

THE TATTLEER

JOURNAL OF DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK-

I am happy to report that we have reopened the museum on Saturdays from noon to 3 pm. and will be back in May to pre-pandemic operation including Tuesdays. Please come by to say "hi". By the time of this mailing, we might have already conducted a museum tour for a class at Our Lady of Perpetual Help just around the corner on Wellington Avenue.

We had a *wonderful* March meeting, with the always fantastic Rob Keil presenting on his latest book about vintage automobile advertising. It was so good to see many familiar faces along with new ones. We enjoyed an outstanding strawberry shortcake, champagne, and other delicious food and drink. Many folks replied that they were appreciative of the Sunday afternoon meetings compared to the former Wednesday evenings of old. Our raffle netted \$84; we had five membership renewals; and sold a book. Thank you, all!

For our May general membership meeting, we are excited to present a history of another of the sites where Daly Citians and so many more once spent weekends to get away from it all. The long-gone Santa's Village in Scotts Valley was one such recreation venue where families chose to spend a weekend with the kids.

At one time there were many such theme parks and amusement centers to visit. In addition to Santa's Village, the greater Bay Area had Frontier Village in San Jose; Oakland's Fairyland [still in operation!]; Marine World Africa USA in Redwood City; Malibu Grand Prix also in Redwood City; Marriott's Great America in Santa Clara [still there but no longer affiliated with the Marriott corporation]; Marin Town & Country Club in Fairfax; and of course, San Francisco's Playland at the Beach. [The last two both closed in the summer and fall of 1972 respectively.]

We were originally set to present this program in March of 2020, but of course that was the beginning of the pandemic dilemma. I am very happy to share that Scotts Valley local historian Jay Topping has agreed to be our featured speaker slightly more than two years out. Jay is affiliated with the Scotts Valley Historical Society and is an authority on both the locality's history along with

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MAY IN-PERSON LECTURE AND MEETING

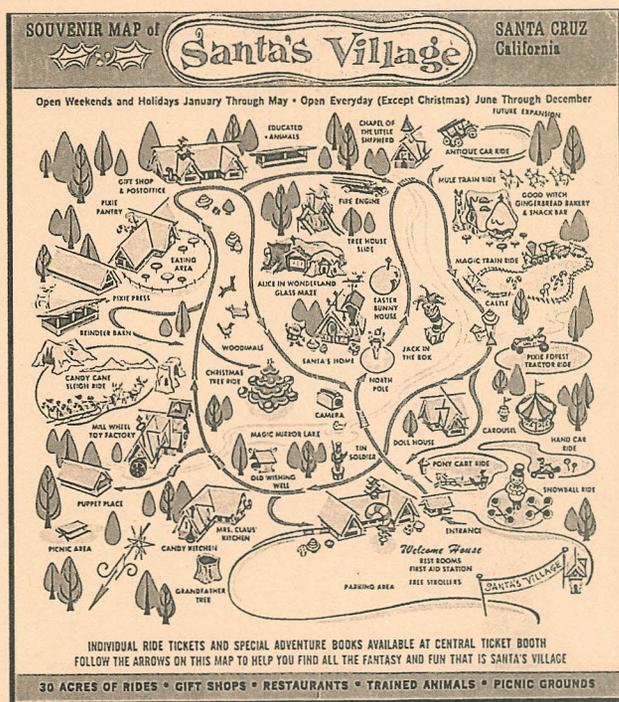
SUNDAY, MAY 15TH

2 pm

Merced Room, Westlake Park
Pacelli Gym

Jay Topping

of the Scotts Valley Historical Society
presents



All attendees are asked to wear the proper mask for Covid protection and be fully vaccinated. This venue allows plenty of space to social distance.

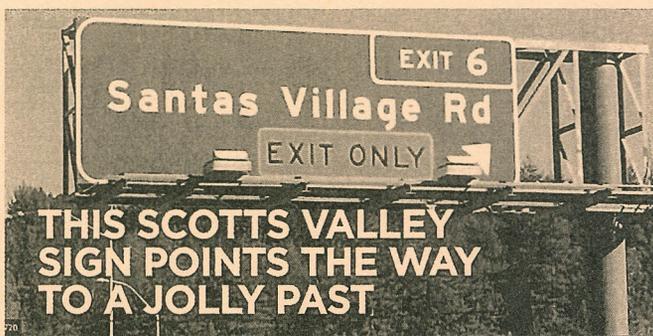
Lots of free parking – refreshments

Thanks to: Marcus and Grace Gonzalez, our hospitality crew, and refreshment donors Ray and Sharon Keenan, Patricia Remmer, Emily Chen, and Marcus and Grace Gonzalez

the former Santa's Village, which he lives directly behind. He will present on the all too brief but spectacular history that was Santa's Village, and will showcase vintage artifacts from the park along with his presentation.



