

# THE TATTLER



## JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY-COLMA

### GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

We had a grand time at the January 16<sup>th</sup> Guild Birthday Bash. Folks came from near and far to enjoy our circa 1911 entertainment program and sing-along in honor of Daly City's centennial, arranged by Vaughn Jones. A narrative highlighting important historical events and entertainers of the era was interspersed with medleys of music, song, and vaudeville jokes. Guild stalwarts maestro Vaughn "Paderewski" Jones on the piano, Richard "Lawrence Welk" Rocchetta on the accordion, and Michael "Liberace" Rocchetta on the keyboard, delighted one and all. Accompanying the terrific trio was the quintessential quintet of sensational songstresses: Sue Von Hagel, Susanna Hnilo (portraying Sophie Tucker), Judith Christensen, Dana Smith, and Gloriann Jones. These ladies were resplendent in vintage attire. Mr. Jones created a display of sheet music from the era. Afterward, cake, bubbly, and a banquet table full of great food was enjoyed by all. This was one darn rootin', tootin' fine jam session, and based on popular sentiment and demand, more than likely will be repeated.



Centennial music performers, January Member Meeting

Your board met recently and decided to pursue restoration of the vintage museum fireplace a little later this year to better allow for centennial events to take place throughout 2011. Several of you already have contributed toward this project, we thank you and others may continue to send contributions to the Guild with the note "fireplace restoration" on your check. No amount is too great or small. We still are searching for a photo of the original fireplace. If you have any leads please let us know. Opening the back wall and surveying the condition of the fireplace--sealed for almost 80 years--will create some disruption of the exhibits in the Gillespie Room and no doubt litter the space with dust and construction materials. We feel it better to allow maximum entry to the museum during this very important milestone year. However, we want you all to

## HISTORY EVENING



Bunny Gillespie lecturing at the John Daly Gravesite January 8<sup>th</sup>. Cow bell from Daly's dairy ranch.

**Wednesday, March 16**  
**7 P.M.**

### Reflecting on 100 Years of History Bunny Gillespie

**FREE - REFRESHMENTS**  
101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City  
Doelger Center Café

In continuation of our Centennial theme, Daly City Historian Bunny Gillespie will speak about Daly City's namesake, John Donald Daly. For those of you who missed Bunny's excellent talk at Daly's gravesite at Woodlawn Cemetery in January, here's a chance to experience it. Ken Gillespie's well-loved slide show "Ninety Years of Daly City History in Nine Minutes" will also be shown in video format with the addition of highlights from the past ten years to bring everyone up to 100 years of Daly City History!

This program will be held just six days before Daly City has its 100th birthday on March 22nd. Come and enjoy the program honoring the centennial of our incorporation.





know that we already have found a contractor to work on the wall and have received estimates for the fuel efficient gas heating element which will be housed in the fireplace and will replace our "vintage furnace," now on its last legs. The entire project, including the gas heating element, will cost in the neighborhood of \$9,000.

I want to let everyone know that your museum has an audio visual component to it. Those of you who have visited the museum know that we play Ken Gillespie's visual history of Daly City *90 Years in Nine Minutes* on a repeat basis while we're open. We also have other titles for your viewing, including a DVD on dirigibles from our friends at the Moffett Field Museum in Mountain View which has a segment on the great and mysterious blimp crash that happened in Daly City in 1942. In addition, the Guild has collected a great many audio tapes of oral histories from community pioneers that are available for your listening pleasure. Just let one of our friendly museum docents know of your interest.

In closing, *HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY DALY CITY!*



#### LADIES IN BIG HATS -

#### THE STYLE IN 1911 AND 2011

(Above) Dana Smith, Susanna Hnilo, Judith Christensen, Sue Von Hagel, Gloriann Jones, and (left) Annette Hipona urge you to make your "Centennial" hat.

