

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

Contents ©2021 Novato Historical Guild, Inc.

July - September 2021

The Novato Historian

Volume 45, Number 3

Novato's Hamilton Field Hospital transformed

The Hamilton Field Hospital was completed on November 16, 1934. The designation of the building was Hospital and Detachment Barracks. Total cost of the Hospital was \$108,887.80. Capacity of 17 men – 20 beds. Total floor area above basement was 11,400 square feet. It had a full basement. Size of the building was 111'-4" x 38'-6" with wings of 70'-0" x 36'-6"

Admired for its distinctive Spanish-inspired architecture, the timeless building's design blends Colonial Revival design with unique Moorish, Spanish Churrigueresque, Mission and Art Moderne motifs, giving it its own signature Spanish-eclectic appearance.

Built in 1934 for a then-staggering sum of \$108,000, Novato's long-vacant Hamilton Hospital, was currently scheduled to reopen in November 2020. The \$40 million, 80-unit property will be Marin County's newest and most luxurious assisted-living and memory-care community for seniors. By Elegance at Novato (sponsored content August 2020.)



Elegance Hamilton Hill is a Memory Care and Assisted Living facility that renovated the old hospital at Hamilton Field. A ribbon cutting event was held on May 20, 2021. They donated \$5,000 to the Novato Historical Guild. Pictured at the event in costume are Board Members, Anne Russell and Kathryn Hansen.

General Membership Meeting

The September Membership meeting is Saturday,
September 11, 10 to 11:30 am on Zoom

The program will be Morey Nelson with a photo presentation of his aerial photography of Marin.

Hope you can make it, and tell some friends. Looking forward to seeing you on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81675386142?pwd=S05yaEhYTnRTQUxyUjM5Rjc0eU5lR0pRcWE1RS9lUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 7538 6142 Passcode: 1850

One tap mobile +16699009128,,81675386142#,,,*1850#

Dial by your location +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)



The Novato Historian

Published March, June, September and December by the Novato Historical Guild, a California 501(c)3 non – profit corporation formed on November 18, 1976.

Contents © 2021 Novato Historical Guild, Inc.

Guild Mission Statement

To collect, preserve, and make reasonably available to the public, exhibits and information related to the history of the Novato area..

Novato Historical Guild 2020 Officers

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Kathryn Hansen |
| Vice President | Barry Smail |
| Secretary | Sharon Azevedo |
| Treasurer | Michael Read |

Board of Directors

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Gary Bramon | Kate Johnston |
| Mike Corlett | Ann Russell |
| Ray Dwelly | Lane Yee |

History Museum Managers

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Hamilton Field | Ray Dwelly |
| Novato | Susan Magnone |

Honorary Historian

Bill Almeida

Committee Chairs

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Adult Tours | Kate Johnston |
| | Jim Crumpler |
| Finance | Michael Read |
| Fund Raising | All Board Members |
| Gift Stores | Pat Johnstone |
| Hospitality | Sharon Azevedo |
| Historian/Mailing | Jim McNern |
| Membership | Lane Yee |
| Publicity | Vacant |
| Public Outreach | Jim Crumpler |
| School Tours | Laurie O'Mara |
| Sunshine | Diane Campbell |

Newsletter Editorial Board

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Yvette Borloz | Barbara Gildea |
| Jackson | Jim McNern |
| Mike Corlett | Michael Read |
| Jim Crumpler | |

Typography, Layout, Composition

Michael Read

Deadline for the December 2021 issue is November 1st

City of Novato Staff

Katie Gauntlett

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

Kathryn Hansen

President, Novato Historical Guild

Cultural Heritage Protection Survey

It all started out so innocently. California State Library sent out a survey to California museums, galleries, libraries and historical societies in December 2020. The Guild responded to the survey, which had only a dozen questions. California State Library announced early findings from the "Cultural Collections Protection Survey," January 25, 2021. They requested that the respondents register for a more comprehensive survey. Susan Magnone and Bill Damon responded to the eleven page questionnaire (from the number and type of artifacts in the collection to the model of HVAC system).

The questionnaire, along with photos of the archive, was sent to our consultant at Northwestern University in Chicago. At the same time they applied for a grant and it was awarded. Next they had a two hour Zoom interview with the consultant. Susan said the whole process was very helpful because they have already learned a lot about how to care for our artifacts. Next was a three page structural assessment of the museum to complete (roof, exterior, drainage, etc.) in February. The complete Cultural Heritage Preservation Assessment Report was received in May 2021 (48 pages).

Summary of report results:

Good preservation practices are underway and should be continued.

1. Comprehensive and complete Collection Management Policy.
2. Routine care of the museum building from the City of Novato, including fire inspection, basic housekeeping and other maintenance.
3. Membership with the American Association of State and Local History.
4. Enthusiasm of staff to learn about preservation and make the collections accessible.

