

THE TATTLER

JOURNAL OF DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK-

For our September 17th meeting, we welcome Joshua Cosgrove, Director of Daly City's Water and Wastewater Resources [DWWR]. He will speak on the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project and its long history. Josh has worked in the water and wastewater utility field for almost 30 years. He started with the City of Pacifica in 1994 and made his way to the management team at Daly City's DWWR in 2015. He was promoted to DWWR Director earlier this year. He has a BA in Business Administration and a Master's in Public Administration and holds professional certificates in Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Mechanical Maintenance, and Collection System Technology. Since 2018, he has been the primary Daly City staff person responsible for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project.



Vista Grande Sewer, June 9, 1941. On file, San Francisco Department of Public Works Archive at the San Francisco Public Library, item no. DPW-A6872.

The Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project is a multi-benefit stormwater management project that will manage, treat, and reuse stormwater in the Vista Grande Drainage Basin while also providing regional water quality, water supply, and recreational benefits. The Project will reduce localized flooding by improving the capacity of existing stormwater conveyance infrastructure to accommodate 25-year flood events. This conveyance system includes the over 100-year-old Vista Grande Tunnel and Canal. The
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IN-PERSON LECTURE & MEETING

Sunday, September 17th

2 pm

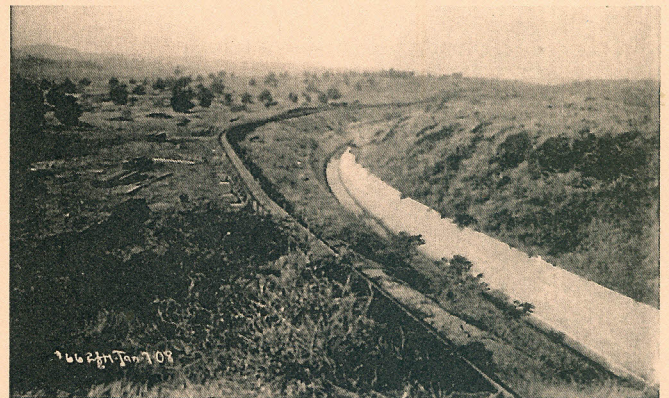
Merced Room, Westlake Park Pacelli Gym

Joshua Cosgrove

Director of Daly City's Water and
Wastewater Resources

Presents

Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project and its long history



Lake Merced Canal with wood flume, January 7, 1908. On file at SFPUC Archives, item no. 1908 H-622.5

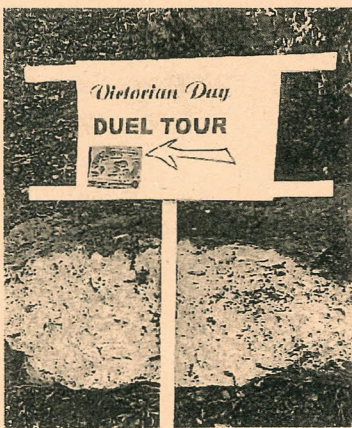
*Everyone welcome. Attendees are asked to
be fully vaccinated.*

This venue allows space to social distance.

Lots of free parking – refreshments – raffle

stormwater from the drainage basin will be filtered and a portion will be treated through a biological wetland system. This water will be available to flow into Lake Merced, improving the quality of the lake and supplementing the associated groundwater basin which is a critical part of Daly City and other partnering agencies' drinking water portfolio.

After 14 years of operation without incident, we were the victims of a recent break-in. Thankfully, the vandal(s) did not enter the actual museum proper but broke the glass on the right-hand side of the exterior double doors. They did not proceed through the interior double doors, which is another set just inside the vestibule. What they did do is tear apart our bulletin board in the vestibule and leave a mess of torn papers and broken glass. We want to thank the Daly City Public Works Department for quickly patching the door temporarily with plywood and later replacing the broken glass. Also, thanks to City Clerk Annette Hipona, who immediately alerted Public Works. We have given the Daly City Police Department a contact list for our entire board and we're also checking about installing steel mesh grills on the inside to prevent entry into the museum in the future. The intruders walked through the broken glass window within the door since the double doors were padlocked and could not be opened without a key. The most likely scenario is vandals, possibly high on drugs, who might have used a skateboard to break the glass. There have been many incidents of similar situations reported on the local TV news. Regardless, it was a senseless act of vandalism that has caused us a great deal of anguish and anger but the "show must go on" and the museum was open for business with plywood on the door and 14 visitors the next day when Mark hosted a tour and Judith and Dana provided refreshments at the museum.



