



JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY COLMA

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

At the January meeting, I told the audience about a recent example of some of what we endeavor to do for the community. I'd like now to repeat that update and expand upon it, as I believe it is a story that will be of both some import and interest to our entire membership.

Recently, we were contacted by a San Francisco resident who owns a Henry Doelger home in the Sunset District. You might already be aware that Doelger previously built a great many homes in San Francisco before he moved on to Daly City to build his Westlake residential and commercial developments. He built a good number of homes on the west side of San Francisco, and primarily in the greater Sunset community. The individual, Doug, was interested in knowing about any information we had pertaining to Henry's SF homes, and specifically interior murals which adorned many of those abodes. [Doug had discovered the very faded remains of a mural over his fireplace and wanted to restore it as faithfully as possible.] While not a Doelger expert, I had never heard of murals in any of his Westlake homes and knew even less about those in SF. After checking our files--we have next to nothing on Doelger's SF businesses--I then contacted Daly City Historian and Guild Secretary Emerita Bunny Gillespie, who also was unfamiliar with the murals. I next checked with the Thelma Doelger Charitable Trust, which has been very helpful to the Guild in the past but alas, you guessed it, that was a new one for them, too.

Not one to be too easily discouraged, I perused the Internet, already knowing that Doug had done this. After typing in all different words and word combinations, I found an extremely voluminous document from the City and County of San Francisco supporting an effort to landmark Doelger's Art Deco office building on Judah Street. The building had changed hands several times and unfortunately did not still exhibit all of its resplendent glory of years past. However, there were several elements of architectural

HISTORY EVENING

Bunny Gillespie presents

A SALUTE TO REMARKABLE WOMEN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 7 PM

101 Lake Merced Blvd. Daly City
Doelger Center Café

Remarkable women of Daly City's past will be topics for the Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m., meeting of the History Guild of Daly City/Colma. The program coincides with observance of National Women's History Month. Speaker for the presentation will be the History Guild's Secretary Emerita Bunny Gillespie, Daly City's designated historian. Daly City women to be saluted will range from 1850s pioneer Sarah Thornton to entrepreneur Winifred Lasswell, the first California woman to conduct a mortuary: activist Jane Powell, the first woman elected to serve on the Daly City Council; and Yin Ling Miao Chan, from whose Daly City studio highly acclaimed calligraphy artwork was created.

Come and join us for an informative and entertaining evening. Attendees are welcome to bring pertinent memorabilia relating to the topic of the evening for display at the meeting.

THANK YOU TO REFRESHMENT DONORS

Thank you to **Pat Hatfield, Vaughn and Gloriann Jones and Elinor Charleston** for bringing special treats to our January party in addition to those provided by the Guild and coordinated by **Judith Christensen and Dana Smith**. Thank you in advance for refreshment donors for our upcoming March meeting: **Annette Hipona, Marie Brizuela, and Pat Hatfield**. Elinor Charleston is our gracious Hospitality Chair.

significance that it still retained, and SF was in the process of conferring landmark status upon it. After a fair amount of time scanning the document, I discovered two very interesting facts. First, Doelger had destroyed most if not all of his documents from SF after he closed that business. Very little if anything survives from the SF development days, and now I knew why. Second, buried very deep in the document and with only a passing reference, I finally had located the name of the enigmatic muralist--Harry Tyrrell. Eureka! Armed with that information, I proceeded to get in touch with Doug, who was positively ecstatic to have a starting point. Like any good reference librarian or in this case Guild docent such ended my task, and now it would be up to Doug to further explore Harry Tyrrell and learn as much as he could about the muralist and his works. Of course, I asked him to keep in touch with us and let us know of any further discoveries as well as to please send us some before and after photos of his mural and its future restoration. He was very happy to oblige.

