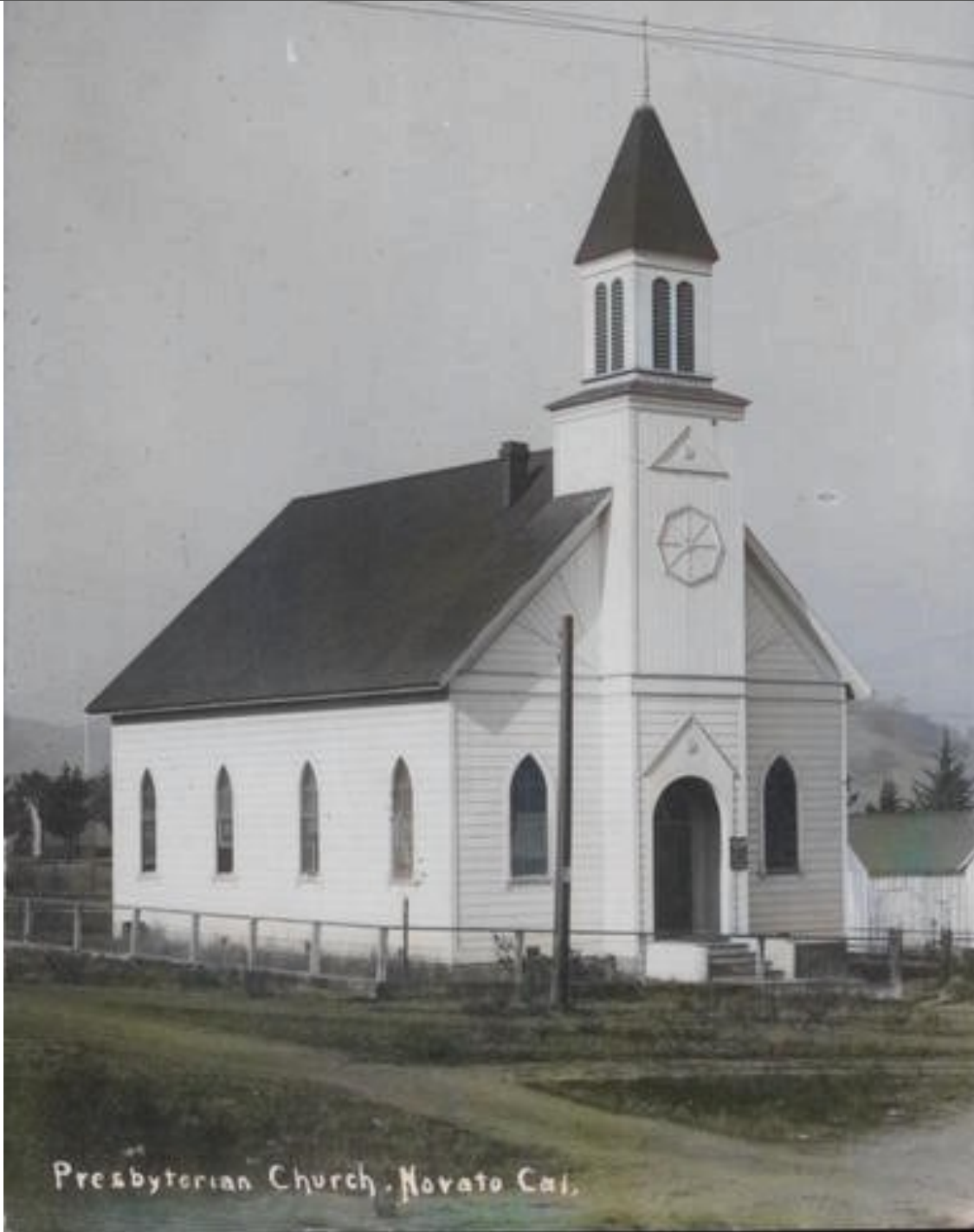


The Novato Historian

Summer 2023

Volume 47 Number 2



President's Corner

New Exhibit—Then & Now

Hamilton - Work Begins

Novato in 1891

Novato—50 Years Ago

Blodgett Lane

Spring General Meeting

Brothers Nave and The Nave Patrol

Novato Citizens of the Year

General Meeting June 17

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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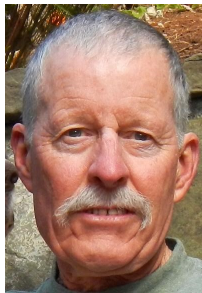
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Drew Bendickson

Address Changes

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President's Corner

Jim Crumpler

President, Novato Historical Guild

Hope you all enjoyed our March Speaker, Scott Fletcher reading from his new book, "Moments in

Marin History, Familiar Tales and Untold Stories. "Scott did a terrific job sharing stories of Marin history that I am sure many attendees hadn't heard before. If you're interested in Scott's book, it's available at The Marin History Museum in San Rafael or from Amazon.

The speaker for our June meeting is Marcus Combs, retired Park Ranger for the National Park Service. Marcus will be sharing some of his experiences as Bay Area Park Ranger and discussing the making of San Francisco.

I'm always amazed when I check out the Real Estate section of the Sunday IJ to see what homes in Novato are selling for. Back in April, I was really surprised to find the home that I had grown up in in the 1950's had just sold for \$900,000! My parents had purchased this "brand new," two-bedroom, one bath, 890 sq. ft. home in 1950 for \$9,000! If I had only hung onto it.

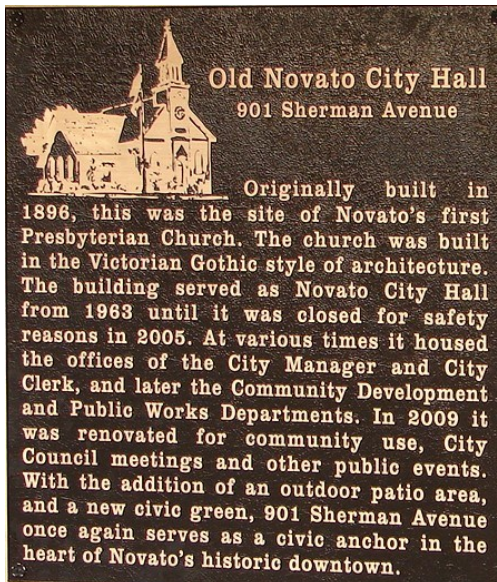
The Novato History Museum Relocation Project to the Simmons House is moving right along. At the time of this writing, early April, the Project appears to be half way to its goal of \$2,000,000 million.

