

# The Novato Historian

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

## Preserving Novato's History News Section

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July-September 2012

The Novato Historian

Volume 36, Number 3

## Eleonora Margaret Lafranchi

Eleonora Lafranchi passed away peacefully in Novato on June 23, 2012. She had battled a stroke for the past three years and had been a patient at Country Villa on Hill Road. Eleonora died four months short of her 100th birthday. She lived in the family home, on Novato Boulevard, from birth until her stroke.

Eleonora attended Novato Grammar School and San Rafael High School, graduating from Dominican College with a teaching degree in 1936. Her 40 years of teaching included 36 years at Coleman School in San Rafael. She was very active in civic as well as religious organizations



including the Republican Women's Club, Catholic Daughters of America, Retired Teachers Association and head of Our Lady of Loretto's Altar Society. Eleonora was also a charter member of the Novato Historical Guild and on the first board of directors as well as membership chair for many years. She kept membership records on card forms (before the computer era).

Eleonora is survived by her niece Shirley Glashoff and Theone Felder, wife of Eleonora's late nephew, Joseph Felder. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in San Rafael. Memorial donations may be made to Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church or a favorite charity.

## Novato Historical Guild Volunteer Recognition Day by Mike Clancy

On June 3, 2012, the Novato Historical Guild celebrated and rewarded its volunteers with a very nice catered picnic.

The event was held at Pacheco Ranch where the Guild was welcomed by the Rowland family. The weather was warm and sunny and that, plus the wonderful location, made for a great day.

Excellent food and drink were plentiful and comradery was in abundance.

Following lunch the Rowland family invited members into their home for a tour of that historical site.

Once again it was volunteers who did all the hard work to put on this event.

Photos of the day's activity appear on this and other pages of this newsletter.



Key members of the volunteer corps of the Novato Historical Guild were recognized at the Volunteer recognition day held at Novato's historic Pacheco Ranch. L to R, Diana Goebel, Janice Bazarro, Bill Almeida, Edna Manzoni, Anna Morrison, Pat Johnstone, Ray Dwelly, Roland Fuelle, Diane Campbell, Joe Giari, Tom Keena, and Jim Davenport. Photos on right show happy members and beautiful table settings.



**The Novato Historian**

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**Guild Mission Statement**

Our Mission is to collect, preserve, and make reasonably available to the public, exhibits and information related to the historical and social development of the Novato valley, Hamilton Field, and the adjacent North Marin area.

**Novato Historical Guild 2012 Officers**

President	Mike Read
Vice President	Tom Keena
Secretary	Kathryn Hansen
Treasurer	Kathryn Hansen

**Board of Directors**

Cindy Motsinger	Roland Fuette
John Trumbull	Ray Dwelly
Yvette Jackson	Diana Goebel
Louise Koenig	Bill McDill
Sheila Brossier	Joe Williams
Janice Bazarro	Jim Davenport

**Committee Chairs**

Cemetery	Joe Giari
Finance	Tom Keena
Fund Raising	Tom Keena
Gift Stores	Pat Johnstone
Hamilton Museum	Ray Dwelly
Hospitality	Diana Goebel
	Edna Manzoni
Mailing	Bill Almeida
Membership	Edna Manzoni
Nominating	Yvette Jackson
Oral History	Jim McNern
Publicity	Bill McDill
Public Outreach	Roland Fuette
School Tours	Janice Bazarro
	Anne Lehan
	Cindy Motsinger
Sunshine	Diane Campbell

**Newsletter Editorial Board**

Bill Almeida	Jim McNern
Pat Johnstone	Tonie Brown
	Mike Read

**Typography, Layout, Composition**

Mike Clancy

**City of Novato Staff**

Recreation Operations Manager  
Kathy Kormos

**Museum Liaison**

Samantha Kimpel

Original articles and photographs related to Novato history are welcomed!

**Deadline for the Dec. issue is Nov. 1**

**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**

by Michael Read

President, Novato Historical Guild

I would like to welcome Jim Davenport to the Novato Historical Guild Board of Directors. Jim is a volunteer at our Hamilton Field History Museum. Jim has been recording all the donated items in Past Perfect along with the recouping of Iva Young. Since our curator position has been eliminated, Jim has been doing an outstanding job filling in where and when needed.

