

JANUARY MEMBERS' PARTY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US! Our annual Birthday Bash will take place on Sunday, January 24th, at 2:00 p.m. at the delightful Colma Town Hall, El Camino Real and Serramonte Blvd.

This year's party will be a three-pronged affair, with special food, bubbly (for those who enjoy carbonated viticulture products), birthday remembrances, and a program theme dedicated to one of our famous Colma residents, the late, great **JOSHUA NORTON**, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico!

Norton I will be reincarnated for our Sunday afternoon meeting, in the person of the majestically caparisoned **Jerry Barndt** of Petaluma, long recognized as the premier portrayer of the puzzling potentate. Possibly accompanying **Norton** will be **Lola Montez**, of pioneer California fame, portrayed by **Mrs. Brandt**.

Folks, you ain't seen nothin' yet, as Jolson used to say, because next on the Norton dais will be the author of **Bummer and Lazarus**, a delightful tale of two wags, the dogs attributed to **Norton's** association, **Mr. Malcolm Barker** (no pun, this is for real), who will give us with word and picture the true story of those canine companions.

And, rounding out the trio will be the always cheerful and wondrously knowledgeable proprietor of **Molloy's**, none other than **Lanty** himself, who will tell us of the adventures of the **E Clampus Vitus Society**, a pioneer group which pays deserved and sober tribute to the **Emperor** each January also.

Remember, this party is for dues-paying members only, but, if you're on the mailing list, and aren't a member, why you can sign up right there at the doorway.

There's no playoff game that day, so you should see yourself clear to attend, for fun, fellowship and food!

NOVEMBER MEETING A SMASH!

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND! was the main topic for the Nov. 18th general meeting of the Guild, held in Doelger Center, and focusing on a heavy sampling of



Courtesy the Bancroft Library - UC

HISTORY GUILD of DALY CITY/COLMA

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relics found in the **Samuel Chandler Historical Collection**, repositied in the Serramonte Branch of the DC Library.

Speakers for the evening were **Neil Fahy** and **Ken Gillespie**, who had prepared 65 slide/photos of vintage memorabilia and researched the content to share with the membership. As the program progressed, additional input about the material shown was provided by many members of the audience, especially City Librarian Emeritus **Sam Chandler** and former DC Councilman and Mayor **Ed Dennis**. The program was tape-recorded so that input could be noted and added to the Guild's growing store of local knowledge.

Among those introduced at the meeting were DC Mayor Pro-Tem (now Mayor) **AL Teglia**, Colma Councilman and Mrs. **Ted Kirschner**, DC 75th Anniversary King and Queen **Har** and **Esther Appleton**,

Mr. Chandler, M/M Ed Dennis, plus a sizable contingent from the South San Francisco Historical Society, accompanied by Mrs. Lola Garcia, columnist for the Daly City Record and other San Mateo Times suburban newspapers.

Board member Ted Babow presided over a large display of vintage photos, newspapers and museum-quality artifacts that garnered a great deal of interest before and after the program segment of the meeting.

Refreshments were provided under the gracious direction of Mary Hutchings, Marilyn Olcese and George Gaggero.

Lucky recipient of a beautiful oriental tea set was Mrs. Aida Larsen, winner of the raffle. The set was donated to the Guild by Ted and Roz Babow.

About 150 members attended the meeting, with lots of great participation and identification of questioned locations on the slides.

Bunny Gillespie, sec'y

DALY FAMILY HONORED

On Saturday, December 12th, there was a fascinating gathering at Daly City's Council Chambers. Congressman Tom Lantos held one of his well-known Town Meetings, a good portion of which was devoted to the honoring of the name and descendant families of John Daly, our city's name donor.

Present were 11 members of the Daly clan, led by Frances Levensaler Bishopric, of Piedmont, Daly's granddaughter. Congressman Lantos recited the family history from a framed excerpt from the Congressional Record, noting significant events in the life of the pioneer dairy rancher, whose Daly's Hill was a prime relocation center for refugees from the 1906 earthquake and fire.

Mayor (and member) Al Teglia greeted the family members on behalf of the City Council.

Other John Daly news embraces the contact to President Ken by the current owner of the mansion that Daly built in the late 1800's at 900 Guerrero St. in San Francisco.

Asking for information about the building and its previous occupants,

the new owner will meet with Board members soon for a preview of the large structure, located at the southwest corner of 21st and Guerrero Sts. Divided into four apartments, the mansion retains some of the previous grandeur, especially in its outside features.

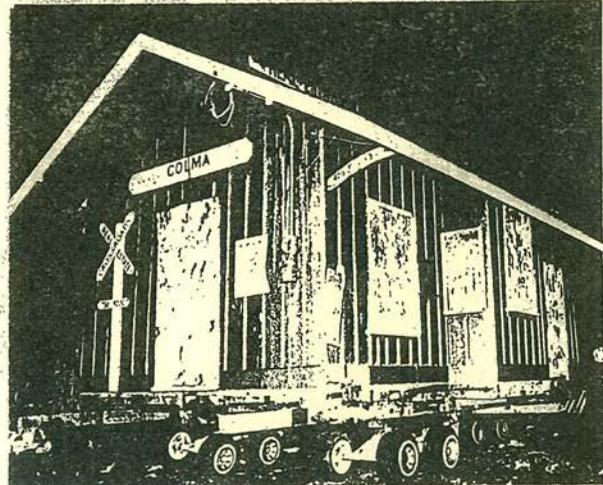
COLMA R.R. STATION

The December 1987 volume of Bart's Project TURNBACK newsletter has a great article, avec pictures, of the First Colma RR Station.

