$5000 cash for his trip to India and \$200 a week walking-around money, hardly enough to maintain his "Chosen Family" as they call themselves, when the rent alone comes to \$1000 per month. But are the 50 down-hearted? Not a bit. They know the Lord or somebody will provide. One of their number, a former entertainer, flew down to Hollywood last week to look up all his old rich buddies to solicit their financial aid to keep the good ship Utopia afloat. "We are going to form a non-profit corporation," said a spokesman for the family, former night club entertainer Sandy Barton." Then when people donate funds to us, they will be deductible from their income tax." (Sandy, you'd better see a lawyer about that.) Another associate of the Chosen Family said the Olompali experiment in communal living and leisure is one of but 43 in the United States with others forming. He foresees this as the wave of the future when technology has created so much leisure that men will have to find a completely new mode of life in which people will use their energies and talents in completely different ways. "Hippies of today are symbolic of the coming way of life. As they grow older and gather disciples their influence will spread, reinforced by

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50 Years Ago

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technologically created leisure time and possibly a guaranteed annual wage for all. (Excerpts from an article by Alice Yarrish)

- A plea to preserve pioneer memorial cemetery was made here recently by two descendants of Joseph B. Sweetzer, the pioneer Novatan, who established the cemetery in the late 1800s for his family and friends. Hearing about the proposal to replace the cemetery with a memorial plaza, Joseph Sweetzer's granddaughter, Mrs. Kenneth Mackenzie Clark-Neill, and his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Robert Helms, came down from Grant Pass, Ore., to look into the situation. Strolling through the cemetery, Mrs. Clark-Neill (the former Ada Louise Sweetzer) viewed the graves of her grandfather, grandmother, father, mother and brother. Said her daughter, Mrs. Helms: "I think the cemetery ought to be preserved – not just for us, but the new generation of Novatans, so they will have a link with the past. Old California is slipping away. It's important for us to have a sense of what we were." Mrs. Clark-Neill and her daughter, who described their return to Novato as a 'sentimental journey' paid a visit to the Trumbull mansion on Rica Vista, the house built by their forebear, Joseph Sweetzer in 1860. The present owner, contractor John Novak, showed them around..
- Some 40 persons attended the first course last Wednesday on "Black History and Culture" at the Novato Adult Evening High School. Lecturer is John H Telfer, teacher and consultant in African studies and Negro history and culture with the Berkeley Unified School District.
- Some 300 jammed the multipurpose room at Marion school Monday night at a meeting of the Novato school board. There were about 250 teachers there about money and 50 or so parents about sex education. It was hard to say who was uptight the most. Although teacher representatives have warned the district

that they have never seen teachers so "shook" about salary demands as at the present time, the teachers in general formed a fairly good – natured crowd Monday night. Maybe it was the discussion on sex education that preceded discussion on their salary demands that relaxed them..

- Local attorney Clark Palmer and his wife and sons, Wayne and Bruce, returned yesterday from Mexico City, where they attended the Olympic games. They were impressed with the job the Mexicans did in organizing the games and with the warmth and helpfulness to visitors that the Mexican people displayed.
- Novato democrats, some 150 strong gathered last Thursday night at John Novak's mansion at 50 Rica Vista to hear Betty Furness, President Johnson's consumer protector, declared that "Republicans care about things; Democrats care about people." Miss Furness noted that some Democrats feel 'disaffected, disinclined to vote' many of them young people and former workers for Kennedy and McCarthy. However, "voting no for president isn't going to work."
- Some 12 automobile dealers will be displaying 50 cars or more in a two-day auto show in Novato this Friday and Saturday, which has been organized by the *Novato Advance*. The show, exhibiting 1969 cars of all the major car manufactures will be held at the Novato Fair Shopping Center..
- Novato voters yesterday gave President –elect Nixon a majority of their votes and followed trends generally observed elsewhere in suburban areas. Local voters also gave a \$3,000,000 Street bond issue hefty support, but not enough to pass the required two -thirds majority vote. The bond measure - the only local issue on the ballot - was approved by 64.45 percent of the residents here. Local voters favored Nixon by fifty two percent and gave vice president Humphrey 41 percent of their vote. Governor Wallace received 6 per cent. Novatoans gave Nixon a better vote than the rest of Marin County,

which traditionally votes Republican. Nixon received 50% of the votes cast, while Humphrey 44% in Marin. Nationally Nixon failed to obtain a majority of the vote, but won enough electoral votes to be declared the winner. In the national popular vote Nixon received 43 % of the ballots cast, less than 1% separates him from Humphrey.