We once again had a booth at the Novato Art and Wine Festival, June 9 and 10. The festival was well attended, which kept our volunteers pleasantly busy imparting their knowledge of our rich heritage. We sold tee shirts, photos, books and other gift items bringing in a whopping \$978. I thank Tom Keena for his hard work chairing this great effort while I attended to my duties on the festival planning committee.

The June general meeting was held June 16 with Wayne Womack, the first mayor of Novato, as our guest speaker. We had a large group of old timers and some of them shared their experiences of growing up in Novato. It is always interesting listening to their treasured stories.

Our representative in the Fourth of July Parade was Mike Silva and family. The Silva's had a great time riding in their family's classic Cadillac which belonged to Babe Silva, Novato's second mayor. They are a true Novato family which was the theme of the parade.

The Guild has a new email newsletter that is delivered to all its members. The editor of the newsletter is Guild Board member, Janice Bazarro. Janice developed the newsletter on her own and has done a great job. If you have not received an email newsletter be sure Janice has your email address. If you have any questions, or would like to submit an article, please email

novatomuseums@yahoo.com.

The next General Meeting of the Novato Historical Guild will be on

Saturday, September 8 at the Hamilton Field Museum at noon. We will also have our annual BBQ at this meeting as well. For a \$5 donation you can treat yourself to a hamburger, beans and salad. In addition, the Janovers, husband and wife team who were career Air Force personnel, will be speaking.

The Janovers are weekly Hamilton docents and never fail to come in uniform. In fact, they will be in dress uniform for their presentation. It is said Mr. Janover flew just about every plane there was to fly. They are wonderful docents and will be very interesting speakers. This meeting is open to the public so you are invited to bring your friends, family or neighbors for a relaxing afternoon.

Normally this time of year the Guild is looking for new Board members; however, with the addition of Jim Davenport, we will have no openings at this time. Tom Keena is gearing up to be the President in 2013 and I will be a continuing Board member for one more year.

I hope to see you at the General meeting on September 8.

**New Board Member  
Jim Davenport**

Jim is a Bay Area native, born in San Francisco and raised on the Peninsula. He



Jim Davenport

moved to Marin in 1996. He has worked in radio, theater, graphic arts, and the legal field as a para-legal. He received his BA degree at

Sonoma State. An archivist since 2007, he has worked with local history in Tiburon, Sausalito, San Rafael, and now, Novato. He attended Western Archives Institute in San Diego. Jim lives in Tam Valley with his wife and cat, likes music, photography, and classic television.



# Novato—50 Years Ago

## (July, August, and September 1962)

by Bill Almeida and Tonie Brown

*“Novato 50 Years Ago” is a collection of items culled by Bill Almeida from the July, August and September issues of the Novato Advance newspapers in the collection of the Novato History Museum and microfilm at the Novato Library. Tonie Brown retypes the articles for the newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading the names and happenings of 1962.*

- Barbara Sparrow, longtime secretary to ex-Superintendent. W.W. J. Smith, of the Novato Unified School District, followed Ralph Giovanello to the San Jose School District where she served as his personal secretary.

- Jimmy Sparks, Novato’s nationally known Little League pitcher, was the guest of the San Francisco Giants at Candlestick Park in San Francisco on July 7. Jimmy visited with a few members of the Giants in their dugout before the game and chatted with announcers Russ Hodges and Lon Simmons of radio station KSFO after the game.

- Novato Savings and Loan Association opened its doors to the public on July 10, at 910 Grant Avenue. That address was temporary while the building at 1215 Grant was being remodeled as permanent headquarters. Officers, directors and stockholders of the new association numbered 54 businesses and professional men and women.

- The long-delayed application of Wells Fargo Bank to open a branch in Novato received approval from the state banking department in early July. Next step was to go to the Federal Reserve System for approval. There were unconfirmed reports that the bank might open at the Novato Fair, Safeway Shopping Center.

- Novato contractor John Novak and his wife Maria were granted an interlocutory divorce decree on July 3. The court agreed that both parties were entitled to a divorce one year from that date. Custody

of the couple’s children, John, Jr., 12, and Jeffrey, 10, was awarded to Novak.

