

HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA

Vol. 8, No. 3 Jan. 1990

BIRTHDAY PARTY AT COLMA TOWN HALL ON SUNDAY, JAN. 21ST

Members of the Guild should gird up for Sunday afternoon, January 21st, 2 to 4 p.m., for the ANNUAL MEMBERS' PARTY, held, as usual, at Colma Town Hall at the corner of Serramonte Boulevard and El Camino Real in Colma.

Celebrating the 8th Birthday of the Guild, the afternoon gathering will feature special refreshments (including the bubbly), a fine, local speaker, Elio Fontana, of V. Fontana and Co., monument makers, lots of fun and fellowship, and ...no conflict with the SuperBowl!

This is the members' party, but guests of members who wish to attend may join at the door. Our dues rates are very modest, as you know.

Elio Fontana represents the 5th of six generations in the family business, which stems from his great-great grandfather in Italy's Amilia province, the home of much of the world's fine marble. Mr. Fontana will trace the work of monument and ornamental stone as he has seen it change over the years. He is a veteran of public service, with a list of credits that is truly monumental, much of it connected with local education.

EARTHQUAKE SHACKS A HIT!

Less than a month after the October 17th earthquake the Guild's November meeting at Doelger Center featured a very comprehensive presentation on the history of the Earthquake Shacks of San Francisco, by the founder of the society for their preservation, Jane Cryan.

Ms. Cryan and her co-investigators have discovered 60½ shacks in San Francisco, and she even lived in a Sunset District gem for a period time. This residence piqued her curiosity about the little houses and started her on the way to further, city-wide investigation.

A very appreciative audience of 108 members and friends enjoyed beautiful

slides of sample homes, inside and out, with the depicting details of what made an earthquake shack, and what didn't. Some 5,600 temporary homes were built and used in San Francisco. Most were razed within a year and a half after the 1906 disaster; many were brought out to become the top-of-the-hill occupants in the early days of what would become Daly City Search continues in our area for remaining units, and many that we'd thought were survivors have turned out to be close, but no cigars.

Especially helpful in the search has been Russ Brabec, who supplied a score of likely candidates in Daly City, which Jane Cryan investigated. There are a few which meet the exterior criteria, but we'll have to catch their owners at home to check further. Members of the Guild are encouraged to supply locations, if any, for further look-see.

Special guests at the meeting were Daly City Councilwoman Jane Powell; Mayor Ted Kirschner of Colma; Gladys Hansen, archivist of San Francisco; Irene Neasham, San Mateo County Historical Association; Col. Y. Spalding, historian of the Presidio; Gay Kochmech, area v.p. of the California Conference of Historical Societies; Gene Fambrini of E Clampus Vitus; and Anna Kahle, 94-year old pioneer resident of Colma.

A rousing rendition of San Francisco was sung by the assemblage, which had been reminded that Clark Gable, in the movie San Francisco, had asked what a wagon driver was doing. The reply was "We're goin' to Daly City to get milk for the kiddies!" Daly City didn't exist in 1906, but that's okay.

There was a sidebar to the topic of Earthquake Houses on the Today show, with host Bryant Gumbel, shown on KRON some days later. Filmed at the Presidio, there were good shots of both interiors and exteriors of the two houses behind the museum. And, at the Daly City Library there is a new book called Cottages, which has three pages devoted to Jane Cryan and her earthquake houses!

The San Mateo County Historical Association has asked their members and friends to submit first-person notations of their experiences during October 17th's adventures. One beautiful letter was shared at the meeting, from South San Francisco's poetess Emilia Tarjito Salvo.

Rounding out a very jolly evening were the lavish refreshments, displayed and served by **Mary Hutchings** and her most pleasant crew, **Marilyn Olcese**, **George Gaggero** and **Bob Williams**. Contributions of goodies were received from **Eileen Ford**, **Mary Redfearn**, **Frances Windhurst**, **Ford Baron**, **Fran Kelly** and **Bianca Caserza**. Many thanks to all the very helpers!

Helping with the raffle were our fine ticket-sellers **Aida** and **Leroy Larsen**, so that a pleasant prize packet of Daly City stationery, a copy of **Bunny Gillespie's** DC Trivia book, and a membership badge for the Guild could be presented.

