

# The Novato Historian

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

*Preserving Novato History*

## News Section

Contents @2021 Novato Historical Guild, Inc.



October—December 2021

The Novato Historian

Volume 45 Number 4

## Bill Almeida Passed Away



The Novato Historical Guild lost one of its most valuable docents when Bill Almeida passed away October 20, 2021. Bill was one of the first third grade docents when he started working with Jackie Moore, who was Museum Director many years ago. At that time, docents would visit children in their classrooms to talk about the old days in Novato. They also provided tours of the old Novato Cemetery for children and adults.

Bill grew up in Novato and graduated from Novato Grammar School in 1943. His two favorite teachers at Novato Grammar School were Miss Edna Baccaglio and Lulu Sutton. He then went on to San Rafael High

School traveling by bus from Novato each day. After graduating from high school in 1947, Bill entered the Army and served in Korea. He married Joan Clemmer, of San Rafael in 1953. Bill went to work for the U.S. Post Office as a mail carrier and rose to the position of Postmaster in Novato.

After his retirement from the post office, Bill spent much time volunteering at the Novato History Museum. He worked on editing the Novato Historian for over twenty years, as well as organizing all museum mailings. Bill planned and organized "Old Timers' Day" for many years, and he spent many days over the years docenting in the museum. Bill had many friends who marveled at his docenting skills. He could tell you the phone numbers, street addresses and jobs people had many years ago in Novato.

The Guild is grateful for having known Bill and Joan Almeida. They will never be forgotten for all they contributed to this community.



For many years on the first and 5th Saturday's at the Novato Museum you could find (from Left) Joe Giari, Bob Manzoni, Dianne Campbell and Bill.

## General Membership Meeting



Hello Guild Members, WE'RE BACK! Our own Ray Dwelly will be presenting the compelling story of the Hamilton Field History Museum, from the early beginning to the present in person. Hope you can make it, bring some friends. Looking forward to seeing you there. December 11th at 10a.m. at 555 Hanger Avenue.

## Jim McNern



The Guild would like to recognize Jim McNern for twenty years on the Editorial Board of "The Novato Historian."

## The Novato Historian

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### Guild Mission Statement

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

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### Typography, Layout, Composition

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Deadline for the March 2022 issue is February 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

### President's Corner

The mission of the Guild has one goal that we are focusing on this quarter, "Promoting public knowledge and appreciation of Novato history."

The Quarterly General Meeting is one way of achieving this goal. Board Member Sharon Azevedo, the Hospitality Chair, is responsible for organizing the General Meeting. You may know Sharon because she grew up in Novato. You may recognize her if you have watched the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Tour of inside the Novato History Museum video (can be viewed on the website). If you come into the museum on Thursday you will see her helping with research and speaking to visitors. Most importantly, Sharon is the Secretary of the Board. The minutes she takes are permanent records of Board meetings which are required in order to keep non-profit status.

The newsletter is a second way of achieving this goal. Most of the articles related to Hamilton Field were written by another Board Member, Michael Corlett. He started out as a docent at the Hamilton Field History Museum. The more he learned the more he shared with the Guild through feature articles, for example, Dr. Granville Coggs a Tuskegee Airmen and M.D. (Oct-Dec 2019).

The website is a third way of achieving this goal. Michael Corlett is Chair of the Website Committee. The Committee reviewed the websites of the local area museums and some out of state museums in order to add technical features and highlight events. One example is that there are now two separate events pages: one for the General Meetings and one for the Speaker's series.

The Past Perfect data base is the fourth way of achieving this goal. The data base is maintained by Board Member, Lane Yee. She records all members' renewals and new member information in Past Perfect. Lane will be sending out renewal letters to you in the next month. When someone becomes a Life Member there is another step. Brass plates are engraved with the Life Members' name and they are affixed to a plaque in the Novato History Museum. Lane also orders the brass plates for the Memorial Plaque Gifts (see Page N 11). Finally it is from the Past Perfect data base that the e-mail addresses are kept and downloaded to Mail Chimp. Mail Chimp is a subscription tool that allows e-mail lists to be downloaded and an e-blast to be sent to you, the members and interested parties.



