

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

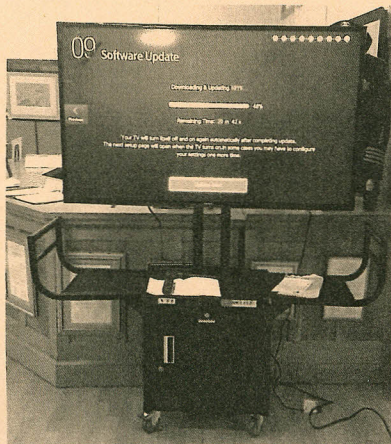
### GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK



We have a great speaker who will present on a new topic for our March general membership meeting. Historian and adventurer Jeff Christner will present on the crash of a plane on San Bruno Mountain in 1942. He will discuss in detail what was probably the first crash on the mountain. Jeff and his son Paxton recovered pieces of the crash during recent excavations.

They have generously decided to donate these items, including a surprise object, to the museum. Depending upon time, Jeff may also discuss Camp Daly City, the World War II military post on the mountain. We are very grateful to the Christners for sharing their scholarship of these under-reported episodes in Daly City history.

In a past *Tattler*, I mentioned that we had a few new surprises in store for the museum. I'm pleased to announce that one of them is the addition of a GIANT flat panel TV that will replace our much smaller, older and clunky big box TV that we use to show Ken Gillespie's 90 Years in Nine Minutes DVD and excerpts of our Daly City centennial documentary. The TV has very generously been donated by Treasurer Judith Christensen, after her good luck in winning it at a Chamber of Commerce event. Thank you, Judith! We have purchased a special cart that will accommodate the TV, and with our Wi-Fi capability, will be able to move the cart around the museum, which will free up extra very precious floor space for the additional display of more historical objects now in storage.



## HISTORY EVENING

**Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 7 pm**



Historian and adventurer  
**JEFF CHRISTNER**  
*presents*

### CRASH OF A WWII PLANE ON SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

**101 Lake Merced Blvd, Daly City  
Doelger Center Cafe**

***Free to the public - Everyone welcome!***

Refreshments will be provided by **Erin O'Rourke-Meadors, Judy Hnilo, Alice Brockman and Pat Hatfield**. Thanks also to our Hospitality Chair, **Annette Hipona**, assisted by **Grace Gonzalez**.

In addition to playing the DVDs, we will be able to stream historical gems from the Internet and display our web site so that patrons who are not otherwise familiar with these resources thus may be exposed. By way of interactive exhibits, we plan to have the mobile cart positioned at different times in the center of the museum, streaming captivating content which will be visible to passersby who might glance inside while walking by. Future Guild supporters and local history buffs? We certainly hope so.

Another project is still in the works, and we hope to have it completed very shortly. You definitely will read about it here first.

We will be having our Guild Officers and Board of Directors election at the May general membership meeting. Elections are held every two years in odd years; the term of office is two years. Per our bylaws, individuals elected to the board have a portfolio of responsibilities including but not limited to serving as a regular museum docent a minimum of one Tuesday or Saturday each month plus one or two extra days a year. Also, it is expected that board members will attend the majority of our five general membership meetings and help with Guild activities such as membership, raffle, programs, etc. If interested in serving, please contact me by calling the museum, 650-757-7177 or at [president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org). A recommended slate will appear in the May *Tattler*.

Finally, a reminder that if you haven't checked out our Guild web site or Facebook page lately [both are listed next to the return address on this newsletter], you're missing some great historical nuggets, photographs and more. The newest feature of our web site is the recent addition of a great many back-issue *Tattlers*, dating to 1985. Facebook has several hundred followers who share historical happenings from their Daly City pasts, including vintage photos and remembrances. Definitely take a look when you have a moment or more; you might find yourself spending greater time than you anticipated as the information shared can be addictive and, we hope, contagious.

**THANK YOU** - A special thank you to **Erin O'Rourke-Meadors** who surprised us with two beautiful cakes for our annual party on January 15th. Board member **Algis Ratnikas** took on the special project of researching, purchasing and setting up our new TV stand. We look forward to museum donations from the **Jeff and Paxton Christner**, our March guest speakers, of WWII plane crash artifacts from San Bruno Mountain. We were recently contacted via the Intranet by **Conrad Pavellas's granddaughter Victoria Martin** from San Jose who plans a visit to the museum to deliver donations relating to her grandfather's activism in Daly

City and family history. Conrad was one of the founders of Original Daly City Protective Association in 1972 and led the successful protest against redevelopment clearance of homes in the oldest part of Daly City.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? THE PEOPLE WHO CALLED THE NEW SAN FRANCISCO MOTEL AND TRAILER PARK HOME

*Comments from Charles Chapman, sent to our Facebook page*

Hello DCHM.

