The Novato Historian

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Downtown Novato—Grant Ave and Redwood (then 101 Hwy.) on January 1958

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The relocation story continues. Back in July, it looked like the relocation issue was solved and that we were moving forward…but at the last minute the City and the Guild hit a wall that we couldn’t get past and the Guild withdrew their offer to the City. But it’s not over yet. Turns out the problem with the original plan was that the Guild wanted to oversee the construction, when instead the City wanted to be in charge. So, the new plan is in two stages. In Stage 1 the Guild deposits funds in an account that the City can use to pay for the contractors to give us estimates on what will be the cost to turn the Scott house into a state-of-the-art museum. Then Stage 2 will be for the Guild to decide if we have adequate funds to complete the project and to have an agreement with the City that states that the Scott house will remain a museum for a reasonable number of years.

Stage 1 has begun, and Stage 2 will happen once the Guild gets the estimated price for the reconstruction and agrees to a long-term contract with the City.

Hope you all enjoyed Kate Johnston’s excellent presentation on the history of Hamilton. I heard some stories about Hamilton that were new to me. I was surprised to learn that when Dwight Eisenhower became President, his “girlfriend” was stationed at Hamilton (which is about as far as you can get from Washington DC.) The speaker for the December members meeting will be author and Marin historian Brian Crawford. Brian will be discussing his book “Shipwrecks of Marin.” It should be no surprise to anyone that due to the abundance of fog on Marin’s rocky coast there have been hundreds of shipwrecks on our coast, especially in the years before lighthouses and radar.

The Novato Speaker Series, sponsored by the Guild and the Rotary Clubs of Novato and Ignacio, have had some terrific presentations since they began in July. The talks are presented at the Jonas Center on the Indian Valley Campus on the fourth Thursday of the month. The event begins at 7 PM with 30 minutes of musical entertainment followed by a speaker at 7:30. The December speaker is Heidi Kuhn’s social justice story of replacing land mines with grapevines. Don Forbes will be providing the music.

In October I went to my 58th Novato High School reunion. During the festivities Louise Koenig asked all those present to stand if they had spent ALL their school years in Novato. I was surprised to see about 40 people stand out of about 300 that were present!

I really want to thank all the docents and volunteers for the terrific job that you all did this past year. We couldn’t have opened the doors without you!

Hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jim
HISTORY OF THE NOVATO HISTORICAL GUILD’S 
3RD GRADE TOUR PROGRAM

By Barry Smail

In 1994, the National Council for the Social Studies published a set of curriculum standards, including one for 3rd grade students. Guild member and museum docent Ann Ramsey saw an opportunity to create a program. Ann, together with Lois Eischen, Jackie Moore, and Museum Manager Hannah Clayborn (Jackie preceded Hannah as the volunteer museum manager) assembled boxes of reference materials about early Novato history and brought them to 3rd grade teachers throughout the Novato Unified School District. In 1996 the Guild, in coordination with NUSD and its 3rd grade teachers, moved the program to the Novato History Museum and began their tours. “Our program was one of the earliest in the county; San Rafael might’ve been first,” recalled Edna Manzoni, one of the original 3rd grade docents. Lois Eischen was the program’s first coordinator.

Following a meeting of 3rd grade docents held on January 6, 1996, Susan Trumbull distributed a document entitled “Ideas Generated at Our Last Meeting.” She marked with an asterisk those ideas which had been fully or partially completed. They included: using the input of “old-timers;” dividing classes into groups to do different activities; creating a guided history tour of downtown with a photo booklet for children and a master guide for teachers; mailing advertisements to principals and teachers by the end of May for the Fall program; and acquiring the State of California’s curriculum outline for social studies.

In a 1998 edition of the Novato Historian, NHG Vice President Pat Willat wrote: “For many years, volunteers like Jackie Moore, Al Pariani, Eleanora Lafranchi, Joe Nunes and others went to schools by invitation and told stories of Novato in the old days with several groups each year also visiting the Museum. Three years ago in connection with the State education policy to teach LOCAL history in the 3rd grade, the Museum, under the direction of Hannah Clayborn, and staffed by Museum volunteers, offered a multifaceted Museum, Downtown and cemetery tour to every Novato 3rd grade class...at present the tour guides are: Bill Almeida, Monique Bricca, Don Brittsan, Lois Eischen, Joe Giari, May Gronbert, Thelma Graves, Betty Manning, Edna Manzoni, Susan Trumbull and Pat Willat.”

In the December 1999 edition, Pat wrote: “Under the leadership of our new Museum Director, Greta Brunschwyler, the tour guides are hoping to improve and enhance their presentation with every group.”

On January 27, 2000, Susan wrote a letter to the docents: “I have taken over the job Lois Eischen so capably performed... Lois will still be available to docent when she can, but her place is home with her husband now. In order to update our downtown walk, I am asking for your help. We all started with the talk Hannah worked out at the beginning of the program.” May Gronberg and Pat Willat were two of the original docents. Pat Willat led the historic downtown tours. (Susan Trumbull, who taught at Loma Verde and Hamilton elementary schools, shadowed her.) At the March, 2000 Novato Historical Guild Board of Trustees meeting, Susan presented a report on the work of School Tour Committee: “During the past two months, with the considerable help of Celinda Currant, co-chair, the picture books for the downtown tour have been reviewed, refreshed (where needed) and resleeved in more durable plastic. The guide handbook has been rewritten. A new feature for ‘hands on’ teaching has been introduced: ‘Grandmother’s Trunk.’ This is a box containing some sturdy old items (not museum artifacts) that the kids can handle, and it is used in conjunction with the school bell ringing segment of the tour. A workshop was held in late February to familiarize the guides with the new materials. All schools except Hamilton and the private schools have been contacted and scheduled...A guide corps is in place (although it would be nice if it were larger). The tours started on February 29th and appear to be well received.”