- Guitar accompaniment will be the new "sound of music" at the 9:30 a.m. mass at Our Lady of Loretto Church. The new idea, designed to use present day musical forms in religious worship, was introduced Sunday, and it will be used regularly at the 9:30 mass.
- There are no big welcome home parades when Vietnam veterans return home and are discharges. As a matter of fact, the nation almost pointedly disregards them and they are in turn reluctant to talk about their experiences. The *Advance* found the same phenomenon here when it attempted to interview some Vietnam veterans on what it's like to return to civilian life. Out of 11 contacted only three in the end allowed themselves to be interviewed. The rest in one way or another resisted, conveying the feeling Vietnam was behind them and no longer wished to raise its spectre in their lives.
- Thanksgiving day customarily finds families gathered together for the traditional turkey dinner. But what do you do when your "family" is some 1800 strong? Coming up with the answer – and the meal – is the job of the men of the Hamilton Air Force Base's Food Services Section. Their answer? Start with 150 turkeys, weighing about 15 to 20 pounds apiece. Add some 40 hams – weighing 15 pounds each. Peel 1500 pounds of potatoes. Vegetables? – Buttered peas- about 60 gallons of them. Then bake 120 pumpkin pies, 120 mincemeat pies- 3000 hot rolls. This done, you're about halfway through. To complete the meal, add – in quantities for 1800 persons. Shrimp cocktail, bread and cornbread dressing, giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, fruitcake, assorted

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50 Years Ago

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- fruits and nuts, whipped cream, candy, tea, coffee and milk. That's it. Thanksgiving Day meal for Hamilton's dining hall.
- *CALA Foods had frozen 18-22 lbs Tom Turkeys 29¢ per lbs, Smoked Hams 39¢, cranberry sauce 3 1lb tins 63¢, frozen Swiss Miss pies – mince or pumpkin 24¢, S&W Coffee 2lb tin 99¢.
 - Yes, it was cold in Novato this morning but it wasn't the coldest day of the year. The weatherman at the main Novato fire station on Grant Avenue, reports that the temperature dropped to 26, six degrees below freezing. The low for the year was a reading of 22 recorded last January 5. A low of 30 was reported by the weatherman at Hamilton Air Force Base. (12/04/1968 *Novato Advance*)
 - The Christmas season is in full swing in Novato. The nativity scene with its live animals has been gathered again for display on Highway 101. On Sunday there is the traditional Christmas pageant scheduled at Novato High School. The Big Holiday show '68 is on this weekend, opening Friday night at the Community Clubhouse.
 - A museum of history will be established next month in the San Marin High library. Artifacts dug out of Coastal Miwok Indian mounds in Novato will be displayed, plus historical artifacts of early white settlers here. Members of the student Archeology Club at both Novato high and San Marin High are participating in the museum project.
 - The council last night approved spending no more than \$4100 to remodel the interior of the Busher house next to the police station annex, on Sherman Avenue, but delayed committing any amount for furnishings. The house was bought by the City for \$27,000 and will be used as recreation department quarters.
 - Mass will be celebrated for the first time Sunday at 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.

• GALLERY OF PRINCIPALS:

Joseph T. Mouille- Loma Verde School; Henry J. Moroski-San Marin High School; William L. Metteer-Sinaloa Junior High; Stanley V. Onderdonk-Novato High School; George S. Evans-Pacheco School; Robert Vaughan-Marion School; Ray Monson-first at Olive School now at Pleasant Valley; William E. Welch-San Jose Junior High; Joseph Gargiulo- North Marin High School (continuation school); Mar Lancaster- Lynwood School; Rex Rolle-Rancho School; Jack Rothe-Olive School; Thomas H. Smith-West Novato School; Earl Farris- principal for 16 years since 1952, first at Marion School now at Meadow Park School; John B. Laycock-Hamilton School after Lu Sutton School; Frank Raney-Hill Junior High School; Alfred Rivasplata-Lu Sutton School.