Fast-forward a month or so, when Guild Director and docent Marian Mann received a phone call from the latest owner of the former Doelger Judah Street property. After referring the call to me, I learned that the owner, Geoff, was researching the property and looking for any vintage photos that might help his family restore the building as accurately as possible. He said that interior photographs would be of particular interest. Also, he was attempting to get in touch with any of Henry's descendants. On the first point we were unable to provide assistance, but on the second, yes. As in the case with Doug, I asked Geoff to let us know of his future efforts as well as any building re-dedication ceremony, which he is only too happy to do. Apparently the plan is for his family to live over the commercial business to be located on the ground floor, which will be a boarding facility for felines.



The Art Deco Doelger Building at 320-326 Judah Street was built in 1932, serving for two decades as the headquarters, warehouse and sales office for Henry Doelger's San Francisco home building enterprises. A Streamline Moderne addition was added in 1940.

Remember that while our own web site is still under construction, you can always view our Facebook posts on the Internet (even if you do not have a Facebook account) by typing "Facebook, Daly City History Museum". We have a great deal of photos, meeting announcements, personal histories left by visitors, and more. In February alone, we had more than ten folks 'like' an extremely vintage photo of the original Toto's on Mission Street, San Francisco that predates the Junipero Serra location. We have more than 120 Facebook friends, and the number continues to grow.

Finally, to those who have been asking, after completely selling out of the *Daly City: Growing Up in America* DVD, we have reordered and now have additional copies. In addition, our *Daly City Memories Cookbook* is also available. Each item is \$20, tax included. We will have these items for sale at our member meetings, you can purchase them at the museum during public hours, or you can mail your order (please specify your item of interest and send a check to the Guild in care of the museum and we will be very happy to process your order, shipping incl.)

If you haven't yet renewed your 2013 membership, let me encourage you to consider our "Combo Special." 2013 Combo special: a Basic Membership along with the DVD for a total of \$40, and we thank you. [That's a \$5 savings if purchased separately.] We hope that you'll take a good look at the other membership categories on your renewal form. We have some great thank you gifts at the \$50, \$75, \$100, and \$500 levels. These are but small tokens of our thanks to you, our membership, who make the Guild all that it is.

PATRICK MORGAN BROOKS AND BRIDGET BROOKS

by Russ Brabec

Patrick Morgan Brooks and his wife Bridget were born in Ireland, Patrick on December 1820 at County Roscommon and Bridget on 1830 at Kiltullagh, County Galway. Patrick immigrated during 1840, and he became a naturalized citizen of Massachusetts on 14 November 1849. He and Bridget probably migrated independently to California before they married here on October 1857. They settled in southern Colma and the Winston Manor area of South San Francisco - areas of the Buri Buri Rancho about 1852. San Mateo County was carved from San Francisco County in April 1856, and all previous land records were lost during the SF 1906 earthquake. Patrick was the subject of a coroner's inquest at the Twelve-Mile House [in what is now SSF] in January 1856, which confirmed that he shot and killed a man who was plowing on Patrick's land. Cont'd. pg. 3

Two daughters, Sarah (January 1861) and Delia (December 1863) were added to the family. Sarah married Michael Whelan on 25 June 1884, and Delia married Thomas Spellman on 08 January 1887. Both weddings were held in Colma.

The first recorded deed involving Patrick was on 10 November 1858 when he sold undefined land, improvements and livestock to Timothy Welsh. During 1864, Darrel Ogden Milles and Ansel I. Easton filed suit in court against 279 other land owners of the Buri Buri Rancho to establish definitive boundaries of each land owner's property. Many deeds were written as follows: "an undivided fourth of a sixth of a tenth, or one undivided two hundred and fortieth part [73.98 acres] of the Rancho Buri Buri or Sanchez Rancho, which said Rancho contained four square Leagues of Land [17.754.72 acres] more or less. Patrick received two defined adjacent parcels of land from the Court in 1868 - 243.985 acres and 209.13 acres of land, and his proportion of the court cost amounted to \$651.16

