



### *Greetings from President Mark*

Well, friends, we're off to a robust 2010. Guild membership renewals are coming in at a steady pace. We are grateful for this and to each and every one of you who recently have joined or renewed your membership. Remember, if you join for the first time at the \$100 level, we will send you an autographed copy of Bunny Gillespie's *Daly City* in the Arcadia Press series of local histories as a thank you gift. I especially want to thank Ken and Bunny Gillespie, President emeritus and Secretary emerita of the Guild, for their extremely generous renewal/donation of \$2010 for the new year of 2010. What a fabulous way to begin the New Year! We would like to gently nudge any of you who have not yet sent your renewal to please consider doing so.

As you well know from my past messages it takes a lot of \$\$ to keep the museum operating. Our constant expenses include utilities, insurance, and maintenance and upkeep. In addition, we are continuing to make renovations to the building--almost 90 years old now. Many thanks to brothers Michael and Richard Rocchetta --Director and First Vice President respectively--for their wonderful work in constructing a kitchenette/storage space for us. Of course, this means we still need to fund raise for this and other projects.

I also want to draw your attention to what we know will become a very exciting annual event: The History Guild's First Annual Dinner fund raiser. This event is being coordinated by our Secretary Marie Brizuela and Directors Marian Mann and Marilyn Olcese. The ladies promise that this will be an evening of fun, friendship, fine food, and festivities--including some fantastic raffle prizes. Please note your invitation, included in this mailing, and reserve early the evening of February 13 for this great new Guild tradition.

I am happy to announce that we just received a grant of \$1,000 from The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation and \$250 recently from First National Bank of Northern California to contribute to our plans for centennial museum exhibits. Thanks to Board VP Dana Smith for contributing her expertise in grant writing.



**ANNUAL MEMBERS' PARTY  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
2 P.M.**

**101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City  
Doelger Center Multi-purpose Room**

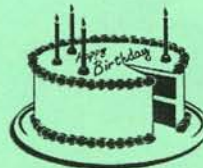
*Champagne and special treats!*

**Featured speaker retired Daly City  
Police Chief Gary McLane**

We are honored to have **Gary McLane**, recently retired DC Police Chief, as the featured speaker at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the History Guild. Mr. McLane will be telling us about his extensive experience with the department starting as a part-time Police Cadet in 1975 and working his way up to Police Chief in 2000. The former Chief has donated many historic and interesting items to the History Museum and he will be showing and telling us about many of these great items that are now part of the permanent collection of the Guild.

His family moved to Daly City in 1958, he attended local elementary schools, and graduated from Westmoor High School in 1973. He was sworn in as a police officer in 1977. He first retired in May of 2008, returned to work under contract, and finally retired for good in July of 2009. Mr. McLane has been married to Lynn since 1982 and they have two grown daughters.

Everyone is invited to attend this free event starting at 2:00 p.m. to hear a story of a "local boy who made good" and some Daly City police history.



**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE TO  
OUR REFRESHMENT DONORS:**

**Marilyn Olcese, Judith Christensen, Vaughn and Gloriann Jones, Annette Hipona, Alex Gallegos, and Dana Smith** will bring refreshments to our January meeting. Additional treats are especially welcome at this special member party. **Elinor Charleston** is our gracious hostess and Hospitality Chair, assisted by Marilyn Olcese.





George Throop walking down Mission Street to "inspire more Americans to take steps to living a healthier lifestyle."

We get a lot of visitors to the museum, over 800 since we first opened our doors in March. I'd like to share a little about one of the more unique guests we had with us

on a recent Saturday afternoon. George is a fellow in his mid-forties who lives in the state of Washington and is walking across America. He began his journey on September 20 and plans to walk through California, across the southern U.S., up the SE and into Washington, DC. He popped in to the museum on December 5, when yours truly had the privilege of meeting him and recounting the history of the Broderick-Terry Duel for him among other interesting episodes of local lore. George was walking along Mission Street and was expecting to reach Redwood City two days later. He decided to undertake this trek both to inspire and be inspired by those he meets in this, the greatest land on earth.

And finally, please join the Guild family at our annual members' party on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate our 27<sup>th</sup> year as an organization. On behalf of our board, I want to wish each of you a joyous holiday season and a happy new year--one that is filled with family, friends, and good health.

### IN MEMORY OF GUILD FRIENDS

**Marie Jane Loretta** passed away on December 15, 2009 at the age of 92. Frank and Marie Loretta were picked Citizens of the Year in December of 1997 and were both active in the Hillside Home-owners and Council of Homeowners and Resident Associations (COHRA). Frank preceded Marie in death and for many years she attended Guild meetings regularly, accompanied by Richard and Michael Rocchetta. She loved to bring donated items for our raffles and was a fun-loving and warm friend. We were saddened to discover that longtime Guild member **Bob Williams** passed away last August. Bob and Enid Williams were regulars at our meetings for many years, greeting and serving members treats at our hospitality table. Enid died October, 2008. **Donald Wayne Monson** passed away on November 4th at home in Danville. Born in Daly City to Raymond and Gladys Monson, Don graduated from both Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Jefferson High School. Don was a "long distance" Guild member, continuing his membership after he moved to Danville. We are honored that his memorial donations are directed to supporting the Guild.