- **WEDDINGS;** Deborah Damas-William L Chiosi; Kathy Lou Wollman-George Franklin Smith Jr.; Susan Gayle Fredette-Glenn Anthony Thorson; Dorinda Dustman-Richard James Nyholm; Linda Tillman-John W. Rentz; Nancy Claire Jordan-Dwight William Artus; Sherri Marie Janene Ann Antonuccio-Samuel Bruce Jensen; Barbara Susan Sparrow-Johnny Van Youngs; Betty Ann Basom-Michael Allen Hawks

Welcome New Guild Members

Novato Historical Guild Membership Report December 2018

Individual Membership

Chris Jenings
Leroy Roy Pfeifer
Pat Ravicz

Family Membership

Marilyn & Randy Stoops

If you have questions about membership, call

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

Attention Members:

To save hours of typing and mailing costs Membership reminders will no longer be mailed to you. Instead, there is an envelope in this mailer for your Membership dues for 2019. Just remove it - fill it out and mail back to the Novato Historical Guild - this envelope has already been addressed for you - don't forget a stamp. The envelope will be enclosed in the future December issues of the Novato Historian. If you are a LIFE MEMBER disregard this notice.

After 16 years as Membership Chairman it is time for me to step down - the new chairman is Lane Yee. Lane is a relatively new member of the guild and is serving as a docent at the downtown museum two times a month. The past 16 years has flown by and I have enjoyed getting to know all of you through the mail, telephone and email. Please continue to support the Guild with your membership renewals. I will still be around and hope to see you at the Guild meetings.

Edna Manzoni

Membership Chairman

Novato Memories

Jim McNern



Ron Witzel

Ron Witzel is the son of the late Claude and Claire Witzel. He grew up in Indian Valley where he and wife Joanna continue to enjoy life there. Ron attended Marion St School and graduated from Novato High School in 1961, attended U.C. Davis, and graduated from San Jose State University. He received an MBA at night from Golden Gate University while working for PG&E. After working for PG&E for 23 years managing their nuclear fuel procurement, Ron went to work for an international trading company involved in importing nuclear fuel commodities from Russia. Ron shares his Novato memories in this December issue of the Novato Historian.

Our first "ag experience" was with Pete, an old horse that came with the property. Unfortunately shortly after we moved in, Pete ate some rose bushes growing next to the house, got colic and died. Our ag mentoring neighbor, Frank Faustine, the grizzled old dairy farmer across the road, tried unsuccessfully to save Pete, to no avail. This was a pretty traumatic experience for an 8-year old city kid.

Frank ran about 20 head of cows and sold veal calves at the auction in Petaluma. He taught me how to hand milk cows, how to feed the milk to the veal calves, and how to portion out red bran feed to his cows.

As I was a year too young to join 4-H, my parents were able to find two horses for my brother and I. We started taking care of Holly and Jingle and I joined the Novato Junior Horsemen.

Often, one of our tough neighbor gals, Arlene or Irene Bettencourt, would have to climb over the fence to help me lift the saddle up onto Jingle, so I could go for a ride.

I'd ride Jingle around the neighborhood and we'd practice color guard routines at Susan Weir's arena on Hatch Road.

Kids in Novato did not have access to horse trailers to travel to Horsemen's events, so early on Saturday mornings we'd ride individually across town, crossing Highway 101 / Redwood Blvd at the stoplight at Grant, then out Atherton Avenue to the Horsemen's arena on Bugeia Lane.

At the Horsemen's Arena, Junior Members, (including David and Richard Schwindt, Steve Taylor, and Tommy Balzarini) would participate in Play Days, especially timed events like pole bending and relay races, Junior Horse Shows and the annual Western Weekend Parade downtown on Grant Avenue. After an event, we'd each ride back home, often arriving at dusk or later.

