

# JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY - COLMA

### GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

If you attended our last meeting you had the opportunity to hear an outstanding lecture and view a unique piece of local history at the same time. For those who couldn't make it, I'll provide a brief recap. Our speaker was renowned golf course historian Philip Young, who was visiting from his home in Alpharetta, Georgia and detailed the official history of the San Francisco Golf Club, which extends into Daly City and is adjacent to the famed Broderick-Terry Duel Site. This was the last in our series of local golf and country clubs in the Daly City area, and what a treat it was to hear Phil trace the club's venerated history from late in the 19th century to present day. The surprise to one and all, including yours truly, was that attending along with Phil were two of the club's board members who brought with them the ultimate show and tell items bar none. The club owns the pistols that were used by Broderick and Terry in their 1859 duel that resulted in Senator Broderick's death and led to the official end of dueling in California. What a treat! The pistols are in excellent condition and are kept under glass. [Please see picture featured below by Michael Rocchetta.]



The pistols are kept in the club's private history room and never, ever leave the club. In fact, this is the first and most likely only time that they will leave their permanent home. We are so grateful and appreciative to the San Francisco Golf Club for sharing these priceless historical artifacts with us for what was indeed a most memorable evening and surely one of our greatest programs ever--as voiced by so many in attendance. [Note: Since 1971 the Union Bank of California has owned a set of pistols believed to be those used in the famous duel. While they are indeed from that era and very likely were present at the duel--in those days it was very

# EVENING HISTORY MEETING

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7 PM

101 Lake Merced Blvd. Daly City

Doelger Center Cafe

## TOM MILLER

Presents

# DALY CITY'S HORSE STABLES

MAR VISTA & PALO MAR



REFRESHMENTS: Will be provided by Pat Hatfield and Erin O'Rourke Meaders and June Neuhaus. Thank you to refreshment donors and to our gracious Hospitality Chair, Annette Hipona, and her assistant Grace Gonzalez.

common for many in attendance to bring weapons with them that were offered up--the San Francisco Golf Club has traced the provenance of their pistols and has conclusively proved that they were the pistols that were actually fired in the 1859 duel.]

We have another great, new program for November. For the longest time we have wanted to have a speaker to discuss the history of Daly City's two horse stables near the intersection of John Daly and Skyline Boulevards--Mar Vista and Palo Mar stables. Both have been in existence for many decades, and the land they're on has a rich and storied history. We have heard that during Prohibition there once was a road house/tavern on the site; one of the stables dates to at least WWII, and the land was used by the Coast Guard for a time. We have nothing at all in our files, and truly look forward to learning as much as we can about both the stables and the area's previous uses. Tom Miller, a Bay Area resident who worked at the stables in the 1960's, will be our featured speaker and discuss the history he knows as well as his reminiscences.

Finally, allow me to remind you of one of your benefits of membership, which is a 20% discount on all merchandise that we sell in the museum gift shop and at meetings. With the holidays close upon us, why not consider doing some of your shopping with the Guild? In addition to getting some great gifts for one and all, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are further supporting Daly City's only history organization dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and display of local lore. We have much to choose from including a vast array of history books by local authors, limited edition USPS commemorative postage from Daly City's 75th Anniversary of incorporation [1986], and much, much more. Don't forget that we have several remaining copies of the late Daly City Librarian and historian Samuel Chandler's official history of Daly City published in 1973. Gateway to the Peninsula is long out of print and is a fantastic addition to any home library and great look back at how Daly City appeared almost 45 years ago. There is definitely something for everyone!

A gift membership to the Guild would be a great idea for history buffs or the person who you can't decide what they might need or want. History is a great gift for everyone! We will send a special note with the most recent *Tattler* newsletter and five more editions will be sent during the coming year. Just send \$25 with your information and the mailing address of the person receiving the gift membership. If you would like us to enclose your personal note, we would be happy to do so.