There are certainly many obvious reasons why this move is an easy decision. One of these reasons involves the "Third Grade History Tours," undeniably one of the best projects that the Guild provides. Generations of Novato third graders have enjoyed this historic field trip. Laurie O'Mara and her talented staff do a wonderful job of getting the Third Graders of Novato excited about the history of the town that they live in. When a class of third graders arrive at the Museum they are divided in half. Half staying to tour the Museum and the other half going with Laurie to tour Historic Down Town. Laurie begins her tour by taking her students across "busy DeLong Avenue." Even though there is a traffic light at the crossing, this is still worrisome. (Roland Fuetter, a guild volunteer, was hit a few years ago while crossing DeLong in order to put up Christmas lights at the Museum.) When Laurie finishes the down town tour, she must return the students back to the Museum by recrossing busy DeLong. Then Laurie must repeat this whole routine again with the other half of the Third Graders. I'll

certainly be much happier after we move to the Simmons house and Laurie will just have to take the kids "around the block!" A big THANKS to all our members, volunteers and docents for supporting the Guild... we wouldn't be here without you!
Jim

Front Cover

One of the oldest and best pictures of the Old Presbyterian Church. For more information on this building go to our web site: NovatoHistory.org/historian Winter Issue 2009



New exhibit at the Novato History Museum Then and Now

Take a pictorial walk down Grant Avenue to see the way it was one hundred years ago and the way it is today. What has changed and what has stayed the same? There is also a display of the “in” items from 75+ years ago. The Novato History Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 12-4.



Then and Now exhibit.



Ron Vela and Mike Silva putting up the exhibit.



The exhibit team is Mike Silva, Sheila Brossier, Dee and Ron Vela.

Hamilton— Work Begins At Last

Cont. from Spring 2023 Historian

By Ruth Wampier

The first contract let was for driving piling and making load bearing tests. Among the first requirements were water, fuel, and power. The Municipal Water District and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company were only awaiting authorization to start the necessary work.

Bids for the first projects were called for at the end of May 1932, to be opened on 20 June. The first building on the field was a temporary headquarters for Captain Nurse, afterwards used as a chapel. On 20 June, Captain Nurse worked all night opening more than a million dollars' worth of bids. The intense interest of the community was evidenced by the crowd that packed the supervisors' chambers to watch the procedure.

To save time, the Chief of the U.S. Construction Service had come to Fort Mason to approve the bids and let the contracts rather than having the matter delayed by sending the papers to Washington.

At its peak, construction was expected to require about 800 men. Hundreds of workers had already registered in the hope of getting a job. Most of those hired were from Marin County.

Rapid progress was made once work began. An estimated period of two to three years would be required for completion of the base.



By the middle of 1932, excavation for the foundations of many buildings was underway. The flight line area was being graded, road work was well along, a railroad spur into the base was about half done, and materials for construction were pouring into the base. By mid-October, two overhead bridges, the railroad track, the gas fueling system, the entrance road, and the runway grading were complete. Work on the pumping station had started. At the beginning of 1933, work was underway on one of the 200-man barracks, twelve officer and five double non-commissioned officers' quarters, a hangar, a shop, and the paint warehouse. Total cost of these contracts was \$678,600. Work was soon to start on the street lighting system and a steel water tower. (An interesting sidelight on the water tower construction was told to the historian in 1964 by Colonel Nurse. A beautiful water tower had originally been designed for Hamilton Field but could not be built for the lack of funds. Later, when he built Hickam Field in Hawaii, he was able to build the tower which he had wanted to build at Hamilton Field.)

Continued on next page



The other interesting event was the transplanting of a 40-foot cedar tree from Mather Field. During the planting of the tree in the "Great Circle" at Hamilton Field, Captain Nurse's wife, Mary, was present. The tree afterwards came to be called "Mary's tree." Captain Nurse wired this beautiful tree for Christmas lighting, and it became a cherished part of Hamilton Field's Christmases.

Public Works Funds Become Available.

The \$5,000,000 needed to complete Hamilton Field had not all become available because of the hard times the country was experiencing. In fact, only about \$2,000,000 had actually been turned over for construction in 1933. After the election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a public works program was initiated to provide some of the jobs so desperately needed. A portion of the appropriation was to be used to improve military facilities.

Hamilton Field was allotted \$3,698,302 which went a long way toward completing the facilities required. By the end of 1933, the payroll had reached about \$30,000 weekly. Although the wages paid to individuals were small -- fifty cents an hour for unskilled labor -- the income meant hope to the individual families and life for the civilian economy generally. The black gloom of depression was definitely being lifted.



With money and men at work, progress on the base was rapid. By the end of 1933, paved aprons, hangars, roads, the water and gas system, a garage, the boundary fence, and the sewage were nearly complete and many other structures were well advanced. The final portions of the officers' quarters and the headquarters building were being started. (During an interview in 1964, Colonel Nurse told the historian an interesting fact in connection with the headquarters building. Before the concrete steps to the building were in place, he had put a large box containing a variety of mementos of the field under the steps. He felt sure that the box was still there as it could not be reached without removing the steps.)

The First Training Is Conducted

A squadron from Crissy Field initiated training at Hamilton Field when they conducted gunnery training on 21 February 1933. A newspaper of the day was much impressed with the performance of the planes which "power dived toward the field, released a stream of machine gun bullets, and swooped up out of sight into low hanging clouds."

Reflecting the general belief that the main business of the air arm was to support ground forces, the paper described what would have happened if the bullets had been used against ground troops. "The dramatic attack revealed, according to unofficial reports, the tremendous value of fighting planes when pitted against slow moving ground forces in unprotected areas. Whole imaginary columns of men were mowed down under the leaden hail which streamed from the planes' machine guns."



Marines deploying through a field in Navy sham battle near Hamilton Field. The maneuvers were aimed at the capture of a theoretically strategic point, strongly defended, and were successfully carried out in the sight of thousands of interested spectators from the bay district.

An interesting comment in the article quoted above was that the gunfire was directed by radio "advices" from a truck stationed nearby.