In January 1987 my wife Annette and I set up our first home together, in space 11B at the New San Francisco Motel and Trailer Park at 6925 Mission Street (owned, if I recall correctly, by the Lagomarsinos). We lived there till the August of that year before moving to SF and then Oakland. We made it cute and enjoyed living there.



Annette and our newly-purchased Ford Festiva, with the trailer

It was a 1950s trailer, which we owned though we rented the space, and like its neighbors it had probably sat there since it was made. Our spot backed up to the dead-end of Paul Street and is now where the Pet Food Express is. Behind those trailers would have been the Bell Market down the slope. The trailer you can see in the background was lived in by John, who was a groundsman at Jefferson High School. His neighbor Larry was manager of a bar at 30th & Mission for years and had lived upstairs from the bar till retirement when he had to move out since the apartment went with the job. Our neighbor was Dolores and her one-eyed cat Sebastian; she was a junker who drove an old car that was literally stuffed with junk including furniture permanently tied to its roof. Whatever became of them?

Next door on the north side was the Mission Bell Motel and it too had a trailer park behind. Mission Bell trailers were a step up in terms of social scale from ours; their roadway was even paved whereas ours was a pot-holed track. Ever since I discovered the site had been

Trailer Park, cont'd

redeveloped, I've wondered what happened to the people who lived there. We were young, only 24, and had professional careers ahead of us, but many of our neighbors were old, at least from a 24-year-old point of view, and they were borderline "marginal" in terms of income and capability. I imagine some became outright homeless for lack of other options when the trailer parks shut down. If you lived at the NSFM&TP you likely had no other option, it definitely served a purpose, as it did for us since we had only my income at \$6 an hour. It's a sin that it's now chain-store retail which displaced poor peoples' homes.

Who lived or stayed in the motel rooms was anyone's guess. It was line of single-story rooms alternating with car-ports at a right angle to Mission, built in the 1940s I imagine. The hedge on the side of the driveway separated us from Mission Bell. You drove past the motel rooms to reach the trailer park which sat up behind the Bell market away from the street. That store was a depressing and desolate place, empty of customers and stock and it never seemed to have the lights on. It was a 60s-era building that sat in a dug-out-of-the-hillside position. I wonder what it replaced when it was built. Another remembrance: every month I went to the office to pay our gas-tank bill -- we had gas tanks for hot water. (We had a bathroom but there was shower/toilet block for people who lived in pick-up truck campers and similar with no bathrooms.) One time I got chatting to the lady who worked in the office and she said the Lagomarsino family (of which I believe she was a member) had owned that stretch of land before it was built over with houses (so we're talking the vicinity of Peter/Paul/Bismarck) and they grew vegetables and such. There was a framed picture in the office of the site pre-development. Regretfully I can't remember what was in the picture other than the fact that it existed

I hope to visit you one Saturday. Thanks a lot.  
- Charles Chapman

*Comment by Rich Rocchetta:* "I recall there was quite a controversy when they were trying to get that property and the residents to move."

*Comment by Dana Smith:* "Back in the late 1970's my parents would visit me in Daly City on their way to "snowbird" adventures in Mexico. They parked their trailer nearby off Mission Street at the NSFM&TP and we walked back and forth to my shack (bought by my sister, demolished and a new house built in 1995) on San Diego Avenue. There was a hard working family of four living 'next door' to my parents trailer in a camper. The two kids attended grade school in Daly City, the Dad worked as a carpenter while the whole family saved every penny for their dream to buy a house. My Mom and Dad played the role of grandparents and bought the

kids school supplies and visited back and forth. The family was upbeat despite the very close living quarters. They bathed and used the common bathroom and did their homework at night at the tiny camper table. We don't know what happened to the family in the camper but we are sure they finally realized their dream. They were determined to do whatever it took to have a permanent home."