Detail of the report results leads the Guild to prioritize the sixty recommendations into short-term goals (i.e. purchase custom boxes for scrapbooks and store flat), midterm term goals (i.e. make preservation photocopies of the newspaper clippings and rehouse in archival folders), and long-term goals (explore on line programming to reach a wider audience). The most costly items on this recommendation list include climate control measures (environment/humidity).

We will be counting on our Board and Volunteers to pitch in and help us achieve these goals.



Novato – 50 Years Ago

(July, August, September 1971)

by Yvette Borloz Jackson

Dear Readers,

It's the summer of 1971 and the pages of the Novato Advance are chock full of news about local sports, what and how to grow your garden, neighborhood activities, summer events and Girl Scout camp. I found the following articles interesting, and I hope you will as well. Please note, as usual the articles are taken directly as written in the 1971 issues of the *Novato Advance*, the only editing that I do may be to eliminate some content to shorten the item for the sake of saving space.

Yvette Borloz Jackson

PIZZA BE WITH US: Goodbye mom's apple pie, hello pizza. Or so it seems, now that Novato has four, count them, four pizza eating emporiums—Tower of Pizza, Round Table Pizza, Pinky's Pizza and the Pizza Hut (under construction across from the Community House.) Several local drive-in's offer pizza on the regular menu, along side hotdogs and hamburgers and apple pie. What's more Straw Hat Pizza will begin construction soon as a restaurant next to the Copper Penny on the west side of Redwood Highway south of Schuman Chevrolet, and it seems to be planning a second Straw Hat Pizza location in Novak Square. Who knows what other pizza makers are hovering on Novato's appetizing edge, awaiting the right time and place to move in. Will Novato become the pizza capital of America today, and tomorrow the world?

NOVATO'S BLACK BEAUTICIANS: Chris McCullough and Leola White are the only licensed practicing black beauticians north of Marin City. The two, wives of airman stationed at Hamilton Air Force Base, are employed four days weekly at the beauty shop

located in the new \$1 million base exchange complex.

FIRE CALLS EXPECTED TO MOUNT WITH THICK BRUSH: Novato firemen responded to exactly 100 calls in June which was six fewer calls than the 106 that set a June record in 1970, but Chief Jack Kidder says candidly that he expects highest ever fire calls in July and August. As of Monday morning the Novato department already had responded to 49 calls in July, with three weeks remaining in the month. The fire chief believes this is one indication of the high volume of calls that can be expected for the balance of this month and in August.

years and then they went to Willits for a few years and returned to open the Hi-Fi, which they operated for 16 years before their one year hiatus in Vacaville. They have returned to live here at 1221 Vallejo Avenue. The Hi-Fi is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. It features a big menu of foods, soft drinks and ice cream specialties. The Hoekmans have three sons, Robert, of Novato is an instructor pilot for Spectrum Air at Gness Field, the county airport. Larry is an engineer with Pacific Telephone in Petaluma. Don is entering his senior year at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

A RENAISSANCE FOR NOVATO: The annual Renaissance Pleasure Faire & Ha'Penny Market is moving to Novato this year. The historically authentic Elizabethan Faire will be reenacted in the woods among the oaks of Black Point. Site will be the Kenney property, the former Sartori

HI-FI DRIVE IN

S

Stop...

IS RE-OPENED UNDER THE ORIGINAL OWNERSHIP OF John and Eva Hoekman

We Invite You To Stop in Soon!

SHOWN IS OUR COMPLETE MENU

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|-------------|----|--|----|
| BEEFBURGER | 33 | DELUXE | 43 | PIRANNA and FRIES | 90 |
| CHEESEBURGER | 38 | DELUXE | 48 | FISH and FRIES | 50 |
| CHICKENBURGER | 45 | DELUXE | 55 | HALF FRIED CHICKEN | 50 |
| On French Roll | 55 | with CHEESE | 65 | (Fries, salad, and a toasted French Roll) 1.15 | |
| DOUBLE BURGER | 55 | DELUXE | 65 | COKE, ROOT BEER, ORANGE, GRAPE, | |
| PASTRY on French Roll | 55 | DELUXE | 65 | LEMONADE, FRESCA, 7UP 10 20-30 | |
| STEAK SANDWICH | 65 | DELUXE | 75 | SLUSH 10 20-30 | |
| ROAST BEEF on French Roll | 55 | DELUXE | 65 | MILK SHAKES - 35 - 55 MALTS 40-60 | |
| HOT DOG | 33 | | | (Van. Choc. Straw. Pine. Banana) | |
| KORN DOG | 33 | | | FROSTED ROOT BEER, or COKE 35-55 | |
| CHILI BURGER in a boat | 50 | | | ROOT BEER or COKE FLOAT - 30-45 | |
| TUNA on a Toasted bun | 35 | | | SUNDAES 35 with Nuts - 40 | |
| GRILLED CHEESE on a bun | 35 | | | (Choc. Straw, Pine, Hot Fudge) 70 | |
| FRENCH FRIES | 20 | | | BANANA SPECIAL 10-20 | |
| CHILI AND BEANS | 35 | | | HOT CHOCOLATE 10-20 | |
| TACO | 30 | DELUXE | 35 | ICE TEA 10 20-30 | |
| SPAGHETTI PLATE | 50 | | | MILK 15 | |
| POTATO SALAD | 30 | | | FROSTIES (Chocolate dipped 25 extra) | |
| LETTUCE and TOMATO SALAD | 30 | | | ICE CREAM CONES 15-30 | |
| | | | | CHOCOLATE DIPPED BANANAS - 20 | |