When San Francisco decided to end burials at its City Cemetery which now is Lincoln Park, Patrick sold land to the following Cemeteries in 1898 all of which are now within the limits of Daly City: Ning Yung Benevolent Cemetery Association, 5 acres; Chinese Christian Cemetery Association, 2 acres; an access road to the cemeteries, 5 acres; to Edward Kelley for an indigent and paupers cemetery ["Kelley Cemetery"], 2 acres (it is now the Chong Seen Cemetery), to the City and County of San Francisco for a pauper's cemetery which was never developed west of Winston Manor and North of Hickey Boulevard, 25 acres;

Bridget died 26 December 1891 at Colma. Patrick's life came to an end on 12 March 1904, "while crossing the railroad track at Colma Station with a horse and cart [in the] evening. The aged pioneer of Colma, was struck by a southbound train of the Southern Pacific Company and instantly killed. The horse was also killed and the cart demolished. Brooks was a prominent citizen, 84 years of age, and a man of considerable wealth."

Probate of his estate, including more than 442 acres of land, was expected to be quickly completed by dividing the estate to Sarah and Delia. At the first hearing appeared the FIRST daughter, Mary A. Forsythe of Alameda County. Mary's mother and Patrick were married back in Boston at the Old St. Patrick's Church in 1843 according to an 80-year old witness to the marriage, who stated that Mary's mother was still alive when Patrick married Bridget. The Court granted Mary, Sarah and Delia each an undivided one-third of their father's estate on February 1905. Bridget and Patrick are interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma.

JEANNE MANFORD, WHO INSPIRED A NATION, DIES JANUARY 8, 2013 AT 92 IN DALY CITY



February 15, 2013, President Obama announced the late Jeanne Manford a recipient of the 2012 Citizens Medal. Manford's daughter, Suzanne Manford Swan of Daly City, accepted the award on behalf of her mother at a White House ceremony. It's an honor to have a Daly City resident receive the Presidential Citizen's Award and appropriate that we acknowledge the Manford family during Women's History Month.

Morty Manford had been a gay-rights advocate since his college days at Columbia University in the late 1960s. After her openly gay son was beaten in April 1972 for protesting news coverage of the gay rights movement, Jeanne Manford, an elementary school teacher in Queens, wrote a letter to The New York Post criticizing the police for not protecting him. The letter was published and one sentence jumped out: "My son is a homosexual, and I love him." Jeanne recounted later, "I mentioned in my letter that my son was gay and that the police stood by and watched these young gays being beaten up and did nothing about it, and it was printed. Then Morty called me up and said, 'You can't believe how everybody's talking about your letter!' I didn't think anything of it, but I guess it was the first time a mother ever sat down and very publicly said, 'Yes, I have a homosexual son.'"

Two months later, she walked alongside him in a gay liberation march, carrying a sign: "PARENTS OF GAYS: UNITE IN SUPPORT FOR OUR CHILDREN." In 1973, the Manfords and about 20 other people inaugurated Parents of Gays, a support program at a local church, and in 1993 it joined with other similar organizations across the country to become PFLAG, a national organization Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays headquartered in Washington, D. C. It has 350 chapters across the country and helps organize similar groups internationally. Mrs. Manford is identified as its founder.

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Manford's son invited her to march with him in a gay liberation parade in New York in June of 1972. She agreed, and carried a sign to explain why she was there. The poster board read in large capital letters: PARENTS OF GAYS: UNITE IN SUPPORT FOR OUR CHILDREN. Today, that sign is part of the Gay and Lesbian Collections of the New York Public Library archives.

Mrs. Manford was surprised by the impact she had and assumed that the cheers she heard were for Dr. Benjamin Spock, who was directly behind the Manfords. It was not until bystanders began coming up to her with hugs and tears that she understood the cheers were for her. Morty died of complications from AIDS in 1992.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* quotes daughter Suzanne Manford Swan of Daly City: "She never thought twice about it. She fought for him. This was a 5-foot-2, thin, blond woman who had a spine of steel. She just did what she knew to be right."