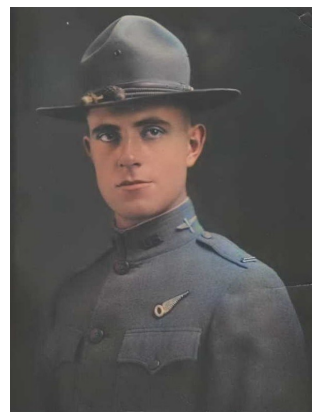
When the 93d Observation Squadron from Crissy Field tried to conduct bombing practice at Hamilton Field a short time later, they ran into a very unusual problem. Razerback hogs ate the targets before the squadron could make use of them.

Reservists of the 316th and 367th observation squadrons also used Hamilton Field in 1933 to practice parachute jumps, combat formations, and "the Army's latest science of flying."

The First Troops Arrive

The 7th Bombardment Group was scheduled to move to Hamilton Field early in 1934. In July 1933, a detachment of service personnel from the 70th Service Squadron was transferred from March Field to Hamilton Field to start preparations for the bombardment group.

Captain Don Hutchins was placed in command of these troops, becoming the first base commander of Hamilton Field. The facilities available to these Army personnel were among the finest to be found at any military base.



Captain Don Hutchins

The detachment from the 70th Service Squadron was followed 2 December 1933, by the remainder of the squadron. As Army personnel actually began to live on the field, interest in the military function of the base increased.

The First Tactical Units Arrive

Interest in the use of the field by occasional visitors such as those mentioned above was mild compared with the excitement when the 7th Bombardment Group arrived. These were the men and the planes for whom the field had been built.

Although Hamilton Field was still under construction, the War Department had issued orders on 9 October 1934 for the movement of the 7th Bombardment group from March Field to Hamilton Field. The move was to take place about 30 November. Prior to date, Major C.L. Tinker, group commander, led a flight of 15 Martin bombers from March Field to Hamilton Field on a test flight. Though not all facilities were complete, he found that the field could support the group.

On 1 December 1934, a flight of 24 Martin B-12 bombers arrived from March Field without mishap although a cadet pilot had to make a forced landing and await repairs before proceeding.

The original plan had been for the bombers to carry their full crew, but this plan had been abandoned when the planes were found to be defective in certain components. Temporary "grounding" orders were relaxed enough to permit a lone pilot to bring in each of the planes. The first flight was followed a few days later by a flight of six bombers which also made the trip safely.

The remaining group personnel came by train, arriving on 4 December. Included in the 7th Bombardment Group were the 9th, 11th and 31st bombardment squadrons. A total of 47 officers, 1 warrant officer, 30 cadets, and 440 enlisted men were assigned. Arrival of these men swelled the base population to 89 officers and cadets and 655 enlisted men. Major Tinker assumed command of the base with Captain Hutchins becoming executive officer.

Moffett Field was under construction at the same time as Hamilton Field, but there was some doubt as to the value of the dirigible for which the base had been built. The San Francisco Examiner paper claimed that the advance party, presumably the flight led by Major Tinker, had been dissatisfied with the base on two counts; 1) the field was below sea level at high tide, and, 2) the west side and a



portion of the north were surrounded by a series of sloping hills which would make landing uncomfortable in fair weather and extremely dangerous in the wet season.

Dedications Are Held

Lieutenant Hamilton Is Honored

On 3 March 1935, the American Legion, Fifth District, dedicated a bronze plaque honoring Lieutenant Hamilton for whom the field had been named. The plaque was set in a large boulder brought to light during excavation and the boulder was placed at the main gate. (Later, when this gate was torn down and a new entrance built in 1942, the plaque was placed in a post engineer warehouse where it remained for two years. The base historian discovered the plaque in November 1944, and thought his efforts, it was reset in the base of the flagpole at the headquarters building.)

In all the haste to build the base and to get the bombardment group settled upon it, no one seemed to have thought about dedicating the base. This oversight was remedied on 12 May 1935, when formal dedication ceremonies were held. Thousands in attendance were in full agreement with Brigadier General Arnold when he said, "Hamilton Field stands today as the most modern and best equipped, up-to-date military airfield in the United States."

Captain Nurse Departs

Captain Nurse had made good use of the funds available to build a beautiful and efficient base. In order to complete all the structures he had planned for the field, an additional sum of \$790,250 was needed. Among the buildings which were not built until a later date were the post exchange, service club, post theater, gymnasium, bakery, chapel, and school. Another half million dollars was needed to increase the landing areas of the flight line and to provide a fire prevention sprinkling system for the hangars.

In May, 1935, the War Department issued orders transferring Captain Nurse to Hawaii where he was to construct Hickman Field, a \$10,000,000 project. Both the civilian and the military community honored him before his departure in June 1935. Community leaders presented him with a testimonial scroll and a brass plaque was installed at the Hamilton Field Officers' club as a tribute for his fine work. The best testimonial, however, was the beautifully designed and well-constructed base he had brought into being on the former Marin Meadows.



Life in Novato—March 1891

Novato and the East Side
March 12, 1891 Marin Journal

Miss Marion Kershaw of S.F. is a guest of Mrs. Frank Valencia at the Home Ranch in Ignacio.

Hunters from S. F. continue to make a relentless warfare on all the diminutive songbirds, whose cheerful notes delight the early riser. The killing of these warblers ought to be made a felony.

Before the late rains, the cows belonging to the various dairies in the county had to keep on their feet the live-lone day to get enough food to satisfy their hunger. For the first time during the past week, they have been observed to be down a portion of the day, the rapidly growing herbage enabling them to get their fill in half the time heretofore required. When the rains came, the price of bran, in a single week, took a tumble from \$26.50 a ton to \$15.50. butter has met with a corresponding decline from 40 cents to 24 cents per lb.

Barney Riley, the well-known donkey impersonator, has been afflicted with a severe attack of la grippe, temporarily impairing his vocal powers.

During the high water, salmon trout and other fish have been running up all the small creeks having their source in the Coast Range. Last week John K. Lucas caught 10 large sized salmon trout in Santa Margarita Creek. Judge J. Q. A. Haven and his sons caught as many more in Novato creek.

Lovers of the succulent vegetable, who had begun to despair of seeing any mushrooms this season, were surprised last week by a bountiful crop, which made its appearance on the Ferris Meadows. Thirteen boxes were shipped to the city from this ranch in a single day and sold at fancy prices. Dr. Lando, one of the most generous hearted men in Marin Co. stalked over the marshes in gum boots for hours to dispatch to his friends, a basket of fungus that would have delighted the stomach of a Roman Emperor, besides serving up to some casual guests, a royal dinner cooked in French style. Mr. Peter Moran gathered up a huge basket of the delightful manna, and likewise remembered your correspondent in his prayers.