GOOD FOOD—QUICK SERVICE

OPEN 10 A.M. TO 10 P.M.
HWY. 101 and MIRABELLA - 897-8454

HI-FI DRIVE IN: John and Eva Hoekman are back in town out of retirement. What's more, they have once again taken over the active ownership and management of the Hi-Fi Drive-In restaurant at Highway 101 and Mirabella Avenue after an absence of just one year, when it was leased out by them and temporarily renamed Frenchi's. The Hoekmans first entered the restaurant business in Novato in 1946 operating the 101 coffee shop for four

FIFTH ANNUAL

RENAISSANCE

PLEASURE FAIRE

CREATED & PRODUCED BY
RON & PHYLLIS PATTERSON
THEMATIC EVENTS LTD.
CO-PRODUCED BY THE HISTORICAL CENTER

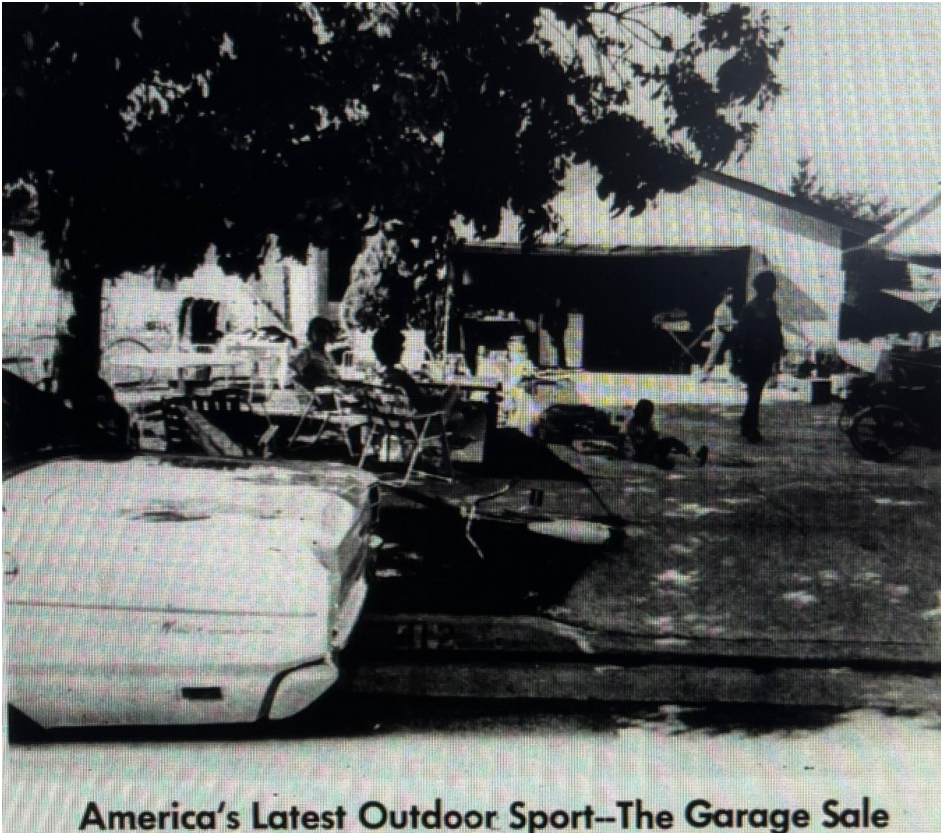
SEPT. 4-5-6-11-12-18-19-25-26

and OCT. 2-3

CONTINUOUS ENTERTAINMENT
10 A.M. 'TIL 6 P.M. CALL 8 THE FAIRE PROCESSION - JOHN DAILY

50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N – 3



America's Latest Outdoor Sport—The Garage Sale

ranch. It is located south of the Highway 37 interchange with Atherton Avenue. The originators of the fair, Ron and Phyllis Patterson, picked the location out of three under consideration in Marin. For the past four years the Faire has been held in Santa Venetia. The Patterson's are currently negotiating to buy a ranch - Lucas Valley west and Marinwood- where a training center and permanent Faire site would be established. The pleasure fair is to be presented for five weekends this year: September 4-6 (Labor Day), 11-12, 18-19, 25-26, and October 2-3. The Faire, a major Bay Area attraction draws up to 10,000 visitors a day. The fair requires a use permit and license from the city. Only opposition to the Faire being celebrated in Novato this year has come from the Black Point improvement Association. There the membership, concerned about the huge number of visitors the fair draws, voted 19 to 6 to oppose location of the Faire in Black Point.

ALCOHOLISM WING ADDED TO FACILITY: Jack Kenney, Who opened Novato Manor Convalescent Hospital in October, 1964, and sold the business in July, 1969, to AVECO Investment Co. of Richmond, has actively re-entered the Novato Manor picture again by becoming one of five AVECO owners and general manager of Novato Manor, as well as managing other AVECO hospitals. One wing, which previously had 28 beds for con-

valescent patients at Novato Manor has been converted into a specialty wing for the treatment of alcoholism with 18 beds. Space for the other 10 beds has been converted into a dining room, counseling and other special space in the alcoholism wing.

BEA CARPENTER DAY July 29 will be "Bea Carpenter Day" in Novato. Several farewell parties have been scheduled on this day for the popular Novatan who is moving with her family to Oregon. The main event is a luncheon slated for noon at the Alvarado Inn... The luncheon will honor Miss Carpenter for her many community projects including the redecoration of the Community House and City Hall... during the Carpenters' 16 years in Novato. Mrs. Carpenter was an indefatigable volunteer, producing variety shows as fundraisers for Our Lady of Loretto Parish and putting in countless hours on the refurbishing of the Community House and City Hall. Her many contributions led to her selection by the Advance this year as one of three outstanding women of the year. As she contemplated her future home in Ashland or Medford it sounded as if the move won't mean the end of her civic work. She told the *Advance*, "I think Medford could use a rose garden outside City Hall, and a gazebo would be nice"....