CLAIRE FAHY PASSES

Guild director **Claire Fahy** died shortly after our November 15th meeting. **Claire** had been ill several months, and her loss is grieved by all those who were privileged to be in her circle of friends and associates.

Together with husband **Neil Fahy**, a team was formed which was invaluable in so many fields of endeavor; history, geography, sociology, church work, family history, sports...name the activity and the **Fahys** were knowledgeable and devoted. Her quiet humor and contributions to the benefit of the Guild were so very much appreciated, and will be sincerely missed.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

As we enter a new decade, it is fitting that we express sincere appreciation to those who have served the Guild so very well, on the Board, with the cataloguing, at the meetings. We are a large membership organization, with good attendance at functions, are financially sound, and receive wonderful cooperation from City Halls, both in Daly City and Colma. There is a lot more known, and interest shown, in the history of our communities than ever before, and it is largely due to the work and interest of the membership of the Guild.

The Board of Directors functions very well, without many meetings, since the business of the Guild seems to flow very nicely. The work of **Roz Babow** as Treasurer and Membership Chairman is probably the most time-consuming, but

she is so efficient! **Bunny Gillespie's** twin role as Secretary and Program Chair keeps our meetings interest-filled, and we thoroughly appreciate her diligence in rooting out good speakers and good subjects that lie within our Guild objectives. The work of **Neil Fahy** as a Guild speaker and resource person, head of our cataloguing project, and our data base manager is so vital,

Quiet and patient is **Yolanda Hardiman**, and her counsel has been very valuable, as has that of **Ted Babow**, who also supervises the display tables at the meetings. And, since she heads the Nominating Committee, we appreciate the diligent work of **Jane Powell**, and the Auditing Committee team of **Danny Gilbrech** and **John Palmer**.

And of course we do thank City Librarian **John Sullivan** for the use of the library space at Serramonte Library for storage of catalogued materials, meetings when needed, mail address for the Guild, and all those intangibles which make for a very pleasant relationship. His staff is wonderful, and we feel we have a second home on Wembley!

Goodies wouldn't be goodies without the beautifully-organized team of **Mary Hutchings** and **Marilyn Olcese**, **George Gaggero**, **Bob Williams**. Each meeting they arrive with refreshments, decorations, and a cooperation that is delightful to observe and appreciate.

When we mention City Halls, we do appreciate the steadfast backing of Colma officials **Ted Kirschner**, **Frances Liston** and **Charles Gerrans**, and of Daly City's **Jane Powell** and **Al Teglia**, who attend almost every function, together with School Board Trustee **Betty Schultz**.

The team of cataloguers during the year has been faithful, and provides a period of fun and fellowship, and good detective work, adding to the index of pictures and other historical data at Serramonte Library. We commend the work of **Neil Fahy's** team, **Walter** and **Elaine Riney**, **Ed** and **Olive Smith**, **Yolanda Hardiman**, **Bunny Gillespie**, **Olga Tourkoff**.

Leroy and **Aida Larsen** have been so helpful in providing our computerized address labels and lists of members and their membership status. Besides that, they have been very diligent in selling raffle tickets, assisted by **Dorothy Gorry**.

Having friends at City Hall is very comforting. And, we must not forget the wonderful cooperation of Daly City's Recreation and Parks Department, who provide free use of the Doelger Center Multi-Use Room for four of our five yearly meetings, and of Colma Township who hosts our annual members' meeting each January.

Someday we hope to have a museum, or at least areas where we can display artifacts and pictures, and tell the story of our communities for passers-by and especially the children. Currently **Bunny and Ken Gillespie** bring our local 3rd grade students, when requested by their teachers, slide shows on the history of our area, each presentation tailored to the particular school. This is an expanding activity, and runs parallel to recent encouragement from the State Board of Education that local history be part of the school curriculum.

We can only see an expansion of our Guild's work, which is fun, educational, and brings together people of goodwill and interest. Thank you all, and a very happy and worthwhile New Year to everyone!

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

Contributions to the Guild collection of memorabilia have been received from **Cathy Scalice**, of the Daly City Library, in the form of three badges which were owned by her grandfather **Timothy Foley**. Two of the badges are service awards from Doelger Homes, and an American Legion membership button. We thank good friend **Cathy** for her generosity.