At the June 2000 board meeting, Susan reported: “The 3rd Grade Docent program for the spring is now completed. Twenty-six of the twenty-seven third grade classes in Novato completed the tour with about 540 children benefitting. Next year we hope to add the three classes at Hamilton School. Contact has been made...A parent from Olive School has come forward to supervise the furnishing of the Trumbull/DeLong/Sweetser doll house mansion...All the docenting was completed with just 11 helpful docents. They were Don Brittsan, Celinda Current, Roland Fuette, Bill Glass, Diana Goebel, Thelma Graves, May Gronberg, Edna Manzoni, John Trumbull, Susan...”

L-R Laurie O’Mara, Susan Trumbull, Mary Bicknell.
Other docents who served in the early years (1996-2006) included: Bill Almeida, Sharon Azevedo, Mary Bicknell, Susan Bocciccio, Judy Brady, Kathy Bustle, Judy Dwelly, Don Edwards, Lois Eischen, Bobbie Kettler, Joseph Giari, Bill Glass, Diana Goebel, Laurie Gratiot, Thelma Graves, Lin Hines, Beverly Jensen, Fern Johnson, Ann Lehan, Will Lieb, Betty Manning, Jim McNern, Cindy Motsinger, Melanie Moucin, Archie Patton, Mary Lee Sammis, Linda Scott, and Anna Young. (If we are forgetting anybody, our apologies and please let us know!)

In March of 2002, Susan sent a letter to the 3rd grade teachers: “A few ideas have come to mind which might help in your preparation for your class’s trip to the Novato History Museum” —

Some teachers report they have created a time-line of Novato History from our hand-out “Chronological History of Novato.”

The book “Valley of the Moon: The Diary of Maria Rosalia De Milagros” is an engaging read-aloud book which covers the Mexican period of California history from the perspective of a young mestizo (Indian/Spanish) servant girl and her brother.

We have gone ahead and spent the Guild’s money to furnish the Trumbull Dollhouse as close as possible to the Victorian styling of the early 1900s when the Robert H. Trumbull family lived there.

In 2003, a video was created for 3rd grade teachers to help prepare students for their Novato History Museum tour. In 2005, Janice Bazurto wrote a letter to all of the Novato Elementary School Newsletter Editors: “My name is Janice Bazurto and I am the editor of the Scorpion Newsletter for San Jose Middle School. I also am a volunteer at the Novato History Museum leading 3rd grade tours downtown. This is my first year doing this and it really is so much fun. If you could put the following in your newsletter before the end of the school year…”

June 2005 Novato Historian update (written by Susan Trumbull): “This spring approximately 540 third graders participated, with 135 teachers and parents accompanying them… A favorite of the children is the 1900s exhibit of items used in Novato households 100 years ago which the children can then identify in miniature in the Trumbull dollhouse… Elayne Miller and others created the first issue of Novato History Trading Cards of historical buildings and people from our past. Each teacher was given one set and an identical set was distributed one to each child by the docents so that they can trade cards which each other to obtain their favorites. This has engendered a lot of excitement among the children and teachers (in addition to the merchants selling the cards throughout Novato)... Katy Garon introduced the idea of docents in costume by arriving at the docent training day with a replica of an early 1900s lady. May Gronberg and Pat Willat, both “charter docents,” have retired after nine years each...

Cindy Motsinger, retired San Ramon teacher and an enthusiastic champion of our program, created a booklet of lesson plan ideas she had used with her classes to prepare them for their field trips to the Museum. She distributed booklets to each third-grade teacher in the district this year.”

April 2008 Novato Historian: “A third grade docent suggested that we install a bench along the path, behind the museum, for the children on the tour to sit on instead of sitting on the wet grass. Kathy Graves said that the City has a couple of styles of benches they prefer and she will check to see how much they cost. The Guild Treasurer will check to see if we can use money in the Memorial Fund to purchase the...”

Continued on next page

Happy Lynwood third-graders take turns ringing the original Novato Grammar School bell on the porch of the Novato History Museum supervised by our leader Pat Willat in white sweatshirt. Photo by unknown Lynwood School PTA member, November 1999.

L-R Laurie O’Mara, Susan Trumbull with 3rd grade children
will check to see if we can use money in the Memorial Fund to purchase the bench. Ann Lehan, Cindy Motsinger, and Janice Bazurto oversee the 3rd grade school tours.” Cindy Motsinger reported that six out of nine schools already signed up their 3rd grade classes for tours of the Museum and Old Town.

“From the Staff Desk” by Samantha Kimpel, Museum Curator: “On March 4, 2008, we recognized the contributions of our many wonderful volunteers and welcomed a few new volunteers (thank you Bobbie Kettler and Bob Wilkinson for signing on to work with the 3rd grade tours). Our amazing 3rd Grade Tour Docent Team convened at that time to sign up to lead this spring’s 3rd grade tours that day, as well.”

July 2008 Novato Historian: "The Novato Historical Guild for some time now has conducted very successful tours of old town Novato for 3rd grade students. This photo and thank you note was sent May 8, 2008. Edna Manzoni is shown with a 3rd grade class taught by Rickie Merritt of Pleasant Valley School. The 3rd grade tours were coordinated by Janice Bazurto, Cindy Motsinger and Ann Lehan. They were assisted by many docents. The 3rd grade tours have always been well received by the students and their teachers. Cindy Motsinger said that this year, 16 docents led five or more tours with 480 students attending.”

In 2009, Cindy took over as coordinator of the program. She began her teaching career in 1963 at West Novato School and became a Novato resident in 1966. She taught 5th and 6th graders for 25 years and switched to 3rd grade in 1988. “My class participated every year in the Museum and downtown tours. When I retired in 2003, the museum asked me to get involved.”