VOLUNTEERS HONOR DR. WESEMAN: A portrait of Dr. Ralph J. Weseman, painted by local artist Madge Lang, was presented to the

Continued on Page N – 5



MHi-Fi Drive In

50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N – 4

Novato General Hospital and hung in the lobby at a brief dedication ceremony Sunday afternoon. Receiving the portrait from Mrs. Lang was Mrs. Charles Courtney, president of the Novato Hospital Volunteer Service, who in turn presented it to Dr. John Siemens, executive director of the hospital. In accepting the portrait on behalf of the board, Dr. Siemens spoke of Dr. Weseman's dedication to his profession and to Novato during his many years of service to the community, when there were few doctors and no hospital facilities immediately available. "Dr. Ralph" as he is called by many, acknowledged the tribute by reviewing the origin of the hospital, and pointed out that many other professional people and merchants helped make his dream a reality.

AMERICA'S LATEST OUTDOOR

SPORT-THE GARAGE SALE: Is it the current passion for recycling? Is America trying to erase its image of conspicuous consumption - use it once and throw it away? Or is it just plain profitable fun that accounts for the epidemic of garage sales sweeping Novato (and the rest of the country)? Whatever it is, more and more people are selling their unwanted or superfluous belongings. Sometimes a whole block gets together for the event - which was the case last weekend when eight families trotted out their white elephants to the garage and front lawn of the Martin Karlovic's,

Alameda de la Loma. The neighbors not only netted about \$600 between them but had a ball doing it. "It was quite a festive occasion," reports Mrs. Dennis Fauss, who said the abundance of merchandise flowed over into the Karlovics' next door neighbors lawn (Mr. and Mrs. Hans Summer). Among the more unusual items were a motorboat, ski equipment, sleds, color TV, stemware and unused linens.

FIRST ANNUAL OLDTOWN FESTIVAL:

Oldtown will make its formal debut this weekend at the first annual Oldtown Festival and Art Show. Old town is the part of town east of the Highway with East Grant Ave. as it's heart. For over a year there has been a movement afoot to capitalize on the old-fashioned atmosphere in the area and make it an area for unusual shops and a place where craftsman can sell their wares. Recently merchants formed their own association. The Old Town Festival is the first major event that will focus attention on the area. There will be an art show sponsored by the North Bay Artists... Umbrella tables will be set up on the street, and cold drinks and sandwiches will be sold by Two Flags Pub from a wagon that will go up and down the street. James Ashton's pony rides and helium balloons will be on hand for the children. Special entertainment is scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Oscar's Hay Wagon, to be stationed at the east end of the street, will be the stage. The Generation Gap, a singing group, will perform...the Novato

Rural Band will play... Special parking space will be provided at both ends of the block off-street at the east end for Phil's Meat Market and the west end for Novato Cyclery.

