

# 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

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January —March 2022

The Novato Historian

Volume 46 Number 1

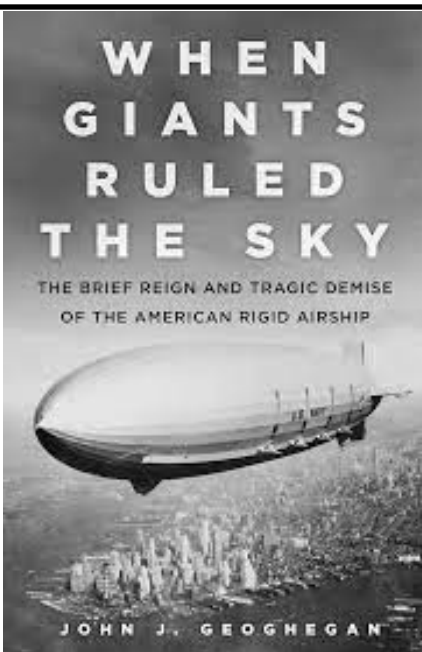


Ray Dwelly presenting the compelling story of the Hamilton Field History Museum back in December December's General Meeting. He and John Trumbull spoke about the four phases of the Hamilton Field History Museum.

1. The conception of having a museum at Hamilton Field.
2. The approval process, building inspections and planning.
3. The remodeling of the old fire station.
4. The museum opening May 2010.



The Guild presented Ray Dwelly with a plaque in recognition of his service to the Hamilton Field History Museum.



## The March Membership meeting is Saturday, March 12, 10-12

Nearly everything people think they know about airships is wrong. Few realize that prior to the Hindenburg disaster, airships transported passengers without a single casualty for more than 20 years, a record unmatched by any other form of transportation. *When Giants Ruled the Sky* tells the true but little-known story of the USS *Macon* (ZRS-5), the world's largest, most expensive and most technologically advanced airship of her day, and the four men responsible for conceiving, designing, building and flying her. In doing so it reveals how the airship came within a hair's breadth of replacing planes, trains and ocean liners as the dominant form of long-distance transportation and exactly what went wrong. It is a tale of physical courage, engineering acumen, ugly politicking and two egregious disasters.

The March Membership meeting is Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m.—12 at Novato City Hall. Author and NHG member, John Geoghegan, will be discussing his most recent book, *WHEN GIANTS RULED THE SKY: THE BRIEF REIGN AND TRAGIC DEMISE OF THE AMERICAN RIGID AIRSHIP* tells the little know story of the U.S. Navy's dirigible program of 1933-1935.

## The Novato Historian

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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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### 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

We can all agree that trying to call companies is very frustrating when you get a recording, not human a voice. This is true at both museums most days of the week. Docents are only at the museums for four hours on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. What should people do the other times? E-mail the organization at [info@novatohistory.org](mailto:info@novatohistory.org).

This e-mail address receives many requests per week. Some examples are as follows:

Pay Pal notifies the Guild when people pay their membership dues through PayPal.

The California Museum Association and American Association of State & Local Museums contact the Guild with notifications of conventions or special projects.

A request for a high resolution picture of Novato High School in 1958.

A question from someone who was born at Hamilton Air Force Base Hospital. Her birth certificate says "Hamilton, California" but research tells her that there is no Hamilton, California.

Someone took pictures of the demolition of the old Dairymen's Milling Co. building on Redwood Blvd. He wanted to know more about the history of the building. He was generous enough to send ten original photos (jpg).

Someone recently acquired 441 Wilson Avenue. They said they were told it was originally Guido Paladini's farm. They would like more information about the Paladini Family.

Several offers for working capital loans? Don't worry, the Guild did not take them up on the offers.

A request for information or photos of the 325<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Squadron.

A teacher from Rancho School would like to take her class on a field trip to the museum. The students are fifth graders. Due to COVID school closure in 2020 the third graders were unable to go on the Third Grade Tour.

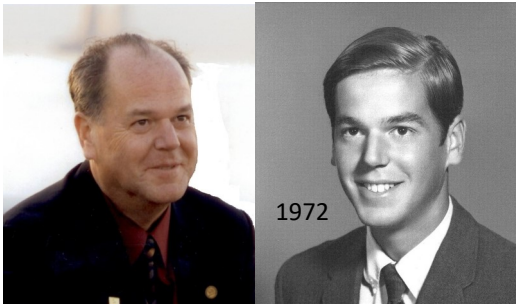
Someone would like to donate her mother's scrapbook. Her mother was president of the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, a national sorority.

A request for photos of San Marin Plaza prior to development. Susan Magnone, manager of the Downtown Museum, leads the group that responds to the many requests. Her assistants, Bill Damon and Sharon Azevedo, research the many requests unless they are related to Hamilton Field. In that case Ray Dwelly and Barry Smail respond. This e-mail address is also listed on the website.