# Novato – 50 Years Ago

## (July, August, September 1971)

by Yvette Borloz Jackson

Dear Readers, I can't believe that I am writing the last issue of "50 Years Ago" for year 1971. I hope you enjoy the items I have written. For me, reading & writing about these events, increases my appreciation for Novato and its history. I am thankful for what we had and do have in our little city. I hope your holidays bring you Good health, peace and joy.

Yvette Borloz Jackson

**ONE OF THE TOWNS MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELORS** will be married this Saturday. He is Aldo Paladini, 42, of 785 Wilson Ave., who is marrying Shirley Faye Wright. Let's see now; that leaves the hard-core of bachelors here as consisting of Joe Simas, Aldo's fellow employee on the water district staff, Flip Rodoni, Joe Glari, Karl Matthias, and Gordon Quilici. Hang on, men... (08/11/71)

**MUSIC CENTER NOW LOCATED IN TRIANGLE:** The Novato music center, located for the past five years at 970 Second St., moved last week to larger quarters in the Tresch Triangle. The center now occupies the 3200 square-foot store formally occupied by the Novato branch of the county library. Co-owners Steve Halbe and Wayne Colyer have also expanded their services to include concert band and group instruction. Private instruction will continue in wind, percussion, brass and guitar. The owners report they have also expanded their stock of records, tapes, sheet music, pianos and organs. Most instrument repairs will be done on the premises to provide faster service. New store hours are weekdays from 10 AM to 8:30 PM and Saturdays from 10 to 5 PM the Center is planning a grand opening in the near future. (09/01/71)

**VARIETY SPICE OF LIFE:** Last weekend was a very good one in Novato. The Renaissance Faire wound up it's five-weekend stay in Black Point. The Orange Crate Derby was run off on San Marin Drive Sunday, while across town at the Horsemen's Arena on Bugeia Ln. the annual Junior Rodeo was held. Further down the road at Baja, a free water ski show was staged and a two day horse show took place at the Atherton Stables on

Atherton Avenue, also drawing a large number of competitors. And of course, there was the big game Saturday the classic gridiron clash between Novato and San Marin High Schools. Now practically in Novato's backyard, the Marin County Fair will be held for four days starting Friday at the Civic Center, a short drive down the highway. (10/06/71)

**UNION OPPOSITION TO BOX BOYS:** Some local supermarket operators are boxing with the food clerks union over the issue of box boys' pay, but there's little chance the union will agree with supermarket owners and their stand that more box boys could be hired if pay rates were the same as those okayed by the union in areas other than Marin and San Francisco. Box boys hired for no other job but carrying out customer packages in other regions of the Bay Area, are paid \$2 an hour. But here in Novato and elsewhere in Marin, there are no box boys as such only clerks doing box boy chores at pay ranging from \$2.80 per hour as student clerks for the first 13 weeks of training up to full-fledged clerks at \$4.80 per hour. (10/06)

**NEW STORE ON GRANT AVENUE:** Tomorrow morning will mark the official opening of the Brass Ring, 817 Grand Avenue, featuring toys and games for children and adults and other specialties such as Swiss door chimes and Swedish music boxes. Mrs. Eve Cunningham says her initial store hours are 10 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Saturday but as the time approaches Christmas season, the store will be open Monday and Tuesday evening and all day Sunday. She is assisted by her daughter, Joan Cook, who provides string designs too, and by her son, Steve Novak, who helps in the store after junior high school hours. Creative playthings such as puppets and marionettes, a large selection of a adult games, cast iron replicas of old time vehicles, decorative pillows, show and area rugs and wall hangings are included in the display. The store area is 1300 square feet. (10/06)

### CALIFORNIA COAST FAST

**DISAPPEARING:** Current efforts to pass a law protecting the California coast are basically a contest between conservationists on one side and special interest and local governments on the other, according to a new University of California study. The ideal solution according to the report, would be to set up a coastal version of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to regulate shoreline development. This is the aim of several bills pending in the legislature.