### FAMOUS ENTERTAINERS OF 1911

by Vaughn Jones

Two of the biggest opera stars of the day were Enrico Caruso and Mary Garden. The big singing stars of the day were Eddie Cantor; Sophie Tucker; Al Jolson; Nora Bayes; Blanche Ring. Popular dancers included the Vernon and Irene Castle dance team and Isadora Duncan. Blues music was first published in 1911 by W.C.Handy. Ma Rainey and a very young Bessie Smith toured black nightclubs in the South and Midwest by 1911 singing blues songs, but Ragtime continued to be the chief form of popular music, as it had been since the late 1890s. Blues chords, spirituals, gospel, folk, ragtime syncopated rhythms, and the African, Spanish, and Caribbean rhythms heard on the streets of New Orleans would all be merged together by young musicians such as Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton in 1917 to create jazz. But that was still 6 years

in the future. Big Broadway stars of 1911 were Ethel Barrymore; Lillian Russell; Laurette Taylor; George M. Cohan; Maude Adams; Douglas Fairbanks; and Minnie Maddern Fiske. Vaudeville headliners were Eva Tanguay; Sophie Tucker; Bert Lahr; Ed Wynn, W.C.Fields; Marie Dressler; Al Jolson; Eddie Cantor; a 17-year-old newcomer Mae West; and youngsters Jimmy Durante and Groucho Marx, just starting out. Silent screen movie stars included Theda Bara and Mary Pickford, (but not Charlie Chaplin who didn't appear onscreen until 1914.)

### Songs Sung & Played for 1911 Musical Program

Alexander's Ragtime Band

Musical Moon

Waiting for the Robert E. Lee

Some of These Days

Oh, You Beautiful Doll

Melancholy Baby

Under the Yum Yum Tree

Put Your Arms Around Me, Honey

I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl

Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland

The Entertainer

1902 Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey?

1903 Ida, Sweet as Apple Cider

1904 Meet Me in St. Louis

1904 Frankie and Johnnie

1904 Give My Regards to Broadway

1907 School Days

1908 Take Me Out to the Ball Game

1908 Cuddle Up a Little Closer, Lovey Mine

1909 I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now

1910 Let Me Call You Sweetheart

1910 Chinatown, My Chinatown

1910 Down By the Old Mill Stream

1910 Put Your Arms Around Me, Honey

1904 Goodbye, My Lady Love

### 1911 Vaudeville Jokes

Is that Hortense?

No, I think it just has a stiff neck.

How do you get down off a horse?

You don't get down off a horse. You get down off a goose.



Our collection of high school annuals is popular with young visitors to the museum.



## OTHER HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

**Centennial Music Event:** Daly City will be presenting a free event featuring the Daly City All-Stars band on **March 24 at City Hall 6 p.m.** Birthday cake will be provided in honor of the Daly City Centennial.

**Future Centennial Events:** Daly City's official Centennial Committee is in the process of planning events throughout the 2011 year and through March of 2012. Stay tuned for the announcement of specific dates and events which will be announced on the City's website at [www.dalycity.org](http://www.dalycity.org) and Fog Cutter newsletter, and in future editions of the Guild's newsletter.

### Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation Lecture Series - February 27<sup>th</sup> & March 20<sup>th</sup>



On **Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**, "The Wondrous and Strange Town of Colma" will be presented by Pat Hatfield, Rich Rocchetta, and Michael Rocchetta in slides and commentary. **Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** will feature lecturer Michael Svanevik

speaking about the National Cemetery in San Francisco's Presidio. Both lectures are at the Cypress Lawn Reception Center, 2nd Floor, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma. 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Free - Light refreshments.

**Broads, Bootleggers and Bookies** – the newest exhibit at the **San Mateo County Museum** at 2200 Broadway, Redwood City explores the various vices of the county from bootleggers to slot machines and horse racing. The museum is open Tues.-Sun. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, March 12**, local author (and past Guild lecturer) **JoAnn Semones** discusses her new book **Hard Luck Coast: The Perilous Reefs of Point Montara** at 1 pm. for the Courthouse Docket Lecture Series. Lecture is free with museum admission.