Many of you will remember this weekend getaway, but for those who might not be familiar with the recreation venue, Santa's Village opened in Scotts Valley in 1957. During its 22-year operation so many children--including yours truly and his younger brother--visited on many a weekend during the 1970s. Santa's was a magical place. Somewhat similar to Fairyland, but with many more rides; it was created for young children but good for early teens, too and of course, Christmas-themed. There are a great many pictures, histories, and videos on sites such as YouTube, Facebook, Wikipedia, and more. Simply type in "Santa's Village, Scotts Valley," and you won't be disappointed. It is important to include the Scotts Valley reference because there were other Santa's Villages--Lake Arrowhead, CA; East Dundee, Illinois; and Jefferson, New Hampshire. These other Villages are still in operation but have been updated over the years to appeal to broader audiences. After having been sold to a developer who wasn't able to make a go of it, Santa's Village closed forever in 1979. After lying in ruin and prone to horrible vandalism for more than a decade, it was sold again and later became an office park. Other than an occasional life-size ornamental cement mushroom which might have found a new home in parts nearby, the only remnant of this historic venue is the Santa's Village Road exit on Highway 17; this is similar to the Marine World Parkway exit on Highway 101, which hasn't changed in the forty years since the park closed in 1985.



EDWIN MULITALO - SUPER BOWL WINNER AND JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL GRAD

By Richard Rocchetta



In commemoration of Jefferson High School's 100th Anniversary this year, the past two issues of the *Tattler* profiled two of the high school's graduates that went

on to be successful in Major League Baseball. In today's issue we change sports and introduce you a Jeff graduate who excelled in professional football and won a Super Bowl ring, Edwin Mulitalo, class of 1992. The following story was taken from a display at the 100th anniversary of the school that featured this star athlete:

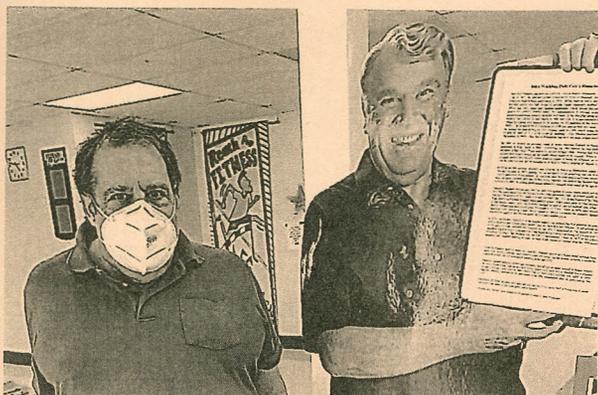
Edwin Mulitalo was a member of the Jefferson class of 1992. He was a two-sport athlete (football and track and field) as well as Student Body President. During his senior year, his team advanced to the CCS Division II Playoffs while in track and field he excelled in the Shot Put and Discus.

Following his time at Jefferson, he attended Ricks College (in Rexburg, Idaho—now BYU-Idaho) as well as the University of Arizona, where he majored in Education and played football. After graduating from the University of Arizona he was drafted in the 4th round of the 1999 NFL Draft by the Baltimore Ravens. He became the starting Right Guard for the Ravens midway through his rookie season and anchored that position the following season as the Ravens defeated the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXV (in the year 2000). He played eight seasons for the Ravens before moving on to the Detroit Lions for his final two seasons. Following his playing days, Edwin got into coaching and is currently the head coach of Southern Virginia University.

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

On March 26th the History Guild had an exhibit of Jefferson High School memorabilia at the school's centennial celebration located in the school's cafeteria along with the Colma Historical Association and tables with all the school's yearbooks. Richard and Michael Rocchetta greeted alumni and visitors who enjoyed vintage Jeff photos and various school related items from the Guild's archives. Prominent in front of our table, we had the "life size" image of Jeff's most famous

graduate—John Madden—that resides in the museum. The nearly life size cutout figure is from Madden’s ACE Hardware advertising in the 1980s.