In the Junior Horsemen's Club Ad Schwindt was our leader and kept all of us disciplined, under control and out of trouble pretty much of the time.

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The 14 Novato 4-H exhibitors from left to right--George Nunes, Terry Witzel, Ron Witzel, Rick Sims, Joe Pacheco, Tom Nunes, Mimi Baccaglio, Jon Pronzini, Dan Parr, Malcolm Thomas, Kathy Orr, Lewis Fredrickson, Jim McNern, Sharon Smith

Novato Memories

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When I was 9 years old, I joined my brother in the Novato Aggie 4-H Club. We held meetings in the old railroad car located between the Community House and the old Presbyterian Church (now City Hall). The old railcar was fascinating, with the seats that folded back and forth.

My brother and I each began 4-H Dairy Projects with registered Holstein heifers. Mine was two-week-old "Dawn Truman Duffy" purchased January 17, 1953 from the dairy at San Quentin Prison for \$52.05 (\$480.08 in today's dollars), and my brother's was "Napstahos Betty Apollo Corda", from the Napa State Hospital farm.

Taking on responsibility for these heifers required construction of partitions and ultimately milking stalls in one of our old chicken barns, as well as the daily feeding and stall cleaning, and treatment for illnesses.

4-H members keep detailed record books on our projects. In the Agriculture Record Book I recorded my daily work and purchases, such as a calf halter - \$1.45, Oat Hay from Reno Pronzini, an 80 lb bale for \$1.92, doctor bill \$6.00.

George Orr lived on McClay Road and was our dedicated, but stern, leader for Dairy projects, and hauled our animals to all the fairs in his open stock truck. We'd need to locate a ramp for loading and unloading.

We showed animals at the Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Napa, and Calistoga Fairs as well as the Junior Grand National in San Francisco, competing for cash awards. In 1954 I showed my Holstein heifer and took a 1st at the Santa Rosa fair (\$15), 2nd at Petaluma fair (\$11) and

1st at Petaluma Exhibit Day (\$13). My best showing was a Junior Grand Championship at the Calistoga Fair in July, winning \$15 and a large purple ribbon.

Going to the fairs in the mid-1950s was great fun, as we answered fair visitor's questions about our projects, camped in the barn next to our animals, ...and sometimes got into a bit of mischief on the fairgrounds.

One night of the 1955 Petaluma Fair included a Greased Pig Scramble, an event obviously now outlawed as inhumane. About 10 young wild pigs captured in the Sonoma Mountains were covered with automotive grease in the back of a stake pick-up, and then turned out at the dark end of the lighted arena. About 50-75 of us kids were at the other end. At the signal we ran down the field to try to capture a pig. I luckily captured one, and held it down with my arm between its front legs, getting covered in grease. As I laid on it and looked down in the dark, I realized it was a boar with 1 inch budding tusks, and wondered what the heck I was doing this for... turned out that the prize money was \$22.50.

On the assigned Judging Day at the fair, we'd wash and brush our animals and feed them reconstituted dried beef pulp to "finish" or fill them out and best show off their conformation, then lead them by halter in the class competition in the arena seeking the best advantage for the judge's view.

In a promotion for the Junior Grand National Exhibition in 1954, we brought our two heifers to Stonestown Shopping Center in SF, but my former classmates from Commodore Sloat School (hanging on the fence in photo), were not really that impressed with the "farm scene".

Belonging to one of Novato's two 4-H Clubs, Novato Aggies or Novato Valley, entitled members to attend Las Posadas Camp near Angwin each summer. This was a great adventure, with a cold stream-fed concrete swimming area and girl's camp and boy's camp separated by the food preparation area. Nightly campfires sometimes became extended with "snipe hunts" out into the woods.

My 4-H projects over 4 years included Dairy (George Orr, Leader), Cooking - "Learning to Cook for Family and Friends" (Mrs. Taylor, Leader), Radio Reporter (Mrs. Fitzharris, Leader), and Electricity (Mr. Borloz, Leader).

In 1955, I did a public speaking "demonstration" with my Marion Elementary School classmate, Rick Sims, on how to prepare an animal for a fair.