Also received was a fine collection of photographs of the Daly City/Colma area in the late 1960's, showing the construction of Serramonte, the freeway system, individual buildings along Mission Street and San Pedro Road, etc. These were all presented by member **Don Ray** of Belmont, who made a special trip to present the pix. **Don** also contributed two crystalline prints of the Colma R.R.

station and San Pedro and Mission Road, complete with a #14 streetcar, on its way down to the cemeteries, perhaps. These pictures continue the expansion of our photo file, the cataloguing of which is underway again on Tuesday afternoons, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., at the Serramonte Library, the lower entrance on Wembley.

COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES BOOK

Daly City Librarian **John Sullivan** notes that the library will purchase a number of copies of the booklet **Pointers to the Past - a Guide to the Historic Resources of San Mateo County**, written by the Historic Preservation Section of the San Carlos Branch of the American Association of University Women. Contributions to the booklet were made by the Daly City Clerk **Lorraine D'Elia** and Daly City historians the **Gillespies**.

PORTOLA EXPEDITION, MARCH 21ST



Our **March 21, 1990** meeting will be held at Doelger Center at 7:30 p.m., with **Judge Jose DeLarios**, president of the South San Francisco Historical Society speaking on the subject of **The Portola Expedition**. A noted authority on the subject, **Judge DeLarios** was a pivotal figure in the Portola statue acquisition in Pacifical.

COOKIE JAR VOLUNTEERS

The following members have volunteered four dozen goodies each for the January 21st Birthday Party at the Colma Town Hall. They will also be contacted by Mary Hutchings as a reminder:

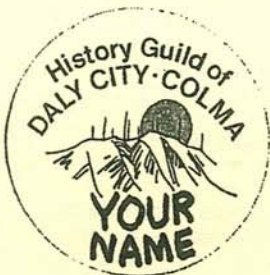
Enid Williams
Ed and Olive Smith
Roz Babow
Bunny Gillespie

If any other members wish to bring some refreshments, too, well, come on down!

WOULD YOU LIKE A BADGE?

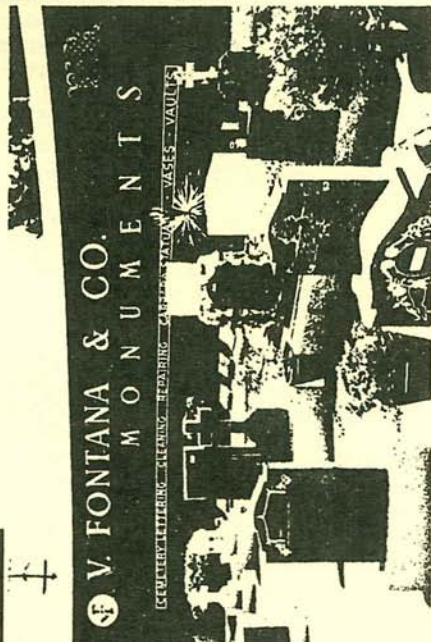
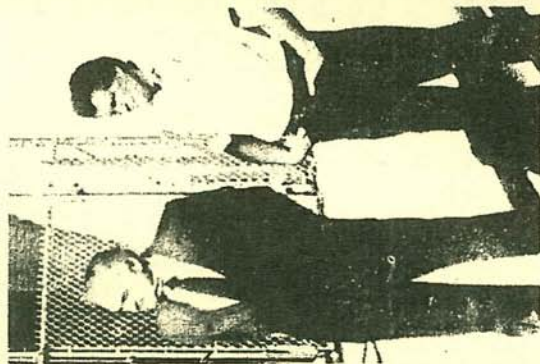
Membership badges of the Guild are available from Ken Gillespie, who purchased a button-making machine, and has been having lots of fun making individual buttons for particular projects.

Buttons are as represented below, with names lettered, are 2½" in diameter, and can be ordered at \$1.00 each, with 75¢ going to the Guild treasury.



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Ken Gillespie, pres.	755-5123
Roz Babow, treas.	994-7662
Bunny Gillespie, secy.	755-5123
Neil Fahy, dir.	756-2753
Yolanda Hardiman, dir.	589-0188
Ted Babow, dir.	994-7662



DAILY CITY ADVOCATES
HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA
40 Wembley Drive
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Elio and Mark Fontana outside their Colma monument works, the subject of Elio's January 21st talk at the Guild's BIRTHDAY PARTY at Colma Town Hall.

You all come, now!