### PATTY HEARST KIDNAPPING REVISITED

Bob Calhoun, Guild member and crime journalist, published an interview in September in the *SF Weekly* with bestselling author and CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin on his latest book, *American Heiress: The Wild Saga of the Kidnapping, Crimes and Trial of Patty Hearst* (Doubleday, 2016). This new book revives interest in

the 1974 crime and finds Toobin once again at the intersection between true crime, race and class in America as he reexamines the Patty Hearst case in his book and at a lecture for San Francisco's *City Arts*.



Photo of Patty Hearst/Tania posing in front of the SLA's seven-headed cobra, sent to KPFA in April 1974.

<u>www.sfweekly.com/news/yesterdays-crimes-gaslighting-patty-hearst/</u>

# Excerpts from Calhoun's article Yesterday's Crimes:

"Patricia 'Patty' Hearst was snatched from her Berkeley apartment and stuffed into the trunk of a stolen Impala on Feb. 4, 1974. She was the granddaughter of a media mogul; the great granddaughter of a silver king. Hearst was born to wealth and power. Now she was powerless.

Hearst was abducted by a 1970s fever dream with revolutionary ambitions called the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). This band of eight misfits was best known for pumping Oakland Schools Superintendent Marcus Foster full of cyanide-laced slugs on Nov. 6, 1973. To keep the public from fearing the worst, the SLA made a recording of Hearst to prove she was still alive.

While the other mostly white and middleclass SLA members chose the revolutionary path while they still had other options, Hearst's conversion came about while she was blindfolded and confined to a smelly closet in a Daly City tract home for over a month. During her captivity, Angela Atwood (one of the cheerleaders) would style Hearst's hair 'as if they were a couple of kids at America's most surreal slumber party' according to Toobin. Willie Wolfe AKA Cujo, the son of a physician, read quotations from Chairman Mao to Patricia through the closet door. Donald DeFreeze AKA Field Marshal Cinque, the leader of the SLA whom Toobin describes as 'a two-bit, incompetent criminal,' negged Hearst relentlessly. 'Your mommy and daddy are insects,' he said during one of his visits to the closet. 'They should be made to crawl on their hands and knees like insects if they want you back."

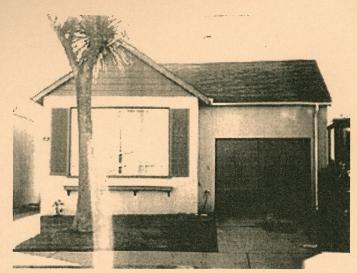


Photo - San Mateo County History Museum. Patty Hearst was locked in a bedroom closet in this Daly City home.

Reprinted from "Rediscovering the Peninsula," *The Daily Journal*.

# SAN MATEO COUNTY SAFE HOUSE IN DALY CITY 2007 By Joan Levy

No one can forget the gripping story of the kidnapping of Patty Hearst. Although her family lived in splendor in Hillsborough, a more modest place in Daly City played a part in her story... According to information that came out later, Patty was bound, gagged, blindfolded and initially kept in a locked closet under the most unspeakable circumstances. The location of that closet was the master bedroom of a small house in Daly City. Karen Elizabeth Paulsen, a former tenant of that same house, interviewed the owner Jim Mazzariello in 1986 about his recollection of the case. Eventually they failed to pay the rent and Jim found they had left. He found BB shots in the walls. It was later disclosed they had been doing target practice with BB guns in the house. The carpet of the master bedroom had been torn up and used to soundproof the closet walls. There was such an odor that it all had to be stripped and taken to the dump. Jim assumed they had been keeping pets in there.

A '57 Chevy was left in the garage. It was backed in close to the water heater and the gas cap was removed. Apparently they had expected the pilot light to ignite gas fumes and destroy the car, if not the whole house. Jim found the registration in the glove compartment and attempted to reach the owner it listed — but with no success. After cleaning up the property, Jim put the house up for sale. Several weeks after the women had left, the FBI contacted him. Without telling him what they were investigating, they began asking questions. He identified photos and told what he knew to the authorities. They seemed unhappy he had dumped so much evidence during his cleanup.