Ground breaking of the New Life Church 1957





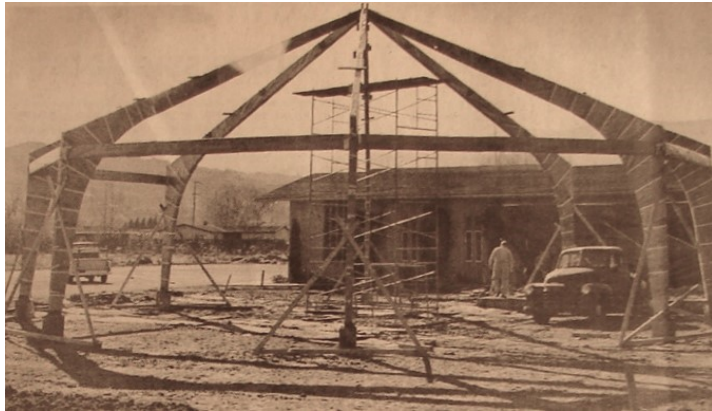


# Novato – 50 Years Ago

## (January, February & March 1972)

by Michael Read

Go to <https://novatoadvance-ca.newsmemory.com/>  
For 50 years ago stories weekly in the Advance



These laminated arches form the framework for the eight-sided sanctuary of Bethel Baptist Church being constructed at 1929 Novato Boulevard. The sanctuary would be built within a square building. The pastor's study was moved to the rear of the church to make room for the addition. The \$80,000 sanctuary building will have a seating capacity of 350. Members of the congregation will do most of the work, including the pouring of foundations and all the carpentry.

The newly elected officers of the Novato Boys' Club will be officially installed at a dinner to be held at Nero's restaurant on January 14, are: front row, left to right, Davd E. Milano, retiring president, who will become



chairman of the board of directors; Edward T. Ghirardo, president; and Harry W. Locke, first vice president. Rear row, left to right, Paul S. Scheiler, second vice president; Donald M. Shank, secretary; and Dave Moore, treasurer



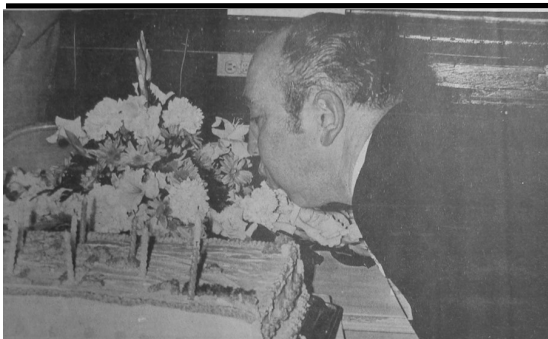
### Oliva Ranch Sprouts Townhouses

The six models of townhouses pictured here have been put up by Boise Cascade to show what Parkhaven Estates has to offer in the range of \$26,000 to \$28,000. The 60-acre site on the former Oiiva Ranch, fronting on Novato Boulevard, eventually is slated to "grow" a total of 214 units, but the first increment will be 57 units.

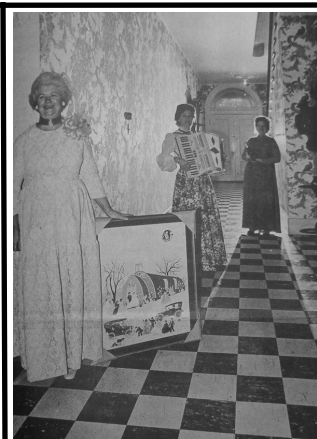


**FREWAY ROUTE-A** rough approximation of the route of the freeway looking north - This is view north of Reservoir Hill of freeway route as it crosses Olive Avenue (below brow of hill), Pinheiro Field (former Little League ball park), Atherton Avenue and the mudflats before rejoining Highway 101. Route crosses 101 to the west to sideswipe some more hills for additional fill.





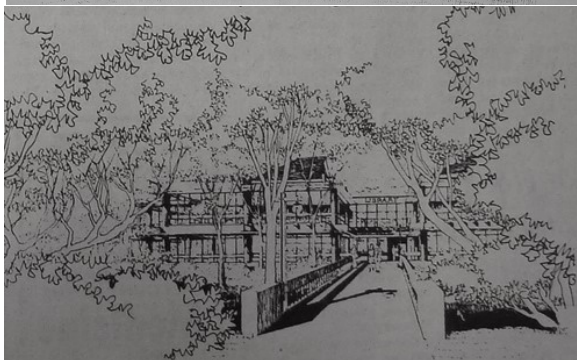
The city hall would celebrate its 12th birthday and at the birthday party the city council would inaugurate an annual "citizen of the year" award. The first award would go to Lee Wise, PG&E manager. Head of the Novato office since 1954, he has served on



the city's underground utilities committee, the plan review committee, and planning commission. Picture left is Mayor Joe G blowing out the candle and Lee Wise is on the right.