- William A. Gness, Jr., 23 year old son of Supervisor and Mrs. William Gness of Novato, left for Europe to be “on his own” for six months. Ireland, Germany and Switzerland were on his list of stops traveling by train with a special six-month ticket issued to tourists from the western hemisphere.

- A beautiful set of dentures recovered at the Ignacio sewage plant was going unclaimed. I wonder why!!

- Mr. and Mrs. Otto J. Stroeh celebrated their 35th anniversary at the Green Mill on July 21. Twelve family members attended. The Stroehs were married in Santa Barbara and have been Novato residents since 1941.

- Salary increases of approximately five percent were approved by the Novato City Council on July 31. The increases were for the Novato police officers. Mayor Babe Silva, voting against the raise, said, “I have no intention of adjusting salaries, if you know what I mean.”

- Robb Shultz, 17 year old Novato High graduate, set a new Indian Valley Golf Course record when he shot a 63. Previous record was 64. Shultz shot 10 birdies with 4 coming on the last 4 holes.

- Mrs. Genevieve Jansen purchased Hiller’s Shoe Store at 1411 Grant Avenue and was operating under the new name of Jansen’s Shoes. Formerly Hiller’s manager, Mrs. Jansen has been with the store for six years.

- The remodeling of the Central Valley Bank at 1313 Grant Avenue was slated for completion in October bank manager George Tocalino announced on August 1. The remodeling, at a cost of at least \$35,000, involved a new mezzanine floor running along the south and east walls of the building. Note: This is now Bank of

the West.

- Sharon Lee Baldwin and Edward Teixeira Alfonso became engaged in early August. The marriage took place on August 18 in Reno, Nevada. Sharon graduated from Novato High School in 1960. Edward was a 1958 graduate of San Rafael High.

- Senior Master Sergeant James Collett retired from active duty with the U.S. Air Force after a 21 year career in the armed forces. Sgt. Collett and his wife, Sylvia, were Novato residents since 1947.

- Novato’s three car dealers decided, jointly, in line with the rest of the county, to remain closed on Sundays.

- Police Sergeant Wayne Knutilla accepted the post of Chief of Police at Gridley. He was a member of Novato’s first police department in January 1960. As head of the six-man force in Gridley (Butte County), Knutilla was to earn \$7,500 annually.

- Dr. Robert W. Mayo, who grew up in Novato and attended local schools, began special training in obstetrics and gynecology at Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He graduated from the University of California Medical School and interned at Martin Army Hospital, Fort Benning, Georgia.

- Sam Harkleroad, who had built some of the most unusual and imaginative houses in Novato, was in the process of erecting a circular house that did a 300 degree swivel. The house, located atop his own Harkle Road, is visible from Highway 101 and allows a change of view for its occupants.

- On August 21 the city council voted 3-2 to abandon the “K” route as an alternate freeway bypass. At the same time, it failed to react to the state recommendation that “J” be the future freeway route

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# Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Pat Johnstone

## May 2012

*New Business* – Finance Committee reported that the budget from 2009-2012 to fund the curator was \$48,000 but actual amount spent was \$102,000. Two board members wanted to continue paying for a curator using money from the Guild’s investment fund, but Tom Keena told them that the money was earmarked for the Simmons’ House if the City approves the request. The Simmons’ House is in a better location for visitor’s

access, has more parking, and the building is larger. A vote was taken to continue the curator’s position. It failed. Janice Bazurto outlined her proposal to create an e-newsletter which she said would reach new members and a wider audience. It would cost the guild \$10.50 per month. A motion was made and passed to create an e-newsletter. Janice reported that a booth at the Marin County Fair is \$775 plus the wholesale cost of what is sold. Many organizations have been successful raising funds at this event. The board agreed to develop a plan for 2013. The Guild will have an infor-

mational booth at Olompali Heritage Day on May 20 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The board needs to find a new Hospitality Chairman because Diana Goebel needs to step down.

*City Report* – Kathy Kormos will notify the Maintenance Dept. that there is condensation in the Hamilton Field History Museum sign. The key list to NHM is being assessed because the alarm is going off at the Police Station too many times. Joe Williams mentioned that the HFHM alarm has not yet been connected to the Police Dept. Kathy will put in a request.

