

THE TATTLER

JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY - COLMA

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

Please note the dates for our four remaining meetings of 2015: March 18; May 20; September 16; and November 18 are all are Wednesdays and the time remains the same, 7:00 PM.

First, let me say that we had over 60 people at our January lecture/party to hear Ted Tronoff, chief engineer of Westlake subdivision, talk about his firsthand experiences in working for Henry Doelger in the development of Westlake. Mr. Tronoff, accompanied by his wife, charmed the audience who sat in rapt attention to the soft-spoken engineer. We heard the "insider" story of how special design features were incorporated in Doelger homes to maximize views, minimize stair steps entering the home, and how streets were named, to mention just a few of the fascinating facts we learned about the Doelger phenomena. Our refreshment table was extraordinary, with hospitality chair Annette Hipona assisted by Grace Gonzalez, with son Christopher Gonzalez and his friend Jenn serving bubbly. (7 bottles of champagne, 5 bottles of non-alcoholic bubbly, and one large bottle of apple juice. It was a thirsty and hungry crowd!) The event marked the 33rd year since the official beginning of the History Guild of Daly City-Colma. Thanks to all the charter members and those who continue their legacy.

You no doubt will recall from a recent *Tattler* that we were contacted out of the blue by a young man in Belgium who decided to tend the grave of an American G.I. who was killed in battle during World War II and is buried there. He has no connection to this fallen soldier but learned that he had lived in Daly City and was seeking our assistance so as to learn more about him. Well, it has happened again. The Guild was contacted by another young man, this time from Oosterwolde, Holland, who is researching the pilots of a 1943 bombing mission in that area. You guessed it. One of the pilots, Robert Nelson McCune, was from Daly City; the family lived at 82 Peoria Street, and Bob, born on January 18, 1921, had been a local football all-star at nearby Jefferson High School.

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HISTORY EVENING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH AT 7 PM
101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City
Doelger Center Cafe

With Author
Monika Trobits



ANTEBELLUM AND CIVIL WAR SAN FRANCISCO

A Western Theater for
Northern & Southern Politics



Monika Trobits has lived in San Francisco for more than 30 years and has spent more than 25 years as a docent/tour guide for historically-based organizations. In 2011, Monika established her own tour company named San Francisco Journeys. She will give special emphasis to our local Broderick/Terry Duel. Bring a friend!

Refreshments will be provided by **Sharon Keenan, Algis Ratnikas, Alice Brockman, Mel and Abby Margolis, and Erin O'Rourke-Meadors**. Thanks to these donors and our gracious Hospitality Chair, **Annette Hipona**.

His parents were Leslie Earl McCune [1893-1985] and Edith Francis Hendrick McCune [1896-1982]. There were four sisters and a brother: Marjorie Jeanette McCune [1919-1937], Donna May McCune [1922], Barbara G. McCune [1923], Joyce A. McCune [1926], and Edwin Leonard McCune [1917-1978]. If anyone knows the whereabouts of members of the McCune family, please leave a phone message or email me. Thank you.



Photo of B-17 bomber from the American Air Museum in Britain. This aircraft was called "the flying fortress" and known as a potent, high-flying, long-range bomber that was able to defend itself, and to return home despite extensive battle damage. To see rare footage of B17s on bombing missions in WW II, look at the Youtube video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnkVPtyGaVA

2nd Lieutenant McCune was one of a crew of ten on a B-17 bomber of the 303 Bomb Group/427 Bomb Squadron. The B- nicknamed Memphis Tot, crashed into the Wadden Sea on February 4, 1943. The crew was returning from a bombing mission of the German city of Emden. The bombs were dropped during a barrage of constant enemy air fire. Returning from their mission, the Memphis Tot sustained rapid enemy attack and was forced to make an emergency landing in the Wadden Sea, where the aircraft then split into two. Of the ten member crew, six were rescued by local fishermen only to be later captured by the Germans as prisoners of war; all six survived the war. Two others died in the crash and are buried in the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten. The final two were never recovered, their names inscribed on the Wall of the Missing in the cemetery. Lieutenant McCune is one of these two brave men.



Wreck of the Memphis Tot, photo from the American Air Museum in Britain.

In addition to his tribute in Margraten, his name is memorialized on a gravestone in the Golden Gate National

Cemetery in San Bruno and on a memorial plaque at the Daly City War Memorial building on Mission Street (see below). We are most fortunate to have a scrapbook at the museum of wartime photos and newspaper clippings pertaining to his life and death. This wonderful tribute detailing Lieutenant McCune's military service, including a letter of condolence from Eleanor Roosevelt, was very generously donated by his family.