The Warriors playing at the Cow Palace

## THE "DALY CITY" WARRIORS

By Bob Calhoun

The Golden State Warriors are now a \$1.9 billion franchise with a lineup stocked with former MVPs and all-stars. Behind Steph Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green, and now former MVP Kevin Durrant, the team shatters pro basketball records like they're going out of style. The Warriors took the National Basketball Association (NBA) world title in 2014-15 and then set the record for the most games won during the regular season in 2015-16. With the higher media profile that comes with staggering success, the Warriors broke ground on a new \$1 billion arena in San Francisco's Mission Bay during a ceremony on Jan. 17, 2017 that featured Cirque du Soleil acrobats dressed like construction workers swinging from giant backhoes. San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and several team officials called the planned 2020 move across the Bay from Oakland to San Francisco a homecoming for the team that used to be called the San Francisco Warriors.

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"The groundbreaking of at Chase Center will bring the Warriors back home to SF," Mayor Lee tweeted. And while the Warriors did play at what is now known as the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco proper, most of their games on this side of the Bay were won or lost at the Cow Palace in Daly City.

The NBA had its eye on expanding to the Bay Area from the East coast and Midwest in the late 1950s. The then Minnesota Lakers were the first to try out the Bay Area market when they beat the Boston Celtics in overtime by a score of 109-106 at the Cow Palace on Jan. 1, 1959. With a hot crowd of 13,652 that night, Lakers president Robert Short teased that the team could move to San Francisco by 1960. Another test-run game at the Cow Palace failed to cover expenses, however, and The Lakers moved to Los Angeles instead, becoming an NBA powerhouse in the process.

NBA basketball finally returned to the Cow Palace when the Warriors moved from Philadelphia to the Bay Area in 1962. The first game played by the new Daly City-based "San Francisco Warriors" was against the Detroit Pistons on Oct. 23, 1962. The Warriors of their initial Cow Palace run boasted future hall-of-famers Wilt Chamberlain and Nate Thurmond, and won the Western Division championship in 1964, but fell to the Boston Celtics in the finals that year.

The Warriors played at the San Francisco Civic from 1964-66, but then returned to the Cow Palace while also playing games in Oakland and San Jose, as pro basketball appears to have been a more ad-hoc enterprise back then. The team moved to Oakland in 1971, and became The Golden State Warriors mostly because owner Franklin Mieuli floated the idea the team would play half its games in San Diego as a way to negotiate a better deal from the Oakland Coliseum.



NBA title 1975 at Cow Palace, Daly City  
An unexpected shot at the NBA title sent the Warriors back to the Cow Palace in 1975. Not planning for the

possibility that even a Warriors team with Rick Barry could make the finals, Oakland Coliseum officials booked the Ice Follies featuring Big Bird and other Muppets for the week of the playoffs. Coming back to Daly City was maybe just what the Warriors needed though, as they swept the Washington Bullets in four games, winning what would be their last national title until 2015.

The Warriors would again court the Cow Palace in 1996, offering to pay the venue \$2.6 million to play there while the Oakland Coliseum underwent heavy renovations. The Cow Palace board refused the Warriors' generous offer due to objections from the San Francisco Spiders, a minor league hockey team that folded after their 1995-96 season, leaving the Cow Palace empty on nights the Warriors could've been playing there. When the Warriors finally move to their new Mission Bay home in 2020, there will be another round of speeches from players and politicians telling the public that the Warriors have come home to San Francisco. Just remember that Daly City had them first.

## NEARBY HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

### Cypress Lawn 2017 Lecture Series (FREE)

All lectures begin at 2 pm at the Cypress Lawn's Reception Center.

1370 El Camino Real, Colma, CA

*Light Refreshments Served*

For more information call 650.550-8812

**March 19:** Sunday Afternoon Lecture, 2 PM, Cypress Lawn Reception Center, *A Floating Art Deco Gallery – Elegance Between the Wars*, Historian: Michael Svanevik

**April 23:** Sunday Afternoon Lecture, 2 PM, Cypress Lawn Reception Center, *Antebellum and Civil War San Francisco*, Author Monika Trobits, book signing.