And in 1956, with some obvious adult assistance, I undertook another "demonstration" on home pasteurization of fresh milk presented together with Tim Dyckman. We gave our presentation 5 times, competing successfully at the county level, regional (Ukiah), and then at the 4-H State Convention at UC Davis, -- but ran into a "performance crisis" there when we switched to powdered milk for convenience and it wouldn't flow through the filter.

In March of 1955 we had my heifer bred by artificial insemination to "Mutual", an ABS bull, -- an additional significant learning experience for a young 4-H'er.

The birth of the calf in late 1955, required milking my cow twice a day, pasteurizing the milk, and selling it to neighbors.

Given increased interest in my school activities, and the time-consuming tasks with the cow and calf, my family decided to sell the two animals to the McClelland Dairy on Olive Avenue, which ended my Dairy Project in 4-H.

As evidence of the positive impact 4-H had on our development, it seems we all "turned out pretty good."

For example-- George Nunes and Mimi Baccaglio married and retired as successful dairy ranchers, and George a renowned dairy livestock judge.

Rick Sims became a defense attorney for the Black Panthers and retired as a Superior Court Judge in Sacramento.

Jon Pronzini became a successful Xmas Tree entrepreneur.

Dan Parr is a retired CHP Officer in Novato.

Lewis Fredrickson retired as a Civil Engineer for the City of Novato.

Today, I look back on my 4-H years of simpler times in Novato with great memories.



NOVATO'S TREASURES

Butler/Oliva/Parkhaven House

In March of 1897 a fire at the Novato Land Company's cheese factory at the main ranch narrowly escape destruction. Robert Hatch, manager of the DeLong ranch, moved the cheese factory into a dairy building on the Hayden ranch ("C" Ranch) with C.C. Williams as the cheesemaker and contemplated the erection of a large creamery.



Picture of the Novato Land Company's cheese factory on the hill side off of Novato Boulevard.



This 1932 picture of the Butler home was built on the site of the Novato Land Company cheese factory which was burned in 1911.



Picture of the Parkhaven clubhouse

By October of 1897 the building of a new cheese factory had started. It was located near the main ranch just north of the Novato Boulevard and in three months twenty-five tons of cheese had been shipped from the cheese factory. In 1898 the new cheese factory was opened and producing a superior quality of cheese.

In 1900 C.C. Williams left the cheese factory and bought the Novato Exchange Hotel. In June 1900, Mr. F.C. Butler, succeeded Mr. Williams as cheesemaker of the Novato Land Company's ranch. He was paid one of the highest salaries in the area at \$400 a month.

In 1905, Robert Trumbull took over the DeLong ranch and start selling its land.

On October 7, 1911, the *Tocsin* reported:

"On Saturday last the creamery and cheese factory belonging to Fred Butler was destroyed by fire. The fire was discovered about 7:30 p. m. and although a large number of men turned out to fight it, owing to the high wind which prevailed nothing could be done to save the building.

Mr. Butler recently purchased the factory from the Novato Land Co., for whom he had formerly managed the cheese factory.

The loss is estimated at about \$5000. Besides the fine machinery for cheese and butter making, a large quantity of cheese and butter was destroyed; also a large supply of wood. The building was insured, and it is hoped that it will soon be rebuilt."

Fred Butler did not go back into the cheese making business but became a cattle dealer.

In November 16, 1920, the *Petaluma Argus* reported: "F.C. Butler of Novato is erecting a \$10,000 house on a tract in the Novato Land Co's. property. Ped-erade & Co., of this city have the contract to plaster the residence. Brainerd Jones drew the plans for the residence."

Jan 7, 1942, the *Petaluma Argus* wrote: "Dr. Hans Barkan, San Francisco, has purchased through Lester Knutte, real estate broker, from Mrs. Harry Lunblad, (Edna Butler) the F.C. Butler ranch on Novato Boulevard."

In June 1942, the Butler's decided to purchase the three-acre Frank DeVoto home on Orange Avenue, Sunnyside. Mrs. Butler would be returning to the neighborhood of her childhood, having spent her girlhood with her parents, the Earhardts, on what in 1942 was the Basiganan ranch on Olive Avenue.