Girdline Follon Merrill, left, Novato's "Grandma Moses," poses with one of her primitive paintings, to benefit the Novato Boys' Club. The show would be held at the Novak mansion, seen here, and a tour of the mansion will be part of afternoon's activities.

There would be music by accordionist Myrle Dahl, center, Mrs. Jeri Kruse is at her right.



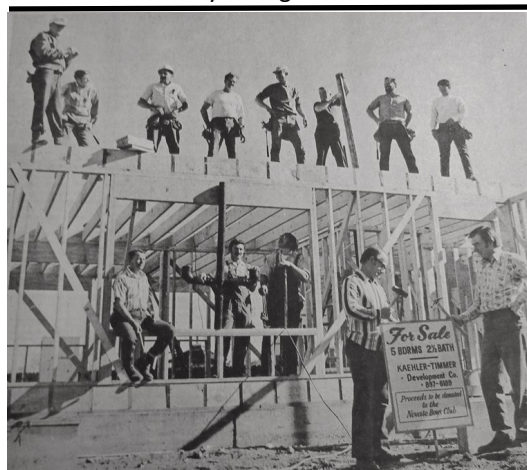
Indian Valley Colleges- what it will look like



Areas of cracked concrete floor at the Grant Avenue fire station was ripped up and new concrete was poured. The \$750 project it being done by Ghilotti Brothers of San Rafael.

Watching, from left, are Fireman John Demers, Fireman Tony Dent and Lt. Ray Dougherty.

1972



"Reub Kaehler's Dream House" at 3 Christopher Court, being built almost entirely at cost by contributed labor, craftsmen, building material suppliers and the "know how" of the prime contractor, Kaehler Timmer Development Company. Shown here are the

volunteer crew at work on the project. Upper row, left to right, Donald M. Shank, David E. Miiano, George M. Bernard, Paul Patocchi, Donald M. Jensvold, superintendent, Kenneth H. Cline, Bruce R. Scheiern and Silver Pascua. Front row, left to right, John L. Craig, William Thomas and Gilbert Villarreas. In the foreground are William A. Timmer, realtor, and Reuben W. Kaehler.



Nine of 11 candidates for election to the city council pose prior to drawing their names to determine sequence in which they will appear the in a Town Meeting Forum. In the center is the Rev. John H. Telfer who will act as

moderator. Left to right clock wise are: Anthony Gullotta, John Schoonover, Ed Ryken, Fred Ruegg, John N. Morrison, Mrs. Dorothy Young, Don Donovan, Jeff Bywater, and David Price Jones.

# Novato in the Movies

By Jim Gildea

In 1943 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox was filming **Happy Land** in Santa Rosa, California. Local resident and aspiring stage mother Maria Stepanovna Zakhernko appeared at the filming with her four-year-old daughter Natalia Nikolaevna Zakharenko. The child is not included in the movie credits, but she appears on screen for a few seconds, during which time she drops her ice cream cone. Four years and a few movies later, at the age of eight and now going by the name Natalie Wood, Natalia became a top child star via **Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street**. She was eventually nominated for three Academy Awards.

Most of us are interested if we learn that a movie will be filmed in our town. It is a chance to see celebrities and possibly, to appear on screen as an extra, even if none of our children become movie stars. No doubt dozens of Novatoans have had experiences with local movie productions. So what is the history of filming in Novato?

In 1911, movie star and mogul Bronco Billy Anderson moved some of his Essanay Studio operations to San Rafael, where they remained for six months or so. Reportedly the filming of his many short western movies took him as far north as Petaluma and Santa Rosa. Did he film himself at the head of a posse chasing desperados through then-unincorporated Novato? Unfortunately, no known record remains. <sup>(1)</sup>

There are a number of sources listing movies by filming location, but none appear to list any films made in Novato earlier than 1975. This is an interesting date because it just about coincides with the decommissioning of Hamilton Air Force Base (HAFB), and many of the subsequent films used HAFB (or related nearby military housing) as a location. The earliest on any list is 1975's **The Killer Elite**, and the use of Novato was limited to one scene at HAFB according to available information. It appears that the decommissioning of HAFB made Novato attractive to Hollywood. According to IMDb, an online database, there are 35 films that shot at least one scene in Novato. Many of these are largely unknown projects seen by almost no one. Most are described as shorts, some only a few minutes long. One example, **Out Of Time**, is described as an 18 minute film about a strange creature appearing at Sinaloa Middle School!

