



THE TATTLER

JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

Greetings from President Mark

We continue to make good progress with museum renovations and are hoping to open our doors to the public in the summer and have an official grand opening in the fall. As our financial resources are limited, the board decided that the three areas most in need of work at this time were lighting, painting and flooring.

Thanks to the generous donation of retro-vintage lighting fixtures from Fitness West, we needed only to hire an electrician for installation and minor repairs. These beautiful frosted glass bowl lamps will grace the original and main rooms of the museum and are a dramatic improvement over the clunky fluorescent box lights that were never original to the building. Also, we purchased four retro-period wall sconces with matching glass covers which will take their place along the north and south walls of the original room. We noted through archival research that these were once original to the building but had been removed long ago. In addition to replacing lighting, we will be repairing and upgrading electrical service to provide adequate outlets.

Next up we will be painting the interior and cleaning the original knotty pine paneling in the main room. We have received an anonymous donation of Navajo White paint, which we determined is very close to the original color of the rooms. We still may need to purchase additional paint and supplies. We will do the preparation and painting with a volunteer crew--which could include you! We will be contacting members who have previously volunteered to help. If you would like to volunteer, please call me.

Finally, we will be paying a professional floor installer to put in a light oak hardwood floor to cover and safely seal the 70-year-old original and very well-worn linoleum floor that contains asbestos. An additional benefit is that the wood is certified from environmentally sustainable forests.

We hope to have all of this work completed in the next three months prior to moving the mini-museum collection and archives. Other projects will be ongoing as funding becomes available. An appeal to the business community to support initial improvements was generously included in a recent mailing by the Daly City/Colma Chamber of Commerce. You will find enclosed in this Tattler a similar appeal to you, our membership. If you have already

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HISTORY EVENING!



Wednesday, May 21st - 7:30 p.m.
101 Lake Merced Blvd., Doelger Community Center

HISTORY OF WESTLAKE A DOCUMENTARY

Presented by Robert Keil

Westlake

Doelger Built Homes

The greatest home value offered ANYWHERE... in an all-new community planned for better living, with its own huge shopping center, modern schools, transportation and recreational facilities.

PRICES COMMENCE AT

\$11,995



ADMISSION FREE!

History of Westlake Documentary to be shown at May Meeting

Robert Keil, Guild member and author, has recently completed a half-hour documentary based on his book "Little Boxes: The Architecture of a Classic Mid-Century Suburb", the story of the Westlake subdivision in Daly City. It will be shown to members at our meeting on Wednesday, May 21st at the Doelger Senior Center. In the film, Mr. Keil has included recent interviews with many of the principal people who helped develop and build this area of the city in addition to maintaining much of what he wrote about in his book. Developed by Henry Doelger, once the largest homebuilder in the nation, Westlake features unique 1950s architecture that was created by a team of designers. According to Robert, Westlake's most famous architectural icons are its endless rows of boxy houses--the inspiration for Malvina Reynolds' folk song "Little Boxes". Mr. Keil will also be telling us his experience in moving from writing a book to making a documentary.

contributed to our Museum Fund, thank you very much. If not, now is the perfect time when you can clearly see your dollars helping to provide basic improvements.

Since February your Board has been meeting at the new museum monthly, and communicating weekly by email and phone to organize logistics for the ongoing work. At our March 11th Board meeting, longtime Guild member **Gloriann Jones** was appointed to complete the term for our board vacancy. We are forging closer ties to San Francisco State University with Board Secretary **Dana Smith's** recent acceptance into the Masters Program in Museum Studies.

I thank you in advance for your generous support of museum improvements.



A LITTLE HISTORY OF OUR NEW "DIGS"

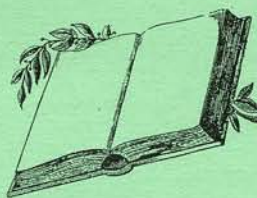
In February 1916, the Daly City Public Library was established with a small collection of books from the San Mateo County Free Library at a local meat market. Within a year, the "library" moved to **Pettingill's Store** at 6370 Mission Street where nearly 80 people withdrew books on the very first day. In 1918 the library moved again to the living room of **Mayor Frank Woodhouse**.



Two men named "John" would become the benefactors of the City's first and only library for 41 years. In April, 25, 1920 a permanent library was opened in a small 25'x25' wood frame building at the

Top-of-the-Hill, Mission Street with a collection of 500 books. **John D. Daly** (diary farmer and our first land subdivider), and **John William Marchbank** (entrepreneur of racetracks, roadhouses, newspapers and theatres) granted the use of the land and persuaded friends to contribute funds for the construction of the building.