talks' during July and August. We haven't taken part in a few years, so it was high time to re-engage and highlight this fascinating tale involving a United States Senator, California Supreme Court Chief Justice, the issue of slavery, and the official ending of dueling in California.

On Saturday, July 15 about 25 folks joined yours truly for a walk and discussion about the 1859 Broderick-Terry Duel. This was one in a series of historic walks presented by the San Mateo County Historical Association. Other history organizations in the county presented their own 'walks and

At the conclusion of the tour, I discovered that one of our participants was 93-year-old Jane Tronoff, whose late husband Ted had been one of Henry Doelger's main architects and worked on the development of Westlake. Jane lives directly across the street from the duel site park and goes for walks each afternoon. She



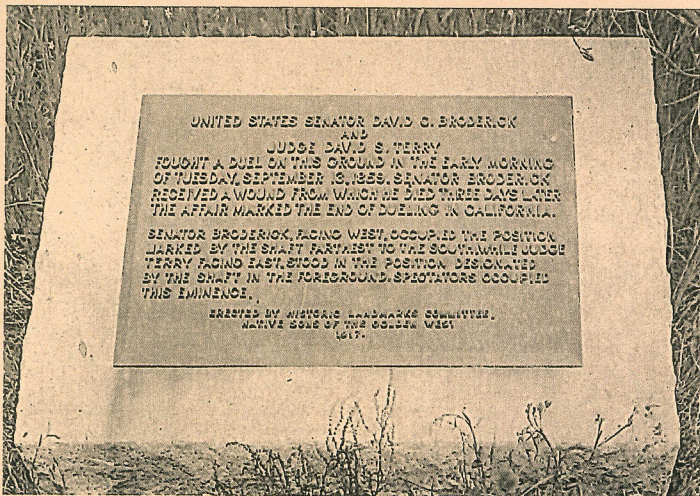
Mark Weinberger meets Jane Tronoff Photo: R. Jue

shared some of her own memories of the area and was glad to learn that the Guild remains active and continues to promote the area's storied and sometimes overlooked history. If you didn't have a chance to take the tour this time, we'll try to repeat it—or a similar one—as an annual event. I also want to thank our official Guild Photographer and member Raymond Jue for his willingness to endure the talk twice and capture the event with his usual outstanding photos. [Recently, Raymond and our high school classmate, Patricia Remmert, joined me for an informal visit to the duel site. Neither had ever explored it in depth, and so I had a chance to practice my speech on a captive, and hopefully captivated, audience.]

I'd also like to share that we have some exciting news regarding the duel site park that will soon right and restore a great wrong. For those familiar with the area, you'll know that there are several markers and monuments that share the space. The first is State Registered Landmark No. 19. This is the large iron plaque mounted on a concrete base just outside the park and adjacent to the private Lake Merced tennis courts. This is the official state of California plaque. There is also a gray granite shaft placed by V. Fontana & Co. monuments of Colma to commemorate the event and draw visitors' attention to two cement shafts further back in the dale that mark where each participant stood and the duel actually occurred. Without

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this 'signpost,' there are many a folk who would—and have—otherwise missed the actual spot of the duel. Finally, there was once another plaque, originally placed and dedicated by the Native Sons of the Golden West in 1917, and later re-dedicated in 1974. A few years later, the plaque was stolen and never to be replaced. I contacted the Sons on behalf of the Guild and am pleased to share they confirmed that they were already working toward replacing their long-gone plaque, which told a more specific and detailed story of the duel and different from the Landmark No. 19 plaque. I acted as liaison with the City of Daly City and was able to collaborate with the parties resulting in everybody being on board and agreeing to expedite the process. The re-dedication ceremony is scheduled for Friday, September 8 at 3:30 PM. It is being coordinated by the Sons, and everyone is invited to attend. The actual ceremony will be short, about 30 minutes.