WEARIN' OF THE GREEN: Our Lady of Loretto School has switched to a new color - green - for the school uniforms after 13 years of navy. The new uniforms are now optional and will be mandatory in two years. The switch was made for a change in color and a change to the newest easy-care fabrics. The Parent-Teacher Guild chose the new uniforms.

THE FAIRER SEX: The *Advance* continues to chronicle the advances being made in women's revolution in the field of sports, business, education and politics. Such an advance is reported in today's paper in the gas service station world of Novato, traditionally a scene dominated by males. It is always a pleasure for the *Advance* to report on the strides made by women, particularly since all women possess beauty and brains, commodities not always exhibited by men. It is in this spirit, that the fourth annual edition of the special tabloid section devoted to the work of women's clubs in Novato - what they do and who they are - appears in today's paper. (This was in the September 29, 1971 issue of the *Advance*. There was an article about a young lady, Bette Bryant, 19, who found a job as a service station attendant at Claude Smith's Novato Phillips 66, Highway 101 and Grant Ave.)

Novato Schools

August 17, 1955 Petaluma Argus-Courier

By Mary Ellen Lester

The same seam bursting's bothering other California communities are reflected in the bulging sleeves of the Novato Unified School District. Frantic efforts to sew up the holes resulted last year in the passage of a \$550,000 bond issue to build a high school and add elementary school rooms to the present three school system. School Superintendent W. J.J. Smith heads the district employees.

His assistant is Robert McKeay, who is also principal of the high school, which will begin operations in September in five classrooms at Marion School. The 88 students who were just graduated as eighth graders will stay to become Novato's first freshman high school class.

Construction is expected to begin this year on a 45-acre parcel of ground on South Novato Boulevard where by 1957 a new high school plant will be opened to serve at least half of the local high school students the first year and accommodate them all by 1958.

A new elementary school, West Novato, will be completed in time for classes this fall, and land for another on Center Road was secured recently after a court battle with subdividers who wanted to build there.

Novato's present schools are Marion, which will hold 16 classes next year, five of them high school classes; Hill, with 19 classes to return next year; Olive, with eight next year; and shortly, West Novato, which will hold 11 classes

.GRANT SCHOOL

The abandoned Grant Avenue School dominates the intersection of Grant Avenue and Highway 101. Brooding over the past is this stalwart structure, isolated on a hilltop overlooking the downtown section, a reminder that no matter how well the past has been served, "time marches on."

Ground on which this building is located was deeded in 1873 for a school site, by DeLong and Sweetser, for "consideration" of \$28.50. A "reversionary clause" in the deed provided that the property go back to the heirs if no longer used for school purposes. Within the last few years Grant School, built on the nearly three-acre plot in 1922, was judged unsafe for school use because it does not conform to the Field Act, requiring earthquake proof school buildings.



c.1877 drawing of Novato shows the first school house and the 2nd school house just to the left. Ron Vela colorized drawing..

But until the last two years, it was used both as a classroom and administration location. Before the present building was constructed, back in the late 1800's, a one room school located here furnished education to Novato youngsters. Later three other rooms were added, and this frame building was removed to Highway 101 and Sweetser Avenue in about 1922, to make room for the present structure. The Tainter secondhand store is housed in this older building now.

EARLY TEACHERS

ONE OF Novato's early teachers was Miss Carolyn Collins, who later married Senator J.W. Atherton, after whom Atherton Avenue is named. Miss Frances Peters, of Petaluma, who married A.D. Scott, a grocery store proprietor who owned the Grant Ave. property that is now occupied by Klopstock Furnishings, was another early teacher. Two of Novato's prominent "old timers," Mrs. Anna DeBorba (owner of DeBorba's Inn) and Mrs. W.E. Cole (wife of the town's well known Pini Mill Manager) taught school here in the early 1900's.

One of Novato's best-loved and best-known teachers is Miss Lulu Sutton, who was the first principal of Grant School, when the enrollment was between 150 and 200 students. She has been a teacher and principal in Novato schools for over 30 years, now heading Olive School staff.

Novato's First Schoolhouse

By Mike Read

The *Marin Journal* of July 27, 1899, informs us that there was a small schoolhouse built in Novato in 1858 and "Novato Township was made a school district Aug. 12, 1862." This first school was replaced in 1875 by a new building at a cost of \$1800. (The

school was finished in March 1873.)

We know it was around in 1861 that the *Tocsin* would run an ad saying "Divine Service – The Rev. R. Carberry will preach at the School House, Novato, on Sunday the 22nd of December."