*Treasurer’s Report* – Income for April was \$1,064.91; expenses were \$3,945.64. Total in Guild’s accounts was \$175,269.81.

*Old Business* – The Guild’s booth at the Art and Wine Festival will be free this year thanks to Mike Read. Tom Keena will ask Wayne Womack, the first Mayor of Novato when it was incorporated in 1960, to speak at the June 16 General Meeting. Thirty-eight people RSVP’d to the Volunteer Recognition Event.

## June 2012

*New Business* – The 4th of July Parade theme is “Celebrating Novato Families.” Yvette Jackson volunteered to chair the event. George Thelan created an audio documentary of people, places and events for the Marin History Museum and presented a sample of his iPhone app project to the board.

*City Report* – Kathy Kormos reported that directional signs for Hamilton Field History Museum are up and that the alarm system at the museum is now connected to the Police Dept. The city will return \$3,000 (for curator) that was a duplicate payment from 2011.

*Old Business* – The guild made \$978 at the Art and Wine Festival and some new members signed up. The Volunteer Appreciation Event was a huge success thanks to Diane Campbell and her committee. A special thanks to Debbie and Herb Roland for allowing the Guild to

*Continued on Page N-5*

## In Memoriam

The Guild mourns the loss of the following members:

- Roger Lane**
- Alice Keena**
- Louis Nave**
- Eleonora Lafranchi**
- Marino “Terry” Lazzari**

## MEMORIAL PLAQUE ADDITIONS

You may honor a friend or loved one by having his or her name engraved on an individual brass plate on the Memorial Plaque in the History Museum. Please call the Museum at 897-4320. All contributions are tax deductible. Plaques cost \$250 per person named.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

You may make a gift of appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) to the Novato Historical Guild. Your gift is not only tax-deductible, but if you have held the shares for more than one year, your tax deduction will equal the full value of the securities on the date of the gift.

## The Guild Extends Sympathy to

**Betty Lane** on the death of her husband, Roger.

**Rich and Dolly Nave** on the death of their son, Louis Nave.

**Bob Nave** on the death of his nephew, Louis Nave.

**Cindy Motsinger** on the death of her mother, Marge Nunes.

**Patricia Wharton** (Tom Wharton) on the death of her mother, Alice Keena.

**Kathleen Sullivan** (Tim Sullivan) on the death of her mother, Alice Keena.

**Tom Keena, Jr.** on the death of his mother, Alice Keena.

**Eileen Burrous** (Frank) on the death of her mother, Alice Keena.

**Sheila Brossier (Paul Brosier)** on the death of her mother, Alice Keena.

**The family** of Eleonora Lafranchi on her death.

**Marie Lazzari** on the death of her husband, Terry Lazzari.

**Virginia and Frank Paladini** on the death of her brother, Terry Lazzari.

**Don and Kay Edwards** on the death of his father, Alten.

**Jim and Valerie Hill** on the death of his father, Raymond Hill, Jr.

# Novato Memories

By Jim McNern



**Mimi Baccaglio Nunes**

*Mimi Baccaglio was born in St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco. She was raised on the Baccaglio ranch on South Novato Boulevard. Mimi was a member of the 1961 graduating class from Novato High School. She now lives near Atwater in Merced County, but returns to Novato several times a year to visit friends. She shares her Novato memories in this September edition of the Novato Historian. Mimi remembers:*

- Her parents: Frank V. and Josephine (Hoppe) Baccaglio; and her siblings: Martin, Marsha and Marian.
- Grandparents: James and Fanny Baccaglio; and Joseph and Delia (Respini) Hoppe.
- Her aunts and uncles: Pio (Pete) Baccaglio, Egidio (Jid) Baccaglio, Edna Baccaglio Kriel, Anita Baccaglio Johnson, Henry Hoppe, Marian Hoppe Silva and Frances Hoppe Andreson.
- Her neighbors: the Connell, Nave, Hoes, Dickerson, Rupprecht, DeBorba, Dennis, Bobo, Wise and Melson families.
- Attending Novato Grammar School from Kindergarten through third grade; Marion School for fourth; having class in Trevitt Hall in fifth grade; Hill School in sixth grade, and back to Marion School for seventh and eighth grades and having Mrs. Lockwood, Mrs. Hansen, Miss Lane, Miss Dolcini, Miss Silva, Mrs.