Senator DeLong spent last Sabbath with his family at the home ranch.

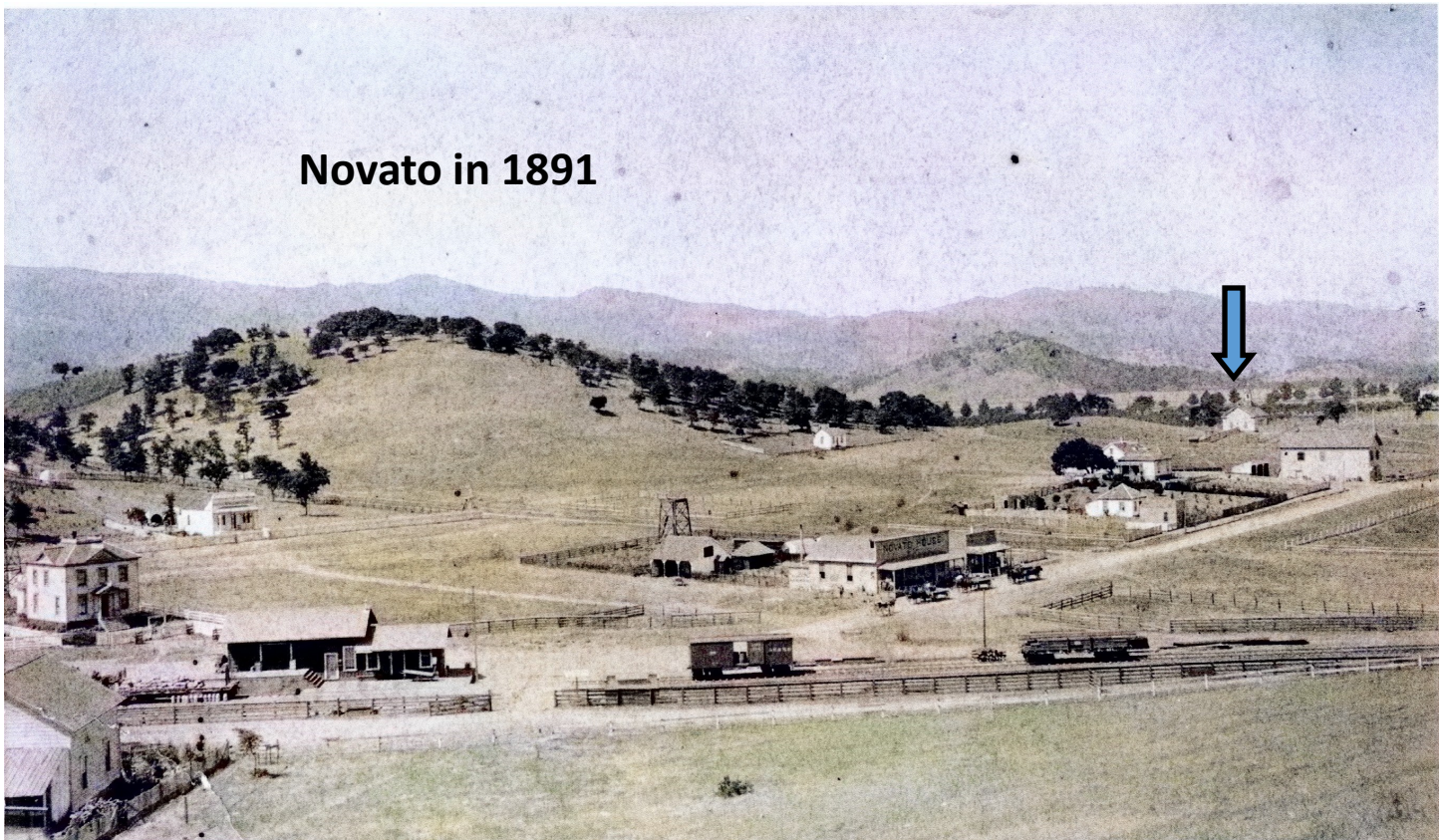
620 gallons of milk are shipped daily to San Francisco from Novato station. A creamery will be in operation in the near future.

Mr. A. Timony has invented a new safety tie strap for a fractious horse. He drives the forward axletree up against a post and then stops and is sure to find his horse in the same spot when he is ready to pursue his journey.

The San Jose public school reopened on Monday last with 23 pupils in attendance: Miss Phelan principal.

Henry Ledger, a well-known resident of Novato, is hunting seals in Behring Sea. S. M. Johnson, another Novato boy also sailed for the Arctic on the schooner Henry Dennis.

On Sunday last a half dozen tramps encamped on the Miller Creek near the Dixie school house, and devoted the day to



Judge Haven's two story house is to the left, The Novato Hotel is in the center and A.D. Scott's store is too the right. Blue arrow shows the location of the town's school.

washing their underclothing, cooking, smoking, and reading the daily newspapers.

Your correspondent, who recently made a flying trip over the county road as far as Novato, saw every indication of prosperity for the ranchers and dairymen of the southern portion of the county. A gentleman who has traveled extensively throughout the State regards the outlook in Marin County for the coming year as better than in any other county he has visited. The early sown grain is looking remarkably well; especially is this true on the Miller ranch, Alonzo Kynoch's, Wm. Kynoch and Blodgett's ranch, Neilson's, DeLong's, De Bourba's, and many others we might mention.

The Ferris plains, as far as the eye can reach, are covered with cattle in good condition.



The enterprising citizens of Novato have placed a new bell in the cupola of their schoolhouse and erected a handsome flag-staff on the heights near the point of rocks. They have also presented the school with a regulation U. S. flag of large dimensions, for all of which they deserve great credit. It is to be hoped that they will not cease their exertions until a new fence and gate of modern style of architecture replaces the present antediluvian structure in front of the school premises.



Novato has improved wonderfully during the past year. The Catholic Church recently erected on the lot in the old town, donated by Mrs. Scown, would be a credit to a much larger community. It is handsome and commodious, and complete in all its appointments. Two beautiful statues of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary, on either side of the chancel, were imported from France. All the other church decorations are of

the choicest character. Of the original indebtedness of the parish, amounting to \$3,700, \$2,200 has already been wiped out. Mrs. Velasco and daughter, Mrs. Valencia, were the chief donors.

Among the liberal contributors to the building fund have been the Swiss and Portuguese residents of the town.

