

# THE TATTLE



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

### GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK



Group picture in front of the fireplace at March 17<sup>th</sup> "hearth warming" at our Daly City Museum.

We all had a grand old time last month at the Museum Open House, which just happened to fall on Saint Patrick's Day. It was great to see so many of the Guild membership, including new friends who heard about the event and decided to stop by. Some even became new members. Of special note was the arrival of Bernie and Audrey Winn, formerly of Daly City and now residing at the Embarcadero in San Francisco. You might remember that Bernie, now age 92, grew up in original Daly City; he is also the author extraordinaire of *From the Top of the Hill*, which recounts his reminiscences of growing up in pre-World War II Daly City. We were very pleased to welcome back the Winns and have them partake of warmth and merriment



Audrey and Bernard Winn in front of our new fireplace.

Cont'd. Page 2

### MAY HISTORY EVENT

#### "THEATRES OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA"



Lecture by

**Arcadia authors Gary Lee Parks  
& Jack Tillmany**

*Special focus on local Daly City/Colma area venues*

**Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> - 7 P.M.**

**FREE - EVERYONE WELCOME!**

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

*Before the program begins, enjoy a medley of spring songs performed by Vaughn Jones on piano and Richard Rocchetta on accordion.*

**MAY REFRESHMENTS** - Annette Hipona, Judith Christensen and Dana Smith will be providing refreshments at our May meeting. Elinor Charleston is our gracious Hospitality Chair.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Following the May meeting, the Guild takes a summer break and meets next on the third Wednesday in September, **September 19<sup>th</sup>**. Have a great summer and we will meet again in the fall.



in front of the hearth. Light refreshments, a variety of cookies and drinks, were provided by the Guild and hosted by Elinor Charleston and Dana Smith.

Everyone seemed to revel in the appearance of our new 'old' fireplace [really a gas insert made to resemble an old-fashioned cast iron fireplace]. While folks complimented the appearance, they were even more delighted with its heat—especially on a blustery day! If you weren't able to join us for this final Centennial Celebration at the museum, definitely know that you always have an open invitation to come by and visit. And if the fireplace isn't already going, we will be more than happy to turn it on so that you can see for yourself how well the logs 'burn,' never needing to be replaced.



Michael Rocchetta and Pat Hatfield at the hearth warming. Thank you Pat for your generous contribution of St. Paddy Day cookies!

Please take special note of our first fundraiser of 2012, which is mentioned

in greater detail in this *Tattler*. Our fund raising committee has been hard at work on the Guild's first official publication, the History Guild Cookbook, with recipes submitted by you, our membership. To that end the Guild will be hosting a luncheon on Sunday, May 6, at the Doelger Cafe in Westlake Park. Please reserve your ticket(s) early as this event is sure to be sold out.



At their own risk, intrepid Guild members climb to Tobin's tunnel on a field trip in October 2010. That's me, Mark, on the right.

Longtime Guild members Vaughn and Gloriann Jones are inviting our membership to join

them on a second hike to Mussel Rock to enjoy a spring walk and observe the tunnel that was created in 1875 by Richard Tobin, a prominent S.F. attorney and banker. Tobin blasted an opening through solid rock to create a tunnel providing a more direct route to his vacation home down the coast. Known as "Tobin's Folly," it was used three times before severe storms caused its

collapse. It was later suspected of being a hiding place for coastal rum-runners during prohibition. See hike information on the back page of this *Tattler*.

If you are a movie and theatre buff like myself, you will particularly enjoy our next member meeting on the evening of May 16<sup>th</sup> with a special focus on theaters in the Daly City/Colma area.

If you have a Facebook account, please 'like' us at our Facebook page at "Daly City History Museum." We have many photographs, meeting announcements, short, local histories, and more on the site.