Schunk, Miss Cullen and Mr. DeTuncq as teachers.

- Her classmates and friends: Janet Dennis, Sheila Keena, Sharon Connell, Carole Garaventa, Dannelle Smith, Karen Lautrup, Jackie Holt, Jan Smith, Barbara Jonas, and Jone and Cathrin Young.

- Dressing up in costumes each Halloween and having a parade around the playground, followed by a party with lots of goodies. Missing her first grade Halloween party because of an earache; but her mom, who was room mother, brought home treats for her.

- Decorating the classroom with Christmas decorations and always celebrating with a party. Having a play in the Community House in third grade. Wearing a fancy Christmas dress to school on party days.

- Exchanging valentines with classmates on Valentine's Day, and having decorated cookies and cupcakes at class parties.

- The large windows in the classrooms at Novato Grammar School that looked out onto the big pine trees. The merry-go-round on the playground that everyone loved to ride and playing "jacks" on the cement sidewalks.

- The annual school carnival with games, pony rides, and her favorite booth which had dolls for sale dressed in beautiful costumes sewn by the mothers.

- Playing in Novato Creek and catching buckets of tadpoles and frogs.

- Taking swimming lessons at San Rafael High School and swimming with neighbors at the Hamilton Air Force Base pool.

- Playing baseball in the hayfield (after the hay was harvested) with the neighbor kids and cousins Mike and Frank Silva.

- Hiking on "Red Rock Hill" across from the ranch.

- Picking yellow flowers with Janet Dennis in the fields where Buchanan

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## Board Highlights

*(Continued from Page N-4)*

hold the event at the Pacheco Ranch Winery and to give guests a tour of their historic home. The e-newsletter was well received; 183 e-mails were sent out and 112 opened. Olompali Heritage Day had a low turnout but it is important for the Guild to be represented.

*Reports* – Two new exhibits are on display at the Hamilton Field History Museum. One is the General Henry "Hap" Arnold exhibit on loan from the Sonoma Museum and the other exhibit is U-2 artifacts, courtesy of the Tom Crull family. Total sales and donations from both museums for May were \$960.40. The Guild has a total of 500 paid memberships.

### July 2012

*New Business* – A motion was made and approved to add Jim Davenport as a new board member. Ray Dwelly got bids to have the carpets cleaned at HFHM. A motion was made and approved to go with the low bid of \$459 from Burrous Bros. that includes scotch guard at no charge. Tom Keena presented a new sign-up sheet that will be used at both museums for all volunteers.

*City Report* – Kathy Kormos suggested that the Guild go through the strategic planning process. Action Item: Prepare a Strategic Plan. The City's Policy is that no minors (under 16 years of age) can volunteer unless they are under the guidance of an adult that has had a background check. The agreement between the Guild and the City of Novato is ready for signatures.

*Treasurer's Report* – The City of Novato has returned \$3,000 that was a duplicate payment for the Curator from 2011.

*Old Business* – Hospitality still needs a chairman. Mike Silva drove his restored 1941 Cadillac in the 4th of July Parade with NHG signs on the side. The Fund Raising Committee meeting was rescheduled.

*Reports* – Ray Dwelly reported that three new oral interviews were done this month, and that the tiles are up on the "Patriot's Memorial Wall" at Hamilton Field History Museum. Total sales and donations from both museums for June were \$781.22.

# 50 Years Ago

*Continued from Page N-3*

through Novato. Note: "J" was eventually selected as the freeway route.

- Former owners of the Novato Advance were in the limelight in early September. Jack Sparrow announced he had sold his commercial printing firm to a partner, Les Barlow. James Cuzner bought the paper from Sparrow in 1952 and owned the local weekly until 1955. Cuzner and his family recently left Novato for a year's residence in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he intends to carry on his business affairs while enjoying the pleasures of Europe.