A visitor at Novato found Adolph Scown, a member of the Farmers' Alliance, Adolph Stohr, meat merchant. Jas. Nugent, the champion coon exterminator, and Jack Connell, J. P., playing whist in the open air, each one provided with an enormous umbrella to shield his head from the rays of the noon-day sun. **The new town has grown to be quite a hamlet, in which A. D. Scott's store and residence loom up conspicuously.** A hall on the upper floor of the store is conveniently adapted for social gatherings and public meetings. Among the most frequent visitors to Novato are Mr. Thompson of S. F. and his accomplished wife.

Judge Haven, since the destruction of his former residence by fire, has built a handsome two-story 12-room house, surrounded by a beautiful flower garden.

Constable Geo. Hyatt has a pretty residence on the main street. A number of new business houses have sprung up in the new town, to which reference will be made in a future issue.

Prof. Enlow, the principal of the Novato school, enjoys an enviable popularity.

Sunday last our efficient District Attorney, J.W. Cochrane, and brother, made a brief visit to the town.

Senator West and Mr. Halloran have taken their departure from Novato.

Mr. Richard Connell has charge of the store formerly conducted by Adolph Scown.

Mr. Jas. Nugent continues to make war on the coon family, which diversion occupies his attention at least three nights in the week. He averages four coons a night. During the daytime he has been engaged in plowing on the Black Point ranch. He starts out at an early hour in the morning with his favorite hunting dogs, Sport, Juneau, Sam, Rover, and Mustache and by the time he readies his field of operations he is joined by an army of roving dogs of high and low degree.

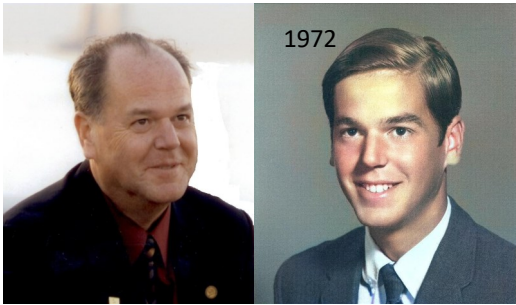
Mrs. Velasco has built a model dairy-house, one of the best in the county, on the ranch occupied by Mr. Frank Foster.

The public roads in Novato township are in excellent condition owing to the efficient work performed by ex-Roadmaster Sutton. Huge piles of gravel are to be seen heaped up at various points on the road, to be utilized by his successor.

Ex-Constable Bob Faggiano has sown 50 acres of grain on the Black Point Ranch. His son, Jas. Faggiano, is an efficient clerk in the store of Mr. A. D. Scott.

Mr. Washington Libbey is back at his old stamping ground.

Mr. J. N. Flint, former teacher at the public school at Novato, recently visited the place, and found each one of his pupils grown a head taller during his absence. An old-timer never brings up at Scown's without recalling to mind Peter McKenna, the blacksmith and Scottish bard, sitting on the front porch with "Senator," and reciting for hours in verse the adventures of Robin Hood.



Novato – 50 Years Ago

(April, May & June 1973)

by Michael Read

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



The venerable IDESI Hall on Sweetser Ave stood starkly naked after it was stripped of its encircling cloak of cottonwood and poplar trees. About 12 trees, half of them said to be of heritage size, got the ax.



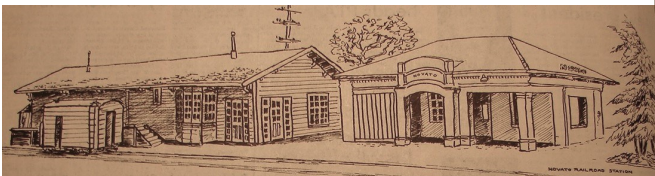
Lew Jones Construction Company finally put a top on the new Rowland Avenue overpass on Highway 101.



Making the town safe for democracy—The Nave Partola marchers along the home front.



A big group of riders line up in center of the ring before judge as others are dismissed in an English equitation class at Novato Horseman.



Novato Railroad Station as seen by Novato artist Barbara Murphy.



This was the scene on the east side of Grant Avenue where the third annual Oldtown Festival and Art Show were held.

Blodgett Lane

George Lewis Blodgett was born Oct. 29, 1843 in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts.

He was 4 years old when his mother Sarah Swallow (1806-1847) died at the age of 41. Sometime in the late 1860's he left Tyngsborough for Marin. His father John (1807-1882) would never leave his hometown.

1870 we find George working in San Rafael has a dairy laborer for Joseph Cummings. By 1871 he was registered voter in Novato as was a dairyman.

September 23, 1880 IJ would report that George E. Ring had sold his dairy business on the Salvador Pacheco ranch to G.L. Blodgett.

1887 George has 80 cows and is in charge of one of F.C. DeLong's ranches.

1888 George was elected school trustee in the San Jose district along with Ben Pacheco and Frank Valencia. He would also go back for a visit of his hometown for the first time.

He would run for Supervisor in 1894 as a Republican.

1895 we also know he was running the ranch on Mt. Burdell because James Nugent was the manager of the Blodgett ranch.

1898 George and Geo. R Ring would buy the McLaughlin ranch for \$7,100. He was also one of the few framers making butter, and would become famous in this area for his butter.

Oct. 9, 1903 Petaluma Daily: George Blodgett leased his ranch northwest of town to Frank Pierera, who took possession on October 1st. Mr. Blodgett will remain in Novato and take life easy.

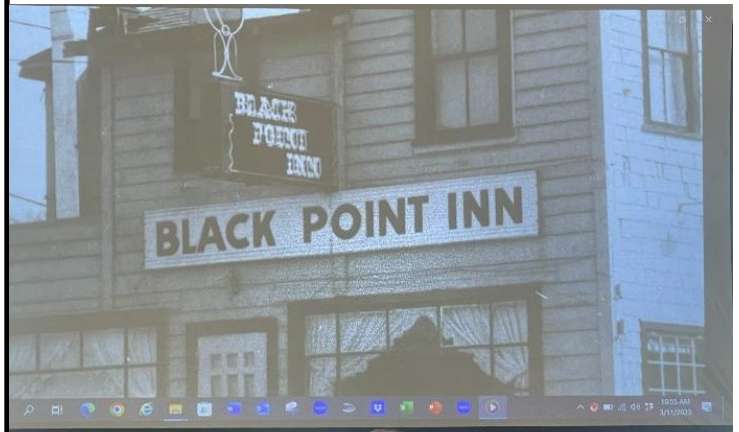
Sept 26, 1907 IJ: "Novato has lost another of her good citizens. George L. Blodgett died at his home in that place last Thursday, September 19. He had been in poor health for a long time, and a year or more ago had a cancer removed from his cheek.