**Burlingame Historical Society** recently presented a public lecture, **A Leafy Legacy, the History of Burlingame's Trees**, that can be viewed online at: [www.BurlingameTrees.org](http://www.BurlingameTrees.org)



### CENTENNIAL MEMORIES

By Ken & Bunny Gillespie, Daly City Historians

Ed Freyer, the first President of DC's Board of Trustees

Two votes. Just two votes. Only two *little* votes (or two BIG votes) were all it took one hundred years ago this month to decide whether part of the unincorporated area located in the northern reaches of San Mateo County

should become incorporated as the City of Daly City. The election for incorporation was held on Saturday, March 18, 1911. Without doubt, the unique event was of unrivaled and pre-eminent importance in the history of Daly City. As reported by journalist J. L. Brown on the front page of the March 24, 1911 *Colma Record*, the final tally showed 138 votes in favor of the proposal, and 136 against incorporation. The close numbers must have been underwhelming to those who had been in favor of the proposal. Even so, the *Record's* banner headline exulted "DALY CITY – HURRAH!"

On Wednesday, March 22, four days after the incorporation election, the results were canvassed by San Mateo County supervisors and the resolution for establishment of Daly City was unanimously approved. Thus was Daly City's official "birthday" achieved, an event that has been celebrated in various ways for the past 100 years. The date is still emphasized in the colorful Daly City mosaic dominating the City Council Chamber, as well as in Daly City's ubiquitous logo.

Celebrations feting the 1911 election results were reportedly boisterous and plentiful, continuing well into the next evening and possibly beyond. Editor Brown reported, "The incorporation election is over and a stride for the betterment of our city is made, a fact that will be fully demonstrated... There is naught but joy at the result... Good men and true were opposed to the issue and their honesty cannot be questioned. For the most part, they are public-spirited men and naturally inclined toward progressiveness, but through personal misunderstandings and misrepresentations, they were led to oppose the project at the polls... Such men always make 'good losers'... The *Record* has confidence in them that they will now accept the situation and come forward with feelings of true patriotism and determination to give Incorporation (sic) a fair trial."

Even though the incorporation issue was probably uppermost on the minds of those who cast their vote on March 18, creation of a City was not a singular item on the ballot. Nominees for public offices were also considered. On the ballot were 27 men seeking the highly important office of Trustee. From among the victorious five, one man would be chosen to head the organizing city. Successful candidates for the office of Trustee were Edward J. Freyer, who was given 131 votes; Al J. Green, 138; Martin Oberhaus, 150; T. J. Mullins, 104, and Dennis Quillinan, 102. Other contestants for Trustee were P.D. Glenn, W. J. Fenderson, W.G. Klos, H. G. Lafayette, J. F. Pankewicz, E. Weber, and Henry Toft. Each of the latter was given between 47 and 69 votes. Runners-up, reported in the *Record* as the "Scattering", were J. O'Brien, O. Foley, H. H. Smith, W. J. Sweeney, J. L. Brown, P. T. Byron, W.V. McLean, Dr. P. D. Rowland, C.A. Kirkpatrick, T.F. O'Rourke, Dr. C. O. Castle, F.B.



Woodhouse, W. J. C. Goldkuhl, E. A. Pfuhl, and T. Sheehan, Their votes numbered between one and 14. As filed by the California Secretary of State and reported in the local newspaper, the quintet of new City officials elected Edward Freyer to serve as President of the Board. Trustees Quillinan and Freyer would serve "long terms", i.e. three years, expiring in 1914. Trustees Oberhaus, Green, and Mullins "drew the short terms", i.e. two years, expiring in 1912.

Other offices to be considered were the City Treasurer, City Clerk, and Marshal. The City Treasurer office was filled by Tim Sheehan, who won with 137 votes. Also seeking that office were G. N. Smith, B. Raven, E. Weber, J. O'Brien, H. F. Secor, and J. L. Brown. Walter J. White, with 76 votes, was elected City Clerk over R.E. Fine, E.A. Pfuhl, F. O. Anderson, C.A. Kirkpatrick, J. L. Brown, and P. D. Glenn. Fred T. Hopper Chosen to serve as Marshal, with 121 votes. Also vying were T.S. Steele, N. McDonald, T.J. Mullins, E.C. Johnson, and T. Sheehan. As Tattler readers might have noticed, it was not unusual for a man to place his name in nomination for more than one office. Many of the unsuccessful 1911 candidates ran in future City elections, assumed offices of leadership, and became architects of the quality of life now enjoyed in Daly City. K&BG