Currently located some 200 feet away from its original location, the station was moved to prevent damage during the Bart extension construction. Once the project is completed, the building will be restored to its original appearance (as much as possible), and relocated to its proper position.

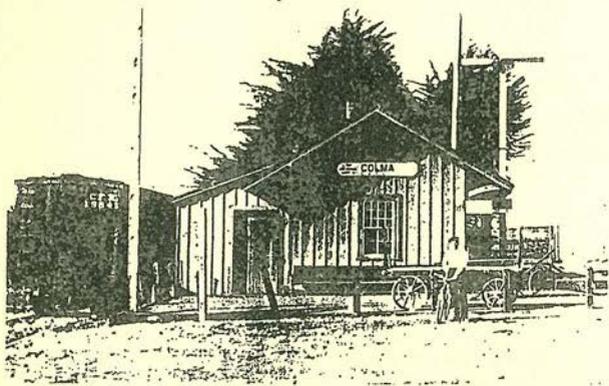
Built in 1881 by SP, it was on the original line between SF and San Jose, operated in 1864 as the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad. When built by SP later, the station was the ninth station on the trip from SF to San Jose.

After the 1904 Bayshore Cutoff was completed, most of the rail service switched (nice rr talk) to the easterly line, and the Colma operation saw mostly freight activity. The last scheduled passenger traffic ceased in 1942, and during the 40's and 50's sporadic freight service from So. SF utilized



Moving the De

Photo by Gordon Kloess.



Colma Station - about 1905 Photo by Southern Pacific

the line. The Daly City/Colma portion was abandoned in 1964, and the last right-of-way disappeared with the construction of Interstate 280 and Bart.

OCEAN SHORE IN MARCH

TOOT, TOOT! Make way for the **Ocean Shore Railway**, the subject of our history meeting for March 16, 1988, 7:30 pm at Doelger Center.

Speaker of the evening will be **Mr. Ray Willie**, of Daly City, a railroad historian, speaking and showing slides of the railroad that went right through San Francisco, Daly City, and down the San Mateo Coast line.

The line ran from 1907 to 1921, with wonderful excursions down the San Mateo coast. Hoping to link SF and Santa Cruz, the rails never met, mostly because of track subsidence and other terrain problems.

Westlake residents had a reminder of railroad until the 60's, when the "hump" at Southgate near the DC Library was finally removed, a vestige of the right-of-way of the Ocean Shore RR.

S.F. IN THE 50'S

The mechanics of how Daly City film footage and interview segments of **Ken** and **Bunny Gillespie** were assembled for a recent KRON special feature, "San Francisco in the 50's", might be of interest to those who viewed the program.

Preparing the progræ KRON reps

contacted the DC Chamber of Commerce, inquiring after 50's film clips. The Chamber referred KRON to the **Gillespies**, who did have some footage, especially from a film that **Ken** had made for a Broadmoor Presbyterian Church activity in the mid 1950's.

When answering questions about the clips, and expanding on the history of DC, **K & B** were asked if they would participate in the program content. Naturally shy and retiring, it took a good deal of persuasion to convince them of the merits (nyech, nyech), and in June of last year a two-person (cameraman and producer/writer) crew arrived for the filming sequence.

The format was easy; ask questions and receive answers. The producer came well prepared with his list, and the hour-long session was pleasant.

Up to broadcast day, November 27th, no hint had been given of how much, if any, of the interview was in the final show, so we were as surprised as anyone to see a rather generous number of sequences retained on the airing.

Other Daly City residents were contacted for similar purposes, and we saw old home movies from backyard and Westlake street scenes on the broadcast.

It was good fun, and many kind friends telephoned during the broadcast to tell us about it, as well as correspondents from as far away as Weed and Pebble Beach, California. How's that for coverage?!

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

● **HISTORY BUFFS** are invited to their first meeting of the new year at the **Hiller Aircraft Museum** in Redwood City, on Sunday, **January 17, 1988**, 2 to 4.

The museum is a real gem, a mini Air and Space Museum, recording the history of helicopter and aircraft development in San Mateo County.

Located at 1300 Hancock St., the museum is easy to get to, plenty of parking, and the **Bufs** are always fun to attend. Who cares about the Play-offs, anyway?!

● There's nothing wrong with being genuinely envious of the accomplishments of other F orical Groups. Added to

our green list is the lovely new history room of the South San Francisco Historical Society. Located in the recently renovated Senior Center at Magnolia and Grand in South SF, the museum room is brightly-lit, cheerful, with display cabinets and offices.

A former school building, the center has been beautifully-decorated for multi-purposes, including the museum.

Speaking of museums, the History, Arts and Science Commission of Daly City is showing increased interest in working toward that end with the Guild, which is exactly the direction that we want to take. Huzzah, huzzah!

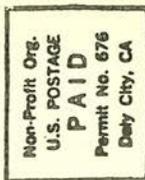
● **Bunny Gillespie's** book, "The Great Daly City Historical Trivia Book", has been accepted by San Francisco's Mechanics' Institute Library.

● An interesting fund-raising activity of the **San Mateo County Historical Association** is slated for Thursday evening, January 21st, from 6 to 8 pm, in San Mateo's Villa Hotel. With the title of **A RAGTIME RENDEZVOUS**, the party features Ragtime Music by the Pleasant Moments Ensemble, silent films (including The Great Train Robbery), Ragtime Era musical/historical fun and surprises.

There will be hors d'oeuvres and champagne punch, door prizes and a no-host bar. For a tax deductible donation of \$25, a happy evening of fun and history is promised. For information and reservations, call 574-6441.

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