A masked Michael with Madden



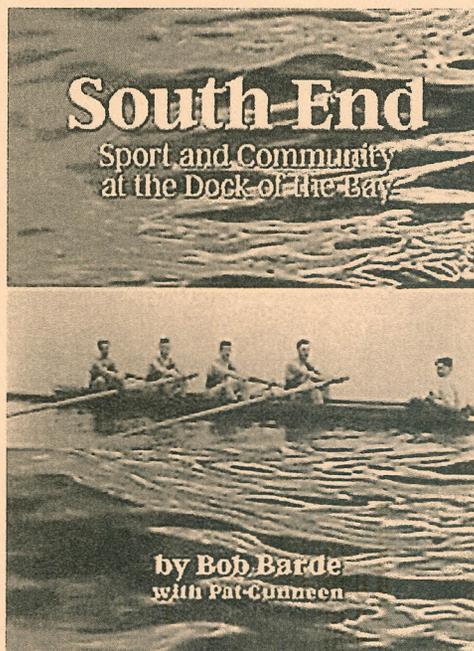
SOUTH END ROWING CLUB

Editor’s note: Guildler Pat Cunneen, 89 years young, is the co-author of a new book on The South End Rowing Club. The following communications were sent to Mark Weinberger, our Facebook editor, and Dana Smith, our Tattler editor:

“Hi Mark, when I attended high school in the City at one time it was a requirement that one had to know how to swim to graduate. It was never enforced. I wanted a Life Saving Certificate so I earned one along with a swimming certificate at the old Crystal Plunge in the City from Charlie Sava. This is interesting as not one high school in SF had a swimming pool. To this day only a parochial high does, S.I. The closest high swim pool was Jefferson in Daly City... I raised my family in Daly City and was a 38-year member of the DCFD... My Dad taught me swimming at Sutro Plunge by the SF beach. In one pool there was a raft. My Dad helped me dog paddle to this raft. When he left, he said ‘you return unless you plan to sleep on the raft.’ I developed enough courage to attempt this. After thrashing and dog paddling, I made where I

could stand. My Dad was nearby in case I got in trouble to bail me out (but I didn’t know this). I did become a proficient swimmer in time. I have swum the Golden Gate/Alcatraz Island swim and many others numerous times. In the early days of the 1920s it was an athletic feat. I belong to a SF Bay swim club, South End Rowing Club, and every year we put on an invitational Alcatraz swim open to everyone. We have two divisions Suit and Skins. Suit means one wears a wet suit.

A friend of mine and myself just finished a book on our Club last year with pictures, diagrams etc. on swims and handball, rowing and social events dating back to our establishment in 1873. Cheers, Patrick F. Cunneen”



(Excerpt from Barnes & Noble) *South End: Sport and Community at the Dock of the Bay* is a comprehensive history of the South End Rowing Club established in San Francisco in 1873, the oldest rowing club west of the Mississippi and one of San Francisco’s oldest sporting and social institutions. Its history mirrors much of the past of the city itself. The history of this iconic part of San Francisco’s waterfront begins with an exploration of the city’s social and sporting milieu in the early post-Gold Rush days, then goes on to cover the entire history of the South End from its founding to the present (2018). In addition to tracing the Club’s movements from the south end of San Francisco to the fringe of North Beach, separate chapters are devoted to such topics as the gender integration of the Club, its rivalrous relationship with the neighboring Dolphin Club, etc. and how the Club has survived for nearly a century and a half as a working-class club. The authors are Bob Barde and Pat Cunneen, both South End members. Barde is a published historian who worked at UC Berkeley, and Cunneen has been the Club’s *de facto* historian since the invention of movable type.

Located at 775 Lombard Street near Fisherman's Wharf, the Crystal Palace Salt Water Baths opened in 1924 with 300,000 gallons of salt water pumped in from a pier. The Crystal Plunge never made a profit closed in 1956.



IMMIGRANT STORIES

By Dana Smith

I'm a fan of the PBS show "Finding Your Roots," which discovers family genealogy. How did we come to be in this time and place... in Daly City? Chatting with my neighbor Ben Cecilia, I found out his path from the Philippines came through his grandfather who was in the Bataan Death March during World War II. He agreed to write a story for the next edition of the *Tattler*. I have been thinking about my own family history as we all agonize over the war in the Ukraine. My grandparents on my mother's side were ethnic Germans who immigrated to the US, or I should say escaped, from the Ukraine in 1901 as events were heading toward the Russian Revolution. I found the handwritten notes from my mother's older sister (a family of 12) who became a teacher after graduating from San Jose State College in 1941. She was the family historian who passed down the oral history of my grandmother and all known relatives from Russia.