On December of 1942, a group of people on horseback rode out to the Dr. Barkan ranch and, under the oak trees, decided to form the Novato Horsemen's Club. The Horsemen would organize the following week.

April 26, 1946 the *Novato Advance* wrote: "BARKAN RANCH SOLD

Announcement was made this week of the sale of the Hans Barkan Ranch on Novato Blvd., to Mr. and Mrs. Sil Oliva of San Francisco. Mr. Oliva is the owner of the Exposition Fish Grotto on Fisherman's Wharf, and a well known horseman. He plans extensive improvements, for the keeping of high bred horses. Dr. and Mrs. Barkan, who also reside in San Francisco, sold their holdings due to the fact that both their son and daughter are away at college, and they themselves plan a European tour soon."

The Oliva's would name the ranch Rancho Del So Lo – So for Sil Oliva and Lo for Louise Oliva, his wife.

Silvio Oliva died in August of 1970 and the property was sold to Boise Cascade Corp., which built townhouses on the property. Boise Cascade kept the Butler house as the club house for the Parkhaven Estates and named the main street in the development Oliva Drive.

Bataan

By Michael Corlett

On October 1st of 1941, 142 enlisted men and 5 officers of the 680th Ordnance Company stationed at Hamilton Field, were transferred to the Philippines. Because of rising political tensions with Japan, the US army wanted to strengthen its forces in the area. Little did the men of the 680th know that they were soon to become part of one of the most infamous events in WWII: The Bataan Death March.

After arriving in Manila on October 23rd, members of the 680th were eventually moved to the Bataan Peninsula. One day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese began their invasion of the Philippines. After a 3 month battle, the United States surrendered the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942.

Prior to the surrender, the Japanese forces had blockaded the Bataan Peninsula and the Island of Corregidor, which prevented food, medicine or ammunition from reaching the American and Philippine troops. As the troops held out, they were on half-rations, little water and, because there was little medicine, ravaged by various tropical diseases. After the surrender, things got worse.

The Japanese were not prepared to handle the roughly 12,000 American and 63,000 Philippine Prisoners of War. Shortly after the surrender, the POW's, already in a malnourished and weakened condition, began a 65 mile march to Camp O'Donnell in the north. Camp O'Donnell was originally a Philippine Army post designed for 10,000 troops. At the end of the prisoner march, Camp O'Donnell would house over 60,000 POW's.

The march was brutal. Blistering heat, little food and even less water. Those that fell behind were shot or bayoneted. In a *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* article in 1987, a 680th survivor David Levy said of the march, "Men were dying faster than we could bury them. The numbers are not exact, but it is estimated that during that six -day march, approximately 600 Americans and 2500 Filipino's perished.

Things were no better at Camp O'Donnell. There was very little drinkable water, not nearly enough food and medical care was practically non-existent. Narrow trenches along the roads served as toilets. Dysentery, and diseases like Malaria and Beriberi were rampant and deadly.

In July of 1942, American prisoners were moved to one of the three POW camps in Cabanatuan - roughly 50 miles to the east. Cabanatuan was described as marginally better than Camp O'Donnell by some of the POW's. Filipino prisoners were gradually released and "paroled" to their families after they signed an oath swearing not to participate in guerrilla activities.

Beginning in late 1942, the Japanese began using ships (known as Hell Ships) to transport American POW's to Japan and Manchuria to work as slave laborers in coal mines and Japanese factories. Like the prison camps, conditions on board the Hell Ships were deplorable, and many POW's died during the voyage. The "Hell ships" were unmarked. As the war turned in the Allies favor in 1944, several the ships were bombed or torpedoed by Allied forces, which resulted in the deaths of many American POW's.

