

THE TATTLER



JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY-COLMA

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

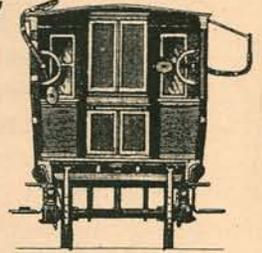
It's that time of year again – our membership renewal campaign begins with the renewal card enclosed in this edition. I am excited to let you know that each new or renewing 2012 membership at the \$50 level will include a custom-designed History Guild of Daly City-Colma lapel pin. This small treasure can be worn with pride to let folks know that you are a genuine history buff who is a stalwart supporter of the Guild. At the \$75 level of membership, in addition to the Guild pin, we are offering a limited edition Daly City Centennial Commemorative lapel pin. You'll definitely want to have one to adorn your attire as we all celebrate the city's 100th anniversary of incorporation. For those who show their generosity at the \$100 level, both pins and a copy of City Historian and Guild Secretary Emerita Bunny Gillespie's comprehensive work *Daly City* [Arcadia Press] OR the wonderful *The Great Daly City Historical Trivia Book* by Bunny and Ken Gillespie will be offered. Ken is also our Daly City Historian and Guild President Emeritus. Finally, at the \$500 level we offer both pins and both books. Your continued support of the Guild and all of our efforts to keep Daly City's history 'alive' for today's and future generations is greatly appreciated at every level.

By the time you receive this *Tattler*, keeping fingers crossed, our museum fireplace project should be nearly completed. You'll recall that this will provide our 91-year-old museum with new energy-efficient gas heating, which will resemble a wood-burning fireplace. It is being inserted into the space that once was a wood burning fireplace, abandoned long ago and then covered over by a wall of bookcases. This will allow for a toasty and comfortable environment for all of our visitors and docents, especially during the winter months; it also replaces our old furnace [circa 1968] which recently gave out and now has gone to its final reward as scrap metal. The effect should be quite pleasing and vintage. Stop by to see this newest addition to the museum and a focal point of the Gillespie Room. There will be a great granite mantel which will adorn the hearth, courtesy of our longtime friend and supporter Mark Fontana of V. Fontana & Co. monuments of Colma.

Cont'd. page 2

HISTORY EVENING

"All Aboard"



Wednesday, November 16th
7 P.M.

FREE – REFRESHMENTS
101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City
Doelger Center Café

TAKE A RIDE ON THE
OCEAN SHORE RAILWAY
By Ray Wille

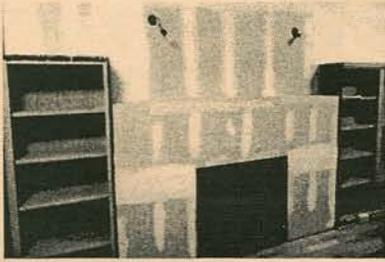


Guild Member and train expert **Ray Wille** will be taking us through Daly City on the Ocean Shore Railway line with a Power Point presentation. According to Jack R. Wagner in his excellent book "The Last Whistle (Ocean Shore Railroad)", "Rugged, soaring cliffs and ocean vistas made the California coast between San Francisco and Santa Cruz the obvious place to build a scenic railroad. So, at the turn of the century a visionary group of local men determined that here they would create a high-speed commuter line to serve the growing towns and fresh ocean beaches along this breathtaking route.....(however) when the earthquake of 1906 tossed most of the grade into the sea, it upset all their plans.

The Ocean Shore never quite recovered from the blow." Our journey will start at its depot at 11th and Mission Street and go through to Daly City. Come and enjoy a trip back in time when the Ocean Shore's slogan "Reaches the Beaches" was popular.

Vaughn Jones on piano and Rich Rocchetta on accordion will play a medley of train songs at 6:45 pm just prior to the presentation on the Ocean Shore Railroad.





Fireplace mantle and wall sheet-rocked and ready for painting – project nearing the finish line!



eye view of the area from atop a Westlake Shopping Center parking garage, Marcus led a group of approximately 30 people on a three hour walk.