### Cypress Lawn 2017 Walking Tour Schedule (FREE)

All scheduled tours are held on Saturdays

*Light Refreshments Served*

For more information call 650-550-8810

**March 25:** Walking Tour, 1:30 PM, *Unexpected Monuments: The Curious, The Offbeat, and The Daring*, Meet at green tent on East side, Docent: Terry Hamburg

**April 22:** Annual Arbor Day Walking Tour, 1:30 PM, *An Afternoon of Horticultural Delights*, Cypress Lawn, Meet at green tent on East side, Docent: Steven Brown

**Colma Historical Association 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, April 2th at the Colma Museum, 1500 Hillside Blvd., Colma**



Saturday, March 4, from 11 am-5 pm, and Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 11 am to 4 pm at the Old Mint, 88 5<sup>th</sup> Street at Mission in San Francisco. FREE! Over 40 local history organizations will exhibit, plus lectures and tours of the remarkable Mint Building.

## **FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

### *Some Events in Local and Regional History*

In 1849 the California Constitutional Convention was held first in Monterey and later in San Jose. The constitution abolished slavery but barred blacks from voting, holding public office and testifying in court against whites. In December California asked to be admitted into the Union as a free state.

In 1909 Stanley Ketchell, middleweight champion, fought with Jack Johnson, the first Black heavyweight world's champion at the Sickles St. Arena in the village of Vista Grande (which would soon become Daly City in 1911). Johnson knocked Ketchell out before a paying crowd of 3,400.

In 1941 Audley Cole became the first black operator hired by San Francisco Muni. One of his co-workers was beaten for trying to train him.

July 17, 1944 was the date of the Port Chicago Mutiny. An explosion at Port Chicago, a sleepy town some 30 miles north of San Francisco now the Concord Naval Weapons Station, killed 320 seamen when a pair of ammunition ships exploded with 10,000 tons of ammunition. 202 of the victims were black enlisted men. The Navy court-martialed 50 black sailors for refusing to go back to work after the catastrophe. They were released from prison in 1946 with dishonorable discharges and reductions in rank. Protests led the Navy to change its practices and initiate the desegregation of its forces, beginning in 1946. In 1994, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial was dedicated to the lives lost in the disaster. In 1999 Pres. Clinton issued a pardon to Freddie Meeks, one of the last living convicted African American sailors.

In 1966 the Black Panthers were founded in Oakland by Merritt College students Huey Newton and Bobby Seale. Daly City resident Charles Garry became the famed Black Panther attorney.



Port Chicago, a town 30 miles north of San Francisco, after the disaster.

The 1964 and 1968 federal fair housing laws put an end to housing restrictions to "Whites only" ending discrimination in post-war housing developments like Daly City's Westlake.

In 1968 protesting students at San Francisco State College led by the Black Students Union and a coalition known as the Third world Liberation Front went from classroom to classroom announcing a strike was on. Classes were cancelled and the SF Police Department took control of the campus. The baton-swinging police tactical squad injured scores of protestors and hundreds were arrested during the confrontations that played out on TV screens across the country. The five-month strike became the longest student-led strike in the history of America. As a result, 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. College President Robert Smith was followed by President S. I. Hayakawa, who made headlines for his hardline tactics against protestors.

In 2011 Congress approved a resolution urging a presidential pardon for Jack Johnson, the late black heavyweight champion who was imprisoned because of his romantic ties with a white woman a hundred years ago. The House passed the resolution about a month after the Senate approved it. Filmmaker Ken Burns helped form the Committee to Pardon Jack Johnson, which filed a petition with the Justice Department in 2004 that was never acted on. Burns' 2005 documentary, "Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson," examined the controversies surrounding the boxer. A lobbying movement continues for a Presidential posthumous pardon.

**INVITE A FRIEND TO OUR NEXT HISTORY MEETING AND LECTURE!**



# THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

## DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM

6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014

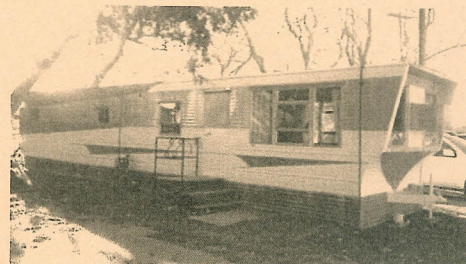
650/757-7177

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



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

[www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org](http://www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org)



### FIRST CLASS MAIL

Protesters march near 19<sup>th</sup> and Holloway on SF State campus in 1968 student strike.



### GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**Mark Weinberger, President** 650/757-7177

[president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

**Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President**

**Dana Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:director@dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

Donations of new items for our fundraising raffle are always appreciated!