The Guild will long remember these good friends.



### CENTENNIAL MEMORIES

By Ken & Bunny Gillespie,  
Daly City Historians

The manly art of fisticuffs, i.e. boxing matches, for prestige titles and/or fighting for prize money was luring fans of the sport to the northern area of San Mateo County in the earliest decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Although unincorporated, the entire area was known as Colma.

Open-air bouts at James Coffroth's boxing arena, located only 50 feet south of the SF/ San Mateo County border line, had been attracting very large crowds of onlookers, mostly male, since 1903. It wasn't just the vicarious excitement of watching the manly sport of exchanging punches that drew onlookers. Betting on the outcome of matches encouraged the exchange of large amounts of money. Rewards were high. Placing such bets had been outlawed in San Francisco. Boxing buffs arrived in droves with their wagering money.

"The location," wrote former Daly City librarian Sam Chandler in his book *Gateway to the Peninsula*, "offered secure protection from SF police while operating under San Mateo County regulations." "Training quarters and satellite arenas dotted the whole of northern San Mateo County," Chandler pointed out, among them the former Union Coursing Park on Mission Street, which is now the site of Jefferson High School. Millett's training quarters flourished in Colma. A "well equipped gymnasium" was located near a saloon called The White House.

In October 1909, one of the most anticipated fights ever presented brought worldwide and lasting fame to Colma. The contenders were Stanley Ketchell, then the world middleweight champion, and Jack Johnson, the first African-American world heavyweight champion. Contender Ketchell, dubbed "The Great White Hope", was knocked out in round twelve, allowing Johnson to retain his title. Flamboyant outside the ring as well as within the squared circle, Johnson was considered the most controversial boxing champion in the history of the sport. Boxing in the Colma area continued until the sport was banned by the State of California in 1915. For years, an organization of former boxers met regularly at the Silver Moon Saloon on School Street. K/BG

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**Robert Sheldon Thornton** was the first person to settle in Daly City after arriving in San Francisco in 1852 as a 33 year-old with 50 cents in his pocket. He built a thriving blacksmith business. The plow from the Thornton House was rescued by Ken and Bunny Gillespie when his house on Sullivan Avenue was demolished in 1997. It sat in their yard until December 2009, when it was moved to our new museum.



## Colma and Vicinity Farming – 1886

By R.S. Thornton, excerpted from the *Times and Gazette*,  
Saturday, May 8, 1886 (provided by Russ Brabec)

Colma, nine miles south of San Francisco, is situated on an eminence about one hundred feet above the level of the Pacific Ocean, on a plat of ground forming a gap between the San Bruno Mountain on the east and the low range of hills on the west, and also forming a water shed, part of the winter's rain running northwest into Lake Merced, which empties into the ocean, the other portion running south-westerly into the bay, making good drainage and a healthy town. The soil is a sandy loam, well adapted to cultivation of all kinds of vegetables. A fine quality of cabbage is raised in large quantities on the low range of hills west of the village and on the land extending over those hills southwest into San Pedro Valley. Lakelets and living springs of water are darted over this hillside land, sufficient in many places for irrigation in the driest seasons. But even where these ponds and springs are not found, the heavy fogs from the ocean, which come in the otherwise dry season, furnish enough moisture, if supplemented by deep cultivation and activity in keeping the weeds down. The vegetable land is cultivated principally by Italians, who are industrious, frugal and the most painstaking cultivators. They have a market house of their own in San Francisco, where they sell their products every week day. Their prices have been, for the several years past, low. Sometimes they get a carload sale to some points East and South where prices and freight leave a margin for their labor. They shipped in February last eleven car loads of cabbages, 206,618 pounds. Low freights east, such as have recently prevailed, would doubtless help to build up a vegetable trade with Eastern cities, to the great advantage of the north end of San Mateo County. About 20,000 acres are cultivated in the San Pedro Valley in all kinds of vegetables. West of Colma, in the low ranges of hills, are about 700 acres also in all kinds of vegetables, cabbage largely predominating. Near the Eleven-Mile House about 200 acres are cultivated as aforesaid. Colma is on the line of the Southern Pacific railway and is also connected with San Francisco by a good wagon road. On a large portion of the land tributary to Colma potatoes of fine quality are cultivated by Americans who are industrious and frugal, and, with the aid of poultry, which thrives well in this climate, get a comfortable living. Experiments in fruit culture have proved successful. Cherries, peaches, plums, currants, gooseberries, apples, strawberries and blackberries are of fine flavor and of good size. The soil and climate are well adapted to nurseries for raising fruit or ornamental trees, or propagating fine flower and roses of all kinds, and in the spring native flowers of varied and vivid colors dot the hills and valleys. Besides the industries mentioned, dairying occupies considerable attention. – R.S. Thornton