Of the 142 enlisted men and 5 officers of the 680th that left Hamilton in 1941, 43 enlisted men and two officers survived

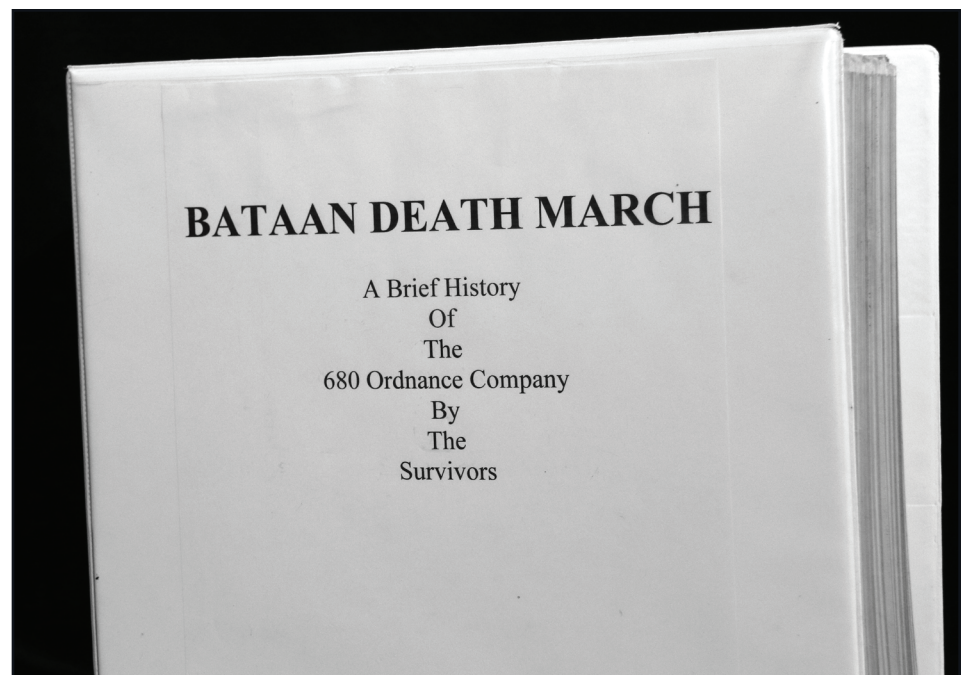
Oral histories were taken from remaining survivors of the 680th during an annual reunion on February 22nd and 23rd 1975. The book containing these histories, along with other Death March information, is part of the HFHM Bataan Display. Reading the individual accounts of the 680th survivors is compelling. The written histories have been digitized and are available on CD. Contact Ray Dwelly at the museum if you would like a copy.

References: Bataan Death March, A Brief History of the 680th Ordnance Company, by the Survivors. February 1975, *Museum Collection*. Courtesy of Connie Norris

Bataan Survivors recall it horrors, Bob Norberg, *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, June 28, 1987

Surrender at Bataan, Ashley N. McCall, *On Patrol Magazine*, Fall 2015 issue.

Prisoners of Japan, *Life Magazine*, February 7, 1944, Pg. 25



Binder at Hamilton Field History Museum with documentation of the Bataan Death March by the survivors

Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Kathryn Hansen

August 2018 City Report

- There was no report from the city.

Old Business:

- The two historical walks presented by the Guild have been very successful. The Downtown tour led by Laurie O'Mara had 20 plus attendants and the Hamilton Field Tour led by Kate Johnston had 30 plus attendants. The two remaining walks will be a Downtown tour on August 25th and a Hamilton Field tour on September 29th.

New Business:

- Marcie Miller will lead an historical tour of Pioneer Memorial Cemetery on October 20th
- Jim reported that there will be possibly three openings on the board next year. There will be a need for a new president as he has completed his terms according to the By-laws.

Downtown Museum

- The Guild has hired the technical services of George Thelen. He has previously worked with the Main Historical Museum.
- Edna Manzoni expressed what an amazing job her exhibit committee has done on the recent dairy exhibit. They are finalizing additional items to be included on the new kiosk

Hamilton Museum

- The new kiosk is working well at the museum. He hopes to be able to add more information to it soon.
- The parking lot at Hamilton needs re-striping.
- The September general meeting at Hamilton will be on September 15th. It will be a catered lunch by Forks & Fingers.

September 2018

City Staff: Theresa for Liz Tran

Downtown Museum – the city is cutting a diseased pine tree and re-roofing the building next week.

Guest: Theo Madias (Novato Chamber of Commerce) – showed samples of various logos that could be used on **merchandise**. No stores in Novato sell Novato merchandise. It is an opportunity to increase sales. The Board will consider the suggestion.