Another database, *filminamerica*, has slightly different information, adding the films **Want**; **Sibling Rivalry**; **Star Wars**,

**Return of the Jedi**; and **Star Trek IV**. The AFI website adds **Shattered**. If all of these are correct, there might be twenty full length productions, Hollywood and otherwise, credited with some filming in Novato.

Of all these, it appears that only two conventional full length Hollywood movies were filmed chiefly in Novato: **The Right Stuff** (1983) and **Radio Flyer** (1992).

## Radio Flyer

This 1992 film, shot in Novato in 1990, deserves first mention because it was not only shot in Novato, but also set in Novato. Narrator Tom Hanks<sup>(2)</sup> refers to the locality as Novato; there is a Novato police car;<sup>(3)</sup> the Novato Theater makes appearances; and a clipping appears from the fictitious Novato Independent newspaper. Other films, such as **The Right Stuff**, were filmed in Novato but set elsewhere.

For most of the movie, it is impossible to tell where the filming is taking place even though much of it was apparently on Norman Drive in Rafael Village. One scene is at a school which might well be Novato High School, and another appears to be by the old train station. According to one source, the fight scene that takes place in an open field near U.S. 101 is on the site which was, even then, in the process of being turned into Vintage Oaks Shopping Center.

As a film, **Radio Flyer** was not a success story. It had been started with another cast and another director in Southern California, then been shut down at an initial loss of at least \$5,000,000. A new director was hired, and he began scouting the West Coast for locations to shoot. Perhaps his search was not all that random or exhaustive because, according to one source, his mother lived in Bel Marin Keys. It was decided to cast Novato as itself, though the story was originally set in Pacoima.

Other than perhaps Hanks, the new cast did not include any real stars, but Lorraine Bracco had just finished her work on *Goodfellas*, which would bring her an Oscar nomination, and John Heard had recently finished playing the father in *Home Alone*, which would be a huge, unexpected success upon release. Elijah Wood was *Hobbit* sized, as a nine-year-old, but years away from *The Lord of*



Radio Flyer filming in Novato

Continued on page 6





Police cars used in the filming of Radio Flyer

the Rings. Adam Baldwin is a familiar face with more than a hundred credits on IMDb, but the director in **Radio Flyer** decided, for unknown reasons, not to film his face clearly in any of his many scenes. Oscar winner Ben Johnson was reliable as a kind-hearted old cowboy, though his character seems to be superfluous.

The movie was said to cost \$35,000,000, and ticket sales amounted to something over \$4.5 million, so the studio was not pleased with it. Critics seemed universally appalled by the formula of fantasy escapism as a remedy for child abuse.<sup>(4)</sup> The script went through various rewrites, at one point emphasizing special effects – reportedly with many complicated scenes filmed – but there were few special effects left in the final version. Whatever the difficulties, Novato played itself in a fully professional and convincing manner.