- Safeway store officially opened at the Novato Fair Shopping Center on September 12. Mrs. W.O. Bird of 1667 Hill Road had the distinction of being the first customer when the doors opened at 9 a.m. Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Mayor and Mrs. Babe Silva, Supervisor and Mrs. William Gnos, William Berry, president of the Novato Chamber of Commerce, city administra-

tor John Baget, and numerous other dignitaries.

- David P. Jones, 27, joined the law firm of Robert D. Carrow in September, as an associate. Jones passed the state bar examination in March. He participated in the "legislative internship program" in Sacramento prior to joining Carrow.

- Dr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Weseman departed Novato in late September for northeastern Mexico, where he was to head a Seventh Day Adventist sanitarium and hospital. Dr. Weseman was replacing Dr. Gordon Hackett, who was returning to Loma Linda University in southern California for further medical training.

- John Baget, city administrator, faithfully attended a meeting of the parks and recreation commission on July 19 despite the fact it was his wedding anniversary.

- The Novato school board moved to buy a parcel of South Novato Boulevard fronting Rancho School before the prop-

erty was used for commercial use. An area of 1.6 acres, immediately south of the Nave Shopping Center was involved. The property was owned by Richard Connell.

- The Advance issue of 8/15/62 stated an advantage of living in Novato "where we have a choice of eight television channels – 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 13 – if your home is located in the right area."

- Novato resident and California Highway Patrolman Sam Thomas was recovering from an injury when a car at a street light backed up on him while he was sitting on his motorcycle. Sam had to wear a neck brace for the injury which occurred in June.

## **Guild Participates in Novato's 4th of July Parade**

On July 4, 2012, Novato Historical once again participated in Novato's annual 4th of July Parade.



*Novato History Museum sign is displayed on the door of this beautiful old Cadillac sedan being driven by Mike Silva.*

## **Welcome New Guild Members**

### **Membership Report September 2012**

#### **Individual Memberships:**

Jim Davenport  
 Anne Krippner Falaschi  
 Kim Lawrence  
 Thomas Skinner  
 Sandy Pronzini Tomrose  
 Carolyn Near

#### **Supporting:**

Teresa Torassa Grossi  
 & Family

#### **Please support our Guild Business Members:**

Acme Digital and Screen Graphics  
 Bank of Marin  
 Marin Landscape Materials  
 McIsaac Dairy  
 Novato Horsemen  
 Pini Hardware  
 The Wright Salon  
 Trumbull Manor Inc. – Novato  
 Zenith Instant Printing

*If you have questions about membership, call Edna Manzoni, Membership Chairman, 415-892-9603.*

**It is now time to renew your membership.**

***A gift membership always meets the need for that person who has everything.***

## **Important Notice**

If your address label has a red X your dues for 2012 have not been paid. Please pay your dues promptly so that we can continue to send you the newsletter. You will not receive the next one unless your dues are paid up.

# Novato Memories

*Continued from Page N-5*

Street is now, and selling them to motorists driving by.

- Graduating from the eighth grade at Marion School in 1957 in an outdoor ceremony on the school grounds where graduates wore cap and gown.

- Riding tricycles with Martin up to Grandma Baccaglio's house on the ranch.

- Going with Uncle Pete to the cow pastures where the Lynwood homes are now located to pick mushrooms.

- Visiting Mrs. Nave in her old house across Novato Boulevard with Martin where she would let us reach into her cookie jar and take one.

- Riding bikes on Novato Boulevard and not seeing many cars driving by.

- She and Martin started packing eggs as they came off the egg washing machine when they were about five years old. As they packed, their father, Frank, drilled them in math. It took about two hours each day to clean and pack the eggs. (Needless to say, they were both excellent in math.) They helped with many other chores on the ranch: collecting eggs, moving chickens, and vaccinating chickens as well as chores with the other animals and with the walnut orchard. They were paid for their work. It was their spending money as they got older; but they had to save some of their pay. They learned the value of work and

of saving and investing their money.

- Having several pigs on the ranch. It was always fun when the baby pigs arrived. Sometimes they would bottle feed the "runt" of the litter.

- Shopping at Rayburns, Ashermans, Food Fair, Brewer's Dry Goods (she bought the fabric for her first 4-H sewing project there), the Five and Dime Store, and Dean's Rexall Drug Store across from the Catholic Church.

- Going to Dr. Weseman when sick, and to Dr. George Lane, our dentist, in Petaluma.

- Attending Mass every Sunday at Our Lady of Loretto in the old church on Grant Avenue, and then to the new church on Novato Boulevard.

- Receiving first communion and making her confirmation in the old church.

- Attending catechism classes every Saturday morning and then walking to the Novato Theater for the Kids' Show, which would cost 25 cents admission.

- Going to the Post Office on Grant Avenue and getting mail from Box L-2; then home delivery started to deliver mail to our box on the street.

- Our first telephone was a wooden wall phone in the back porch of the old Baccaglio home and we had our special ring. We then got a black table phone. The Baccaglio phone number was 911-Y.

- Being a 4-H club member for ten years. Her main projects were dairy and sewing, and they are still her main interests today. George Orr was her dairy leader, and Mrs. Pearl Lieb taught her sewing. Other dedicated 4-H leaders were Joe Wright, Reno Pronzini, Frank Smaw, and Sam and Josephine Marzell.

- Attending Los Posados 4-H Camp in Napa County each summer and enjoying swimming, hiking, snipe hunts, crafts

*Continued on Page N-8*

## More Scenes from Recognition Day



*Bill Almeida purchasing Pacheco Cabernet.*



*Debby Rowland and Joe Bisazza*



*Tom Keena*



*Wayne Womack, with microphone, the first mayor of Novato, was the guest speaker at our June General Meeting. We had a large group of old timers and some of them shared their experiences of growing up in Novato.*

# Novato Memories

*Continued from Page N-7*

with Mrs. Alta Johnson, campfires, sleeping under the stars, and raising campers' underwear on the flagpole at night.

- Giving demonstrations at club meetings, county and regional competitions.

- She loved going to the fairs and showing her dairy, sheep and pigs at the Cow Palace, Sonoma-Marin, Sonoma County and the California State Fair.

- Winning the Directors' Cup as the outstanding 4-H club exhibitor at the Sonoma-Marin Fair.

- Attending Regional 4-H Conferences and the State Convention at U.C. Davis and meeting 4-H'ers from all over the state.

- Being named Marin County 4-H All Star in 1962.

- Meeting her husband, George Nunes, while both were members of the Novato Aggie 4-H Club and had dairy projects. (They recently retired after 45 years in the dairy business.)

- During high school, she was chosen Macy's "Teen High School Representative" from Novato and worked there part time. While in college, she worked for P.G.&E. in San Francisco. The rest of her working career were the 45 years she and George had their Holstein dairy ranch.

- Novato had numerous small shops and most of the store owners knew her family or the Baccaglio name. There was still a blacksmith shop and it didn't take long to walk from one end of town to the other.

- Watching the annual Portuguese parade from the second story window of the old Silva house on Grant Avenue and marching in one parade with cousins Mike and Frank Silva. She always wished she could be Queen, but being Italian, that wasn't possible. Years later, her daughter, Noel Nunes, was Queen in the Novato parade celebration.

- Western Weekend was a big deal during her teenage years. There was a great parade, the Buckaroo Breakfast, and a rodeo at the Novato Horsemen's Grounds. The whole town celebrated Western

Weekend.

- Enjoying "baby chick time" each February when the new crop of about a thousand baby chicks arrived. Of course this meant extra chores in the brooder house.

- Attending the Firemen's Picnic on the Corda Ranch.

- The day Mr. Nave gave Martin and her a big juke box.

- Going to the Hi-Fi Drive In, where we could buy a hamburger, french fries and a coke for 44 cents.

- Our class was the first to attend the new campus of Novato High School all four years.

- The N.H.S. football teams were very good, but the basketball teams were terrible.

- Being a N.H.S. cheerleader, and attending all sports events.


- Serving on the student council and being on many school committees for dances, special events, etc.

- Students were required to take P.E.