## JAK'S PLACE AT MUSSEL ROCK

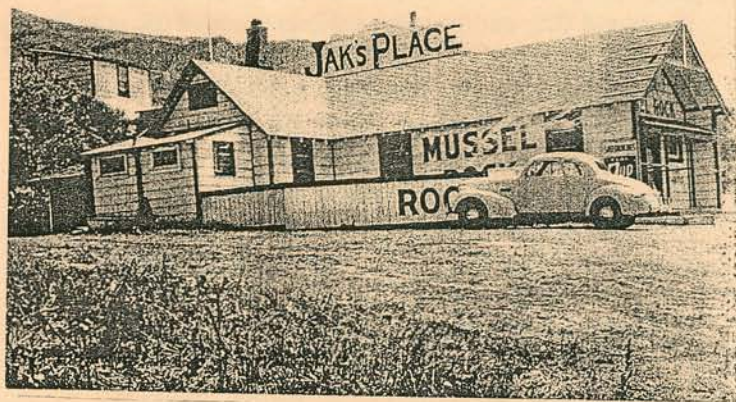
The Ocean Shore Railroad went bankrupt in 1921 and in 1936 construction began for the Ocean Shore Highway, utilizing the old railroad right of way. In anticipation of coastal business growth, a bar and restaurant known as Jak's Place at Mussel Rock operated on the ocean side of the highway from the late 1930's to 1943. Jack Keelty, an Irishman who had operated a bar in San Francisco, converted an old barn and house previously owned by a Scotsman named Jim Scott.

During the WWII years two US Army concrete bunkers were built at Mussel Rock near Jak's Place; their headquarters came to be known as "Camp Windy" or "Camp Foggy". The bunkers were later buried in the landfill that became the Daly City Dump in 1957 when the highway was moved after a severe earthquake.

Jack Keelty died in 1940, his son Bill went into the Army in 1943 and wife Mary and daughter Ursula moved to San Mateo when wartime orders to drive only with parking lights reduced traffic on the foggy cliffs above Mussel Rock. The bar portion of Jak's was bought by Realtor Ray Higgins and moved to Sharp Park shopping center in Pacifica where it became a pool room for members of the Coast Guard stationed at the Pacifica castle. Jak's was originally misspelled by a sign painter who may have had a drink or two too many.



Photo taken in 1906 showing the family of T. Sheehan, first Treasurer of Daly City. Born in County Kerry Ireland in 1860, Tim died in Daly City in 1949.



The Great Grandson, also named Tim Sheehan, of our first City Treasurer contacted the Guild over the Internet and sent this picture of his namesake. Treasurer Sheehan is seated, second from the left. Gerald F. (Jerry) Sheehan is shown to the right of T. Sheehan, the youngest son who became the father of Jack Sheehan, who is father to our modern-day Tim Sheehan. Jack graduated from Jefferson High School in 1950 and the family eventually moved to Petaluma. Jack recently picked up a book on Daly City History (presumably Bunny Gillespie's Arcadia book *Images of America Daly City*), noticed the centennial date, and asked his son to do some Internet research.



1911 also marks the centennial of women's suffrage in California. Seven months after the vote for Daly City incorporation, on October 10, 1911, California joined five other western states giving women the right to vote.

Hello to all the Sheehans in Petaluma! Thank you for passing on this family history. DS





## CROWD AT JOHN DALY GAVESITE VISIT

A crowd of approximately 70 people turned out to honor John Donald Daly, the namesake for Daly City, at a tribute organized by Daly City Historian Bunny Gillespie on a cold winter morning at the Daly gravesite in Woodlawn Memorial Park. The ringing of an original cowbell from the Daly dairy began



Bunny's short lecture, which ended with a burst of sunshine and the exit of the E Clampus Vitus marching band, which was holding forth at their annual visit to the nearby Emperor Norton gravesite. Visitors brought flowers and the event was covered in a large photo spread in the *Local News* section of the *San Mateo County Times*, featuring Guild member and museum docent Marcus Gonzalez and his adult children (on a visit home from college), leaving flowers at the Daly monument. (A copy of the newspaper article will be available at the March meeting.)