Mr. Blodgett came to this county about 30 years ago, and for a time worked for George Ring on a dairy ranch near Novato. Later he formed a partnership in the business with Mr. Ring. He spent his years on a ranch, until about two years ago, when he moved into town.

He never married, lived a life of a bachelor, and succeeded in accumulating property worth perhaps \$30,000 which he left by will to be equally divided between his brother and sisters.

"Mr. Blodgett was a sufferer from a cancerous affection, which developed alarmingly some four years ago. Repeated operations by specialists on the neck glands were resorted to and somewhat stayed the ravishes of the disease, but the end was only a matter of time, and came peacefully Thursday evening."

Spring General Meeting



March General Meeting drew a crowd of over 85 members (middle picture) to hear speaker Scott Fletcher, Marin Historian, discussing his new book "Moments in Marin History: Familiar Tales and Untold Stories" (top picture) and Patrick MacLeamy speaking about the new Novato Museum (bottom picture).

Brothers Nave and The Nave Patrola

By Michael Read

The Nave brothers –Bill, Bob and Rich—were serious businessmen who had operated Nave Lanes and the Nave Shopping Center. But they were also certainly Marin County’s best-known zany trio.

For many years spectators at parades have seen the brothers and other members of the Nave family at their comic best. This story is about how the Brothers Nave evolved into the Nave Patrola.

Kneeball

December 1959 IJ

“What may resemble a crapshooters’ convention will take place on the football field of the College of Marin when a gang of Marin County ‘athletes’ will participate in the second annual Kneeball Game.

To be called the “Redwood Bowl,” or better yet, the “Nut Bowl,” the participants in this contest will play football – on their knees.

All for the benefit of the March of Dimes, the game’s motto will be: “strong legs crawl so that weak ones may walk.”

Captains of one team, to be known as the “Kentfield Swamp rats,” are Ken Corsiglia and Gordon Tovani. The Brothers Nave, (Bill, Bob, Rich) will head the other club known as the Nave Zockers.

Last year, before a roaring crowd of about 30, these teams battled to a scoreless tie. This year the sponsors hope to attract a larger audience, since the cause is a worthy one, Marin County March of Dimes. Loads of entertainment will be on hand to liven up the proceedings, such as marching bands and free pony rides for the kids. An added attraction will be the first 1960 appearance of Phil Cramp’s “Las Gallinas Sanitary Non-Marching Band.”

To lend a bit of class to the proceedings, the “Voice of Kezar” will handle the PA system. That of course, is Dave Scofield. He’ll be assisted by NBC’s Bill Guyman.

And while the bands play “Mammy,” the athletes will make like Al Jolson doing the mamba, running, tackling, blocking, passing, etc. on their knees.

Naturally, the football field will be reduced in length and width. Punts and kickoffs will be executed by throwing the ball because they found it just too difficult to kick with their knees. Six men per team. A tackle is completed when any part of the ball carrier’s upper torso, except the arms, touch the ground. They would play the game in 1960 again to a scoreless tie and in 1961, the Brothers Nave – who got their early training as altar boys – won 12-0. With a crowd of only 98 people, this was the last kneeball game.”

Italian Golf Carnevale

The Marin Golf and Country Club’s annual event would start in 1961. The Carnevale, in which all players wore costumes and was a pretty good golf bargain when you consider that \$15 entry fee included green fees, a new golf cap, a bottle of vino, all the beer you can drink, lunch and dinner. The Brothers Nave, Bill jr., Bob and Rich, appeared in Roman getup and that’s what they spent the day doing – roaming through every rough



1961 INVASION? - Flying the American flag but dressed as invaders from another nation, the Nave Brothers found the gondola convenient on one of the Marin Golf Club’s water holes in the “Italia Carnevale” tournament. Seems Bill Nave (right) had one of his tee shots go into the drink, so the brothers set forth to retrieve it. Lending a hand with paddles are Bob (aft) and Rick.



1962 three Monks arrive for their annual golf tour



1963—WELCOME, PRIMO—The Brothers Nave dressed as men from outer space and won first prize as best dressed foursome at the Golf Carneval at Marin Golf Club. The Naves—Rich, Bill and Bob, from left—were greeted by their Italian ambassador from outer space, Ray Amonini, as they arrived at the links in a helicopter.



From left, Bob, Bill and Rich at the bar after their round of golf

and sand trap on the course. They even charted a rowboat to retrieve many of their errant shots in water hazards. They would win first prize in costumes.

In 1962, dressed as Monks and accompanied around the links by a wine-totin' burro, they placed second in the costume competition, although many observers thought they again deserved the top prize.



DINO THE WINE-O-SORA—A 60-foot dinosaur traveled up Highway 101 from San Rafael to Marin Country Club not too many years ago. Vino the Wine-o-sora, built on a jeep, roamed the golf course and was accompanied by three cavemen, who were really the Nave brothers. On its neck, Vino carried a keg of "stone-aged foota juice."

The Naves posed as Monks and brought along Bob Nave's donkey, Jerome, to tote the wine. Poor Jerome survived the 18-hole ordeal and then was led into the bar for "one for the road." His mere presence shocked 28 guys into going on the wagon. But the bartender served Jerome a dry martini, figuring he was another Nave. It was a real ass, not to be confused with the guys who just acted that way. The Naves' animal was the first donkey to be picked up on a 502.

In 1963 the men from outer space costumes were worn by the Nave brothers, which won first prize, were made by Rich Nave's wife, Dolly. When the Naves stepped out of the helicopter on the first tee, little children actually cried, fearing they were being invaded by men from outer space.

In 1964 they posed as Italian cavemen and rode 18 holes on the back of a 60-foot-long papier mâché dinosaur. Imagine how many guys went on the wagon after THAT!