WW II memorial plaque, at the street level entrance of the War Memorial Building, Mission Street.



Robert McCune, after his first solo flight, McCune scrapbook, Daly City History Museum.

DALY GENEALOGY & HISTORY

The surname Daly is an Anglicized version of the Old Gaelic O'Dalaigh, which indicated that the bearer was a male descendant of a man named "Dalach". Dalach, in turn, is derived from the word "dail", which means an assembly or meeting place such as Dail Eireann, the title of the lower house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland. Dale genealogy includes Daly City, California, named after businessman and landowner John Daly. Although Dalys hail from Clare, Cork, Galway and Westmeath, Irish Daly families are cont'd pg. 3



Daly history, cont'd

spread throughout all of Ireland and Daly is one of 50 common Irish surnames of modern Ireland. The O'Dalaigh ancestry goes back to 4th century, to Niall of the Nine Hostages, the High King who had his place at Tara, Co. Meath. From the 11th to the 17th century the O'Dalaighs were hereditary poets and minstrels to most of the leading families.



The Hill of Tara, known as Temair in gaeilge, was once the ancient seat of power in Ireland. 142 kings are said to have reigned there in prehistoric and historic times. In ancient Irish mythology Temair was the sacred place of the pre-Christian gods and the

entrance to the otherworld. Saint Patrick is said to have come to Tara to confront the ancient religion of the pagans at its most powerful site.

THE GUILD REMEMBERS

The Guild was saddened to recently lose three of our members. Our thoughts and condolences go out to their families. We remember Ray Garibaldi, Harriet Ratto, and Warren Hutchins.

Ray Garibaldi passed away at his home in Colma in January at the age of 93. He was a lifelong resident of Colma. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Lorraine graduated from Jefferson High School in Daly City and spent WW II as a sheet metal mechanic repairing planes in Hawaii. He joined the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office in 1954 and served as a Deputy Sheriff for 25 years. Ray raised cattle on the Peninsula for 35 years and was a renown horseman, gardener and painter.

Harriet Jewel Ratto, a long time resident of S.F. and then Daly City, died at home in January at age 91. She was married for 49 years to her late husband, Albert N. Ratto and is survived by one of her two daughters.

Warren Hutchings passed away at the age of 82 in January after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of 60 years Carole, a past Guild volunteer, and a daughter and son. Warren grew up in San Francisco where he graduated from

the University of San Francisco with a degree in business. He became the Vice President and manager of the main office of First National Bank of Northern California and made Daly City his home. He spent 25 years in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was an avid golfer and sports fan.

Joe's of Westlake Update



Although Joe's iconic interior will be missed and long remembered, a fan of the 50s style restaurant, Patty Sturm from Broadmoor, created the 'Save Joe's of Westlake' page on Facebook and reports on the progress of the renovation. She was recently invited by the new owners to come down to the site and have a look at the plans and give feedback about what she saw. If you have a Facebook account, you may want to "friend" Patty's site for ongoing reports. Patty comments: "I was very excited (although skeptical) about the invitation. I met with John and Elena Duggan around 10:45 this morning. When I arrived John was standing in the parking lot talking to a lady with a stroller and couldn't have been friendlier. Elena walked me inside and it was bittersweet seeing the skeleton of our beloved JOW. We spent about 1/2 hour going over the computer generated pictures and plans for the new place. I was thoroughly impressed. It is gonna be amazing you guys!"

The Cascade Room will feature a huge fireplace at the back wall and a wall of windows, the Garden Room also has a free standing fireplace in the middle of the room. The bar area looks amazing and there will be an outdoor seating area (with heat lamps) that looks great! Apparently they have been following this page for quite awhile and are genuinely concerned about pleasing the droves of JOW lovers. As for all the rumors out there about opening date, they don't have one as yet...I'd say you have to go at least once just to see what it looks like! I just thought some of you would like an update 'straight from the horse's mouth'. I am looking forward to seeing it all come to fruition!"

AN INTERVIEW WITH PAT HATFIELD



Editor's Note: I recently interviewed Pat Hatfield, President of the Colma Historical Association for the past 22 years. Pat will be retiring from the Board soon, but continuing on as an active volunteer. Pat has left her mark on what an all-volunteer local museum can become. Congratulations Pat on a job well done!

How did you first get interested in local history?