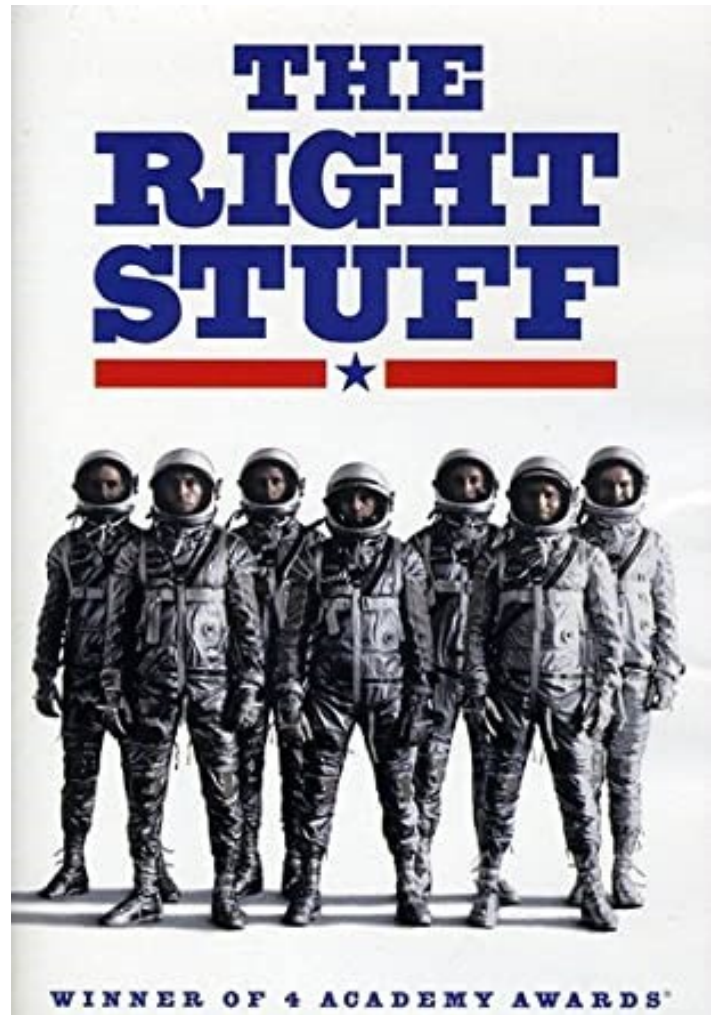
### The Right Stuff

While no part of **The Right Stuff** story is set in Novato, the filming in Novato may have been more extensive than for any other movie. According to [filminamerica](#), the bulk of the filming for the three hour and thirteen-minute movie was done at HAFB.

Watching the movie, it is difficult to verify that. Scenes inside a hangar, on the flight line, or even at the former military housing in Rafael Village seem as though they could be anywhere, which is probably the point since they aren't supposed to be in Novato. The locational anonymity of the scenes is a tribute to the cinematographer, or whichever specialist was responsible. The White House scenes were filmed at building 500, the extensive street scenes featuring Vice President Johnson and dozens of reporters at the military housing, and the Gus Grissom medal presentation in and around one of the Hamilton hangars. Evidence of Novato is nowhere to be seen.

You can sometimes spot local actors whose presence indicates that the movie was probably filmed in the Bay Area, though not

necessarily in Novato. In this case, local entertainment stalwart Scott Beach had a substantial role as scientist Wernher Von Braun. Beach's credits included *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *American Graffiti*, *Tucker*, and even George Lucas's first splash, *THX 1138*. It seemed as though he had the right of first refusal for any Bay Area filmings.



Like **Radio Flyer**, **The Right Stuff** went down in history as a money loser, though it may have continued to generate revenue over the years. The critics lavished praise on this film, and it won four Oscars. It was also nominated for Best Picture. But it did not sell and proved to be a disaster for some of its backers. Perhaps the public was just not that interested in the space program in 1983.<sup>(5)</sup> The book and movie have generated a recent **The Right Stuff** streaming series, so there continues to be interest in the topic. And perhaps added revenues. Also, like **Radio Flyer**, there were production complications on **The Right Stuff**. An entire script was written which almost completely omitted mention of test pilot Chuck Yeager, then the director rejected the script and oversaw a complete rewrite. The final movie could be characterized as Chuck Yeager and the Seven Dwarves, so the changes were considerable. It is also apparent that the final version spends almost no time on three of the seven astronauts. Perhaps three hours and thirteen minutes was, using a favorite line from the movie, “pushing the outside of the envelope.” Or perhaps some of the then-surviving astronauts were more co-operative than others.

Continued on page 7

In watching **Radio Flyer** and **The Right Stuff**, one cannot help but wonder how the simple film about two boys living in Novato cost \$35,000,000 and the expansive history of the space program came in at \$28,000,000, even acknowledging the impact of inflation. Put another way, the former involved the launching of a tricked out red wagon, and the latter the breaking of the sound barrier and the years-long effort to launch men into space.

#### Other films

Novato has been represented in successful franchises.

#### **Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)**

In the early scenes of this film, Indy and his entourage are chased through the streets of Shanghai, China by armed killers, and they arrive at Nang Tao Airport. They quickly exit their vehicle and make it to a waiting airplane. Nang Tao Airport is actually the area outside Hangar 3 at HAFB. According to one source, George Lucas and Steven Spielberg did cameo appearances in this scene.

#### **Star Trek**

At some point in Star Trek's history, either on TV or in film, we learned that Starfleet Command Headquarters is located in San Francisco. This would account for the fact that, according to sources, the old Fireman's Fund building in Novato appeared in the movies **Star Trek IV, The Voyage Home (1986)** and **Star Trek VI, The Undiscovered Country (1991)**. It may prove difficult to spot Novato in another **Star Trek IV** scene, as it was filmed underwater in the pool at COM Indian Valley.

#### **Star Wars VI Return of the Jedi (1997)**

The connection to this franchise is a little tenuous. According to one source, in the Special Edition version of this movie, there is a scene shot outside a Bel Marin Keys warehouse.

#### **The Godfather (1972)**

If this were a reliable credit, it would predate **The Killer Elite**. While the movie takes place on the East Coast, one scene was actually filmed in Ross, California, as a fill in for a town in New Hampshire. One source indicates that there is also a freeway shot filmed in Novato, or passing through Novato. But this seems to be an outlying unprovable assertion.