I'd like to mention that a great time was had by all both during and after Bunny Gillespie's recently led Top-of-the-Hill walking tour on September 10th. Approximately 60 folks, including the extended Gillespie clan, were entertained and educated by Bunny's narrative of the area in days gone by. Our history museum was the last stop on the tour. The museum held a special open-house for the walking tour group with a brief celebration of the city's centennial with cake, cookies, and drinks.



Grace Gonzales follows tour group with refreshments in the trunk of the family car. Bob Brizuela enjoys a treat.

photos by Christopher Gonzales

We are grateful for recent grants for our Centennial Documentary – in addition to the previously received \$5,000 from the Doelger Foundation, we received \$5,000 from First National Bank of Northern California and \$900 from Seton Medical Center. We will soon be evaluating the funds raised and determining with KM2 Productions the documentary that can be produced.

Thank you in advance for renewing your membership – we are a nonprofit organization supported totally by private donations. One final note... I have placed our organization on Facebook – I hope you visit our site at "Daly City History Museum [History Guild of Daly City/Colma]"



Please visit us on Facebook



Photo by Dana Smith

Bunny and tour group crossing the street with police assistance after leaving the old 1905 Poket's Saloon building at 6350 Mission Street. Below, enjoying centennial cake at the museum served by Elinor Charleston and Marilyn Olcese.



Photo by Michael Rocchetta

New Board Member Marcus Gonzalez led an intrepid group of walkers on a tour of the Westlake District on October 15th, as the second walking tour sponsored by the city's Centennial Committee. Starting with a bird's-

Thank you to all our 2011 members and donors.
Your renewed support in 2012 is crucial to our continued success.

*Indicates donation of \$50 or more.



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Thank you to the City and people of Daly City for use of the Doelger Center and Museum building.

NOVEMBER REFRESHMENTS

Annette Hipona, Ray Wille, Grace and Marcus Gonzalez, Marie Brizuela and Judith Christensen will be providing refreshments at our next November meeting. Thanks are also due to Hospitality Chair Elinor Charleston and Marilyn Olcese, who serve at every meeting (and always bring extra treats).

MUSEUM VISITORS

In preparation for video interviews presented at the September 24th city Centennial Dinner at the Lake Merced Gold and Country Club, the KM2 video crew met at the museum with former Council Member, Mayor, and 49ers football team member Bob St. Clair and First National Bank of Northern California President Tom McGraw.

Video modules for the Daly City Centennial dinner:

Tom McGraw: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8lx30RhZPs>

Bob St. Clair: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vayj_XzJUSk



Bob St. Clair served on the Daly City Council from 1958-1964 and on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors from 1966-1974. After playing with the 49ers, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1990

Bob St. Clair 6'9" with Dana Smith, 5'7".
Photos by Bryan Kingston



Tom McGraw's father owned McGraw's Drugs at the southwest corner of Hillcrest and Mission (6300 Mission), a fixture in Daly City from 1929 until the 1970s. Tom is the President of the local First National Bank, shown here being videotaped in the museum for the centennial dinner interview.

Photo by Dana Smith

And last but not least, 65 students with parent chaperons from Westlake Elementary School toured the museum in October with retired teacher and Guild Treasurer Judith Christensen.

OTHER HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Daly City Library & Recreational Services invites you to "Once Upon a Time in Daly City," a free children's book program by author Jessica Diaz at the John Daly Library, 134 Hillside Blvd. in Daly City, November 17th from 6-8 pm. Historic artifacts and photos will be displayed and birthday cake will celebrate Daly City's 100th year.

San Mateo County Museum at 2200 Broadway, Redwood City: The Courthouse Docket Program features "Lifeways of the Ohlone Indians" by Professor and California State Park archaeologist Mark Hylkema. Saturday, November 19th, 1 p.m., Courtroom A. Free with museum admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors/students, free for kids under 5.