"California's Disappearing Coast: A Legislative Challenge" is the first comprehensive review of efforts in Sacramento to meet the need for coast preservation legislation.— The study suggests several basic principles for creating an affective coastal agency. It should have primary responsibility over coastal development, with "meaningful" input from local governments. It should set a state wide policy and plan for the coast, with emphasis on oceanrelated projects. The new agency should be given permit powers and, finally, be granted enough money to do his job. (10/06/1971)

**GERNER: CIVICS IN ACTION:** A singing voice and a ringing handshake or two of several lasting impressions after a visit with Leroy (Lee) GERNER. One of Novato's is many volunteer "movers" and "shakers," Gerner is a participating sort of citizen who is president of the Novato Civic Foundation, co-chairman of the Novato citizens Creek committee (now launching its Novato Creek demonstration project,) and he's also recently been re-appointed as a county parks and recreation commissioner to serve a four year term.) On the city: "The creek demonstration project as a Novato citizens Creek committee has been a wonderful experience for me. We all have the same thing in mind on the committee...the people on the committee are very dedicated, our aim is to preserve our creeks as well as to beautify them more and develop them only to the extent that more people can see and enjoy them." "The way to get

the people of Novato interested and to give their backing is to get more people involved. This is the reason for the creek demonstration project," Gerner says. By developing the portion of Novato Creek from seventh Street past the county library branch to the Sequoia medical center on one side of the creek and two past Ross and up to Mayfair on the other side we can let people see what the creek could look like in its entirety." (B-8 10/06/71)

**CITY FILES SUIT FOR MORE LAND:** The city of Novato has filed an action in eminent domain against several persons in an effort to get property nearby City Hall condemned for future expansion. Named in the action to seek condemnation of their property at 835 DeLong Ave. are Laura Simmons, Alice Roth, Barbara Landsmesser, Jane Lin's, five Does and five Doe corporations. Also named in a separate action of eminent domain is Cremilda Bello, executrix of the estate of the late John Silva. The Silva property in question is at 825 DeLong Ave. and Mrs. Bello has served notice that she will sell the property to the highest bidder on or after Wednesday, October 27. Her notice of sale states that the building inspector of Novato has claimed that a dwelling on the property is not in a habitable condition. Mrs. Bello said she does not agree with the findings and she reserves the right to reject any and all bids. (A-4 10/21/71)

**BOND ISSUE SUMMARIZED:** On November 2 voters in the North Marin Water District will be asked to approve a \$1,600,000 bond issue to remove a bottleneck in the waterline which supplies Russian River water to Novato. The bottleneck exists between Santa Rosa and Cotati in the form of a 24 inch line which must be replaced. The district obligated itself to do this when it entered into an agreement with the Sonoma County water agency in 1960. Total cost of the pipeline construction will be \$3 million. Financing in addition to the \$1,600,000 sought in the November Bond election, will come from previously authorized bonds, \$1,290,000; the remainder from accumulated reserves held by the Sonoma County Water Agency. If the bonds are passed, the project could be constructed without any increase in water or tax rates, on the same basis the district has paid for improvements in the past—community growth has provided the extra revenue. The

district over the past decade has dropped its tax rate from \$.75-\$.10 and hasn't increased its water rate since 1958. If the bonds are not approved the district will still have to meet its commitment; it will probably have to do so on a pay-as-you-go basis, increasing tax and water rates. B10 10/2071) (The bond was defeated in the November election)