### MUSSEL ROCK — THE LEGEND OF THE COYOTE'S WIFE

By Dana Smith

Although Mussel Rock was suspected to be the

location of a prehistoric Native American village, there was no clear evidence until the state Department of Transportation and Highways discovered indications of the Ohlone village of Ompuroma while surveying the old Highway 1 area in 1977.

Archaeologists were hired to do a voluntary excavation over a two month period of the site, SMA-72, to recover artifacts before the building of the garbage transfer station. Radiocarbon tests made on obsidian lithic tools indicated that the Mussel Rock site was late prehistoric dating to around 1500 A.D. The village site was unfortunately destroyed after limited, preliminary excavations. Artifacts from the excavation are featured at our Daly City Museum.

Ohlone spiritual beliefs were not recorded in detail by missionaries, but it is believed that they may have practiced a form of shamanism called Kuksu involving elaborate costumed dancing ceremonies common to many Central and Northern California tribes. Historians are reasonably sure that the Ohlone people of San Mateo County believed in creation myths peopled by spirit animals who they impersonated during cult dances. Their myths tell of beings, notably the coyote, the ancestor to the Ohlone, and the eagle and hummingbird. The archeologists of Mussel Rock, Millikin and Clark, speculate that the name Ompuromo may mean "Ocean Flea Place" from the Ohlone dialect word "omux"



Cont'd pg. 3

meaning ocean, and the word “por” meaning flea. The only known coastal Ohlone creation story tells of the mythical coyote whose wife ran away into the ocean and was transformed into a sand flea. The rock formation at Mussel Rock may represent the coyote and sand flea.

## TIMELINES OF HISTORY (ORGANIZING HISTORY: THE BACK STORY)

### TIMELINES OF HISTORY

3001275

World Timelines

U.S. University Directories  
Select period:

Big Bang to 420,000 BC, 421 to 11,000 BC, 11,000 BC to 2339 BC, 2300 BC to 1000 BC, 1000 BC to 500 BC, 499 BC to 1 BC

Days: January - June

Days: July - December

On This Date  
in History -  
Video

1963 - 2008  
1963 - 2008  
1963 - 2008  
1963 - 2008

Copyright © 2008

Free 2008

The 2008

By Algis Ratnikas

The Timelines of History project, [www.timelines.ws](http://www.timelines.ws), was first posted to the Internet in 1998. However, the initial conception for the project actually began much earlier.

In 1975 I enrolled at Wayne State Univ. in Detroit, Mich., for a master's degree in Humanities. The program was quite exciting, but I immediately found myself confronted with a large variety of names, dates, events and subjects from around the world. In an effort to organize this information I got hold of a lengthy roll of paper, perhaps 2-3 feet wide, and cut off a section about 15 feet in length. On this I drew a horizontal line and dated the left end at 1000 BC and the right end at 1975. This line was then subdivided into 100 year increments to which I appended names and events along shorter lines 60 degrees above and below the base date line. Names of artists, musicians and writers would go angled on top, while significant events, such as wars and inventions, would go below. This was quite fun and allowed a broad context for individual events. However, after one semester a lot of crowding took place around various periods such as the Golden Age of Greece, the Renaissance, the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution and WW I - WW II. Multiple erasures soon led to the demise of this paper project.

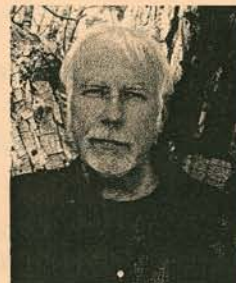
It was a marvelous learning aid, but the medium was not quite right. “This medium was not the message,” but the message was important. Although this was a great, short term, learning experience, over time I grew to realize that it was also much more. During the next 20 years I often thought of this project and tried to conceive of some mechanical means by which it might work. I even considered the “etch-a-sketch” drawing toy as a model, wherein a scroll of history, moved by cranking knobs, would be bound and displayed under a screen. So much information was passing by every day: “Here today gone

tomorrow!” But it wasn't really gone. A deep comprehension of current events forming out of the past and in turn forming the architecture of future events grew to have a big impact on me.