I was asked by the City Manager to start a Colma Historical Association in 1993 after I had asked why the Town of Colma didn't have a historical group. She said, "Go for it!" At that time the old 1863 Southern Pacific train depot was in the way of the BART right-of-way and had been given to the town of Colma. So that got me started and I had a lot to learn about Colma's unusual history.

I know you and your husband traveled around the country visiting history museums. How did this influence the development of the Colma Museum?

My husband Davy and I loved to take weekend rides and vacations, traveling in our camper. We stopped at every town along the highways to look at their museums and learn about where we were and what to visit. We learned something from every single one! Some were dark and gloomy and you could not read all that was said in front of the displays. Some were crowded in the extreme, making it hard to really see what there was and find what was most interesting. Some docents hovered over you and made you feel uncomfortable and others didn't bother to even say hello. Some displays had no explanations. You learn from all these examples, good and bad. My favorites were the larger museums like the Smithsonian and the St. Louis Museum. I loved the College of San Mateo's County Museum before it moved to the Redwood City Courthouse. Every history museum is unique with its own way of presenting history. Sacramento has its railroad displays while Carson City has its mining history. It's important to communicate clearly what is unique about an area.

What do you see as the challenges in the future for small local museums without paid staff?

The greatest challenge I see today for all non-profits is to find good volunteer help. Money is the root to everything, so working for no pay does not seem as acceptable in today's

world. If people realized that the greatest reward is completing a job that helps others is the satisfaction that in some ways can be greater than any monetary reward. The best part of volunteering is making new best friends who work beside you and have the same type of goals and a level of mutual trust that enriches your everyday life. Volunteers seem to be special people.

What would you advise for the next generation of leaders working to preserve local history?

It is most important to reach our children and make history a wonderful true story that reaches into their minds to help them understand what has been and what decisions could be made for the future. We also need to get the word out to the broader community by attending as many functions as possible with businesses, other non-profits, city and county functions etc. to mix, communicate and spread the word about the value of our work.

Why do you think history is important?

History does repeat itself! You learn from the good decisions and the mistakes. So looking at history helps us reap rewards from lessons learned and past history does help decision making now and in the future to see what is possible and to show us the right course of action.

MAY IS GUILD ELECTION TIME - If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, contact Nomination Committee chairman Rich Rocchetta (650/992-9144). Per our bylaws, all members of the Board are required to serve as regular docents and take on additional responsibilities to keep the museum and organization running. All current members of the Board have indicated their intention to run for another term.

A CALL FOR MUSEUM DOCENTS

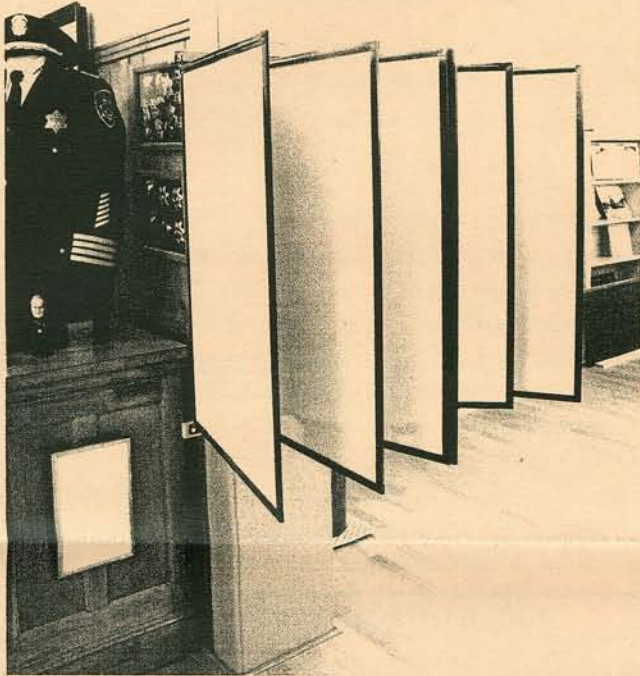
We are in need of several new museum docents to pair with an experienced Board Member. Minimum commitment is one three-hour docent duty per month. Qualifications: outgoing personality, willingness to assist with diverse tasks, and an interest in local history. Call or email Dana Smith, Museum Director, at 650-892-2166, director@dalycityhistorymuseum.org

OUR APPRECIATION

Thanks you for museum donations: Annette Hipona donated Westmoor HS yearbooks and reunion programs; Carol Klatt donated various documents and reports from City Hall; and Lani Schultz donated various commendations given to her late mother Betty
Cont'd pg. 5

Appreciation, cont'd

Schultz. A special thanks to Algis Ratnikas for expertly installing our new hanging display, seen below. The hanging display offers 30 double-sided panels 2'x3' for displaying photos, documents and interpretive text. The hanging files were funded by a grant written by Judith Christensen to the Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation.