## MUSEUM VISITORS



Dana Smith greets members of the San Francisco Model A Ford Club for a special tour of the museum Sunday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. The Ford Model A of 1927-1932 was the second huge success for the Ford Motor Company, after its predecessor, the Model T.

The picture below, from the museum photo archive, shows a 1929 street scene in the vicinity of the museum.



## THANKS TO REFRESHMENT DONORS FOR OUR MARCH MEETING:



Serving refreshments with a smile: Elinor Charleston our Hospitality Chair, assisted by Marilyn Olcese.

Pat Hatfield, Annette Hipona, Trude Gebin, Janet Pellgrini, Edda Palmieri, Ruth and Stuart Hoppin, and John Azevedo will be providing refreshments at the March meeting.

Thanks to **Marian Mann** for organizing our raffle.



## MUSEUM DONATIONS & VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Thanks to: **Marian Mann** donated vintage Cow Palace and hockey league programs, and 1949 era Westlake Subdivision documents; **Jimmie Farras** donated a picture of the Daly City Coffee Shop; **Sandra Akram** donated a box of historical news clippings. Thank you to all our board members who serve regular shifts as lead docents; Carol Hutchins and Dave Crimmen for ongoing docent duty. A special thanks to the following persons for taking on special projects at the museum: docent Alex Gallegos for cleaning the floors; Russ Brabec and Bunny Gillespie for ongoing updating of historical information in our photo collection; Marie Brizuela for cleaning and organizing the office area; Richard Rocchetta for ongoing filing of papers and re-organization of files; docent Marcus Gonzales, docent Christina Hernandez, Ric Mohler, and Judith Christensen for work organizing our photo collection; Michael Rocchetta for organizing the new collection of high school annuals and ongoing duty as our (un)official photographer; Daly City Maintenance for the recent painting out of graffiti on the side of the building.

## THE MUSEUM STORE



The Museum Store has the advantage of offering a full selection of books on local history and some interesting gift items for purchase. Buy your "centennial" gifts!



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

**Current Hours: Every Tuesday, Thursday, and  
 first and third Saturdays of the month  
 from noon to 3 p.m.**



Four pictures from the History Guild archive were chosen for the 2011 Heritage Calendar, including this cover showing the Stanley Ketchel/Jack Johnson heavyweight title bout of 1909 in historic Colma, (now Daly City.)

**CENTENNIAL YEAR 2011**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

## HISTORY OF RECIPES



The History Guild of Daly City-Colma is creating a vintage Cook Book to celebrate Daly City's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Book, *History of Recipes*, will also include historical photos. We thank all who have already sent in recipes. There is still time. Don't miss the opportunity

to be part of the History Cook Book by sending us your favorite recipes or recipes from your parents or grandparents. Send the recipe by regular mail to the address below, or by email. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and/or email address. For info, call or email Marie Brizuela 650-755-7188 [mbriz1@aol.com](mailto:mbriz1@aol.com), or Marilyn Olcese 650-755-5616, [Zenese@aol.com](mailto:Zenese@aol.com). Mail can be sent to: attn: Recipes, History Guild, 6351 Mission St, Daly City, CA 94014. *We need more recipes!*

### Nominating Committee and elections

President Mark Weinberger has appointed Bunny Gillespie and Russ Brabec to be our Nominating Committee for the next election of the History Guild Board of Directors and Officers. Interested parties may contact Bunny Gillespie at 650/755-5123. The committee will report on the slate and elections and an installation will be held at the May meeting.



### 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>	650/756-3128
<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 and open to the membership.*

<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>Michael Rocchetta, Member Chair</b>	

**Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith**

Contributors: Dana Smith, Bunny & Ken Gillespie, Mark Weinberger, Rich Rocchetta, Vaughn Jones, and the Shehan Family. Thanks to Richard Rocchetta, Michael Rocchetta, Judith Christensen, and Dana Smith for mailing our previous *Tattler*. Michael Rocchetta maintains our address list & labels.

**The History Guild of Daly City/Colma is a  
 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization**