

HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA

Vol. 9 - No. 1 July 1990

HISTORY BUFFS TO WITNESS DUEL!

On Sunday, July 15th, there will be a meeting of the HISTORY BUFFS of San Mateo County in our area. This group, the "outing arm" of the San Mateo County Historical Association, will gather at 2:00 p.m. in the little park near the County Line, known as the Broderick-Terry Dueling Site, for the purpose of hearing a brief description of, and THE RE-ENACTMENT OF, the famous duel of 1859, which pitted two avowed political enemies against each other, David Terry, chief justice of the California Supreme Court, and U.S. Senator David Broderick.

Commentator for the occasion will be Dr. Robert Chandler, history officer of Wells Fargo Bank. The duel will be conducted by two Guild members, Richard Hill and Geno Fambrini, using authentic, period pistols. The two are good pals, and have promised to stay the same up to the appointed hour. Note: the pistols are incapable of firing anything except noisy caps.

Refreshments will be served after the duel, and not just to the winning faction. The park is reached by going north on Westlake's Cliffside Drive, to El Portal Drive, just where Cliffside turns east. Cliffside is one block to the east of Lake Merced Blvd.

SEPT. SPEAKER FROM ARCHIVES

Our September program, which was to have been Railroads of San Mateo County, with Amtrak's Arthur Lloyd as featured speaker, has been changed. On September 19th, 7:30 p.m., Doelger Center, we will be honored to present the Director of the National Archives, Pacific Sierra Region (San Bruno), Ms. Waverly B. Lowell, speaking on the topic WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?, taking us behind the scenes in the huge San Bruno facility.

We've been into the files, and came away fascinated with the material that was stored there. Ms. Lowell will tell us what's there, and how to get at it. So many friends have done genealogical and other types of research, and speak glowingly of their successes. This will be a dandy program.

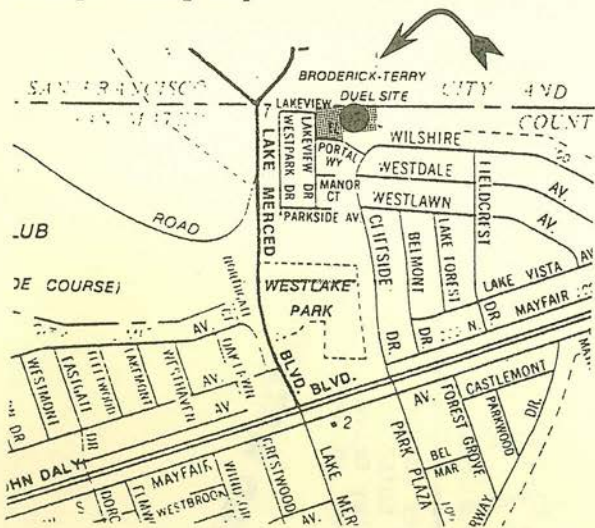
Footnote: Art Lloyd will be our November speaker about the local railway history.

VICTORIAN DAYS IN THE PARK

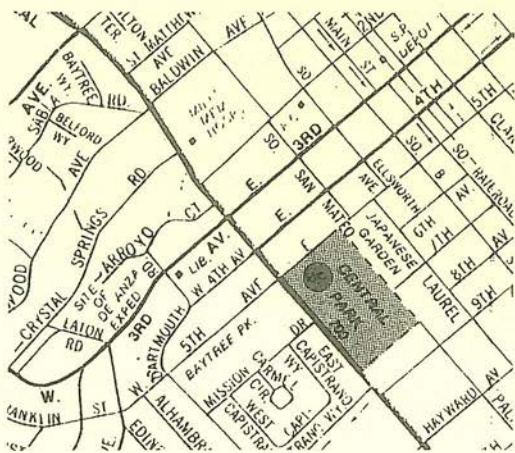
The annual VICTORIAN DAYS IN THE PARK, sponsored as a major fund-raiser by the San Mateo County Historical Association, will be held on August 25-26 in San Mateo Central Park, 5th Ave. and El Camino Real.

Our Guild has participated on "History Row" for several years, presenting a booth with pictures and information relative to our organization.

"History Row" is just that, a series of "booths", tables, really, with similar activities. The other history groups in San Mateo County are represented, and it's a very pleasant endeavor.



Admission to the Victoria Days is free...there is good, picnic-style food and drink available, exhibits and entertainment on a continuous basis.



The fair consists of about 200 booths, arts, crafts, food and beverage, plus just-about-non-stop entertainment on the stage. Our booth is always very close to the hub of excitement, and gets a lot of traffic passing by. We have a gimmick that gets a lot of laughs. Using a Windex bottle with cold water, and labeled **Daly City Air**, we spray passers-by on the very hot days with a light spritz of our famous condensed climate.

Our booth usually offers a box of old pictures from the history collection, all neatly labeled, and a map of the area. Former DC and Colma residents are always pointing out where they used to live, and conversation is usually very animated and friendly.

We set up for about 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and supply tables and chairs for volunteers to staff the booth. If you would be interested in taking an hour or so during the weekend, it would be great.

Call **Bunny** or **Ken Gillespie**, at 755-5123, to participate in a very delightful enterprise...all fun, no real labor at all. Try it...you'll like it!

BLIMP UNSOLVED MYSTERY

The response to **Daly City's Unsolved Mystery** was gratifying. More than 150 members and friends crowded Doelger Center to hear the story of the L-8, the Navy blimp which crashed on Bellevue Ave., August 16, 1942.