**FUTURE APARTMENT SITE:** This House, owned by Fabian Bobo, at 1468 South Novato Blvd. stands on 1.37 acres of property on which Bobo wants to build a 28 unit apartment complex. It is the oldest house existing in the city of Novato, probably built in the 1840s. It was the home of Novato's first postmaster, Henry F Johnson, who was appointed February 2, 1856. Post office was probably operated in a general store adjacent to the home. Johnson was murdered, his body found floating in a trough in front of the house and the post office was closed in 1860. It was re-open five years later in Black point. The building is believed to have been first on by the Pacheco family of Rancho San Jose. It's lines or New England in contrast to the pervading Spanish mission architecture of the time. It's designed probably reflects the presence of a new England ships carpenter who may have jumped ship in San Francisco harbor, deciding to stay in California. Bobo has offered the structure to the city. Architectural plans are scheduled to be considered by the city plan review committee tonight. The planning staff, because the plans fail to protect the landmark oak and pine trees on the site, and because of the monotonous placement

of dwellings on the property is recommending the plan to be rejected. (This article is written exactly as written in the Novato Advance. There are several errors, most notably the Postmaster was Henry Jones. This house is now the Down Town Novato History Museum.)

**NEW MEN'S SHOP:** A new men's clothing shop opened here this week. It is Dude Casual clothing, located on Redwood Highway next to Perry's delicatessen. The owner is Harry Robbins, who formally was a sales representative in the men's clothing field. The shop features jeans, casual pants, shirts, sweaters and sport jackets. The store will be open from 10 AM to 6 PM Monday through Saturday, enrollment may add some hours on Sunday

afternoons. Starting November 20 pre-holiday season hours will go into effect and the shop will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturdays until 9 PM. Grand opening of the store will be November 15.

A special sale is planned. Here is an advertisement from the December 21, 1971. Hope it brings back memories of Christmas's past.



Korb Winters, 9, the Novato Boys' Club "Poster Boy," enjoys a preview of "Boys' — Hamburger Day," scheduled for Saturday, when McDonald's Restaurant, will donate one-third of its total receipts to the Novato Boys' Club. Shown "loading" the willing Korb with hamburgers are waitresses Jenifer Johnson and Seni Zaha. Novato Advance November 26, 1971

# Joseph William Almeida

“Bill”

1928 to

2021



THERE OFFICIAL NOW—Four of Novato’s letter carriers have received permanent civil service appointments. (from left) Harry L. Anderson, Harold A. Anderson, William Almeida and Charles Field Jr. Advance photo Dec. 17, 1953.



Joan Almeida

March 28, 1953 Joan Grace Clemmer marries Joseph William Almeida.



8th Grade class of 1958.



June 7, 1973, Novato Postmaster Bill Almeida speaking at a service group luncheon.

Bill would be chairmen of the “Old Timers Day” which included the “8th grade class reunion” starting with his own class reunion in 1993 (class of 1943) to 2008 (class of 58). The class was getting too big.

He would also be the writer of the Historian “Novato—50 years ago” from 2002 to 2015.

## Postmaster to leave

*ADVANCE 11-7-1979*

Novato postmaster Bill Almeida has resigned his position at the Novato post office, effective Dec. 1.

Almeida, who has worked in the Novato branch for 26½ years, said he plans to transfer to the Petaluma post office, where he will serve as a clerk.

He cited increasing pressure and concern for his health as the reason for his transfer.

“At times, you have to stop and ask if it’s worth it,” he said, noting he has been considering the move for nearly a year. “There are times you have to think of your health.”


Almeida, 50, will be eligible for retirement in five years.. He plans to begin work in Petaluma some time after Christmas — after he takes some of the 6½ weeks of vacation he has coming to him. It will be the first time in 26 years he has been able to take time off in December, he said.

A long-time Novato resident, Almeida started as a carrier for the Novato post office in 1953. He became a clerk in 1956 and a mail foreman three years later.

Named assistant postmaster in 1961, he became postmaster in 1971, a position he has held ever since.

Almeida and his family plan to continue living in Novato.

Current Mill Valley postmaster, Don Baird, will serve as temporary postmaster in Novato for about three months, until the position can be filled permanently.