Other films of note:

#### **Howard the Duck (1986)**

Probably remembered as one of the colossal failures in all of movie History, and another example of the fact that nobody – George Lucas in this case – is going to have everything go right. Scenes were shot at Fireman's Fund and Blackpoint. The film was a financial failure, and a critical disaster. On the other hand, Howard, who began life as a Marvel Comics character, has found subsequent employment, appearing in

such Marvel Cinematic Universe films as **Guardians of the Galaxy**. So perhaps **Howard the Duck** could be included in the above category as a representative of a successful franchise.

#### **Tucker, The Man and His Dream (1988)**

Preston Tucker was a maverick auto producer who tried and failed to buck the big four American automakers. Reportedly, Francis Ford Coppola had wanted to make a film about Tucker since childhood. The film became possible when George Lucas signed on as executive producer. Perhaps indicating a lack of objectivity, at that time both Coppola and Lucas owned surviving Tucker cars. There was filming at HAFB. The movie got good reviews but lost money. Coppola's life-long fascination with Tucker's story did not seem to resonate with the public.

#### **Red Tails (2012)**

This is probably the most recent major Hollywood film to shoot in Novato. It is also noteworthy for being the last film released by Lucasfilm before the studio was sold to Walt Disney. According to sources, the airfield scenes were filmed at HAFB. The story was about the Tuskegee Airman – African American WWII fighter pilots. Lucas made it a personal project and spent years getting it into the theaters.

#### **Conclusion: Novato in films**

How many major Hollywood films have been shot, in whole or in part, in mid-sized suburban cities not located near Los Angeles? Novato probably has had more than its share. This is no doubt related to the attraction of a decommissioned Air Force base, the near proximity of George Lucas and Frances Ford Coppola and in one case, the residence of the director's mother. Perhaps Novato City Hall worked on attracting the industry.

The future is hard to predict. A number of major films shot some scenes in Novato during the 1980's and 1990's, but there has not been much since then. Perhaps the former HAFB has been remade to such an extent that it no longer fills the bill. And perhaps that era will prove to have been the high point for Bay Area filming, with Lucas and Coppola ebbing into retirement.

1. Essanay does have a museum in Fremont, California to commemorate the studio's post-San Rafael glory days in Niles.
2. Of the major cast Hanks may be the only one who had no scenes shot in Novato. It appears that all of his scenes were filmed at an airport, and, according to sources, some of the filming was at an airfield in Columbia, California.
3. Interestingly, the Novato police car looks no more like a real Novato police car than the radio flyer wagon does. Perhaps when your filming involves showing a police officer or car from the town where you are filming, you must go to great pains to make sure that local residents don't confuse the mock police for the real thing.
4. For a similar theme see **The Bewitchin' Pool, Twilight Zone**, Season 5, episode 36, 1964.
5. "If people don't want to go to the picture, nobody can stop them." Attributed to Samuel Goldwyn.



Filmed at the Marin Sonoma Fair Grounds (Petaluma Speedway)

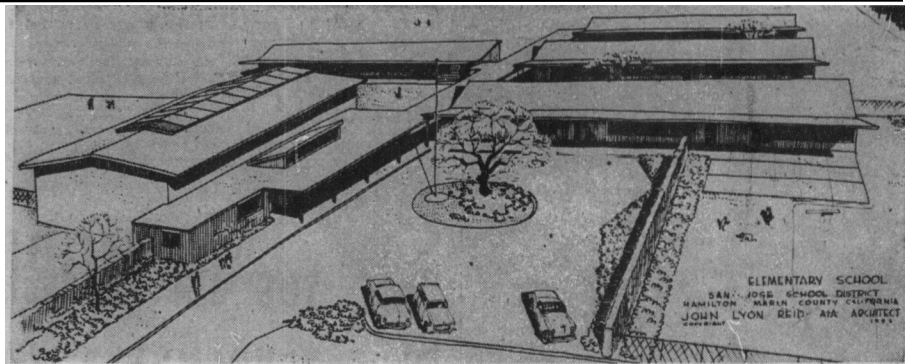


## Pacheco School

I did not spend my early childhood in Marin County. I spent those years in the West Indies, in Santo Domingo (Hispaniola). The capital then was Trujillo, named for the dictator, Rafael Trujillo. My brother was born there. When we returned to Los Estados Unidos, I learned to speak English and in 1952 we settled in Novato. My father was a sales engineer with Caterpillar Tractor. My mother taught elementary grades at Meadow Park School on Hamilton Field in what was then called the San Jose Unified School District." I did not receive schooling in Novato until I entered high school there in 1959.