The big story in 1965 was that the Nave brothers didn't win a prize for their costume. And it took miles of tape to dress up like mummies. They were Egyptian mummies, bound from head to toe and laid out in coffins. When smoke bombs signaled their



MUMMIES NOT MUM—The mummies—at top left, Bill, Bob and Rich Nave—came to life at the Carnivals at Marin Country Club. According to Rich, "We did a great job (with the costumes) but didn't win so we claimed discrimination." Continued on next page



BROTHERS AT WAR—The Nave brothers portrayed World War II Axis leaders during the golf Carnivale. They made their way around Marin County Club on a homemade tank.

arrival, they slowly came to life and scared the hell out of every little kid and some big kids, too. It was the first time the Nave boys haven't been among the winners, but as Bill Nave says, "We thought we would give the other guys a chance." 1966 was the day the Highway Patrolman nabbed Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo.

Marin IJ – "IL DUCE" – Close your eyes for a few moments and imagine yourself as a California Highway Patrolman, cruising along Highway 101 on a bright Sunday morning, feeling pretty chipper, and happy to be working the Marvelous Marin beat because nothing really unusual ever happens here.

THEN SUDDENLY you see it. Tooling north on 101, what appears to be an Army tank flying an Italian flag. You blink a couple of times, then laugh at your tricky imagination.

"Sheesh, there for a minute I thought I saw an Army tank flying

an Italian flag," you think. On second thought, it being a quiet morning, you decide to investigate and finally catch up to the mechanical monster just south of Hamilton Field.

Grabbing citation book and pen, you swagger up to the vehicle and bark. "Okay, you guys, what's going on here?"

UP POPS the escape hatch and, in the greatest scene since the Ritz Brothers got trapped in "The Big Store," out steps Adolph Hitler, followed by Benito Mussolini and Hideki Tojo. And you think to yourself, "Dum-de-dum-dum, there IS something unusual about this. Either I win the Congressional Medal of Honor or a one-way ticket to the silly farm."

WELL THIS is precisely what occurred Sunday and the patrolman probably will never forget his introduction to the Nave Brothers -Bill Jr., dressed as Hitler, Bob as Tojo and Rich as Mussolini. They explained (ha-ha, officer) they were in route to their annual hi jinks at the Marin County Club's Golf Carnevale and, golly officer, we didn't know our tank didn't measure up to state laws ha-ha because you didn't stop a couple of years ago when we drove our 60-foot-long dinosaur up the highway when he played cavemen and ...

THE OFFICER scratched his head and moaned, "I don't know how to write a citation on THIS. You've broken every law in the book, I imagine. And besides, if I sent a report to Sacramento that I nabbed Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo riding an Italian tank to a golf tournament they'd send me to a psychiatrist.

"Well, I'll let you go this time but keep this contraption



1966 They appeared at the Golf tournament as from left, Tojo (Bob, Hitler (Bill), and Mussolini (Rich)/ Covering them are Ray Amonini (with sergeant's stripes) and Tank Driver Jack Cooper. The trio of brothers and their helpers took first place for best costumes to appear at the charity event.



off the highway.”

THUS, THE court was spared a citation that could have read something like this: Name – Adolph Hitler, Male Caucasian, Age 77, Occupation – Dictator. Hobby – Golf. Address 0 Nave Lanes. Vehicle: Italian tank No. 000. License Plate –Finito 502.”



Western Weekend Novato



Parades.

Nave entries in parades date back to the 60's, originally featured a western skit with the brothers dressed as wild Miwok Indians in their smoking car as they were pursued by General Custer.

Then in 1971, the West Marin parade at Point Reyes Station asked them to their parade.

Bob, said we'll bring an army and then the brothers decided on an Italian World War I theme.

Bob saw an ad from New York selling authentic World War I helmets and he got some. The uniforms are copies of the World War I desert uniform.

The khakis were darkened and ace bandages were used in place of old-fashioned leggings.

The group started with about 35 members, which included Irishmen, Danes, Swedes and Poles, along with Italians, and many were World War II retirees.

The one requirement was that you were able to march a little and drink a lot. The one rule was that you must be sober during the parade.

The core of the group was the Nave family were their sons and friends. Richard P. Nave said; "When we started we didn't think it would be that popular."

The group would turn down many invitations a year, (up to 35), but appeared in about six parades a year during their hey day.

Nave explained; "You have to be good before you can be bad," and the routines are practiced a few days before each appearance.

"We do everything to time," Nave said. Their march music comes from a tape recorder concealed in a stretcher.

The group had about eight or nine routines.

The "general" barks the commands, "Guts out .. Butts out," and the squad would obey to the delight of the crowd.

Then, in the midst of an intricate maneuver, the squad piles up in disarray on the pavement and the crowd howls.

Those were the maneuvers of Nave's Italian Army Patrola.

There last parade the Patrola was in was the Novato's 4th of July parade 2019.



This crack marching unit outfitted in World War I uniforms will appear in the Western Weekend parade May 27. It's the Nave Patrola, a comic marching group that includes numerous members of the Nave family and a number of Novatans. "We're sort of an Italian joke," explains Richard Nave, a member. In the front row are, from left, Novatans Bob Cefalu and Nook Ryan and Richard Nave. Other Novato members include Cal Crimm, Ray Hart, Wimp Wisley, Doug Murphy, Bill Tomsy and Dick Mallett. Nave members include Bill, Bob, Bob Jr., Rich Jr., Eddie, Paul and Lennie. The Patrola, organized last year, has already won some awards. (Phillip Fritchey Photo during the Point Reyes parade) Novato Advance May 17, 1972.



Seated in wheel chairs are Bob and Rich Nave. Bill died in 1994 and Bob would die in 2022. This is the last group picture of the Nave Patrola just before the 2019 Novato 4th of July Parade.



Flood of 1982

L-R Vicky Shilzony, mother Meg, father Fred visit the Novato History Museum on 2/8. Vicky, a resident of the Nave Gardens subdivision, and

a member of the Old Town Novato Flood Group, was interested in looking through the museum archives at past photos of Novato, floods, particularly those of 1982.