**BILL ALMEIDA**  
...transfer to Petaluma

## Born to Fly

Michael Corlett

Tom Crull was born in Portsmouth, Ohio in 1924. When he reached his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, two 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 six months of training on P-47 Thunderbolts, he was assigned to the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force in Italy.

During WWII 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 career four Distinguished Flying Crosses for action on March 30th, 1945. Although his P-47 had been heavily damaged by ground fire, he led 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 a Transport Command 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 aircraft were "packaged" and shipped via the Navy from the West Coast. Upon arrival in Japan, the aircraft 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. Inflight refueling became standard and significantly 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 challenging aircraft to fly. In addition to excellent piloting skills, the strain of operating 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 on August 14, 1956.

Flying out of Eielson AFB near Fairbanks, Alaska, Crull flew the 18<sup>th</sup> Soviet Overflight Mission on March 2, 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, out of the range of Soviet fighters or



Dead Stick Landing

missiles.

Crull made an infamous U-2 flight on September 24, 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 airbase. 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 the 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 aircraft 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 1, 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 five 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 23, 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. He spent the next 15 years teaching people to fly at Travis Air Force Base.

When he retired permanently in 1994, he and his wife and three children lived in Novato, and he flew his Piper Aero out of Gness Field.

Lt. Tom Crull participated in three wars and flew a total of 512 combat missions. He was one of a very select group of aviators to fly the U-2, and over the years of his career, was awarded four Distinguished Flying Crosses. A remarkable career. Tom Crull passed away in Novato in 2011.

Lt. Col. Crull's family loaned memorabilia from Crull's Aviation career to the HFHM. Items include his 4 Distinguished Flying Crosses, numerous photos, patches and various documents and citations. 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)



Tom Crull and L-19



## Novato Treasurer Dr. Charles D. Stafford

By Michael Read

Charles Dougherty Stafford was born in San Antonio, Texas on February 8, 1908. His parents, Albert Francis (1872-1953) and Olive (Dougherty) Stafford (1875-1948) were originally from Illinois.

Census Reports :

1910 - The family is in San Antonio Texas, Albert is dispatcher for a grain company.

1920 - The family is in Lime Creek, Iowa, Albert is a farmer, Charles is 17 and is sister Clara is 13.

1930 - The family is in Oakley California, his mother Oliva is the proprietor of the Oakley Hotel and Charles 27, is a computer for a stockbroker office.

Timeline and Other Reports:

June 1935 - Dr. Stafford enlisted in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps in June 1935.

May 1935 - Charles went and graduated from Kansas State University School of Veterinary Medicine,

February 9, 1936 – Miss Freida Marie Togni, (1907-1995) became the bride of Dr. Charles Stafford of San Francisco. The bride had been teaching art in the Oakland schools for the past few years after graduating from Berkeley High school.

May 19, 1936 - Argus - Dr. Chas. D. Stafford, V.S., will establish his office next to the Quality bakery, in the office formerly occupied by Dr. Mary Harris. Dr. Stafford is a graduate of the Kansas State University. He was formerly connected with the U.S. bureau of animal industry, leaving that position to become the assistant veterinary with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in San Francisco, in which capacity he remained until the needs of this steadily growing community called him here to establish a practice. Dr. and Mrs. Stafford will make their home in the Harry Edward's residence on Diablo Road.

September 1936 - the Doctor and his wife would move into the newly constructed home, owned by Judge Rudloff, on Railroad Avenue and Adrienne Street.

1937 - "Doc" Stafford was a prominent member of the Reserve Medical Officers Association.

Charles wife Maria would be in the papers more then him. March 1937 she would become president of the Novato Garden Club.

May 1938 she would become a member of the Novato board of school trustees.

August 1939 - "Doc" Stafford would be elected has the President of the Novato Chamber of Commerce.

April 1942 – Advance – "In the election, the first contested election for the office of fire commissioner in the Novato district in years. Dr. Charles Stafford was elected to the Fire Commissioner Board by a vote of 117 to 70, defeating E. R. MacDonald who was a candidate on the same ticket. The board now consists of Dan Wise, A.W. Bunt, and Dr. Stafford."