And, there were about a dozen in the audience who had been eye-witnesses to the saga of the blimp, including a couple of folk who had previously-unpublished pictures.

For the benefit of those members who weren't able to make the May meeting, the end of the story detailed the almost production of the story on the network tv series, "**Unsolved Mysteries**". The show's producer had been in contact with the **Gillespies**, and was satisfied that the subject would make a good segment.

A producer/director came up from Hollywood, and spent the day, taken to the various sighting scenes and the crash scene on Bellevue. He returned to Hollywood ready to start production. But, part of the segment depended on the use of a current (but same size, etc.) Goodyear blimp to represent the Navy craft. The L-8 had been a Goodyear airship prior to its loan to the Navy in 1942. Goodyear, however, refused to allow the blimp to be re-configured to wartime Navy status, which would have involved repainting, and removal of the intricate electronic sign equipment now affixed to the blimp America. So, that would have been too expensive for the program's one segment budget. They put the whole conception on hold. Too bad!

GUILD OFFICERS ELECTED

At the May meeting also the Nominating Committee made its report. Chairperson **Jane Powell** put forth the following slate of officers:

Ken Gillespie - president
Neil Fahy - vice-president
Bunny Gillespie - secretary
Roz Babow - treasurer
Ted Babow - director
Yolanda Hardiman - director
Elaine Riney - director
Walter Riney - director

The floor was opened for further nominations. Hearing none, there was a motion for closing nominations, and election by acclaim.

Following the election, Jane Powell installed the newly-elected officers in a single, non-tarrying ceremony.

Neil Fahy, has been a director of the Guild since we've had elected officers, and a featured speaker on many occasions. Elaine and Walter Riney have been faithful members of the cataloging team at Serramonte Library each Tuesday.

D.C. 2ND CITY HALL AUCTIONED

Daly City's second City Hall, built in 1939 with a combination of bond issue money and federal assistance, was auctioned off at the City Council meeting of May 29, 1990.

The bidding was between two of three qualifying buyers, Pharr West Investment, Inc., and Daly City developer John Tealdi. The bidding started at \$630,000, escalating in minimum bids of \$5,000. When the spirited, 20-minute-long bidding ended, the City had received a purchase offer of \$805,000! The winner was John Tealdi, of Home Town Realty.

The original cost of the two-story, plus basement City Hall was \$65,000. A number of condominium units are planned to occupy the lot at Wellington and Irvington, across the street from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Vacant for several years, the building had become the victim of weather and age. When the new City Hall was completed in 1967, the Wellington Ave. facility was leased to a series of tenants, who made wall-changes in many areas. To bring it up to current occupancy standards would have been prohibitive in cost, so the building was sold.

When the building is demolished to build the condos, it is hoped that the dedication plaque on the entrance landing might be salvaged. It reads:

"This building is dedicated to
Truth, Liberty, Tolerance...

May 21, 1939"

WASTEWATER PLANT DEDICATED

The expansion mode of Daly City's Wastewater Treatment Plant was dedicated on June 7, 1990. Located at the south end of Westlake Park, the \$14.7 million underground facility increases the plant's secondary capacity from 8 to 10.3 million gallons per day.

An existing softball park was temporarily removed during construction. The plant is on the same site as the very first treatment plant for the area. A large septic tank served the early population, which had grown dramatically following the 1906 S.F. earthquake and fire. In 1907, the Spring Valley Water Co., fearing pollution of its water supply, permitted the septic tank overflow to be diverted to the Vista Grande Tunnel for disposal to the Pacific Ocean.

The tunnel was built in 1895 to handle storm water overflow from Lake Merced. The brick, egg-shaped tunnel is still used today to transport treated wastewater from the City's effluent pipeline to the ocean outfall at Thornton beach.

EARLY DAYS FISH STORY

Back in 1878, pioneer Colma settler I.G. Knowles established the Knowles Trout and Carp Ponds, for the benefit of anglers. Starting with 14 carp, the next year he added 16 more, and by 1882 there were more 30,000 fish. Mr. Knowles was one of the original settlers of the area, operating a dairy farm, with about 60 cows, supplying to San Francisco.

We are grateful to member Betty Howland, of Redwood City, who brought to the May meeting two precious photographs of the home of her grandparents, M/M Heide Bricker, who came to our area about 1875, running a dairy farm in the old Crocker tract. Their home, at 198 Oliver St., corner of Hanover, is still standing, and still resembles the structure in the pix that Betty brought. They show the owners, with three of the four children they raised.

Quoting from an accompanying letter:

"It was sold at the time of my grandmother's death in 1935. Fresh milk was delivered to the 1906 earthquake people camping in the hills by my father and his brothers, pulling their little carts."

Such additions to the photo/slide collection are so very much appreciated. With Betty's pictures we re-photographed them to slides.

WOULD YOU LIKE A BADGE?

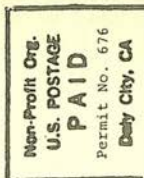
Membership badges of the Guild are available from Ken Gillespie, who purchased a button-making machine, and has been having lots of fun making individual buttons for particular projects.

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 AND DIRECTORS

Ken Gillespie - President	755-5123
Neil Fahy - Vice President	756-2753
Bunny Gillespie - Secretary	755-5123
Roz Babow - Treasurer	994-7662
Ted Babow - Director	994-7662
Yolanda Hardiman - Director	589-0188
Elaine Riney - Director	992-4696
Walter Riney - Director	992-4696



DALY CITY ADVOCATES
HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA
40 Wembley Drive
Daly City, CA 94015

DATED MATERIAL