In 2013, Cindy passed the baton to Laurie O’Mara. Laurie’s first exposure to the tour occurred years earlier when she was a parent volunteer accompanying her daughter Megan’s 3rd grade class. When Megan was in high school, Laurie saw a post on the Novato High School web site advertising the need for third grade docents. She signed up and was trained by Janice Bazurto. “I feel this specific program is so important because we are instilling in our children a sense of pride in our town. Specifically, we’re introducing them to our early pioneers who worked so hard to make Novato what it is now. And I tell my 3rd graders: ‘When YOU grow up YOU can make this town even better.’ History has to come to life; it’s not just a bunch of dates. Our tours help bring it to life. I see a light go on behind their eyes.”

In 2019, the year before the outbreak of Covid, docent volunteers included Sharon Azevedo, Mary Bicknell, Celinda Current, Laurie O’Mara, Stan Pelmear, Anne Russell, Tina Thomatos, Susan Trumbull, and Lane Yee. From 2020-2023, the in-person tours were suspended. But that didn’t stop Laurie. She and Sharon Azevedo recorded a virtual tour and distributed it to the teachers. Laurie did the outside tour while Sharon recorded the inside one. In 2022, they prepared boxes of materials to distribute to the 3rd grade teachers. “We were trying to find little artifacts to put in the boxes along with the ‘Then and Now’ photos,” Laurie recalls. “We went to Sentimental Journey Antiques at 902 Grant Avenue looking for stuff. I was willing to make a donation to purchase the items. But the proprietor ripped off the price tags and donated the items we wanted to the museum. The teachers loved it.”

In the aftermath of Covid, a majority of docents elected not to continue. Laurie expressed gratitude to the Board of Trustees “for advertising the need for new docents.” This year’s docent crop includes Laurie O’Mara, Sharon Azevedo, Shellie Cunningham, Debbie Lynch, Brian Stompe, Barry Small, Rich Dean, Lane Yee, Susan Trumbull (who came out of ‘retirement’), Stan Pelmear and Melanie Moucin.

Stan, an elementary school teacher in Novato from 1978-2013, was a 3rd grade docent prior to Covid. “I enjoy sharing both the history of Novato along with my personal history. Growing up in Novato, actually being in the Postmaster’s house as a Cub Scout, helps bring old Novato alive for the students.”

Libby Silvestri teaches 3rd graders at Lu Sutton. Her students did a tour last April. “I love the hands-on approach,” she said. Sidney Sawyer, a parent volunteer, characterized it as “a wonderful tour. Both children and adults learned a lot about the history of Novato, our home.” Karen Matson, another 3rd grade teacher at Lu Sutton, said: “We’ve been coming 20+ years and love this program. To have docents dress in period costume is so cool for the children. The children learn new information about their town they never knew before.”

Anyone interested in volunteering in the spring of 2024 should email Laurie O’Mara at laurieomara124@gmail.com.

(The author wishes to express his special appreciation to Susan Trumbull, whose 4” thick binder of documents, correspondence, photos and other ephemera chronicling the history of the 3rd grade program were indispensable to the writing of this article.)

On April 26, 2023, Kristen Flores brought her Lu Sutton 3rd graders for a field trip to the Novato History Museum and Old Town. Her daughter, Kamryn Flores, pictured above (now 23), accompanied her mother. As a 3rd grader Kamryn did the tour in 2005.
He's The Last Chicken Rancher

By SUE JOHNSON
Staff Writer Novato Advance
April 18, 1984 C-4
Will Lieb is the only chicken rancher left in the Novato valley.
It's nothing like the 1920s, when Novato was a popular center for poultry raising and the valley was studded with some 100 chicken ranches.

A new batch of chicks get a good start.

"I feel like an anachronism," says Lieb. "My 10 acres is a pocket of land where things didn't change."

Lieb's parents started raising chickens here in 1919. Lieb (now 59) was born here, and he's still ranching on the family property and living in the home his parents built.

He produces fertile eggs for fryers, selling mainly to smaller producers from the San Joaquin Valley to Guam.

He's a bit of an anachronism in an industry that is now dominated by large-scale producers who are highly automated. (About 70 percent of the fryers are produced by 20 or 30 firms, says Lieb.)

Lieb has up to 5,000 chickens at one time on his ranch, and he lets them run the range. His liberated chickens have a different life from most chickens, who are raised in wire cages.

Lieb is convinced that his "birds" benefit from the sunshine and fresh air. It means more work for him, however. He has to guard them from marauding dogs and other hazards. As a result, his work day can stretch up to 12 hours.

"Chickens lay well," he says, "when they're free from stress." They're disturbed if strangers walk about and even if Lieb shows up in unfamiliar garb, like an orange jacket. "They're very color-conscious," he says.

"The sonic booms of the military jets at Hamilton didn't bother his birds, but the low-flying biplanes of the 30's spooked them," he adds.

"If a dog terrifies them they may pile up in a corner of the chicken house, and the ones underneath can suffocate. Fortunately, the breed favored for producing fryers is less skittish than the White Leghorn raised for laying eggs," says Lieb. Fryers require broad-breasted birds, so he combines White Plymouth Rock females with males that are a cross between Cornish game fowl and White Plymouth Rocks. He uses a ratio of one rooster to 10 hens.

Twice a year, in March and June, he gets a new batch of day-old chicks. They're flown to San Francisco from a Seattle hatchery. They start laying at 26 weeks, and Lieb sells them when they're 15 to 18 months old.

One of his few bows to automation is the use of automatic feeders. They keep the birds from overeating.

The high price of land drove the other chicken ranchers out of the valley. Lieb can continue because his land was bought at 1914 prices.

The absence of other chicken ranches here gives Lieb one advantage: he doesn't have to worry about his chickens being exposed to diseases in other flocks. "In Pennsylvania an epidemic of avian influenza made it necessary to destroy 11 million chickens," he says.