June 3' 1942, Maria would give birth to Charles Michael, and on Saturday "Doc" would report has a lieutenant of the Marin County Medial Reserve Corps, would leave for temporary duty at the Presidio, San Francisco, with the 11<sup>th</sup> Calvary regiment. Maria would remain in Novato with the newborn son.

July 1942 - "Doc" would be station in Southern California, August he would be the veterinarian of the 10<sup>th</sup> armored division at Ft. Benning, Georgia. October he was promoted to the rank of captain. May of 1943 he was promoted to major of cavalry at Ft. Benning.

September 1943 – "Doc" would get a 15-day furlough and fly home. June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1944,

Maria would give birth to a girl Susannah Louise, "Doc" was "somewhere" in England.

December 1945 - Major Charles D. Stafford, Veterinary Corps, U.S. Army, was awarded

the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations,

Feb 7, 1946 Argus – "Dr. Stafford resumed his veterinary practice in Novato, after a six week's course at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. studying the newest drugs and diagnosis developed by the war, in which he served for 42 months. He was first assigned as staff officer at the European headquarters theater of operations and later as staff officer at Sein Basil section where he participated in the invasion of France on D-day. He was discharged with the rank of Lt. Colonel."

On his return to Novato, he would try to start a Novato Veterans of World War 2, be elected vice president of the Novato Chamber of Commerce, under President A.W. Bowman. He would be one of the organizers of the Lions Club of Novato.

April 18, 1949, Independent Journal – "North Marin County, a section of large farms, dairies and a rapidly mushrooming residential area, is short of water. In order to do something about it the citizens met and formed by election a North Marin County Water District in February of 1948. Shortly thereafter five directors were named to run the district. They are Dr. Charles D. Stafford, president; Virgil Hill, secretary and W.Q. Wright, Jr., Emil Renato and Frank Baccaglio."

October 18, 1955 – Advance – "Dr. Stafford Dies After Heart Attack"- Doc" Stafford is dead and his passing, which came with such startling suddenness shortly before midnight Tuesday. The 47-year-old local veterinary was stricken at his home shortly after



July 1954 -Over a period of 18 years Dr. Stafford said, he has deodorized about 250 skunks.



noon Tuesday and was rushed by ambulance to San Rafael General Hospital, after, treatment by Dr. Ralph Weseman. Death was caused by coronary thrombosis, according to Dr. Weseman.

Dr. Charles D. Stafford

Dr. Charles Stafford was one of those rare individuals who seem gifted with a talent for leadership among their follow men and the recognition of this quality by residents of his community and the county led to many important posts in local affairs. His acceptance of these time-consuming positions of trust and leadership were only limited by his ability to give of his time and energies.

In addition to conducting his business consisting of a veterinary hospital in Novato and San Rafael. Charles Stafford was chairman of the Board of Directors of the North Marin Water District, a member of the Board of Novato Fire Commissioners since 1947, second vice-president of the California state Veterinary Medical Association and a member of the Redwood Empire Veterinary Medical Association.

Enlisting in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps on June 6, 1942, "Doc" Stafford was released from active-duty March 21, 1946, having seen action in combat in the European, African and Middle East Theatre of operations, while serving with the 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.

He was a member of the Novato Horsemen. Inc., a member of the Druids and UPEC, Novato, as well as a member of the Donald V. Westlund Post 7816. Veterans of Foreign Wars."

He also was a member of the San Rafael Rotary Club which was the sponsors of the new Novato Rotary Club which would hold "Charter Night" on May 22, 1954.

Nearly 500 people attended his funeral.

Mrs. Marie Stafford

Nov 14, 1995 – Advance – "Marie Togni Stafford, a former longtime Novato resident, died Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1995, at the Air Force Village West Skilled Nursing Facility in Riverside. She was 87 years old.