In her later years, Jeanne Manford moved to Daly City where her daughter and grandchildren reside. Mrs. Manford is survived by her daughter, Suzanne Swan, a granddaughter and three great-granddaughters.

**A RIDE ON THE OCEAN SHORE RAILROAD
A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT FROM 1908**
by the late Frank Bruno, Jr. of Half Moon Bay

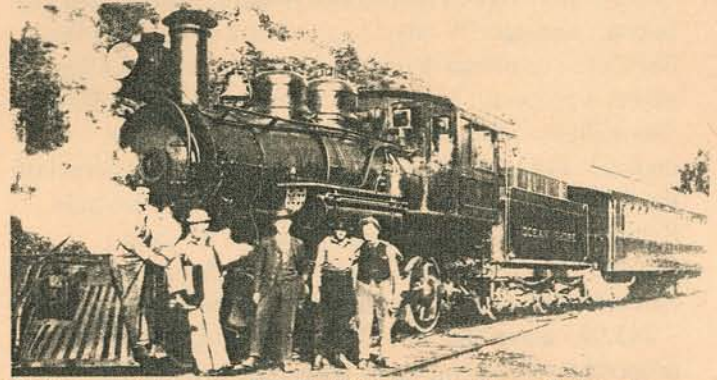
Note: This letter, originally printed in the Oakland Tribune on 2/26/1967, was found in the archives of the History Guild.

Your recent article on the Ocean Shore Railroad brought back fond memories of my early years in Half Moon Bay. I was a very young boy during the railroad building days and remember vividly the thrills as the iron horse inched its way down the coast to our area. My father was a pioneer farmer, having settled there in the early 1870s.

As construction progressed, every weekend was a holiday. Real estate promoters capitalized on every new mile of track to sell their lots and celebrations were in order. A favorite stunt was a balloon ascension and the

balloonist would drop leaflets from a few hundred feet up to the eager prospects below. Town sites sprang up all over the place, many bearing romantic names from old Spain.

We natives would get together on Sundays and join the crowds. Several families would get together, hitch up a large wagon, and with bulging picnic baskets make a day of it. I remember the crowds from the city. Many came down by train, others by sight seeing buses. These solid tire chain driven buses were the first we had ever seen.



Getting ready to cross Devil's Slide. Ocean Shore Railroad.

Midwesterners were the prime prospects, as slick salesmen sought to convince them that the fresh ocean air would add ten zestful years to their lives. And sell lots they did! Our ocean frontage farm was about a mile north of town. In 1907 we sold nineteen of our twenty acres for a subdivision. Several months later the developer confided to us that he had sold ninety thousand dollars worth of lots at five times the purchase price. In those days a survey and a few flag draped stakes took care of most tract expenses. Very few homes were built, and when anticipated development failed to materialize, most lots were sold to satisfy the liens.

In 1908 I had my first train ride with my parents to San Francisco. The little locomotive puffed and wheezed as it slowly made its way along the ocean cliffs. On this trip two unscheduled stops were made to clear out loose rocks from the tracks. A derailment here could mean a drop of two hundred feet to the surf below.

In the fall of 1908 we moved to Southern Alameda County and the following summer we traveled the Ocean Shore Railroad to Tunitas Glen, a few miles south of Half Moon Bay, the end of the line... There we transferred to a stagecoach and continued our journey to Pescadero. Mr. Davis the stagecoach driver did a thriving business in mail and passenger service. These coaches were the same type we now see on T.V. westerns. The return trip home was also a thrill. We left Pescadero early in the morning via stagecoach, traveled

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up along Pescadero Creek to La Honda. A stop there at the old saloon gave the animals a breather and the passengers their liquid refreshments. I had been permitted to sit up top with Mr. Littlefield the driver. The view was tremendous from this vantage spot as he skillfully braked the coach down the winding road from the summit to Woodside and on to Redwood City where we made rail connections [Southern Pacific] for the trip home.

DONATIONS, VOLUNTEERS, GUILD NEWS...