In 1976 I left Michigan and after some months of travel settled in California, met my wife-to-be, moved from Chinatown to a house in Bernal Heights and enrolled in the SF School of Electronics and Communications, just as the PC began to make its initial appearance. Over the next 15 years it became clear that the “etch-a-sketch” device I had dreamed of was now at hand, and I could charge forward on a Timeline of History without worrying about torn paper, messy erasures or running out of space.

By 1995 we were well settled in Daly City and I began building history files. I had recently finished reading “History of Knowledge” by Charles Van Doren (1991), and was very much impressed by the numerous dates attached to significant people and events. My first files were created from material extracted from his book. I did not need to do much picking and choosing. Mr. Van Doren had already done the heavy lifting. My reading now became tied to gathering data. All sorts of magazines, books and newspapers that I devoured became fodder and quickly marked up with no end of yellow magic markers. This however, was very tedious. To enhance the file-building process I discovered a series of “Today in History” files being posted to the new World Wide Web from a number of sources. Every day for the next two years I broke down these “Today” files into their year and geographic components and thus rapidly built a strong backbone for the project. By 1998 I had individual files covering every day of the year, every country of the world, all the U.S., a number of major cities and a variety some special subjects. My universal file went all the way back to the Big Bang.

Posting these files online immediately put me in touch with people from around the world. This was very rewarding and I accepted data contributions as they came in. By happenstance living on the west coast turned out to be an ideal location for this. Every morning as I gathered and summarized the news events of the day as events for much of the rest of world were ending.



Algis, a longtime Guild member, regularly attends our member events. He also performs in a jug band.

Following my retirement in 2007, the TofH project became my main occupation and I began to work on

Cont'd pg. 5



## **THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA**

*presents*

### ***Spring Luncheon***

***Sunday, May 6, 2012***

***12 Noon***

***Doelger Cafe***

***101 Lake Merced Blvd, Daly City***

#### **Menu**

***Buffet Luncheon***

***Cost: \$30.00 (includes a complimentary Cook Book)***

*This is a Fund Raising event to benefit the Daly City History Museum. All those who attend the Luncheon shall receive a complimentary History Guild Cook Book (valued at \$20.00). Additional copies may be purchased (while they last) as gifts for Mother's Day, Birthdays, Weddings or Christmas. The History Guild of Daly City-Colma is proud of their first publication of a book which includes Favorite Family Recipes and photos of the History of our community. Join us as we recognize and thank all those Guild Members and members of our community who submitted recipes and helped in making the History Guild Cook Book a success.*

***Seating is limited. Make your reservations early. Fill out the Reservation Card and return using the enclosed envelope by: May 4, 2012***

***Send your check payable to: History Guild of Daly City-Colma  
6351 Mission St., Daly City, CA 94014***

***Join us for great lunch, a free Cook Book, and meet all of the wonderful cooks who donated more than 241 great recipes***

***Don't miss this exciting event!***

***Cook Book Committee Chairmen***

***Marie Brizuela 650-755-7188 - Marilyn Olcese 650-755-5616 - Marian Mann 650-991-9386***

Cont'd

some revenue-generating ideas. Although revenue is still not significant nor a primary focus, general advertising, Google ads, licenses for use of data, e-books on Amazon and file sponsors all contribute some amount of revenue. The TfoH project continues to be a 7-day per week effort.

The TofH project has a sister database site: [www.timelinesdb.com](http://www.timelinesdb.com). How this came about will be among a number of subjects to be covered in more detail on May 23, when I will be present a one-hour talk: "Timelines of History" at the newly remodeled SF Merced Library. This library now features a new large screen display for digital images and has Internet access. This will allow a live demonstration and overview of all the features on the TofH web site. You are cordially invited to attend and bring any questions you may have.

## HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

**Timelines of History** – Special invitation to lecture by Algis Ratnikas on May 23, 7 p.m. at the Merced Library, 155 Winston Drive at 19th Avenue, San Francisco.