After a long wait for a back-order, we now have our new hanging display at the Museum ready for photos, documents, and historical interpretation. This unit dramatically increases display space.

OTHER HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

San Francisco History Expo Saturday, February 28, 11am to 5pm & **Sunday March 1,** 11am to 4pm. The Old Mint building at 88 Fifth Street at Mission in San Francisco. Admission \$5, under 12 free. More than sixty San Francisco historical organizations will create "mini-museums" showcasing the diverse history of San Francisco's communities. In addition, there will be historic films, special programs, and tours of the Mint. A "must see" event!



Woody LaBounty and Dennis Quinn, both Guilders, at Woody's Western Neighborhoods Project history booth at the History Expo.

The Social Event of the Season! **Colma Historical Association Annual Fundraising Tea:** March 21, doors open at 11:30 am, Colma Community Center, 1520 Hillside Blvd. Colma. \$30 per person. Info: 650-757-1676

BLACK HISTORY MONTH, FEBRUARY SOME LOCAL NOTES:

In 1909, Stanley Ketchel, white middleweight boxing champion, fought with Jack Johnson, the first black heavyweight world's champion, at the Sickles St. Arena just over the county border in the area that would become Daly City in 1911. Johnson knocked Ketchel out before a paying crowd of 3,400. Johnson was later imprisoned because of his romantic ties with a white woman. In 2009 a movement began for a posthumous pardon of Jack Johnson for this interracial affair. Filmmaker Ken Burns helped form the Committee to Pardon Jack Johnson and made the 2005 documentary, "Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson." In 2009 and 2011 Congress passed resolutions recommending a posthumous pardon for Johnson and, although posthumous pardons are rare, advocates for the Johnson pardon are hoping for a final term pardon by President Obama.

In 1948 the State of California lifted its ban on interracial marriages.

In 1964 the Federal Fair Housing Act invalidated the controlled occupancy rules of the Westlake Subdivisions Improvement Association in Daly City, the largest homeowners association in California, and ended housing discrimination across the country.

In 1968 students at San Francisco State College led protests by the Black Students Union and the Third world Liberation Front. This five-month strike became the longest student-led strike in the history of America. At SFSU and at universities across the county new curricula and policies that spoke to people of color and the issue of diversity were instituted.

In 1973 a group protesting city redevelopment plans in Original Daly City, Concerned Clergy of Daly City, was led by the outspoken chairman Rev. Hosey Spears, a leader in the African-American community. Spears multi-ethnic coalition was remarkable in those days. Allied with the Original Daly City Protective Association, the clergy were successful in protecting homes in the lowest-income and most ethnically diverse neighborhood of Daly City. In late 1973 the city scrapped plans for redevelopment in these residential areas that could have displaced nearly 1,400 residents.





THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM

6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014

650/757-7177

Current Hours: Tuesdays and Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.

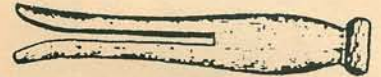


Find us on
Facebook

Please visit us on Facebook at "Daly City
History Museum"

www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL



John Arthur "Jack" Johnson (1878 – 1946), became the first African American world heavyweight boxing champion (1908–1915) at the height of so called "Jim Crow" period of extreme racism in the United States. Visit the Internet site below to view rare film of the famous Johnson/Ketchel bout in what would soon become Daly City. More on pg. 5.

www.boxing.com/stanley_ketchel_survives.html



How is Daly City connected to this prehistoric site in Ireland called the Hill of Tara? See pg. 3

GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mark Weinberger, President

650/757-7177

president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org

Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President

Dana Smith, 2nd Vice-President/Museum Director

Judith Christensen, Treasurer

Algis Ratnikas, Secretary

Directors: Michael Rocchetta, Marcus Gonzalez

Ken Gillespie (1924-2011), President-Emeritus

Bunny Gillespie, Secretary-Emerita

Annette Hipona, Hospitality Chair

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

**History Guild of Daly City/Colma is a
501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization
Memberships begin at \$25 per year.**

Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith,
director@dalycityhistorymuseum.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RENEWED MEMBERSHIP!