Thanks to: Vaughn and Gloriann Jones for donation of a 1958 Jefferson High School "Tom Tom" annual; **Bunny Gillespie** for donation of a group of items displayed at the last member meeting, including a Jefferson HS and Westmoor HS sport shirt, clippings circa 1938-41 documenting activities of the Miss Rose's Dance Studio on Templeton Ave., 1942 concert program for the Daly City Band, 1918 dues receipt for the Foresters of America, undated three-item DC election ballot, copies of land conveyance documents from various land owners for the building of Daly City Hall, and a news clipping about our new museum; **Frank Risso** for 1913 Fire Dept. event program, documents from Gillon Lumber Co., Mission Creamery, Tropic-Land Fish Farm, vintage souvenir ashtrays, "Daly City" license plate, Veteran Firemen's Assn. belt buckle, and Mission Auto Camp postcard; **Verona Williams**, who now lives in Nevada, sent a copy of the book "Gateway to the Peninsula" and Westlake Shopping Center ads; **Rita Prichard Anderson** donated a Westlake Christmas Card. Thanks to **Mark Weinberger** for mailing membership gifts and DVD orders. Guild members **Sandor and Giulianna Halasz** have announced the closing of Eduardo's Pasta Factory in SF, begun over 40 years ago by Giulianna's late parents, Eduardo and Marcella Moretoni. The Halaszs have donated their gourmet pasta for many of the Guild's raffles. **Dana Smith** completed an internship project through SFSU at the Society of California Pioneers researching and writing biographies of pioneer artists. Our neighbor to the south, the **Colma Historical Society**, has a new display of an early 1900s mourning dress displayed on a mannequin.

We Welcome Your Historical Donations. Relevance to our local history is the main criteria for acceptance of donations. Copies of our Collection Policy and Deed of Gift forms are available on request. Contact our Museum Director Dana Smith for more information: 650/892-2166 museumdirector@dalycityhistorymuseum.org

Thank you for your renewed membership in 2013.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE - In order to make sure that those deciding the future of the Guild have a proven commitment to the Guild, the Guild Board of Directors has voted to recommend the following changes to our By-laws. The *italicized words are added* and the ~~strikethrough~~ word will be deleted. All other text remains exactly the same as our current By-laws. We will be voting on this proposed change at our March meeting.

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Section 3.03 Membership Privileges

Those members who have paid the required dues in accordance with these By-laws shall *after 60 days* be *bona fide* members in good standing and ~~may~~ *shall be eligible* to hold office, vote on Officers and Directors and amendments to the By-Laws.

Guild Election in May: Contact President Mark Weinberger if you have an interest in serving on our Board of Directors. The Board will report on a recommended slate in the May *Tattler*. Elections will be held at the regular May member meeting.

NEARBY HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Colma Historical Association: March 16th fundraising tea at the Colma Community Center (\$30). April 30th 6:30 pm Quarterly Meeting at 1520 Hillside Blvd.

Pacifica Historical Society Castle Tour: April 27, April 28, May 4, and May 5. The 90-minute tour requires advance tickets. Adults \$25, children 12 and under \$10. Shuttle vans will transport you from the Oceana HS upper parking lot. Great refreshments and docent tours led by resident "ghosts". Ticket hotline 1-800-838-3006, or order online at www.pacificahistory.org/castle-tour

Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation

Free Lecture: Sunday, March 17, Debbie Grand and Melani Van Petten present *Women in the Civil War: Soldiers and Spies*. Cypress Lawn's Reception Center, 2nd Floor, Administration Bldg., 1370 El Camino Real, Colma, 2 pm. - 4 pm. Refreshments.

Free - San Francisco History Expo

Mar 2, (Saturday) 11 am - 5 pm and

Mar 3, (Sunday) 11 am - 4 pm

The Old Mint, 88 Fifth Street at Mission, SF

Over 40 SF local history groups, displays, presentations

More info: www.sfhistoryexpo.org

(Editor's note: I've attended the first two Expos and this is a "must see" event!)