Lieb gets away from his flock occasionally for poultry conventions or vacations. His favorite getaway is a bicycle trip to places like the San Juan Islands and Victoria, B.C.

Lieb still keeps abreast of new issues in his growing community, but he sometimes thinks fondly of the old days.
Hamilton Museum Docents Veterans Join ‘Honor Flight’ to Washington, D.C.

PUBLISHED: May 28, 2023 Marin IJ

Korean War veteran Donald Violin lied about his age to enlist in the Army at age 14. At 92 years old, he says he was gratified by a veterans organization trip to Washington, D.C., this month to honor his service.

“I’ve lived a very full life,” he said. Violin was joined by Phillip Brown, 92, as the only Marin County veterans on the May 11 “honor flight.” Both men live in Novato. Organized by the Honor Flight Bay Area foundation, the excursions offer all-expenses-paid trips to the nation’s capital to reward veterans for their service. The tour escorts about 25 veterans and their respective chaperones, called “guardians,” to national monuments and historical sites.

When the honored guests disembarked the plane and entered the airport in Washington, D.C., passengers, police and firefighters greeted them with a round of applause.

“I was mind-boggled. I really, really enjoyed it,” Brown said. At the Korean War Veterans Memorial, which features 19 statues of soldiers, Violin reflected on his service.

“It was so dynamic,” he said. “You can’t be in the place and not feel something profound.”

Brown was born in Portland, Oregon, and traveled to new homes often due to his father’s career with the Food and Drug Administration. He was at San Francisco City College when the United States occupation outside of Heidelberg following World War II. He served for four years in the Navy and three years in the reserves. He worked as city manager of Novato for 18 years following a career in public administration throughout the state.

Violin was living in Astoria, Oregon, when he enlisted in the military in 1947. He told the recruiter he was 17 years old. For about two and a half years, he took part in the United States occupation outside of Heidelberg following World War II. He also spent six months in Paris.

Violin volunteered to serve in Korea. He was stationed at Yeongdeungpo near Seoul with the 82nd Infantry. He was promoted to staff sergeant after eight months. His primary responsibility was maintaining a telecommunications cable installed by the Japanese between Yeongdeungpo, Cheonan and the southern port city of Hanan.

Violin transferred to Fort Bragg in December 1951. He later worked at Fort Huachuca in Arizona assisting with a communications center, and then at Frenchman Flat in Nevada during Operation Teapot, the detonation of atomic bombs.

Violin left the Army in 1956 and worked with the Pacific Bell telephone company. He moved to Fairfax in 1979 and then San Rafael before settling in Novato in 2003.

At Novato VFW Post 7816 this month, Violin’s hat was emblazoned with a Veterans of Foreign Wars patch and pinned with an Army insignia, a ribbon for serving in Korea and a Rotary symbol. He is a member of several community organizations, many of them centering on veteran service.

“This whole thing, you can’t help but feel a lot of emotion as a result,” he said.

Connie Johnson, medical director of Honor Flight Bay Area, said organization is a national network that takes veterans to Washington, D.C., to see the memorials built in their honor. The Bay Area branch, which opened in 2014, has taken about 400 World War II veterans, 200 Korean War veterans and 250 Vietnam veterans on the trip.

“These gentlemen will finally receive gratitude for their service, which they never got returning from the ‘forgotten war,’” Johnson said.

As two of the older veterans on the trip, the pair from Marin presented the Honor Flight Bay Area wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Marin County has about 10,000 veterans, according to Sean Stephens, the county veterans services officer.

“It’s amazing that these two veterans had a chance to fly back to D.C. with a plane full of other veterans,” Stephens said.

He said the holiday weekend is a time to reflect.

“Memorial weekend is a great opportunity to gather with friends and family and to remember who gave the ultimate sacrifice,” Stephens said.
John H. Bond, was the founder and publisher of the first newspaper in north Marin, the Marin County Banner. The first issue of the Marin County Banner was published in 1901 and had advertisers and subscribers from Santa Rosa to Sausalito. During its 20 years of existence the paper was printed in several locations. The first was in Novato between Loustaunau’s Hall and DeBorba’s. A larger office was obtained on the grounds of the Orchards (the Connell property in Old Town). During the last years it was printed from a small office on the grounds of the family home. Out-of-town advertisers paid for their advertising half in merchandise and half cash. Often Novatans traded fruit and vegetables for the $2 a year subscription.

The Bond family came to Novato in 1900 and bought a small ranch home and five-acre fruit orchard below the Rudolph residence. Bond was an engraver in San Francisco before starting the Banner. (Information obtained from an article written by Frances Bond McGlaufin for the Novato Advance.)

Read on to learn more about the many interesting career experiences in his life before bringing his skills to Novato.

**J.H. Bond Laid To Rest, Writes Own Life Story**

Petaluma Argus Courier March 3, 1936

Funeral services were held for John H. Bond, one of the last of the West’s newspapermen of another day. He was brave to the last, busy writing much of the time until his eyesight failed. It was a newspaperman’s ending. A long life, the product of another age, has ended in the death of the veteran editor.

“Thirty,” craftsman’s symbol which marks the end of things in the Fourth Estate, has entered the close of a career of a gallant journalist and printer. The slug “Thirty,” went up against the name J.H. Bond at the age of 82. He died at the Main Street hospital shortly after his return from the University hospital San Francisco, where he had submitted to an operation.

Gathered at the chapel were many friends who had known him, there to express their sorrow to his family as they bade him a last farewell. The flowers sent to his bier were numerous and beautiful and covered his casket. Rev. F. L. Raney, Pastor of the Novato Presbyterian Church, was the officiating minister. His thought brought out hope of immortality. The pallbearers were John A. Olmsted, Marvin L. Hunt, M.J. Hickey, Wm. McCarth, Joe Dupon, and Henry Schneider.

And there in the Novato cemetery they laid the late J.H. Bond to rest. The late Mr. Bond will be missed by everyone who knows him.