May 22, 1873 *Independent Journal - Sweetzer & DeLong* to the Trustees of Novato School District—3 86/100 acres for school purposes, \$289 50.

July 24, 1884 *Independent Journal -* Novato Republicans will meet in the old schoolhouse next Saturday night to organize a Blaine and Logan Club.

Nov 22, 1889 *Sausalito News -* Judge J. Q. A. Haven has received the insurance on his residence which was lately destroyed by fire and the foundation of the new building was laid last Thursday. The Judge and family are occupying the old schoolhouse at present.

Oct 14, 1892 *Sausalito News -* Novato Precinct Polls to be held at Old School House.

Feb 16, 1895 *Sausalito News-The* Trustees of Novato have had the old pioneer school building renovated and enlarged for use of primary department until such time as two thirds of the district's electors can agree upon the cost of a proposed new building.

Oct. 22, 1898 *Sausalito News-* Early Saturday (16th) morning an unoccupied school house at Novato was burned to the ground. The building has been abandoned for some time and the loss is not large.

NOVATO'S TREASURES

Lulu Sutton

MICHAEL READ



Miss Lulu Sutton was born on a dairy ranch in Ignacio, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sutton, natives of Wexford, Ireland. She was the great niece of Don Timoteo Murphy, a pioneer, who settled in Marin in 1838 and built the first house in San Rafael. She went to school in San Francisco and graduated from San Francisco Normal School (later San Francisco State College). Since 1918 she had been a teacher and principal in Novato Schools. She was born in 1881. She died in 1959 at 78 years of age. She had a notable 40 year career educating Novato's children.

Lulu's father and mother were born in Ireland. Frank or Francis lived from 1845-1926, Bessie or Elizabeth P. lived from 1846-1921. Frank and Bessie were married in County Wexford, Ireland, September 29, 1868. On the same day of the wedding the couple left for America.

All ten of their children were born in Marin:

1. Thomas F. 1870-1924
2. John M. or Matthew Jackson 1872-1948
3. Richard J. 1873-1942

4. Aiden Aloysius 1875-1942,
5. Mary or Minnie P. 1877-1920,
6. Annie E. or Mrs. Stephen Cavanagh 1877-1950,
7. Julia H. or Lulu H. 1881-1959,
8. Frank M. or Michael F. 1883-1955,
9. Joseph M. or Milton J. 1886-1936 and
10. Margaret L. 1888-1963.

The Suttons would change their names by using their middle names first. Julia Helen Sutton would use Lulu H. Sutton off and on until she became a schoolteacher in Novato and just used Lulu H. from then on. The 1870 census shows Frank and Bessie residing in Nicasio and first child, Thomas, as being born in California. Frank is listed as a laborer with real estate valued at \$1,000 and personal estate valued of \$600. The family does not show up on the census again until the 1900 census when they lived in San Francisco. Frank would move to Novato in February 1888 where he would be the "Road Master" for the area. He would move the family again to San Francisco in December 1894 where he would work for the San Francisco Custom House.

Different newspaper articles report:

April 27, 1899, *Independent Journal* – Miss Lulu Sutton is pursuing her studies at Mission High School, San Francisco. Her brothers, Frank and Milton are attending St. Ignatius College.

February 14, 1918, *Daily News* – Miss Lulu Sutton has been hired in the Novato schools and will begin next Monday. At the opening of the school term the trustees elected only three teachers, but the attendance has increased significantly and the service of an additional teacher was necessary. Miss Sutton is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Sutton of Novato and graduated from the San Francisco State Normal School in December.

July 8, 1922, *Daily News* - Miss Lulu Sutton has been elected principal of the Novato grammar school to succeed Miss Doss, who has been teaching at the Novato school for several years. Miss Doss has resigned to become a bride. Miss Sutton has been connected with the school for some time. The other four teachers for the coming year will be Miss Scott, Miss Ellen of Petaluma, who are newcomers to Novato and Miss Jessie Scott and Miss Elinor Nissen of Two Rock, who have been with the district for some time.

October 1930, *Novato Advance* - By Miss Lulu Sutton, Principal: The Novato Grammar School is located at the intersection of Grant Avenue and the Redwood highway. It is a modern concrete structure consisting of five large well-equipped classrooms, an office, auditorium, kitchen, basement, supply room and movie

Continued on Page N – 8

Continued from Page N – 7



1903 at the beach (L to R) Lulu, Helen Hatch and Reta. Picture from the Helen Hatch album,

booth. There are about 170 students enrolled from the first through the eighth grade. The school is also equipped with a radio. Loudspeakers are placed in the auditorium and in the three upper grade rooms. Educational programs both lecture and musical are thus enjoyed by the students. The playground is large and well equipped. Athletic activity is well organized and carefully supervised.