**Colma Historical Association**, 1500 Hillside Blvd., Colma. Second quarterly meeting Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Election of Board and video on the 1939-40 Treasure Island World Fair. The usual terrific buffet follows with friendly history folk.

**Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation Walking Tour: Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – *Splendor in the Glass*** tour led by Terry Hamburg of the mausoleum's world-famous stained glass collection. Meet at Cypress Lawn's Reception Center, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma. 1:30 pm. Free.

**Mystery Castle Tours by the Pacifica Historical Association**, Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> - \$25. Call 650/359-5462, or [www.pacificahistory.org](http://www.pacificahistory.org)

## A MARCHBANK REEMERGES

By Marcus Gonzales

In early March, Mr. Ernie Marchbank, of Lakewood, California, contacted the Daly City History Museum. This cordial gentleman is a great-nephew of Daly City businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist John William Marchbank. Ernie, though somewhat familiar with his great-uncle's local fame, was mainly interested in his family's origins. As many know, John Marchbank was originally from Canada, where he made his first fortune in the taverns, hotels, and dance halls catering to the mining industry. He then came to the Daly City area

and established another fortune through numerous local enterprises.

Through research in the museum's records, we found that John's father, James, was a farmer who had immigrated to Canada in 1825 from Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Dumfriesshire is a county in lowland Scotland that borders with England.

Marchbank had an enormous impact on Daly City, though he is often overshadowed by the fame and achievements of city namesake, John Daly. In the next Tattler, we will revisit the life of Ernie's relative, John W. Marchbank.



Fireplace conversations



Eddie Epps from the Visitation Valley Historical Association (middle of picture) discusses history with Michael and Rich Rocchetta.

**DONATIONS - *Thanks to:*** Joseph Curran and the City Centennial Committee for additional copies of the Top-of-the-Hill Walking Tour brochure; **Bernard and Audrey Winn** for souvenir tickets from the 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island; **Alvina Wegscheider** for 1949 DC map and 1964 phone book; **Michael Rocchetta** for scanning photos and design assistance for our cookbook; **Cookbook Committee** (see pg. 4); and **Mark Weinberger** for his ongoing management of our Facebook page.





## THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

### DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM

6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014  
650/757-7177

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



Please visit us on Facebook/  
Daly City History Museum

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### HIKE TO MUSSEL ROCK — JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>



Gloriann and Vaughn Jones at  
the Mussel Rock beach.

Join the Joneses for a spring hike to see the tunnel at  
Mussel Rock, known as Tobin's Folly.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 2

At 10:30 a.m. meet in the parking lot of the Mussel Rock  
Garbage Transfer Station (Skyline Drive and Westline  
Drive, Daly City). Wear sturdy shoes and layered  
clothing for the brisk coastal weather. Rain will cancel.  
For more information, call or email Vaughn Jones at  
650/756-6795 or email: [evaughn318@aol.com](mailto:evaughn318@aol.com)

### 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>	650/892-2166
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
<b>Dave Crimmen, Director</b>	650/589-5852
<b>Marcus Gonzalez, Director</b>	650/757-9767

*Board meetings are held as necessary and are open to the  
membership. Please call Mark for further information.*

<b>Ken Gillespie (1924-2011), President-Emeritus</b>	
<b>Bunny Gillespie, Secretary-Emerita</b>	650/755-5123
<b>Elinor Charleston, Hospitality Chair</b>	650/755-8267
<b>Michael Rocchetta, Member Chair</b>	

**Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith**  
[director@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:director@dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

Contributors: Dana Smith, Mark Weinberger, Rich Rocchetta,  
Marcus Gonzalez, and Algis Ratnikas. Thanks to Judith  
Christensen, Michael Rocchetta, Richard Rocchetta, and Dana Smith  
for mailing the last Tattler. Michael manages our member database.

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