In the newspaper business much of his life, he stood close to the stream of events, attentive to the temper of the rapidly changing world. While following the profession, he witnessed those technological advances, characteristic of his time. He saw the old typesetter give way to the linotype machine and he witnessed the tremendous growth of the modern press as a result. He was loved and respected by the newspaper fraternity. He had earned that regard.

When he retired after disposing of the Novato Banner, he moved to Petaluma. He had always had a warm spot in his heart for this city, and some months ago came back—back to die.

Life to him was just a dull parade of years, after illness had left him bedridden and helpless. Until the end he had watched the political and business worlds. He understood men and the motives that controlled them. Through his own suffering he had learned the value of patience. The radio at his bedside was a blessing when he could no longer see.

In writing to the paper, he once said:

“Crippled by the same old merciless and insidious malady that infected the ancient Rip Van Winkle, I still have partial use of my hands. I am now past the 80th year, now in ‘the sear and yellow leaf’; unfortunately, I am half deaf, another concession to old age.”

He contributed stories and poetry to the Argus-Courier until the end and with them, at times, drew the picture which he furnished with a cut. His last duty was writing an
obituary of his life for the paper, as he smiled at the date he knew was near.

(He signed the obituary, which appears below, in his pen name “Gordon Grayton” in Petaluma on March 20, 1932.)

Highlights in the life of J.H. Bond; the low lights were not recorded.
J. H. Bond, born in Syracuse, New York, September 28, 1854; first born to Rev. J. and Catherine Bond. In 1863, during the Civil War, he moved with his parents and two younger brothers to Chicago, Ill.
John H. graduated from grammar school, attended art school, and learned the art of engraving wood, serving an apprenticeship of several years. Finding this work too confining and having a liking for newspaper work, he found a start in this line with the Chicago Tribune in the sanctuary of Perigreen Pickel, humorous writer, as office boy.
In 1876, on the advice of his family doctor and that of Horace Greely, “young man go west,” he landed in Omaha, Neb., and found employment with the Omaha Bee.
(He would marry Mary Raukiu on June 22, 1878, in Omaha. The 1880 census shows his profession as a wood engraver.)
About this time the discovery of gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota, created a stampede to Deadwood, but owing to hostile Indians on the warpath between Fort Garamie and the mining camp, news of the strike filtered slowly into the outside world.
The enterprising Ed Rosewater of the Bee and his city editor, Al Sorenson, selected Bond and a newcomer, Jack Crawford, on a detail to proceed to Deadwood and cover the news.
On his return to Omaha, Bond was offered a position on the publicity staff of the Union Pacific railroad.
His parents had moved to Glasco, Kansas, in the meantime.
Bond went to visit his parents in 1882, and while there, conceived the notion of giving the people of Glasco a weekly newspaper, the first issue appearing January 1, 1883.
Topeka, Kansas, next saw Bond in his old role of newspaper reporter, on both the Daily Capital and the Commonwealth.
Here he wrote the story of “Oklahoma or the Beautiful Land,” published in book form and largely sold on the train out from Kansas City.
The call of the west next found J. H. in Denver, Colo., working on the Rocky Mountain News. A more desirable offering coming from Rocky Mountain Historical Society, he engaged in assisting in the publication of the four volumes of the History of Colorado. (History of the State of Colorado by Frank Hall 1889).
This work completed J. H. set his face toward the setting sun, landing in San Francisco in February 1890, a goal he had always desired.
Finding no opening in the newspaper field in San Francisco, he turned to Oakland, where he received a welcome from Frank A. Leach, who had recently established the Oakland Enquirer.
(A poem by Gordon Grayton aka John H. Bond dated June 10, 1893, appeared in the Oakland Enquirer.)
The Veterinarians at Hamilton

Michael Corlett

It all started with George Washington at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Washington ordered that a farrier (horseshoer/blacksmith) be included in each new regiment. The farrier had practical knowledge about the treatment of horses. Even though they were essentially only horseshoers, the farriers had some knowledge of animal care and consequently became the first veterinarians in the US Army. (1)

By the time of the Civil War in 1861, only 50 veterinarians in the United States held degrees in Veterinary Science, all of whom had to go abroad to get that degree. During the war, neither side put much effort into improving or providing veterinary services. One official Quartermaster document fumed that animals that could have been kept in serviceable condition died due to “neglect and imbecility on the part of those in charge.” (2)

It wasn’t until the 1870s that Congress passed a resolution requiring all applicants for Army veterinary positions with the Cavalry be graduates from a recognized veterinary college. In the 1890s, veterinarians were being sought to inspect meat, poultry, and dairy products destined for the frontier posts. During this time, the initial focus was on the health of the animals on duty, not the packing process or sanitation at the plant.

In 1916, the Army Veterinary Corps was created; however, it took a scandal, a book, and Teddy Roosevelt to make it happen. One of the occurrences that spurred the creation of the Veterinary Corps was the “Beef Scandal” during the Spanish-American War in 1898. The US Army had decided to use Chicago meatpackers to supply canned beef to the soldiers in Cuba instead of using local sources. Most of the meat arriving in Cuba was so poorly preserved and chemically degraded that it was toxic and dangerous to consume. This caused an unrecorded number of illnesses and deaths from dysentery and food poisoning. The Dodge Commission, consisting of military men and civilians, was appointed by President McKinley in 1898 to investigate the matter. The commission concluded that there was nothing wrong with the beef and that the cases of food poisoning were due to mishandling or improper cooking of the canned beef. The report was widely criticized and the press and some members of Congress accused the Commission of whitewashing. (3)

In 1905, Upton Sinclair wrote *The Jungle*. Sinclair worked undercover for seven weeks in the Chicago Meatpacking Industry. *The Jungle* exposed the harsh and unsanitary conditions for both workers and animals. A public outcry followed.