## RECENT MUSEUM DONATIONS & VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

**Our thanks go to: Marilyn and John Olcese** for providing new flowers for the front of the building; neighbor **Billy Wiggins** for continuing to tend the plants and sweep our sidewalk; **Julianne Reidy** for arranging the donation of the sundial that was displaced by the recent landscaping changes at the Serramonte Library (originally donated by Home Savings and Loan Association in 1975) and for directing school year books to our archives; **Judith Christensen** for creating new Guild stationary and thank you cards; **Frawley Lynch** for providing emergency hauling service for sundials and table saws; **Bob O'Donnell** and **Bob Brizuella** for moving the Thornton plow to the museum; **Russ Brabec** for continuing to create interpretive material for the museum; **Vaughn Jones** for donating vintage wine labels from A. Vereno's Wine Vaults, Daly City; **Netha Woods McDavid** from Sacramento for donating a photo of Crocker Elementary School 1940 and an edition of the 1942 Jefferson HS newspaper, the *Totem Pole*; **Marie Brizuella** for the donation of 3 scrapbooks from Friends of the Library, wine glasses from DC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Our Lady of Mercy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and BofA deposit bags from the 50's; **Bunny and Ken Gillespie** for the donation of 24 negatives of Serramonte Shopping Center from the 1970s by photographer Dick Osborn; and **Moffett Field Historical Society** for a copy of the U.S. Navy investigation proceedings of the Daly City L-8 Blimp crash of 1942, loan of the *Examiner* newspaper account of the event, and copies of L-8 blimp photographs from their collection (courtesy of curator Bill Stubkjaer).



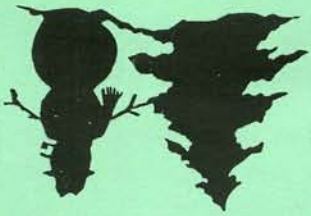
### GUILD MEMBERS IN THE HEADLINES

Judy with kitty Jasmine. Judy is the curator for the exhibits in the loading shed at the Colma Museum.

**Judy Hnilo**, active in both the Colma Historical Association and our Guild, recently won national recognition as one of three Grand Prize winners in the Purina "Do-Gooder Award" contest for her efforts to recycle and donate the funds to animal rescue organizations. Judy raised over \$20,000 in ten years from her recycling efforts and now wins \$5,000 for herself and \$15,000 for her chosen charity, Homeless Cat Network of San Mateo County.

**Bernard Winn**, Longtime Guild member and author, was featured in the SF Chronicle on November 30<sup>th</sup> for his historical study of metal street utility covers. His book "*San Francisco Underfoot*" is available at our museum.





FIRST CLASS MAIL

Current Hours: Open every Tuesday and the first Saturday of the month from noon to 3 p.m.

650/757-7177  
6351 Mission Street, Daly City 94014  
**DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM**

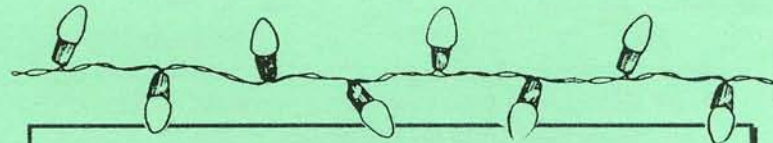


### Tattler Brings About Reunion after 83 Years

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Winn and Bill Coon

The latest Tattler had an item about a man donating a belt buckle to the museum that used to belong to his father who

was a Daly City fireman in the 1920s and 30s. That article led me to that man, Bill Coon, who lived across the street from me in the early 1920s and was my best friend for a few short years before he moved away. I have not known his whereabouts for some 83 years, but because of the article, we met again today and saw each other for the first time as adults. Unfortunately, Bill is now blind, so didn't actually see me, but it didn't dampen a reunion that I'm sure neither of us probably ever imagined would take place. I gave him a copy of my book, From "The Top of the Hill," and his son, Allan, said he would happily read it to his dad. — B. C. Winn



### GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

<b>Mark Weinberger, President</b>	415/750-1939
<b>Richard Rocchetta, Vice President</b>	650/992-9144
Guild Program Director	
<b>Dana Smith, Vice-President</b>	650/755-3432
Museum Director	
<b>Judith Christensen, Treasurer</b>	650/755-3128
<b>Marie Brizuela, Secretary</b>	650/755-7188
<b>Marian Mann, Director</b>	650/991-9386
<b>Michael Rocchetta, Director</b>	650/756-3960
<b>Marilyn Olcese, Director</b>	650/755-5616

*Board meetings are held monthly in the evenings at the museum. They are open to the general membership. If you are interested in attending, please call Mark or Rich for the date and time.*

<b>Ken Gillespie, President Emeritus</b>	650/755-5123
<b>Bunny Gillespie, Secretary Emerita</b>	
<b>Elinor Charleston, Hospitality Chair</b>	650/755-8267
<b>Betty Schultz, Member Chair</b>	650/756-5324

*Tattler* Editor & production: Dana Smith  
Labels: Michael Rocchetta, contributors: Bunny & Ken Gillespie, Mark Weinberger, Rich Rocchetta

The History Guild of Daly City/Colma is a  
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