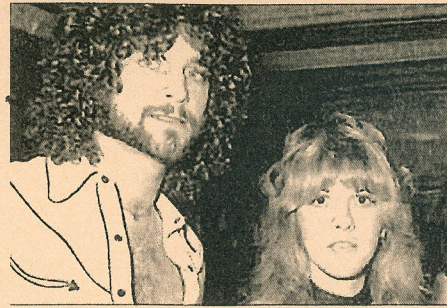


This photo of the plaque mounted on a concrete slab is the original that went missing in the mid-1970s and that will be replaced.

One final note on this subject... I didn't realize until I arrived that there is no signage at all denoting a name for this Daly City park. Outside of the State of California 'Bear signs' on Lake Merced Boulevard alerting folks to the duel site way back yonder in the dale, there is nothing to indicate that it is also a city park complete with lawn, picnic table, and benches—operated and maintained by Daly City. Certainly nothing at all on El Portal Way, the entrance to the park. Daly City's largest parks from Westlake, Marchbank, and Gellert, to its tiniest tot lots all have designated official names and signage to alert the public. I mentioned this to city manager Tom Piccolotti and he agrees that clearly somewhere, sometime ages ago there was an oversight. Therefore, hopefully there will soon be official signage to enshrine the unofficial name of Broderick-Terry Duel Site Park.

DALY CITY AND FLEETWOOD MAC

by Michael Rocchetta



The Rock Group Fleetwood Mac has a connection to Daly City, with Member Lindsey Buckingham who was born in Palo Alto in 1949 to

Morris and Rutheda Buckingham. He and his two brothers Jeffery and Greg grew up in Atherton and attended Menlo-Atherton High School. They were competitive swimmers. Lindsey eventually quit swimming to pursue music. His Brother Greg won a silver medal in swimming at the 1968 Olympics Lindsey started to play guitar as a young boy and by high school was in a psychedelic rock group called the Fritz Rabyne Memorial Band.

Alexander-Balart Coffee Circa 1965 Located in Daly City's Bayshore District



His friend Stevie Nicks joined the group as a backing vocalist. They both eventually left the group. In 1972 Lindsey and Stevie Nicks started to record demos on a half inch 4 track Ampex recording studio kept at his father's coffee roasting plant, Alexander-Balart Coffee Co.,

located at 455 Allen Street in Daly City's Bayshore District. They recorded seven of these demos. Buckingham and Nicks then signed with Polydor records but was dropped because of poor sales; they then toured with Don Everly's backing band. Mick Fleetwood heard the Buckingham Nicks recordings and offered Buckingham the guitar slot vacated by Bob Welch. Buckingham requested that he also hire Stevie Nicks as they worked as a team. Fleetwood agreed and Buckingham and Nicks became part of Fleetwood Mac. In 1977, Mick Fleetwood Christine McVie, Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks Recorded the album "Rumours" That brought them to superstar status. Lindsey Buckingham was a member from 1975 to 1989 and again from 1998 to 2018. Stevie Nicks was a member from 1975 to 1991 and again from 1997 to present. The name "Fleetwood Mac" was derived from combining the last names of the founders Mick Fleetwood and John McVie.