The story begins in the German Province of Pomerania, Prussia with my great great grandfather Johan Jacob von Doubtfest, a neighbor to a minor German princess Sophie. In 1745 when Sophie was 16 years-old she married 17-year-old Peter III of Russia, a political arrangement. Sophie became Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia after instigating a rebellion and the death of her husband. She brought many Prussians craftsmen, farmers and educators to Russia to help modernize the primitive country. She established German settlements along the Volga River with special incentives, including a 100-year exemption from serving in the Russian army. These Prussian (German) expats were part

of an emerging Russian middleclass. My grandmother Dorothy Von Doubtfest was born in Kolb, Grandfather Jacob Thiel was born in Hussenback, two of the German settlements founded by Catherine the Great. I was confused that these areas are not part of the Ukraine today, but when I looked up an 1885 map on Google, I realized that the boundaries of the area known as the Ukraine have changed over time.

My grandmother told stories about the primitive area where the Germans settled where nomadic tribes she described as being in the Stone Age still roamed and buried their dead sitting up surrounded by possessions. German settlers found their remains when digging root cellars. My grandmother Dorothy remembered as a child hiding in these cellars with women while Turks who invaded the towns ransacked her home upstairs and male family members fought off the invaders.

My grandmother's father was born 2 years before the 100-year grace period ended. He was a Lutheran minister and teacher who lobbied Alexander the II for the release of the serfs in 1881 and later was a missionary to the freed serfs. He was well acquainted with both Czar Alexander II, Alexander III and his successor Nicolas II, the last Czar of Russia. His sister was the Czarina's special maid and helper.

My grandmother's older brother Conrad Von Doubtfest was taken at the age of 10 and raised in the Kremlin with Czar Nicolas II and his children. Family history tells how the four daughters of the Czar used to blow kisses to Conrad as he marched on horseback in front of the Czar's carriage. My great uncle Conrad eventually became a general in World War I on the Austrian front. It was said that he spoke 7 languages. As the Russian Revolution of 1917 approached, he wrote telling his wife to sell everything and take their two children to Siberia. Many "White Russians" as the non-Bolsheviks were known, eventually fled from to Siberia, Manchuria, and then abroad. He also tried to convince Czar Nicolas to escape, but to no avail (and we know how that ended). In 1915 my grandmother received a letter from her sister-in-law, Conrad's wife, from Siberia, six months on the way via Constantinople. General Conrad von Doubtfest was never heard from again... the family believed he was killed on the Austrian front. We are not sure what happened to my great uncle Conrad's family in Siberia... lost in the great diaspora of the Russian Revolution.

My grandfather Jacob Thiel was conscripted into the Czar's army as a Cossack. Jacob could see the writing on the wall as the Russian Revolution approached so he deserted and fled on foot with his new teenage bride, my grandmother Dorothy von Doubtfest. A younger brother
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Peter also immigrated to the US in 1907 after serving 5 years in the Czar's army, but an older sister stayed in Russia. She had married an older wealthy man. In the winter of 1925, a letter in German was received from her husband, now a 90-year-old widower, and translated by my great uncle Peter. The old man's shaky handwriting told the story of one daughter and her new-born baby dying of starvation after their horses, cattle and crops had been seized by the Bolsheviks. Many White Russians were starving and escaped by way of Constantinople. Some of my relations still in Russia ended up in Brazil.

My grandparents first lived in the Tacoma area where grandpa Jacob worked on the docks unloading grain. They eventually became farmers in Napa, Idaho. My mother was one of 11 children. Grandpa Jacob died 4 days after my older sister Judith was born. He died of lung cancer, the result of breathing grain dust with no environmental protection. My mom and Dad (Danish) met in Idaho and moved to Longview, Washington where my Danish grandfather, a brick layer, had moved during the depression. I moved to Berkeley to finish college at UC Berkeley.

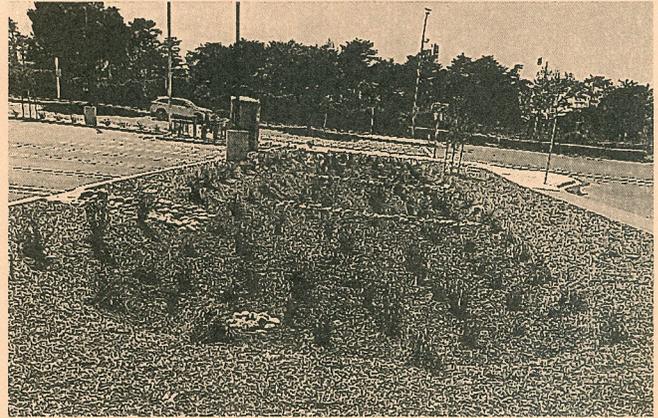
I moved to SF in the 70s and invited Judith to join me. We lived the 70s in SF to the fullest. I bought a 1906 earthquake shack in Daly City in 1975 and moved from SF's Haight Ashbury. Eventually I sold the shack to Judith and bought the neighbor's house in 1983, where I now live. The shack was demolished in 1994 when Judith and I built a new house on the site and moved our parents down from Washington. And so, we settled in... Judith becoming a two term Daly City Council member and both of us becoming board members of the History Guild. Our DNA has come a long way from Prussia and the Ukraine to Daly City. This part of our family history reads like a Dostoyevsky novel or the 1960's movie "Dr. Zivago", complicated and painful.