After reading Sinclair’s book, Teddy Roosevelt sent two representatives to observe operations in the meatpacking industry. In his speech to Congress on June 4, 1906, he said, “The conditions shown by even this short inspection to exist in the Chicago stockyards are revolting.”(4)

Three weeks after his speech, on June 30, 1906, the Pure Food and Drug Act was passed, and on the same day, the Federal Meat Inspection Act was also passed.

The U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps was established in 1949 as part of the Air Force Medical Service, created after the Air Force’s separation from the Army in 1947. What did veterinarians at Hamilton do? They provided medical, surgical, and dental care to various animals, including military working dogs, ceremonial horses, service animals, and pets of service members and their families. However, these functions were a small part of the Veterinarian Corps’s responsibilities.

Upon arrival at Hamilton, all animal-derived foods were inspected. Inbound fruits and vegetables intended for human consumption were also examined by the veterinarians.

Veterinarians did site sanitation inspections of cattle ranches, dairy operations, and cheese production facilities providing food products for Hamilton.

Veterinarian Richard Dowdakin was assigned to Hamilton in 1943 and joined the ten-member clinic. Among other duties, his military record shows inspections of dairy establishments in Ferndale, CA, and inspection of “establishments” supplying food of animal origin to the Armed Forces in the Eureka/Arcata area. He also did routine veterinary inspection visits at an air squadron in Klamath, CA, and seafood inspections in Bodega Bay.

Sanitation inspections were also done at food serving facilities on the base. Some lesser-known duties were the training of veterinary enlisted personnel for overseas replacements. Veterinarians also served in combat areas as dogs were used to sniff for mines, booby traps, and other duties. Likewise, veterinarians conducted Zoonosis (any infectious disease spread from animals to humans) Control Clinics to identify and prevent Zoonosis diseases. In 1980, Congress directed the Department of Defense to consolidate the veterinary missions of the Army and the Air Force. The Army became the executive agent for all DOD Veterinary services.

As a result, the US Air Force Veterinary Corps was deactivated in 1980.

Sources:
(1) Every Man His Own Horse Doctor, Francis Clater, 1783, National Museum of Civil War Medicine
(2) ibid
(3) United States Army Beef Scandal, Wikipedia
(4) Theodore Roosevelt, June 4, 1906. Message Regarding Meatpacking Plants Miller Center.org
Elayne Miller’s Service to Novato

By Barry Smail

Novato Rotary describes Elayne Miller as “amazing and ageless.” Former Novato Mayor Jeanne MacLeamy recalls meeting Elayne at Novato’s 50th birthday celebration in 2009, and asked her to head up the City’s “Buy a Brick Program.” “I learned that once Elayne committed to a task, she would not let anyone down,” Jeanne said. Elayne has served as Volunteer Superintendent of that program since 2010.

The history of Novato is a subject dear to Elayne’s heart. She has been a Guild member since 1997, and served as President of the Board of Trustees in 2005-2006. Elayne first became acquainted with the Guild at an annual Christmas fair at the Margaret Todd Senior Center. As it does every year, the Guild had a table and was selling its wares. Elayne purchased the “Novato Township” book (authored by May Rodgers Ungemach) and a pair of hand-knitted golf club head covers. (Elayne has been an avid golf enthusiast since 1957.)

As NHG President, Elayne introduced much innovation to the Novato History Museum. According to Novato History Museum Manager Susan Magnone, “Elayne is the pioneer who got the Guild to adopt Past Perfect and trained the docents. Until then, our hand-written inventories were typed into an old computer. Elayne recalls that “we were doing this impossible job with antique equipment.” “I did some online research and discovered the Past Perfect museum software.” It cost $1,000 per person to get the training. Elayne paid her own way and the City paid Edna Manzoni’s tuition.

At one board meeting, there was a discussion about what could be added to the Museum store’s inventory, which at the time was pretty much limited to “Novato Township” books and some thimbles. Board member Cathrin van den Toorn commented: “All my kids want are baseball cards.”

Elayne thought creating trading cards for the Museum was a great idea; she learned the Novato Police Department was handing out trading cards to children depicting Novato officers. “We decided to make cards of old-time Novato families and historic buildings. I accepted the challenge and did the research.” Elayne was assisted in the endeavor by many Guild members, in particular Jim McNern, Yvette Borloz Jackson, and Anna Young, who recommended the final selections. Roland Fuette scanned all the photos, and the cards were printed and distributed to 3rd graders who toured the Museum and Old Town. The trading cards were also offered for sale in the Museum store.

Elayne recalls that “one day when I was docenting, about 20 years ago, a mother and her two little boys came in. They were looking for haunted houses and wanted to know whether we knew of any. I told them the story of how the Postmaster’s house came to haunted. They were very excited.”

Elayne played an important role in the early fundraising for the creation of the Hamilton Field History Museum at the historic Hamilton Air Force Firehouse. Elayne helped secure a $50,000 donation from one of the developers of new housing at the former base.

Born in London, Ontario, Elayne moved to Costa Mesa with a girlfriend in 1960. She later met and married Colonel Charles C. Miller of the U.S. Army. In 1975, the couple—now residing in San Francisco—were looking to live in Novato. “He was researching potential Novato properties to purchase,” Elayne recalls. “One day, I excused myself to the ladies’ restroom, and returned to find out that Charles had purchased a piece of undeveloped land in Pacheco Valley.” Charles passed away in 1982.

While working has a docent at the Novato History Museum, Elayne would gaze out the window at the historic Silva-Kuser house at 825 De Long Avenue, located next door to the Museum. Built in 1903, it was owned by the City of Novato and had been vacant for many years. In 2013, Elayne purchased it with the understanding that she would be required to meet strict State standards for historic preservation. After overcoming all the regulatory hurdles, Elayne occupied the premises in 2019. Former Mayor Jeanne MacLeamy remarked, “I know first-hand the roadblocks she faced, but Elayne would not be deterred; she provided a benefit to the City and its taxpayers by lovingly restoring a city-owned unusable property. Aesthetically charming and a welcome sight to all those coming into Novato, the Kuser House, now her home, is once again an historic asset to our charming downtown.”