THE GUILD REMEMBERS DENISE

SCHWARZBACH by Dana Smith

Longtime Guild member Denise Schwarzbach died peacefully in her sleep on June 26th in Daly City. She was married to the late Alvin Schwarzbach for 55 years, mother to three and grandmother to six. Born in Paris, France on May 23, 1928, she lost her parents and sister tragically in the Holocaust. In June of 2006 an article in the *Jewish News of Northern California* "Best Friends, separated by war, reunite in S.F. after decades apart" told the story of how Denise and her best friend survived the Nazi invasion and pro-German Vichy government. Unlike roundups in other occupied countries, the Jews of France suffered only one major roundup on July 16, 1942. Alone and only 16 years old, Denise found work in a restaurant that provided food and shelter. She commented, "There was no time for tears. I did not know from one day to the next if I would be taken. You lived on high alert all the time." Denise and her friend remembered the bells of Notre Dame Pealing when allied forces liberated Paris in August of 1944.

Denise tracked down an uncle in Texas and joined him after the war as a 19-year-old who spoke no English. In Texas she met a young civil engineer, Al Schwarzbach, they married and moved to Daly City. More of her war survival can be found in testimony at the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, founded by Steven Spielberg in 1994 to record survivors of the Holocaust.

Her obituary noted her love of reading and her role organizing the Friends of the Daly City Library annual book fair. She volunteered at John's Closet, and was a member of numerous cultural and charitable organizations. Her husband Al was involved in supporting bond issues to support elementary schools in Daly City. Both the Schwarzbachs were well known and involved in the community.

Denise had worked both as a hairdresser and a top AVON salesperson. Into her 90s she was spry and enjoyed senior exercise classes and social activities at the Doelger Center. She is remembered as an energetic, involved person, fully engaged in life.

MORE INFORMATION ON DALY CITY'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

By Richard Rocchetta

At the last *Tattler*, we told you about our receiving an email from a Rhode Island film maker, Christian de Resendes. He was creating a documentary series called "Slatersville: America's First Mill Village". A segment of that series was focusing on a man named Doug Curliss who was from that town. Mr. de Resendes also

stated that Curliss had later changed his name to Black-Eagle Sun and that Mr. Curliss had become the first African American elementary school teacher in Daly City around the early 1960's. When he contacted the Guild, the only information we had on this person was that he was a teacher who taught Special Education at Colma Intermediate School (now Pollicita Middle School) from 1962 through 1963.



MR. CURLISS

Shortly after that article appeared we received an email from one of our members, Maryann Laughlin. She wrote:

Nice to read about Doug in The Tattler. I hope what little information I have will help. Dough taught at Oceana High School in Pacifica in the late 1960s with Neil Laughlin my late husband. I'm sure yearbooks from there will help (note: unfortunately, we don't have those years in our archives at the Daly City History Museum). In the early 1970s Doug went on to teach in Micronesia. We lost contact with him until he called here around 15 or 20 years ago saying he was teaching or was the dean of students at Balboa High School in San Francisco. Haven't heard from him since then. Hope this helps. He was an interesting guy and knew lots of people. He had parties at his home in the Portrero Hill area. Hope this information helps. Good Luck! Maryann Laughlin.

We are grateful for the additional information that will be added to our files at the museum. If anyone has further information on Mr. Curliss, such as his tenure at either Oceana High School or Balboa High School, or photos from either of those yearbooks please email the Guild at: info@dalycityhistorymuseum.org. A special Guild "Thank You" to Mrs. Laughlin for her email and additional information on Mr. Curliss. We always appreciate any information that furthers the history of Daly City!

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Michael Rocchetta for shopping for the hardware and agreeing to back up computer files on a regular basis; Mark Weinberger for the inspiration and followthrough to replace the Native Son's plaque at the Broderick-Taylor duel site and tour of the site, Dana Smith and Mark Weinberger for weeding the frontscape of the museum, Annette Hipona for scanning and delivering digitized historical photos from the City Clerk's archive; Judith Christensen and Dana Smith for donating refreshments and hosting an open house at the museum after the duel tour; and donations by Mark Weinberger of vintage momentos from retail establishments past and present in Daly City, some from his late mother.



Heavy weeding by your board members... top picture of Dana's weeding, bottom Mark wielding a shovel.



VOLUNTEER GARDENER WANTED!