Unfinished Business:

Strategic Plan

- **Goal 1** – Hire a professional for a limited amount of time in order to speed up the process of enhancing the website. George Thelen from Thelen Creative has been given a \$5K contract to curate & create digital exhibitions and execute roll out of said digital exhibitions. He will create a 2 minute video of the interview with Lefty Gomez. A copy of the video will be sent to the Baseball Hall of Fame. developed in the next two years.

New Business:

- **Board Nominations** – Candidates being nominated for the 2019 -2020 years are Sharon Azevedo, Jim Crumpler, Kathryn Hansen, Theo Madias, and Anne Russell. George Gnos and Susan Magnone's terms are up.
- **Community House Update** – Susan Magnone – met with Jeannie McLeamy and Kay Jones regarding the Community House. A structural engineer is scheduled to check the building. The goal is to remodel or rebuild the Community House to be used as it was in the past: performances, receptions, meetings, etc.
- **General Meeting** – The meeting is Saturday, September 15th at noon at Hamilton F.H.M. The speaker will be Charlie Taylor on the Pacific Coast Air Museum located in Santa Rosa. Members are encouraged to bring desserts.

Downtown Museum

- The kiosk is not working yet. We are adding a script with the pictures.
- The membership information on Edna's computer is not compatible with the downtown computer (different versions of the software).

October 2018

Guest: Jeanne MacLeamy, Larry Ditto, Kay Jones of the Civic Center Committee – Jeanne made a power-point presentation outlining the past, present and future of the Community House. The first step of the plan is to have a technical team evaluate the Community House and give an estimate of the cost of renovating or rebuilding. After the presentation and some discussion the Board voted to accept donations restricted to the Civic Center Committee's project until they are able to obtain their own 501(c)(3) status.

City Staff:

- Downtown Museum – has a new roof. Thanks to Edna & Bill Manzoni for communicating to docents that the museum was closed for the duration
- Hamilton Museum – City maintenance will

look at the walkway is settling causing a hazard and the loose railing.

Unfinished Business:

- Strategic Plan – It was recommended that the Guild continue with this plan through 2019. Goal #2 – There was a discussion on how to get more business members.
- September General Meeting – Susan – there was a discussion about replacing the BBQ with something else next year. The meeting would still be at Hamilton F.H.M.
- Historical Walk – The four scheduled walks are completed with favorable results. New people came out that are not Guild members. It was agreed to continue the walks in 2019.

New Business:

2019 Budget - There was a discussion regarding any possible budget changes. Further research is to be made on past expenses.

October Historical Walk – Marcie Miller is giving a history free walk in Pioneer Cemetery October 20th at 9AM.

2019 Calendar – the new schedule was distributed.



Please support our Guild Business Members:

Acme Digital and Screen Graphics
A. D. Scott Building
Andrew McAghon Landscaping
Bank of Marin
Goltermann Garden & Country Inn,
Petaluma, CA
Indian Valley Golf Club
Marin Landscape Materials
Marin Trophies
Marin Volvo/Saab
McIsaac 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.

Nominations for Board of Directors of the Novato Historical Guild For 2019-2020

The candidates listed below are recommended by the Nominating Committee to serve on the Board of Directors of the Novato Historical Guild for 2019 and 2020. Election of board members will be at the December 15th General Membership Meeting

- Sharon Azevedo - Incumbent/ Museum Docent
- Jim Crumpler - Incumbent/ Guild President
- Kathryn Hansen - Incumbent/ Guild Treasurer
- Theo Madias - Social Media/ Chamber of Commerce
- Anne Russell - Third Grade Docent/ Wealth Management

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/>

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

George Domingo Grossi
Gail Wilhelm

The Guild Extends Sympathy to

The Grossi family on the loss of George Grossi

 The Wilhelm family on the loss of Gail Wilhelm

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 15, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Ave.**

MIKE MOYLE WILL BE SPEAKING ON THE PORTUGUESE DAIRIES OF MARIN

Come enjoy refreshments, familiar company and a wonderful speaker.

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