The house was also sold, but then the FBI sealed it and wouldn't allow the new owners to gain access. Eventually

they were allowed to move in, but the master bedroom was still kept padlocked by the FBI for a year. The authorities also finally decided to track down that car. They did find evidence in it.

Jim remembers he was not too pleased with his treatment by the FBI. He said he realized that at first they would consider that he might be involved and investigate him. But after they had ample information proving he was not part of the SLA, they continued to monitor his actions and his finances for two and a half years.

Jim said he did feel guilty, thinking that if he had only known something was wrong, he could have called the police. He might have been able to help get Patty rescued before her whole ordeal played out.

### THE EAGLES BAND - DALY CITY BAND



Eagles' Band, 1912, History Guild collection

The first organized civic group after the settlement of refugees from the 1906 earthquake and fire at the Top-of-the-Hill was, understandably, the Volunteer Fire Department. But the organization of entertainment was soon to follow with the Eagles' Drum Corps organized in 1910. At this time, before incorporation of Daly City, the area at the Top-of-the-Hill was known as the Village of Vista Grande and the settlement at the bottom of the hill was known as Colma. In this early photo the drum is labeled "Colma, Vista Grande." In these days before radio or TV, community parades were a frequent form of entertainment.

The Drum Corps was reinvented in 1930 as the newly chartered Daly City Band, still under the auspices of the Colma-Vista Grand Eagles. It began with only 8 members and later grew to 50. In 1932 the Eagles and band officials decided that the organization should be turned over to Daly City. The band was featured during the 1939 Exposition on Treasure Island with frequent performances, most notably on "Daly City Day" at the fair. George Brenner of 499 Knowles Avenue was the longtime conductor of the all-volunteer band from the early 1920s to 1964. On his death in 1966, The Post printed a tribute by Henry

Niebolt, who had joined the band while in high school. Edmund Cavagnaro also wrote a letter to the editor in tribute. Roland Terry succeeded Brenner as the conductor.

We don't have much in the archive about the band after 1964, but in 1972 Henry Niebolt, then a teacher in South San Francisco tried to re-energize the band through the Jefferson High School Adult Division. The History Guild was given several plastic garbage cans filled with moth-eaten band uniforms and the drums, found in the basement of the old War Memorial Building. Most of the uniforms were beyond repair, but we do have one that was salvaged and is on display at the museum.

DALY CITY - COLMA - SAN FRANCISCO

Thursday, May 11, 1961



THIS is a picture of the old 472 Irvington street who for was a member of the band at at this time. The hand was the group is still directed by Golden sublice Celebration set Daly City Amateur Band taken 10 years served as president of the time and was president also sponsored then by the Colmain 1925. The picture is the prop-Trixie Beeson of band, Thomas Jefferson Beeson, fessional entertainer, took over 1848. A municipal band today, run in connection with the city's

George Brenner. This is another of the "old time" pictures being

### HISTORY HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT - MUSSEL **ROCK'S DATUM POINT**

by Jeff Christner (sixbyfire@gmail.com)

During the first half of the last century United States military planners expected enemy warships to appear off our coasts at any moment, and for that, a coastal defense building boom began. Mortar positions, artillery emplacements, barracks, communications and observation bunkers, and other assorted infrastructure necessary for defense from attacks or invasion by sea were constructed around the United States. Most of these defensive measures were put in place near more populated areas, including the San Francisco Bay Area. Thankfully enemy warships never appeared on the horizon and the mission and operational aspects of the coastal defenses faded into history. However, much of the infrastructure of the coastal defenses, especially in what is now the Golden Gate Recreation Area, has been preserved for current and future generations.

In the second half of the last century the post World War II building boom (and baby boom) was in full swing, especially in Daly City, where homes were built by the hundreds. With the influx of returning war veterans and their growing families along with new families drawn to the moderate weather of the peninsula, the left over infrastructure of the coastal defenses were often nothing more than places for kids to explore or graffiti artists to practice their art, with one notable exception.