Mrs. Stafford was born in Visalia and lived in Novato for 45 years before moving to Riverside in 1981 to live with her daughter. Both Mrs. Stafford and her veterinarian husband, Charles D. Stafford, were very active in the community. After his death, Novato Creek Lake was renamed Stafford Lake in his honor.

Marie Togni was a graduate of the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, where she also taught for several years before her marriage to Dr. Charles D. Stafford.

Mrs. Stafford was just as active. She was a member of the Sunny Hills Auxiliary, the Fireman's Auxiliary, the Novato Horsemen's Association, and the Novato Garden Club. She served on the Novato School Board for many years prior to 1955. In 1956, she began teaching art at the new Novato High School. She retired from Novato High as a counselor in 1972.

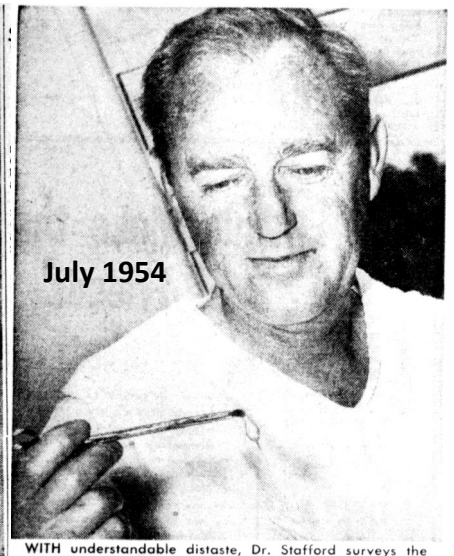
Mrs. Stafford is survived by her son and his wife, Dr. Michael Stafford, D.V.M., and Karen of Bodega Bay; her daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Stephen Davis of Riverside; her grandchildren, Sharilyn Everett of Salt Lake City, Kathryn Nickles of Riverside, Christopher Stafford of Alexandria, Va., Lise Laurie and Sarah Stafford of Bodega Bay, and Gregory Savage of Chico; and one great-grandson, Reid Everett of Salt Lake City.

Stafford Lake

For more on Dr. Stafford and Stafford Lake, go to the Novato Museum web site and read the story "The History of Stafford Lake" Look under Newsletter / Feature Story / Fall Issue 2011, or copy this link – "https://www.novatohistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Historian-Vol.-35-No.-3-feature-section.pdf"



June 11, 1954 ij photo



July 1954

WITH understandable distaste, Dr. Stafford surveys the little thing that can cause such a big stink: Petunia's scent gland. Each skunk has two glands which are their big guns for defense against enemies.

MRS. CHARLES D. STAFFORD, long time member of the Novato school board, turned the first shovel of earth Monday in ground breaking ceremonies at the Hill School site. The ceremony signaled the beginning of a \$280,000 addition to the existing five classroom building. The new addi-

tions will consist of 14 classrooms, a kindergarten, multipurpose room, administrative and service areas. Attending the ceremony were school board members, PTA officials, members of the Novato clergy, contractor Henry Bormolini, School Superintendent William J. J. Smith and Charles Laveroni, principal of the Hill School.

Fresh  
**HORSEMEAT**  
 Not For Human  
 Consumption  
 Ground . 17c lb.  
 Chunk . 19c lb.  
 WE CABBY EIGHT  
 DIFFERENT WELL  
 KNOWN BRANDS!  
 Dog and Cat  
 Meal — Kibble  
**CRUNCHES**  
 and  
**BISCUITS**  
**MARIN CO.**  
**FEED CO.**  
 Grant Ave.