My brother and I attended elementary school on Hamilton Air Force Base in classrooms that were formerly the BOQs for the WAFs - Bachelor Officers' Quarters for the Women's Air Force. There were a dozen or so of these quarters - wooden structures, some with stairs, scattered along what is now Crescent Road on Hamilton Field. First and second grades were held in the same classroom, taught by Miss Lane. Across the road looking down on the WAF BOQs, stood gracious two and three story tile-roofed Spanish style mansions, occupied by USAF Officers and their families. My brother and I were among the few kids schooled on the base whose parents were not in the military. Every morning, we were greeted by the Military Police, manning their posts in the huge Spanish colonial arched entry, the words "Hamilton Air Force Base" plastered across the top in huge letters. Even though my mother's car had special "permits" affixed to her front and back bumpers that signified she was a civilian employed on the base, we were stopped at the gate. The MPs would look in the front seat, they'd look in the back seat, following a quick 'ok' and hasty salute, we were allowed entry. My brother and I were in awe of the Military Police in their important uniforms and big Smokey the Bear hats as they waved us through.

By 4th grade, I transferred to the newly built Pacheco Elementary School in Ignacio. My fourth-grade, teacher



### PROPOSED NEW IGNACIO SCHOOL

Because of the large influx of families into the Ignacio area, especially at Raphael Village, the San Jose school district has grown steadily and will soon expand into a second building—pictured above. The 13 classroom structure is estimated to cost

more than \$300,000. It will relieve the present strain on the five classroom Meadow Park school, adjacent to Hamilton Air Force Base. The district hopes to open construction bidding on the school early next fall. Architect is John Lyon Reid.

was Olivia Pacheco, Ignacio Pacheco's grand-daughter. She was an excellent teacher and TOUGH. I especially remember her teaching us reading comprehension, which was hard for me. Miss Pacheco was in her 80s and died mid-semester. She is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, San Rafael.

Pacheco School was located in a sprawling housing development called Wherry (pronounced 'weary'). The Wherry Act was initiated by Senator Kenneth Wherry of Nebraska in 1949, to address the critical housing shortage facing thousands of military personnel returning from the war. Under the Wherry Program, homes were built on government-owned land on or near military installations across America. Every Wherry house was actually two residences attached to each other, each with their own carport. Every house was identical - a "cookie cutter" copy of every other house. The majority of Pacheco School students (kindergarten through 8th grade), were children of enlisted men. I clearly remember visiting and playing with my classmates after school and hearing them always respond to their fathers with "Yes, Sir." It always surprised me and I never forgot it. My brother and I did not address our dad as "Sir."

I would greatly appreciate any additional information on Pacheco School.

Thank you.

Susan R. Chipman

415-485-5565 – San Anselmo



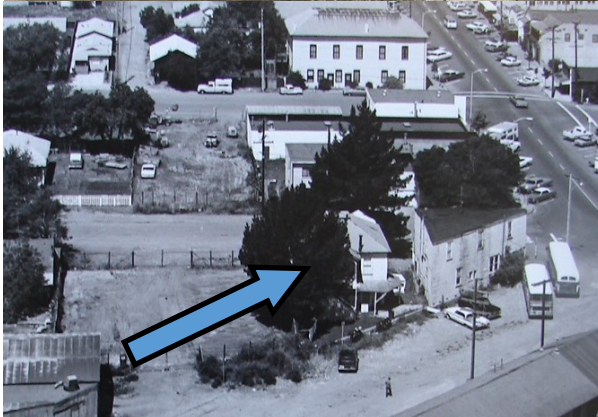


# NOVATO'S TREASURES

## Scott Street



#1 Guibbini built 1892—#2 Yelmorini built 1894—#3 Depot Saloon



By Michael Read

Abraham D. Yelmorini was born August 1859 in Switzerland. He would marry Maria Gilardi or Porta in 1888.

They had two children, Dora born in Novato in January 1891. She would have her ankle bone removed in 1904 as it was diseased and she died in 1910. Frank born in Novato July 24, 1892. He was a Veteran of World War I. He would never marry. He was a member of the Novato Druids Lodge. He was the owner of 705 Scott Ct. house at the time of his death in 1963.

Abraham came to the U.S.A. in 1880, living in Marin County most of that time. He worked on dairy ranches, in 1886 he was partners with L.D. Guibbini when the dairy was destroyed by fire, there was no insurance on the building. And at one time (1892) leased a dairy ranch from Senator F.C. DeLong. Disposing of his dairy he settled in Novato. He did have a vineyard on Lamont Avenue.

On June 14, 1888 Ij would report "Last week a Swiss named Abraham Yelmorini had the fingers of his right hand shorted somewhat by the knives of a mowing machine." Sept 18, 1891, from the Home and Farm Company Maria Yelmorini would buy a parcel of land (lots 1,2, 3 and 4 Block E) in the town of Novato. November 1894 we find A.D. Yelmorini would build his residence on Scott Street.