August 1935, Novato Advance - Increase in School Pupils – The Novato grammar school opened under a most favorable circumstance: the attendance being considerably increased. This week 156 children are enrolled with others to attend later. They are divided as follows: Miss Baccaglio’s room – 1st grade, 24; Miss Reis’ room – 2nd and 3rd grades, 38; Miss Clark’s room – 4th grade, 20; Mrs. Steele’s room – 5th and 6th grades, 36; Miss Sutton’s room –

7th and 8th grades, 37.

April 8, 1959, Novato Advance - Miss Sutton died in a Marin hospital. She had been stricken with a heart attack in February and apparently had a recurrence of the ailment last Thursday when she was again hospitalized. Since 1918 Miss Sutton had been a teacher and principal in Novato Schools, coming to Novato for her first teaching assignment at Grant School. She became principal of the school in 1922, was later co-principal of Marion School, and when Olive School was completed in 1952, she took over the principalship, serving there until her retirement in June after a notable 40-year career in education. Her concern with children went beyond mere academic instruction. She was deeply concerned with turning her charges into good citizens and formed a “Jolly Citizens Club” for seventh and eighth graders at Grant School in the mid 30’s. Of the slow learners and non-learners, Miss Sutton said, “These people are important to us. We need our ditch diggers and our dishwashers. They are important to our civilization, and while we can’t teach them much academically in school, we can teach them to be good citizens, and to be honest brave, kind, and true.”

Miss Sutton, while accepting modern education, deplored the shallowness

of our present-day culture. “Today’s children,” she said, “are missing the deeply meaningful contact with the classics of literature in favor of cheap writings and worthless TV programs.”

April 4, 1959, Independent Journal - Miss Sutton was a member of Marin Retired Teachers Assn. and a life member of the State Parent-Teacher Association.

“Her death has taken us all by surprise,” said William J. Smith, superintendent of Novato Unified School District. “She was an institution in Novato and very much loved.” Then he added, “I’ve known her to get down on her knees and play marbles with some of the toughest boys in school and beat them at the game” A friend of hers for 45 years, William E. Cole of Novato, said of Miss Sutton: “She was a wonderful woman and devoted her whole life to children.”

Miss Sutton is survived by a sister, Margaret L. Sutton, with whom she made her home at 1609 Novato Blvd.

For more on Miss Sutton, go to the Novato Museum web site and read the story “Victim Of Progress: Old Timers Mourn Demise Of School.” Look under History / Feature Articles / 1950-1999: Historian July-September 2009.



Lulu Sutton and friend. Picture from Helen Hatch album c.1903



Lulu Sutton after she retired. The desk in the above picture was her desk as principal. Now the desk of the current principal at Lulu Sutton School.



Rush Creek Open Space

Josh Rosenfeld, CDL, PC-832, RT-130, OPEN
 Marin County Open Space (Rush Creek Preserve):
Historic Sites:

During the ranching operations at what is known today as the Rush Creek Preserve, the Rush family installed what looks to be water cisterns/wells to supply water to cattle

troughs. Today these sites are reminiscent of the working landscape. The cisterns are in disrepair and are hazardous. The Open Space District has fenced off the pits with the intentions to fill them in, restoring the landscape to a natural state. We have captured the location with GPS coordinates to record the historical nature and preserve the location information future inquiry if any arise through cultural surveys or studies of these sites. Lat: 38.125410° N Lon: 122.554758° W



100 Years Ago



Augere Hiribarren went into the cheese manufacturing business, one of the north Marin's leading commercial activities. His first cheese plant was located north of Novato, slightly north of the William Q. Wright's Rancho de los Pantanos. He next built a larger plant on the site of the Pinheiro / Atherton Ranch north of Olive Street on Redwood Blvd., where he did a thriving business until the factory was destroyed by fire on July 1915. He then built a smaller cheese making establishment back of the family home on Railroad Avenue on September 1921, called the Parisian Cheese Factory.

Building 500



The Guild's artifacts/archives are stored in the basement of Building 500 in Hamilton (under MOCA). Board Members & Docents toured the area (left to right: Ray Dwelly, Michael Corlett, Susan Magnone, Bill Damon, Lane Yee, Elayne Miller, Gary Bramon).

75 Years Ago Novato's 1st Theatre

BRAND NEW!

The Last Word in Comfort

NOVATO

MARIN'S MOST MODERN THEATRE!