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 Branch of San Rafael  
 Store 868 - 4th Street

Ad in Novato Advance November 1947

## Welcome New Guild Members

**Novato Historical Guild  
 Membership Report  
 December 2021**

**Individual Membership**

Reny Brown

**Family Membership**

Kim and Tony Galatolo

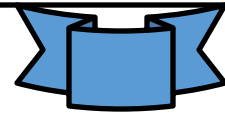
**Life Membership**

Rich Dean

**New Business Members**

Marin Color Service  
 Planet Home Lending-Bill Hoopes

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



**Please support our Guild  
 Business Members:**

- Aaero 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 Color Service
- Marin Landscape Materials
- Marin Volvo/Saab
- Mclsaac Dairy
- Nave Enterprises
- Novato Builders Supply, Inc.
- Novato Grove Druids #113
- Pini Hardware
- Planet Home Lending-Bill Hoopes
- Trumbull Manor Inc.
- Valley Oak Wealth Management
- Valley Memorial Park Cemetery  
 & Funeral Home
- Zenith Instant Printing



The Guild had a booth at the Novato Art & Wine Event August 21st. They were pleased that so many visitors dropped by to look at the historic pictures. Seen from L to R - Visitor, Anne Russell and Jim Crumpler (Board Members).

### Nominations for Board of Directors of the Novato Historical Guild

The candidates listed below are recommended by the Nominating Committee to serve on the Board of Directors of the Novato Historical Guild for the years 2022 & 2023. The election will be held at the Guild's Membership meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2021

- |                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Gary Bramon     | Board Member & Museum Docent   |
| Michael Corlett | Board Member & Museum Docent   |
| Jim Crumpler    | Past President & Volunteer     |
| Kate Johnson    | Board Member & Speaker Series  |
| Barry Smail     | Vice President & Museum Docent |

2022 Board Meetings  
 Second Tuesday of the Month  
 Margaret Todd Senior Center  
 1560 Hill Road  
 Time:1:30 – 3:30 PM

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

Membership Meetings

March 12	10 – 11:30
June 18	10 – 11:30
Sept.10	10 – 11:30
Dec. 10	10 – 11:30

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 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.

**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.

**In Memoriam**

Alice Kidder  
 Jefferson Graves  
 Maureen Tresch  
 Milton Holloway  
 Susan Milano Ossinger  
 Joseph William Almeida  
 Lee Pogetto

The Guild Extends  
 Sympathy to

The Kidder family on the loss of  
 Alice Kidder

The Graves family on the loss of  
 Jefferson Graves

The Tresch family on the loss of  
 Maureen Tresch

Bettle Holloway on the loss of her  
 Husband, Milt Holloway

The Milano and Ossinger  
 Families on the loss of  
 Susan Ossinger

The Almeida and DeLong families on  
 the loss of  
 Joseph William (Bill) Almeida

The Pogetto family on the loss of  
 Lee Pogetto

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

The Novato Historian has an opening on the Editorial Board. If you like writing and/or editing this is the position for you. Please contact the Guild at [info@novatohistory.org](mailto:info@novatohistory.org) or

Ask for Kathryn at 415-328-2759

**Contact Us**

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

**Novato History Museum**  
 Manager: Susan Magnone  
 Museum phone: 415-897-4320  
 Email: [info@novatohistory.org](mailto:info@novatohistory.org)  
<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

- Student (full time) membership \$10 year
- Individual membership \$20 year
- Family membership \$30 year
- Patron membership \$100 year
- Supporting membership \$200 year
- Life membership, individual \$350
- Life membership, joint \$500
- Benefactor \$1000 year
- Business membership \$50 year
- Corporate membership \$1000 year
- Free for 90+

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



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



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## ◆ YOU ARE INVITED ◆

### General Membership Meeting ~ Novato Historical Guild

Saturday, December 11, 10:00 to 11:30 A.M.  
Hamilton Field History Museum—555 Hanger Ave., Novato

Hello Guild Members, WE'RE BACK! You are invited...

Our own Ray Dwelly will be presenting the compelling story of the Hamilton Field History Museum, from the early beginning to the present.

Hope you can make it, bring some friends. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Guild members and anyone interested in Novato history are welcome.

**Novato History Museum**  
**Hamilton Field History Museum**

**815 DeLong Avenue**  
**555 Hanger Avenue**

**(415) 897-4320**  
**(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