



## Journal of the History Guild of Daly City/Colma

### GUILD'S MEETING TO HOST SMCHA'S MITCH POSTEL

Mitchell P. Postel, President of the San Mateo County Historical Association (SMCHA) will be the Guild's speaker for the Wed., Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. "History Evening" in the Doelger Center's multi-use room, 101 Lake Merced Blvd., DC.

Affectionately known as "Mitch," the speaker will focus on various events surrounding the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of San Mateo County with emphasis on the restoration of the historic San Mateo County Courthouse in Redwood City, which houses the SMC history museum. He will also tell of events leading up to the decision to restore the building's original facade.

Mr. Postel, who grew up in San Mateo and attended the college of San Mateo, has been Executive Director for SMCHA since 1984, and has served on various county boards and citizens' committees. He is the author of San Mateo's (city) Centennial History, many history-related articles, and seven books, including the upcoming "San Mateo County: a Sesqui-centennial History." He holds a BA degree in history from UC Berkeley and an MA in history from UC Santa Barbara. He lives in San Bruno with his wife and son.

Previously, Mr. Postel favored the Guild (May 1987) with a talk about "San Mateo County's Storehouse." He also spoke locally when E. Clampus Vitus placed a plaque on the façade of Colma Town Hall.



### HISTORY GUILD MEETING

7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY,

**NOVEMBER 15TH**

101 LAKE MERCED BLVD.

DALY CITY

*Restoration of the  
San Mateo County Courthouse*

Mitchell Postel, President of the  
San Mateo County Historical Association

**Everyone Welcome!**

### *Greetings from President Mark,*

We continue to make strides in our quest for a permanent museum location. Your Guild officers and directors, grant advisor, City Historians, and fund-raising committee all met with city officials recently to continue discussions for the transformation of the historic John Daly Library building into the location of our proposed future Daly City History Museum.

The city has provided a draft of a license agreement for use of the facility. We continue to work with DC Council Members Carol Klatt and Sal Torres, and DC City Manager Pat Martel to complete a document which cements our partnership and benefits all.

Finances permitting, the board may be retaining an architect to create renderings of what a history museum might look like. These would be professional, graphic visuals which would be used for both our grant application and fund raising purposes as we continue to approach businesses and other benefactors in the community.



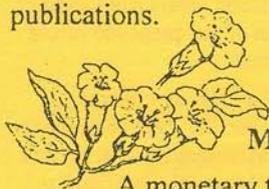
## Westlake's Rob Keil Introduces "Little Boxes" at September HG Meeting

"Little Boxes, the Architecture of a Classic Mid-century Suburb" by HG member **Robert Keil**, was the topic for our September Guild presentation. On hand to greet the author and purchase copies of his definitive and colorful book were many Doelger house residents. For several, this was their first attendance at a Guild meeting. (It is hoped that they will return for a future DC history-related event.)

**Mr. Keil** accompanied his talk with illustrations from his book, some of which were gleaned from HG photo files. In return for their use, the HG treasury benefited from a usage donation from Mr. Keil. In addition, the author dedicated a portion of book sales at the September meeting to the Guild.

Introduced by **Vice-President Richard Rocchetta** and thanked by **President Mark Weinberger**, Mr. Keil will receive the Guild's traditional Certificate of Appreciation.

"Little Boxes," destined to find its way into book cases throughout Westlake and Daly City, is a notable contribution to local history publications.



### Memories

A monetary tribute to the late **Emma Ver Linden**, early-day Postmistress for the town of Colma, has been received from HG member **Albert Delfino**. A page honoring her life has been placed in the **Guild's Memorial Book**. Donations honoring loved ones benefit the Guild's proposed future Daly City History Museum. Send contributions and names and addresses of those who should receive an acknowledgement to the History Guild of Daly City/Colma, c/o 40 Wembley Drive, Daly City, CA 94015.

## Museum Donations Are Always Welcome!

Donations for the Guild's collection of historical and nostalgic memorabilia continue to be sought. YOUR "junque" could be of unique interest for museum visitors and history researchers in the future.

Old photos, scrapbooks, news clippings, badges, souvenirs with a Daly City connection, brochures, programs, church and school year books/directories, childhood autograph books, bank books, receipts, letterheads, and all kinds of local "stuff" are the things that make museums interesting places to browse. YOU CAN help. Just bring your items to the mini-museum, downstairs at the Serramonte Library in Gellert Park any Tuesday from 1-2:30 p.m.

Recently contributed to the HG collection was a 1941 black and white photo of Gino's Club, located on Mission above School Street, taken by **Dino Agresti** and donated by **Alice Agresti**.

### Appreciating Our Treasures

Thanks to the generosity of **John D. Daly** and his pal, **John W. Marchbank**, Daly City acquired the two parcels of land on which the John D. Daly Public Library was constructed. The John Daly branch of the DC Public Library was opened on April 25, 1920. The first Librarian was **Luella (Mrs. Robert) Fine** (an ominous name for a librarian.) The rock quarry on which the library was built had earlier provided foundation material for SF street car lines. The Guild hopes to use that solidly based building as a permanent Daly City Museum.