Welcome New Guild Members

Novato Historical Guild Membership Report June 2023

Individual Membership

- Dwayne Graves
- Tom Cooper
- Alvin Trumble
- Dolores Boone
- Donna Label
- Barbara Lyons
- Jeanne Fadelli
- Ed Granger
- Evelyn Haupt
- John Reuscher
- James Stamp
- Scott Fletcher
- Teresa Saltzman
- Bill Vespa
- Maggie Shao
- Sharlene van Boer
- Lisa Leduc
- Robert Turner
- Lisa Thompson
- David Galli
- Carol Lusk
- John Hammond
- Lesley Baird
- Allan Wycoff
- Mark Dale
- Tony Onate

Individual Membership

- Jack Wilkinson
- Reggie Winner
- Peny Hansen
- Gus Tham
- Anne Wade

Family Membership

- Harry Lehmann and Jean Bowler
- Bruce & Karen Palmer
- Douglas and Linda Scherf
- Susan Wernick
- Shawn & Debbie Campas
- Ed & Diana Ryken
- Gary Gonser
- Gary & Pam McCart
- Juan Pelico
- James Spilman
- Tom & Jill Lineman
- Jan Jensen & Rick Scripture
- Lesley Baird
- John Hammond
- Jan Jensen & Rick Scripture
- Susan & Brian Stompe
- Larry & Chris Harrison
- Fred Pfeifer
- Robery Tafelski Jr. & Sheilagh Creighton
- Julie Hudson-Clifford & Patrick Clifford
- Steve Jordan
- Dave & Nancy Kapranos

Please support our Guild Business Members:

- Aaero Heating & Sheet Metal, Inc
- A.D. Scott Building
- Alders Financial Solutions
- Andrew McAgnon Landscaping
- Anixter & Oser, Inc.
- Insurance Agents & Brokers
- Bank of Marin
- Christman Chiropractic
- Elegance Hamilton Hill
- Memory Care and Assisted Living
- Goltermann Real Estate and Construction
- H & J Tire
- Indian Valley Golf Club
- Las Guitarras Restaurant
- Marin Color Service
- Marin Landscape Materials
- Marin Volvo/Saab
- Mclsaac Dairy
- NARA Aesthetics LLC
- 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

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

Novato Citizens of the Year

1971 Lee Wise	1981 Skip Skarpa	1990 Dr. Tom Winner	2001 Chuck Bennett	2012 Patty Bennett
1972 Lee Gerner	1982 Lora Lou Smith	1991 Diane Ryken	2002 James Spilman	2013 Susan Stompe
1973 John Stuber	1983 Annette Conklin	1992 Dietrich Stroeh	2003 None	2014 Kathy Nickel
1974 Reuben Kaehler	1984 William J.J. Smith	1993 Al Angulo	2004 Dr. Lois Moore	2015 Alan Dunham
1975 Paul Scheller	Ben Young	1994 Kay Jones	2005 Jim Henderson	2016 Jeanne MacLeamy
1976 Joe Gargiulo	1985 Al Mendoza	1995 Nancy Sangster	2006 Vicki McDill	2017 Edward Schulze
1977 Bill Eckhoff	1986 Robert Fisher	1996 Bill Kelly	2007 Jerry Peters	2018 Phil Brown
1978 Mae Wygant	1987 Pete Croughan	1997 Bill McDill	2008 Patsy White	2019 Dale Kline
1979 Dave Milano	1988 Chuck O'Connor	1998 Jeff McAlpin	2009 Elizabeth Sleath	2020 Susan Mathews
1980 Wayne Womack	Gordon Lee	1999 Hugh Turner	2010 Michael Read	2021 Ray Dwelly
Faith Eckhoff	1989 Pauline Stuber	2000 Edward Lathrop	2011 Dennis Hagerty	2022 Regina Bianucci-Rus

2023 Board Meetings

Second Tuesday of the Month
Margaret Todd Senior Center
1560 Hill Road

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM

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

Membership Meetings

March 11	10 – 11:30
June 17	10 – 11:30
Sept. 9	10 – 11:30
Dec. 9	10 – 11:30

Guild members are welcome to attend the Board meetings. Please check with the President, Jim Crumpler at (415) 897-5705, 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 their 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

Susan Michels,
Chris Avery
Susan Michels
Joe McNern
Gary Mortenson
Sharon “Sheri” Tresch Sanchez
William “Bill” Gness Jr.

THE GUILD EXTENDS SYMPATHY TO
Cranney and Michels family on the loss of Susan Michels

The Avery family on the loss of Chris Avery

The Cranney and Michels families on the loss of Susan Michels

Jim McNern and all of Joe’s Keena cousins on the loss of Joe McNern

Heidi Mortenson and family on the loss of Gary Mortenson

The Tresch and Sanchez families on the loss of Sheri Tresch

The Gness family on the loss of Bill Gness

Contact Us

Hamilton Field History Museum

Manager: Ray Dwelly
Museum phone: 415-382-8614
Email: Hamilton_museum@att.net
<https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonFieldHistoryMuseum/>

Novato History Museum

Manager: Susan Magnone
Museum phone: 415-897-4320
Email: info@novatohistory.org
<https://www.facebook.com/NovatoHistoryMuseum/>

Dropped Patron Level

As of 1/1/2023, the Board has simplified the Guild's membership structure to the Individual, Family, Business and Life-Individual and Life-Joint categories.

For those who send in \$100 for the Patron level we will apply your payment to a \$30 family membership and a donation of \$70.00. Also the Guild will send you a letter for your generous donation.

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

Individual membership \$20 year

Family membership \$30 year

Life membership, individual \$350

Life membership, joint \$500

Business membership \$50 year

Free for 90+

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Additional donations? _____

Interested in volunteering? _____

Email address: _____

1973 Novato Advance cartoon by Bushnell about Walter Sellmer



Be a Third Grade History Docent



at the Novato History Museum!

It's time for Novato third graders to enjoy time traveling back to the early days of their wonderful town thanks to the fabulous Third Grade tours at the Novato History Museum!



What we need:

From March to June Novato's third grade classes are able to visit the museum and with the help of our docents are transported back to the 1800's and early 1900's.

Inside the museum they will experience what it was like to live in a home during the 1800's, work the land and hear the old train whistle!

If you would like to be a Third Grade Docent and join in on all the fun we would love to have you and quite frankly we need you! You will be trained and have an opportunity to shadow tours before you do your own and will be given all the materials you will need.



More information
reach out to Laurie O'Mara:
☎ call or text 415.246.8168
✉ laurieomara124@gmail.com

Thank you so much and we can't wait to time travel with you!

◆ YOU ARE INVITED ◆

General Membership Meeting ~ Novato Historical Guild

Saturday, June 17, 10:00 to noon

Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue

Marcus Combs, retired Park Ranger for The National Park Service, talking about becoming San Francisco, Spanish influence and the development of the City up to the time of the Gold Rush.

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

815 Delong Avenue

(415) 897-4320

Hamilton Field History Museum

555 Hangar Avenue

(415) 382-8614

COME VISIT AND BRING A FRIEND!

The Museums are open three days a week -- Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday - Noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Major Holidays