*Continued on Page N-9*

## Novato's Treasures

### BLACK POINT RAILROAD DRAWBRIDGE



*ca. approximate 1888*



*2012 with test train crossing*

December 16, 1887 – Chief Engineer Dolson, with a large force of men, is now engaged at the mouth of the Petaluma creek in swinging the four immense cylinders which are to encase the concrete for the foundation of the large draw-bridge for the Donahue Railroad extension in Sonoma valley. The draw-bridge is to be of the most improved modern construction, and will be built entirely of steel and iron, and is to cost \$75,000. The roadbed from Pacheco (Ignacio) to Sears Point is graded almost its entire length. The road will be completed inside of ninety days.

May 27, 1888 – The largest drawbridge in the United States has just been completed for the San Francisco and North Pacific

Railroad, across Petaluma creek. The bridge is 3,100 feet in length, the draw being 226 feet long and the base 10 feet above the water line. The draw weights, 125 tons, can support a load of 290 tons and rest on piles encased in iron. It is intended in the near future to discontinue the ferry service to Donahue landing, and to have all passengers for the Sonoma Valley road go over on the Tiburon boats.

The Federal Railroad Administration shut down the rail line in 1998. The North Coast Railroad Authority has spent more than \$60 million since 2007 fixing unsafe bridges, crossings signals and tracks. It reopened in July 2011.



# Novato Memories

Continued from Page N-8

all four years.

- Math and Science were her favorite subjects and her most memorable teachers were: Mrs. Palmer, Mr. Berger, Mr. Washburn, Mr. DeTuncq, Mrs. Stafford, Mr. Garguilo, and Miss Hunninghaus.

- Graduating from Novato High

School in June 1961.

- Attending Dominican College for two years and Sonoma State for one semester before marrying in 1964.

- Old Novato families with the names: Rudolf, Heise, Gness, Salmina, Silva, Hicok, Keena, Lafranchi, Lieb, Marzell, McNern, Leveroni, Grossi,

Pronzini, Nave and Paladini.

- The many changes that have taken place in Novato over the years: there are no more farms; and there are homes where there used to be pastureland and trees. The good thing to see is the downtown area being maintained and thriving.

## THE GIFT SHOPPE

The Museum Gift Shoppe has the perfect unique Novato gift!

### Books & Pamphlets

- *Novato Township*\* the definitive history of Novato by May Ungemach . . . . . \$30.50
- *Novato, Then and Now* by Novato Historical Guild \$21.00
- *Hamilton Field* by Novato Historical Guild . . . . . \$21.00
- *Hamilton Airfield History* . . . . . \$3.00

### Videos & DVD's

- Hamilton Field History (VHS or DVD) . . . . . \$15.00
- Novato History (VHS or DVD) . . . . . \$10.00 (available only through the museum)

### Sweatshirts (S, M, L, & XL) . . . . . \$18.00

- Novato History Museum (blue or green)

### Ornaments

- Novato City Hall . . . . . \$12.75

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- Guild Historic Buildings (3 designs):  
*Postmaster's House, City Hall/Church, Railroad Depot*

### Miscellaneous

- Novato Historic Buildings Notecard Sets . . . . . \$10.00
- Guild Tote Bags . . . . . \$12.50
- Ceramic Thimble . . . . . \$1.00
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- Mugs . . . . . \$5.00
- Laminated Place Mat (11 x 14) . . . . . \$5.00 (available only at the museum)

### Leather Goods

- Coin Purse . . . . . \$15.00
- Business Card Holder . . . . . \$12.50
- Small Purse . . . . . \$23.00

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\* All proceeds from the sale of *Novato Township* go directly to the support of the History Museum.

All prices include sales tax. To Order: Call the museum at 897-4320 or email patjohnstn@aol.com for shipping charges and information. Supporting and Life Members receive a 10% discount at the Gift Shoppe!

## 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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time) membership | \$10    | year |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership, joint         | \$500   |      |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Business membership            | \$50    | year |
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## **Notice**

*General Membership Meeting*

*Novato Historical Guild*

**Saturday, September 8, 2012, at 12 noon**

**Hamilton Field History Museum**

**555 Hangar Road**

**Please Join Us and Enjoy a Barbecue Lunch**

**We are also having interesting guest speakers; see President's Corner for information**

*Members and prospective members are welcome*

**Novato History Museum—815 Delong Ave.—897-4320**

**Hamilton Field History Museum—555 Hangar Ave.—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**