Elayne also serves as a member of the City’s Holiday Tree Lighting Committee and the 4th of July Parade Committee.

The Guild purchased these bricks to commemorate the dedicated service of Kathryn Hansen, former President and Treasurer.
Las Guitarras founder Elena Pantanija, daughter Lisa Garcia and grandson Alex

Volunteers who set up and broke down the canopies, tables and chairs: Jim Crumpler, Rick Palumbo, Dan Azevedo, Sharon Azevedo, Lorne Magnone, Dean Weldon, Barry Smail, Mike Corlett, Tom Keena, Lynn Dawson.

From L-R: Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, Novato Multicultural Commission Vice-Chair Cliff Jacobs, NHG Hispanic Outreach Committee members Sandra Lua and Sara Torres, Las Guitarras co-owner Lisa Garcia, NHG Vice President Barry Smail, Hispanic Outreach Committee member Grissel Magana, NUSD Superintendent Dr. Tracy Smith, Novato History Museum Manager Susan Magnone. Bottom: Hispanic Outreach Committee member Maria Aguila and Grissel's son Georshua Andrade
Among the fabulous individuals whose lives have made the history of Marin County colorful and dramatic was Don Timotheo Murphy, who arrived here from his native Ireland via Chile and became a tremendously wealthy landowner. He was already an old settler when the discovery of gold brought thousands of adventurers to California shores in search of the precious metal.

So, it was Don Timotheo who donated land for a small house erected in 1855 to provide a place to live for 13 boys whose parents had died in the rush for gold. From that beginning there arose the magnificent St. Vincent's School for Boys which has continuously provided a home and a center of training for boys whose rearing for one reason, or another could not be directed by loving parents.

Soon after those 13 boys arrived, all the boys who continued to come were cared for by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Several years later, they were succeeded by the Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of the Most Holy Name, San Rafael. Among the priests who cared for the boys in those early days were Fathers Lootens, Croke, D. O. Crowley, William McKinnon, Thomas McKeon.

In 1895, the Brothers of the Christian Schools assumed charge of St. Vincent's and for 27 years labored tirelessly at the task of making better Christians and better citizens of the boys committed to them. The Brothers regretfully left in 1922 and were succeeded by Father McElroy. Immediately he saw the need for new buildings to take the place of the existing ones that had outlived their usefulness.

He, in conjunction with Father Weber, worked long and arduously at the task of rebuilding. For several years, Sunday after Sunday, he preached in the various churches of the Archdiocese. Through this medium, and with the help of several large donations, reconstruction went on without interruption from 1925 to 1930. On June 29 of that latter year, before one of the largest crowds ever gathered in Marin County, the beautiful Spanish renaissance chapel was dedicated. In 1933 a long-felt need was met when a very excellent swimming pool was opened. In 1940, the final unit of the present buildings, the very spacious and serviceable gymnasium, was completed.

These new buildings, in reinforced concrete, were symbolic of the work of building character on a solid basis carried on by the late beloved Monsignor McElroy. The quality of the buildings and the beauty of the landscape were utilized by him as a means of rebuilding in the boys a lost faith in their elders and providing them with something which they may well be proud of. When, on April 25, 1943, the Master bid the late Monsignor to come to himself, the boys of St. Vincent's suffered an irreparable loss.

Since 1943, the administration of the school has been in the hands of Right Reverend William M. Burke, who had the good fortune and privilege of working with Monsignor McElroy for eight years before his death. He is ably assisted by Reverends John T. Dwyer and John J. Bunyan, the Sisters of St. Dominic of the Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary, Mission San Jose, and a competent self-sacrificing lay staff.

Ten thousand is a conservative estimate of the number of boys who have gone through school in these years. Many of them became, and are, outstanding citizens in their respective communities.

The purpose of the school has not changed over these many years. It gives full-time care to boys who are needy, neglected, or dependent for one reason or another. By means of a well-balanced program, educational, moral, physical, and aesthetic, it aims at giving these boys an equal chance to fight the battle of life.

Support for the work comes from payment of fees by individuals, counties and the state, the Community Chests of Marin and San Francisco, and revenue from the large farm of 1,800 acres now owned and operated by the school.
Welcome New Guild Members

Novato Historical Guild Membership Report
December 2023

Individual Membership
Gene Day
Dan Hanlon
Peter Irlenborm
Bob Renati
Kris Wiley
John Lytle
Michele Sutton
Linda Taylor

Family Membership
Life Membership
Al Nichelini
Anne Russell
Kevin & Leslie Patterson

If you have questions about membership, call or email Lorne Magnone 415-898-8458 lornemagnone@peoplepc.com

Please Support Our Guild Business Members:
- Aaero Heating & Sheet Metal, Inc
- A.D. Scott Building
- Alders Financial Solutions
- Andrew McAhgon Landscaping
- Anixter & Oser Insurance
- Bank of Marin
- Cameron, Coffey & Kaye
- Christman Chiropractic
- Empathy Estate Planning
- H & J Tire
- Indian Valley Golf Club
- Las Guitarras Restaurant
- Marianne’s Painting
- Marin Color Service
- Marin Landscape Materials
- Mclsaac Dairy
- NARA Aesthetics LLC
- Nave Enterprises
- Novato Builders Supply, Inc.
- Novato Grove Druids #113
- Pini Hardware
- Planet Home Lending-Bill Hoopes
- Red Barn Productions
- The Bluffs at Hamilton Hill
- Trumbull Manor Inc.
- Valley Oak Wealth Management
- Valley Memorial Park Cemetery & Funeral Home

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 or ask for Michael Read at 415-717-1412.