Our former neighborhood volunteer gardener Billy Wiggins is no longer able to continue and we let the weeds get out of hand. It then required a serious effort to spade up the deep roots. Our weekly Saturday docents manage to clean up the garbage that

accumulate in our frontage but we could use some help with regular weeding, watering and perhaps planting to keep up our desire to beautify the front of the museum and the Top-of-the-Hill. We have tools, hose and a spigot at the front and will provide a key for access to tools, bathroom and volunteer treats. Any expenses for plants, woodchips, etc. will be quickly reimbursed with receipts. We are asking for a once every two weeks commitment to deep water and keep the weeds at bay. Do you have a green thumb and a desire to help with our museum? Contact President Mark Weinberger!

Editor's Note: When comments were published in the Examiner by travel author Ray Riegert who said "If Tony Bennet left his heart in San Francisco, he must have discarded his gall bladder in Daly City." He described Daly City as one of America's ugliest towns, "the perfect counterpoint to the bay city; it is as hideous as San Francisco is splendid." Well, of course the late Bunny Gillespie, a native-born and life-long resident of Daly City was not going to take

that lying down. Rich Rocchetta rediscovered this letter to the editor published on January 31, 1988. It brought a smile to my face. Enjoy!

In Defense of Daly City

As a native of Daly City, I must tell you that I was very unsettled by the quotation from Ray Riegert in your Travel section noting the author's description of Daly City as one of America's "ugliest towns". Did you have to print that?

Did Mr. Riegert, whose book deals with coastal towns of California, take into consideration that Daly City has never pretended to be in competition with the coastal delights of Santa Cruz, Monterey, or even El Granada. Did it make Riegert feel good to swipe at a city whose very slogan deferentially reads "Gateway to the Peninsula?"

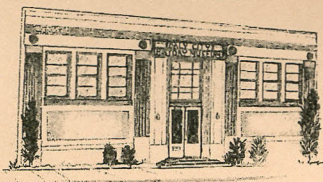
Come now, let's reason together. Daly City is home to well over 82,000 people. The weather here is never too warm, nor too cold. Our west side affords ocean views and sunset splendors and coastal walks from Thornton State Beach to Mussel Rock.

Clean white fog comes through San Francisco on feet that have been poetically described by great writers. It rests in our Eastern valley below San Bruno Mountain, thus providing a perfect climate for growing flowers and vegetables. Song writers have made money singing of Daly City's "Little Boxes" on our hillside. Good for them. We would never wish them ill. Many of our homes do look like boxes, just like row houses in many other cities. Built on hillsides, the avenues trace the natural curves and rises of the terrain. Homes are landscaped tidy, and families are cozy within.

Daly City's "boxes" brought affordable housing to veterans who longed for land to call their own, where children could grow up in safety and enjoy such amenities as modern schools, diversity of religious experience, nearby shopping and abundant, well-equipped playgrounds. Basketball hoops, swimming pools, tennis courts and jogging trails are in near round-the-clock use here. People smile. Mailmen know where you live, even if the number is left off an address. If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so then is ugliness. We do not accept Riegert's assessment of Daly City.

If he would care to take another look at San Francisco's immediate neighbor, we would be happy to show him around.

Bunny Gillespie, Daly City



**DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM
& ARCHIVE**

6351 Mission Street Daly City, CA 94014

650/757-7177

OPEN SATURDAYS NOON – 3 PM



Please visit us on Facebook at "Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive"

www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Mark Weinberger begins his walking tour of the Broderick-Terry Duel Site. Photo R. Jue.

GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mark Weinberger, President (Facebook, Programs)

650/757-7177 president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org

Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President (Raffle)

Marcus Gonzalez, 2nd Vice-President/Museum Director
(programs)

Judith Christensen, Treasurer (membership)

Secretary – vacant

Directors: Michael Rocchetta (database, mailing labels)

Dana Smith (Tattler editor and production)

Grace and Marcus Gonzalez Hospitality Crew

Raymond Jue photographer

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

**Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive is an
all -volunteer 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.**

Memberships begin at \$25 per year.

Tattler comments: dana@vikingsmith.net