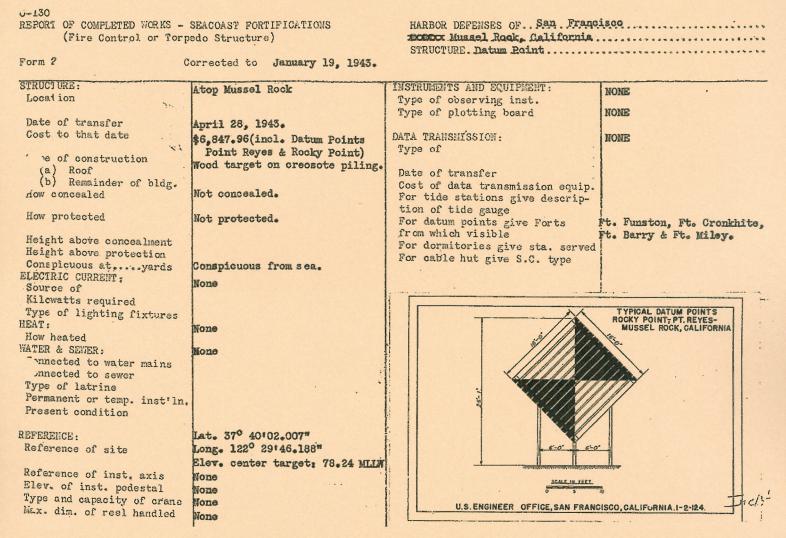


A mysterious structure built atop Mussel Rock, near what would later become Daly City's Landfill.

As Daly City continued to grow, the purpose of the structure on Mussel Rock was largely forgotten.

The structure on Mussel Rock was nothing more than a datum point for the coastal artillery observers. The observers would be located in what are called Base End Stations, many of which survive today. Using powerful spotting scopes the crews could spot enemy ships closing in to attack. Once two Base End Stations had a bearing to the enemy ship, since each Base End Station was surveyed with known distances to other Base End Stations, the range to the enemy ship could be calculated through triangulation. Due to the weather, the Base

End Stations were often located at various heights above sea level, which is why some survive today, while others eroded away and ended up in the ocean. At least two other official datum points were constructed along with the one atop Mussel Rock, with one at Rocky Point, near Stinson Beach, and another at Point Reyes. Each Base End Station that could see the datum point would have the distance and bearing to that datum point pre-plotted. In this way a more accurate bearing could be taken to enemy ships. Other unofficial datum points were the Point Bonita Lighthouse, Mile Rock Lighthouse, the Farallon Islands, and even the Water Tower at Fort Miley in San Francisco.



**THEN AND NOW...** Editor: I found the picture on the left from the early 1900s while looking through the archives and realized it's a building many of us pass on a regular basis on San Pedro Road. The signs reads "Colma Resort," but notice the mud-filled streets. Picture on the right taken on a recent drive by.





### 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.



Please visit us on Facebook at "Daly City History Museum" www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org



#### FIRST CLASS MAIL

Comment from museum visitor Debera Tingley:
"This museum is a historical gem. Thank goodness you are preserving this interesting history! [Most Interesting...]
Learning how the old time was, and how and why it is the way it is today. [Choice for a dinner partner...] One of the Native Americans who lived here. To learn about their culture, how they lived, and see this are through their eyes."

Richard Rothstein, a Research Associate of the Economic Policy Institute, a Senior Fellow of the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy at the University of California (Berkeley) School of Law, and a Contributing Editor of *The American Prospect*, is publishing a book in 2017 by W.W. Norton & Co. tentatively entitled *The Color of Law*. The theme will be the link between government and housing discrimination in post-WWII America. Mr. Rothstein used our museum archives for some of his research and we will be receiving a copy of his book.

Daly City Band drums, a bit worse for the wear, displayed at the museum.



### **GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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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.

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TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!