Join the Novato Speaker Series at the Jonas Center!

We are excited to announce the Novato Speaker Series, sponsored by the Novato Rotary Club, the Ignacio Rotary Club, and the Novato Historical Guild, held at the Jonas Center at Indian Valley College. Our Speaker Series has been receiving great feedback, starting with our successful events on July 27th and August 24th.

We have an incredible lineup of speakers planned for the upcoming months:

Thursday, December 21, 2023:
Heidi Kühn—Don’t miss this unique opportunity to witness the extraordinary story of Heidi Kühn, Founder and CEO of Roots of Peace, as she leads the Novato Speaker Series on Cultivating Peace through Agriculture. Learn how one individual’s vision turned minefields into flourishing vineyards. Be there to be inspired, informed, and part of the change that’s transforming our world!

Thursday, January 25th, 2024:
Michael Pritchard & Mark Dale—The pressure and the ability to access risk that our youth experience in Marin

Thursday, February 22nd, 2024:
Felecia Gaston—Unveiling Marin City’s Rich History

Mark your calendars! Each event will be held on a Thursday evening, with doors opening at 6:30 PM. The speaker presentations will begin promptly at 7:00 PM and conclude at 8:30 PM. Tickets can be purchased on our website. See below.

We invite you to opt into our newsletter to stay connected with our community and receive regular updates on our speakers. Join us as we explore inspiring and thought-provoking topics together.

We look forward to seeing you at the Novato Speaker Series!

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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 or ask for Michael Read at 415-717-1412.

Novato Speakers Series
Bill and Adele Jonas Center, 1800 Ignacio Blvd. #19 Novato
Novatospeakersseries.com

December 21st—Heidi Kühn - Social justice story replaces land mines with grapevines/ Don Forbes music
January 25th—Dr. Michael Pritchard & Mark Dale—The pressure and the ability to access risk that our youth experience in Marin
February 22nd—Felecia Gaston—Unveiling Marin City’s Rich History
March 28th—Chris Waugh—Revolutionizing Healthcare: A Journey Through Human-Centered Innovation
April 25th—Laurie Reemsnyder—Journey of Hope: Southeast Asian Immigrations Chronicles at Hamilton AFB (1980-84)
May 30th—Tony Saunders—Bay Area Music—Johnny Mathis to the Grateful Dead

1957 Redwood at Grant Avenue
**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 Novato History Museum. Please call the Museum at (415) 897-4320. Each plaque costs $250 per person named and is tax deductible.

**2024 Board Meetings**
Second Tuesday of the Month
Margaret Todd Senior Center
1560 Hill Road
Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Jan. 9 July 9 (field trip)
Feb. 13 Aug. 13
March 12 Sept. 10
April 9 Oct. 8
May 14 Nov. 12
June 11 Dec. 10

**Membership Meetings**
March 16 10 – 12
June 15 10 – 12
Sept. 14 12–2 (BBQ at Hamilton)
Dec. 14 10 – 12

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.

**In Memoriam**

Dr. Jim Gratiot  
Leta Hill  
Rose Pinheiro Teixeira

**THE GUILD EXTENDS SYMPATHY TO**
Laurie Gratiot and family on the loss of Jim Gratiot  
The Hill family on the loss of Leta Hill  
The Pinheiro and Teixeira families on the loss of Rose Teixeira

**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/

**Key to the City of Novato**
**Novato Valley of Gentle Season**
HUGH TURNER - COUNCIL MEMBER  
APRIL 15, 1980 NOVEMBER 12, 1991

**Novato Historical Guild**
Membership
Dues Increase:
Individual from $20 to $30
Family from $30 to $40
Business From $50 to $75

**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  - $30 year  
- [ ] Family membership  - $40 year  
- [ ] Life membership, individual  - $350  
- [ ] Life membership, joint  - $500  
- [ ] Business membership  - $75 year
- [ ] Free for 90+

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City__________________________ Zip__________

Phone ________________________________
Additional donations? ____________________
Interested in volunteering? ____________________
Email address: ________________________________
Volunteer opportunity

The hospitality committee is looking for volunteers to assist with set-up and refreshments at the Historical Guild's general meetings. The Guild hosts four general meetings a year which offer a great opportunity for members to gather and enjoy presentations from some very interesting speakers. Assistance is needed from 9:00 a.m. until noon for each of these meetings. If interested please email info@novatohistory.org, or call the Novato History Museum at 415-897-4320.

NOVATO HISTORICAL GUILD
Nominations for 2024-2025

The candidates listed below are recommended by the nominating committee to serve on the Board of Directors of the Novato Historical Guild for the years of 2024-2025. The election will be held at the Guild’s membership meeting on December 9th.

Jim Crumpler, Board Member, President
Jeanne MacLeamy, Board Member
Ray Shanahan, Docent HFHM
Sharon Azevedo, Docent NHM
T.B.A.

Proposed Additions to the Bylaws

Article IV: Board of Directors
Section B Elections and Term of office
4. A resignation by a Director is effective when received by the President, Vice President or Secretary in writing. The resignation is recorded in the minutes at the next Board meeting. The resigned Director may serve on the board again, in accordance with the Bylaws, Article IV, Section C.

Section C. Nomination Procedure
b. The President shall announce that any Guild member who has been a member in good standing for one year prior to the election date December 31st of the current year can express interest in serving on the board to the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Section E. Removal from the Board
1. A Board member may be removed by action of the Board for inability to perform the duties of a Board member, such as:
c. Violation of the Board’s Code of Conduct

YOU ARE INVITED
General Membership Meeting ~ Novato Historical Guild
Saturday, December 9, 10:00 to noon
Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue, Novato

The speaker will be
Brian Crawford, Author and Marin Historian
Discussing his book “Shipwrecks of Marin”

Anyone interested in Novato History is welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

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