The library was expanded with a front addition in Art Deco style opening in 1936 at a cost of \$5,000. The original one-room building was moved back toward the remains of a vintage rock quarry and was re-dedicated as a children's room in 1982. We are fortunate to have two vintage buildings combined into one. The building remains remarkably close to its original state. Original oak library tables and chairs will continue use in our museum. Even the wall clock and knotty pine paneling appear to be original from an early photograph.

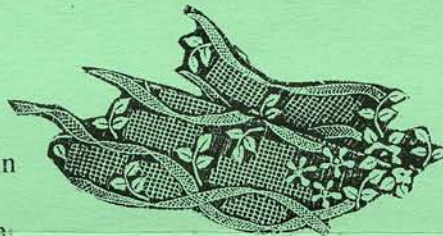


MEMORIALS

Angela Armanino Uccelli passed away March 16th. Angela was from a pioneer family, active in the Guild,

Seton Hospital, and Holy Angel's Church. Angie was a faithful contributor to the Guild's refreshments, donated our memorial book, and made annual donations honoring her parents. When ill health prevented her from attending, she sent refreshments and raffle prizes with Daughter (and former Guild Treasurer) Janice. In her final days, Janice tells us that her Mother was very excited that the Guild had finally found a permanent location.

Marlene Espinoza Manzanares passed away February 15th. Marlene was a longtime Guild member who Daughter Cindy remembers particularly enjoyed the annual member celebrations. Known for her energy and optimism, Marlene was a key community activist who organized the Our Lady of Guadalupe Neighborhood Health Clinic in 1971.



FILIPINO HISTORY MARCH PROGRAM

The history of Daly City's Filipino community was the theme of our last history night program in March. Filipino community leaders **Perla Ibarrientos** and **Erlinda Galeon** delighted the audience by presenting a history of the Philippines and the immigration to Daly City dressed in traditional attire. Both have generously donated their lecture notes for our archives. A table of craft artifacts and historical photographs were displayed.

Council Member Judith Christensen officiated at the swearing-in of **Gloriann Jones** as our newest Board Member. 🎵🎵 **Vaughn Jones** played a medley of songs on the piano, accompanied by **Rich Rocchetta** on the accordion: *Filipino Love Song "Dahil sa 'yo"*, *My Wild Irish Rose*, *When Irish Eyes are Smiling*, *Danny Boy*, *Easter Parade*. 🎵🎵

Mini-Museum Open Every Tuesday,

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.! While we are renovating our new museum site on Mission Street, our Mini-Museum continues to be open every Tuesday in the basement of the Serramonte Library, 40 Wembley Drive, Daly City. Please drop in!

RAFFLE provides ongoing support for the Guild – Your donations of treasures to our raffle and purchase of raffle tickets at our member meetings bring hundreds of dollars to the Guild treasury. Thanks for helping!

EARLY LIBRARIANS

Mrs. **Robert Fine** had been appointed the City Librarian at the John D. Daly Library in 1919 and **Mrs. Jean O'Rourk** soon followed in 1922 and remained our City's librarian for 25 years, from 1922-1947.

Mrs. O'Rourk moved to Daly City with her husband Tim in 1906 as refugees from the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire. They built their home on Evergreen Street where she lived until her tragic death in 1981 at age 96, when she was killed by an unknown intruder. Mrs. O'Rourk was a renowned gardener, both at her home and in the side-yard at the library. A vase of her flowers always graced the reception desk at the library. A 1930's vintage vase was found by our Board President **Mark Weinberger** in the back hallway behind the old furnace. This vase could have been used by Mrs. O'Rourk and it will find a place of honor in our new museum, hopefully filled regularly with flowers from the gardens of Guild members with green thumbs. The Board hopes to restore her garden in the north side-yard as a future project.

Mrs. O'Rourk also loved all animals and rescued dogs, cats, ducks and chickens. Every animal in her menagerie was named and endured the ritual of a weekly Saturday bath. Neighbors remembered the sight of her walking to the corner grocery store followed by a parade of devoted dogs, cats, and ducks.

Mrs. O'Rourk was generous to the community. She delivered meals to shut-ins and hosted an annual corn beef and cabbage feast for her neighbors and friends on St. Patrick's Day. She was known by children for her lively ghost stories. Board emerita **Bunny Gillespie** remembers displaying her hands as a child before being admitted to the books... "if not clean, we all knew where to wash up."

The plaque from Daly City honoring Mrs. O'Rourk will remain in our museum.