— TODAY —

**Marin County's First
Post-war Theater Opens!
Continuous Show from
2 P. M. 'Til Midnight!**

VIVIAN
BLAINE
DENNIS
O'KEEFE
PERRY
COMO
CARMEN
MIRANDA in



Doll Face

A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE

2 Opening Hits

Randolph Scott
Ann Dvorak

**ABELENE
TOWN**

TOMORROW

BETTY HUTTON

"STORK CLUB"

Plus—"Tokyo Rose"

A.W. Bowman's —NEW THEATRE – It would have 488 seats and equipped with latest sound and projection equipment as well as being air conditioned. The theatre was leased to Manuel Levin, a San Francisco theatre man and it would be managed by Guy R. Judd.

On July 13, 1946, Marin's Seventh Motion Picture House was opened at 1:45 PM on a Saturday. A capacity crowd attended the gala opening viewing "Doll Face and Abelene Town" – Sunday & Monday, "The Stork Club & Tokyo Rose". Admission was .50 Adults and .14 children.

Welcome New Guild Members

Novato Historical Guild Membership Report September 2021

Individual Membership

Bill Cardoza
Helen Myers
Linda West-Sells

If you have questions about membership, call Lane Yee, Membership Chairman, 415- 898-0444

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Bob Abeling
Joan Almeida
Carole Bennett
Kit Gabbard
Dorothea Garaventa
Richard "Skip" Hale
Dr. Michael Stafford
Sandra Pronzini Tomrose
Patricia Wright



Please support our Guild Business Members:

Aero Heating & Sheet Metal, Inc
A. D. Scott Building
Andrew McAghon Landscaping
Bank of Marin
Elegance Hamilton Hill Memory Care and Assisted Living
Goltermann Real Estate and Construction
H&J Tire
Indian Valley Golf Club
Marin Landscape Materials
Marin Volvo / Saab
McIsaac Dairy
Nave Enterprises
Novato Builders Supply, Inc.
Novato Grove Druids #113
Pacheco Ranch Winery
Pini Hardware
Trumbull Manor Inc. – Novato
Valley Memorial Park Cemetery
Valley Oak Wealth Management
Zenith Instant Printing

The Guild Extends Sympathy to

The Abeling family on the loss of Bob Abeling
The Almeida family on the loss of Joan Almeida
The Bennett family on the loss of Carole Bennett
The Gabbard family on the loss of Kit Gabbard
The Garaventa family on the loss of Dorothea Garaventa
The Hale family on the loss of Richard "Skip" Hale
The Stafford family on the loss of Dr. Michael Stafford
The Pronzini & Tomrose families on the loss of Sanda Pronzini Tomrose
The Wright family on the loss of Patricia Wright

Carole Bennet Carole Bennett

Dear Colleagues,

We have lost a good friend of the museums. Carole Bennett passed away from cancer. Carole was a member of the Guild and incredibly supportive of the museums. She worked with Jim Crumpler to do videos of all the museums in Novato. Three of those videos are on our website. Carole also kept a diary during the pandemic which she gave to our collection. Barry Small called it the "Crown Jewel" of our collection, which pleased her. We are grateful for her support of the museums and for her friendship.

2021 Board Meetings

Second Tuesday of the Month

Zoom Meetings

until further notice

Time: 1:30 – 3:30 PM

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

Membership Meetings

| | | |
|----------|------------|------|
| March 13 | 10 – 11:30 | Zoom |
| June 12 | 10 – 11:30 | Zoom |
| Sept. 11 | 10 – 11:30 | Zoom |
| Dec. 11 | 10 – 11:30 | Zoom |

Guild members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. Please check with the President, Kathryn Hansen at (415) 898-0467, in case a meeting has been changed.

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 (415) 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

info@novatohistory.org

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: info@novatohistory.org
<https://www.facebook.com/NovatoHistoryMuseum/>

Call for Board Member Applications

Guild members are invited to apply to serve on the Novato Historical Guild Board of Directors for 2022-2023. The term of office is for two years.

Requirements and Process:

- Have been a Guild member for a year prior to the election on Dec. 11, 2021.
- Complete the Guild Board Application and return it by September 30, 2021.

Board Applications are available at each museum or can be requested at Novatohistorical-guild@gmail.com.

Interested members are encouraged to talk with board members about the role, responsibilities and rewards of serving on the Board..



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 | | Additional donations? _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, joint | \$500 | | 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



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NOVATO, CA
PERMIT NO. 138

Change Service Requested

TIME VALUE



YOU ARE INVITED

General Membership Meeting ~ Novato Historical Guild

**Saturday, September 11, 10:00 to 11:30 A.M.
Zoom Meeting - Login Info on Front Page**

Guest speaker will be Morey Nelson with a photo presentation of his aerial photography of Marin

Guild members and anyone interested in Novato history are welcome.

Novato History Museum

815 Delong Avenue

(415) 897-4320

Hamilton Field History Museum

555 Hangar Avenue

(415) 382-8614

COME VISIT AND BRING A FRIEND!

The Museums are now open. Please call for museum hours.