### In Our Memory

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of **Hazel Hill Cargain**, a member of the Guild and a pleasant face among "History Evening" attendees. **Hazel** grew up in Daly City, attended Jefferson Union High School, and rode

the old #40 suburban street cars down El Camino. She was the sister of **Mary, Lorraine** and **Ethel** and the daughter of **Grace** and **Lesley Hill**. Her husband and family are remembered with affection.

**Hazel** was many times a donor to the Guild's collection of historical items. In 2002, sixty years after the fact, she donated her June 1942 JUHS graduation class photo. In 2004, she donated a 1970 parade photo of her Dad when he carried the Flag and marched with DC's American Legion Post #410 at the Top-of-the-Hill. Thanks **Hazel**.

### RAGBL?

In our family, the cryptic message above asks: "Read any good books lately?"

Some answers: "*A Walk Along Land's End*" by John McKinney. Pages 186-171 include references to Daly City's coast, i.e. "ignoring 'Warning: Dangerous Cliffs' signs... we begin following a path up the bluffs above Thornton State Beach... a landslide has eroded away all but an 18" ledge in the cliffs..."

"*Mae West*" by George Eells and Stanley Musgrove, page 20. Regarding her mother, Mae identified her as Matilda Dilker, who became "Delker" and, later, "Delker-Doelger..." "Grandpa Joseph Doelger started the NY Breweries..."

### November Treats

**Marilyn Olcese** and **Dana Smith** will provide refreshments for the November meeting. For the

festive table at the back of the room, and the delight of moochers, treat-donors are invited to bring additional goodies. Questions, or to volunteer, call Hospitality Chair Elinor Charleston, 650/755-8267.

### Fa. Joe Gordon Responds to September Tattler Item

HG member **Joseph A. Gordon** grew up in Daly City and was assigned to **Our Lady of Mercy** parish in the 1970s. He writes: "Let me share a bit of history (re: OLM) that **Msgr. Richard W. Power** gave me and which I've never seen in print.

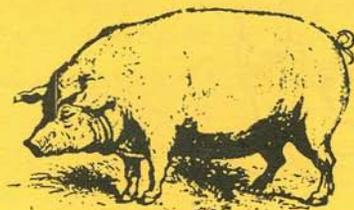
In 1953, when **John J. Mitty**, Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, decided to establish a parish in the new subdivision known as Westlake, he called **Fa. Power** to be the founding pastor.

Mitty told Power that he intended to call the parish "St. Henry." Therein hangs this little contribution to the Guild file of lore. Mitty had no ulterior motive in the name selection, it was simply an as-yet unused name among many already-taken parish names. As unlikely as it sounds, Dick Power panicked.

"Don't do it, Archbishop," he urged, "for my sake, for the sake of the new parish, and especially for your sake, don't do it. It will forever be seen as crass patronizing of Henry Doelger, the developer of Westlake... Neither you nor I will ever live it down."

Mitty listened and agreed. "What do you suggest?" he asked Power. Dick's response was to suggest something related to Mary (and noting the proximity to Lake Merced)... "Why not "Our Lady of Mercy?" Mitty agreed and the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

*Editor's note:* Joe Gordon, now with a Southern California parish, recalled the above from a conversation with Dick Power in July 1978, the month and year of Henry Doelger's death in Italy.





**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

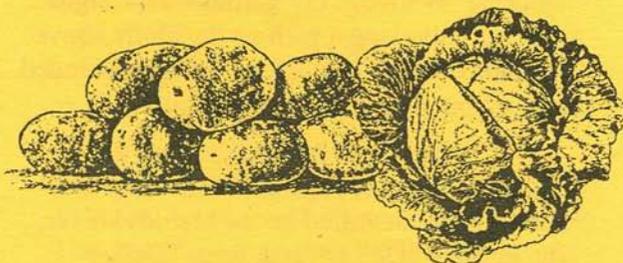
**History Guild of  
Daly City/Colma**  
c/o Daly City Mini-Museum  
40 Wembley Avenue  
Daly City, CA 94015

## **Guild Display Part of Redwood City Event**

On the invitation of the San Mateo County History Assn., your Guild was listed among other history organizations participating in Redwood City's gala celebration noting the restoration of the 1910 RC courthouse's façade, and installation of a plaza, glass-topped pavilions, and fountains on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

HG Board Members **Mark Weinberger, Marilyn Olcese, Rich Rocchetta, and Janice Uccelli** staffed a display shared with the Colma Historical Association offering DC books for sale, artifacts regarding the John Daly Library, HG information, and cheery North County smiles.

The event replaced "Victorian Days" in San Mateo Park, a benefit for the San Mateo County Historical Assn. The Guild has been part of "History Lane" at "Victorian Days" since August 1982.



## **GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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<b>Dana Smith, Secretary</b>	<b>650/755-3432</b>
<b>Marilyn Olcese, Director</b> (Mini-Museum Coordinator)	<b>650/755-5616</b>
<b>Walter Riney, Director</b>	<b>650/992-4696</b>
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**Ken and Bunny Gillespie**