REFRESHMENTS FOR THE MAY MEETING

Will generously be provided by: **Vaughn and Gloriann Jones, Pat Hatfield, Perla and Mig Ibarrientos, Marilyn Olcese, Sandra Bolds, and Judith Christensen.**

Our Thanks

FOR RECENT MUSEUM DONATIONS

Mrs. Ursula Deutsch for a DVD transferred from video of a Westlake Subdivision Improvement Assn. meeting 1999; **Perla Ibarrientos** and **Erlinda Galeon** for donated notes from their lecture on Filipino history; **Sharon and Ray Keenan** and **Judith Christensen** for souvenir programs and invites for various events in Daly City; **Robert Kiel** and **Casey McCord** for Doelger Homes and Fire Department memorabilia; **Vaughn Jones** for news articles, **Marian Mann** for Annual Report from Westlake Community Church, 1966 Broadmoor/Daly City map, Kaiser Permanente Grand Opening Program, and DC condolences for the passing of George Sneddon; **Chief of Police Gary McLean** for guest register from the Grand Opening of DC Police Department in the new City Hall 1967 and police badge; and **Russ Brabec** for images of vintage postage stamp and taxi poster. Thanks in advance to **Marilyn Olcese** for her offer to provide professional movers for our mini-museum and landscaping for the front of our new site on Mission Street.

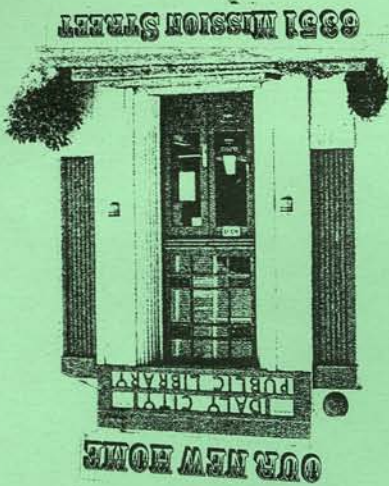
NEARBY HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

San Mateo County History Museum, Immigrants Day Festival May 17th - Festival features food, craft activities for families and performances by Chinese, Filipino, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Mexican and Portuguese groups. Free admission to exhibit, *Land of Opportunity: The Immigrant Experience in San Mateo*. \$5 for food tasting card. Saturday, **May 17, 2008**, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., Redwood City Courthouse Square.

San Francisco Museum and Historical Society Presents "Legends of Radio" May 13th - live performance of historic radio programs (complete with sound effects) using original scripts. Dave Parker, a member of the first "Lone Ranger" cast, will appear alongside other members of the Bay Area Broadcast Legends, including Terry Lowry, Fred LaCosse and Al Hart. The event, sponsored by the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, Tuesday, **May 13, 7:30 P.M.**, 3200 California St. (at Presidio). Free to members, \$5 donation non-members. A reception at 7 p.m. will precede the 7:30 program.

Colma Historical Association Birthday Celebration - The Colma Historical Association will host its 15th Annual Birthday Celebration meeting on Saturday, **July 26th** at 2:00 pm at the museum at 1500 Hillside Blvd., Colma. Phone 650-757-1676 for more information.





FIRST CLASS MAIL

History Guild of Daly City/Colma
 c/o Daly City Mini-Museum, Serramonte Library
 40 Wembley Avenue, Daly City, CA 94015



Centennial Countdown

In 1908, ninety-seven years ago, an entrepreneur named **John Donald Daly** was selling off some of his property near the northern limits of San Mateo County, where he'd owned a dairy since 1868. The property was being divided into lots suitable for the building of small homes and establishing family gardens.

To the east, across the street, Daly continued to operate a sizeable quarry. The outcropping was a source for rock which was tumbled from the hill, broken into smaller bits, and used for stabilizing roadbeds of street car and railroad track rights of way.

A successful rancher and businessman, Daly was a wealthy man, with a spacious and elegant town house in San Francisco where his children attended urban schools and his family lived an upscale life with an abundance of social amenities. Although he had moved his family and live-in servants out of the Daly ranch house and into San Francisco in 1885, Mr. Daly continued to maintain a small cottage for her personal use near the outskirts of his hilltop property. His practice was to walk from the family home in the Mission District to his San Mateo Dairy ranch. He continued the practice for many years, keeping in touch

with fellow pioneers of the area, checking on his business enterprises, and growing dahlias and violets in the garden adjacent to his "country house."

Daly never imagined that his name, three years later, would be given to the area. - *BGKG*

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