Carvana is one of the newest buildings and businesses in Daly City at Junipero Serra Blvd. and Westlake. It's unusual business model and architecture of multi-story car vending machines brings a decidedly new twist to the automotive

businesses, both sales and repair, that have long been a feature on Mission Street and Colma's Serramonte Blvd. Carvana was founded in Tempe, Arizona in 2013 and is now the fastest growing online used car dealer in the United States. The photo below shows the completed vending tower and innovative swale* landscaping.

Buyers don't see the car or test drive before buying. Rather they look at photos and detailed descriptions and can purchase a car in 18 minutes or less. Buyers can have the car delivered or use a special large commemorative coin to pick it up at the vending machine. Lots of mixed reviews online and descriptions of the process.

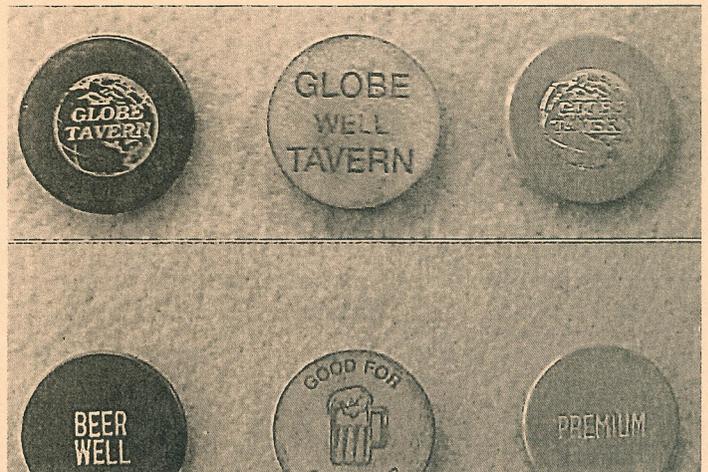


*A swale is a ditch to catch the rainwater before it runs away to allow it to soak into the soil with the help of special plants that help absorb runoff. Daly City has several locations of swale landscaping, including at the main library and Serramonte Shopping Center. The library has an outdoor interpretive display explaining the swale landscaping.

(THE ORIGINAL) you're from DALY CITY if.....

is a Facebook page created by Lance Ramirez in 2008 featuring everything about Daly City. This post by John Palmer was passed on by Mark Weinberger.

Globe Tavern Drink Chips. If any of you remember this old bar, you may remember these classic 'rain check' drink tokens. The clay ones are really old, from the 1960's, the wooden one is from the 1080's. The Globe used to be on the corner of Mission and San Pedro Road and was replaced by the BofA building in 1962. The Globe actually moved the entire contents over one weekend and opened up next door in the old Colma Theater Building on the following Monday! Great old Daly City dive bar, long gone, just a memory in an alcoholic haze. Ha-Ha!





**DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM
& ARCHIVE**

6351 Mission Street Daly City, CA 94014
650/757-7177
OPEN TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS NOON – 3 PM



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

www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Alcatraz Invitational



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

Are you ready for a swim of a lifetime? This swim is a little more than a mile crossing from Alcatraz Island to Aquatic Park Beach. Cross the San Francisco Bay channel with views of the city, Golden Gate Bridge and Bay Bridge in the distance. 1.27 mile open water swim from a point abeam Alcatraz Island back to the **South End Rowing Clubhouse** at the foot of the Hyde St. Pier in San Francisco.

GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mark Weinberger, President 650/757-7177
president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org
Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President
Marcus Gonzalez, 2nd Vice-President/Museum Director
Judith Christensen, Treasurer
Algis Ratnikas, Secretary
Directors: Michael Rocchetta, Dana Smith

Ken Gillespie (1924-2011), President-Emeritus, Bunny Gillespie (1926-2017), Secretary-Emerita, Grace and Marcus Gonzalez Hospitality Crew

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

**Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive is a
501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization
Memberships begin at \$25 per year.**

Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith
**(dana@vikingsmith.net) I would love to hear your
immigrant story!**

Thanks to all who have renewed membership, member renewal materials are included in this mailing to those who have yet to renew.