Sometime after this A.D. would add a saloon to the side of his house and called it the "Depot Saloon".

Joe Guibbini (a relative?) would build his house in February 1892 on lots 4, 5 and 6 Block E. This house disappears between 1945 and 1952.

The 1900 U.S. Census has Abraham as a saloon keeper. In the 1910 Census A.D. was a Saloon Keeper and a Liquor store owner and Frank his son, now 17, was a laborer at the Cheese factory. 1920 Census Abraham is a saloon keeper owner and Frank, merchant in meats. In 1925 A.D. is selling soft drinks.

Feb 1907 Henry Manzoni (Bob's Grandfather) would marry Lavorina Porta a niece of Maria Yelmorini who was living with the Yelmorini's in 1900's.

1910 Saloons with liquor licenses in Novato: F. J. Silva, E. R. Samuels, J. P.

Loustanau, A. D. Yelmorini, H. S. Edwards, Keating & De Borba, P. Nave, A. Dilena.

1908 A.D. had the Flatiron building built so passengers getting off the train wouldn't see any other saloons. A.D. Yelmorini would die August 30, 1937 at his home on Scott Street.





November 8, 1883 IJ: "San Jose school district is building a new school house. This district comprises the Pacheco ranch in Novato and has 25 scholars. The citizens are contributing largely and building the house without a tax."

## Welcome New Guild Members

**Novato Historical Guild  
Membership Report  
March 2022**

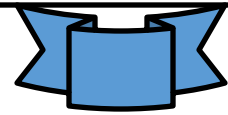
**Individual Membership**

**Family Membership**

**Life Membership**

**New Business Members**

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 McAgnon 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



**1931—"May Day" trip -**  
Frank Gailli with his truck, the student body of the school and teacher Miss Olivia Pacheco



1933 water tower



**What Happened to the Hamilton Field Water Tower?** By Michael Corlett  
On my way to docent duty at the Hamilton Field History Museum in mid-October of last year, I noticed scaffolding surrounding the water tower. Later that day I drove to the site. An employee of the contractor informed me that the tower was being demolished and that their contract to do the work was with the US Coast Guard.  
The water tower was built as part of the Hamilton Army Airfield in the early 1930s. After the base was closed in 1975, the land where the tower was located became the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard.  
After contacting the Coast Guard Public Affairs office in Alameda, they forwarded a Press Release that noted in part that: "The tower and tank were not built to modern seismic codes and the tank is coated with lead-based paint that is deteriorating..."  
After demolition the area will be fenced, tested for hazardous materials and debris, and removed according to state and federal requirements.  
Much of the former Hamilton Base was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1998. However, the acreage where the water tower resided was not included in the Historic District boundaries. The demolition was completed in November of last year and the tower now becomes a memory of how things used to be.



2022 Board Meetings  
 Second Tuesday of the Month  
 Margaret Todd Senior Center  
 1560 Hill Road  
 Time:1:30 – 3:00 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 11	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

Paul D. Terrell  
 Honora “Pat” U’Ren  
 Thomas A. Brady

The Guild Extends Sympathy To:

The Terrell family on the loss of Paul D. Terrell I

The U’Ren family on the loss of Honora “Pat” U’Ren

The Brady family on the loss of Thomas A. Brady

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

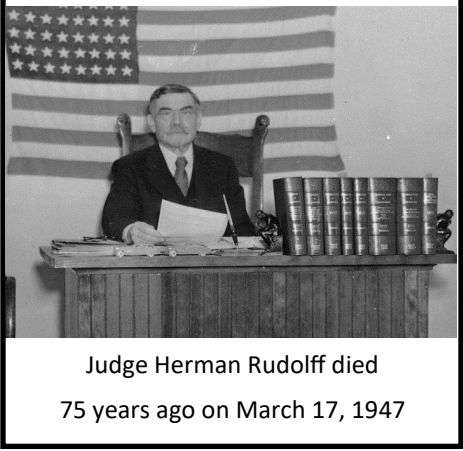
The Novato Historian has an opening on the Editorial Board. If you like writing and/or editing this is the position for you. Please contact the Guild at [info@novatohistory.org](mailto:info@novatohistory.org) or

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, March 12, 10:00 to 11:30 A.M.

**In person meeting**

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

The March Membership meeting is Saturday, March 12, 10 -11:30 a.m. at the Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Ave., Novato.

Author and NHG member, John Geoghegan, will be discussing his most recent book, *WHEN GIANTS RULED THE SKY: THE BRIEF REIGN AND TRAGIC DEMISE OF THE AMERICAN RIGID AIRSHIP* tells the little know story of the U.S. Navy's dirigible program of 1933-1935.

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

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

**815 Delong Avenue**  
**555 Hangar 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