DONATIONS & VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Thanks to: Gloriann and Vaughn Jones for a metal tool die stamp from the Tip Top Pool Hall, 6055 Mission Street, circa 1940 and matchbook from Joe's of Westlake, circa 1964; Annette Hipona for 1972 and 1984 Westmoor High Ramblers; an early photograph of Original Daly City given in the name of Lupe and Elvera Carmona; Milinda Maeso of Santa Rosa in the name of her mother's cousin, Alois Henry Lang, for photos of the family and the photos and documents from the early Daly City Volunteer Fire (see letter printed page 4); Judith Christensen for office supplies and membership renewal computer printing; Michael Rocchetta for editing of vintage 1941 film footage for our September program and production of CD tapes; Daly City Purchasing Department for donation of a surplus file cabinet; Teresa Saltzman for a copy of "Field Guide to the Natural History of the San Francisco Peninsula" for our resource library; Masters Autobody Repair for office supplies; Frank Maffei for photos of Mission Street from the late 1940's; Father Joe Gordon for history documents of OLPH; Jessica Diaz for a copy of a document by George Kirchhubel; Roberto Bernardo for generously donating his monthly stipend of \$500 from the Harbor Commission to support the Guild; Michael Rocchetta and Richard Rocchetta for patching and painting the façade of the fireplace and surrounding walls; Mark Weinberger for managing the fireplace project, and all our volunteer docents.

ALOIS NICHOLAS LANG

A Message from the Past

In September Milina Maeso from Santa Rosa delivered a treasure-trove of artifacts from the estate of her Mother's cousin, Alois Henry Lang. Her letter below details an interesting history that includes connections to Daly City's early Fire Department and a descendant of the Mexican Commandant of the San Francisco Presidio.



1926 photo of Alois Nicholas Lang, oldest son Alois Henry Lang, wife Della Rose Lang, and son Harold Richard.

Dear Daly City History Museum,

I received these mementos after the death of my mother's cousin, Alois

Henry Lang. His parents moved to Daly City around 1915. His father, Alois Nicholas Lang, a veteran of the Spanish American War, was a member of the Daly City Fire Department. I have included several pictures from his time with the Fire Department and the Veteran Fireman's Association. He was also a musician with various bands.

His mother, Della rose Lang (Martinez), was a descendent of Ignacio Martinez, an early commandant of the San Francisco Presidio and an alcalde of San Francisco during the Mexican era. He received a Mexican land grant in what is now Contra Costa County. The Martinez adobe, where his son Vicente Martinez lived with his family, has been restored and is open to the public.

Alois Henry Lang and his brother Harold Lang grew up in Daly City.. Al Lang was a musician and band leader for many years on the Matson Line cruise ships. Harold Lang started out as a professional ballet dancer and then switched to musical theatre where he played leading roles in several musicals on Broadway..

Milinda Maeso

CENTENNIAL MEMORIES

By Ken & Bunny Gillespie, Daly City Historians

As Daly City continued to evolve into a community of consequence in the months nearing the end of 1911, news items and commercial advertisements in the *Daly City Record* weekly newspaper were eclectic. Gleaned from the Nov. 17 issue (Volume 3, Number 33) were the following:

Daly City Trustees, meeting weekly, advised residents to "withhold their names from any petitions for annexation to San Francisco until the conditions are such that Daly City would be benefitted...". Trustees approved purchase of a work table for Tax Collector Fred Hopper, hiring of a meat inspector, payment of \$125 for a fire hose, and gave City Clerk White more time to find a suitable safe in which to store city records and tax books.

Criticized at the council meeting was Pound Master "Duck" Sullivan for not impounding dogs unless they might be redeemed. In the past month, it was reported, he had impounded 23 "worthless" dogs. None of them were redeemed and all were destroyed, bringing his total since March to 265. Scavengers, working without permits, were noted for allowing a dead horse to remain on a street for three or four days.

Local business advertisers included George Pappas' "strictly first class and respectable" Daly City Café at Hillcrest and Mission and the Vista Grande Bakery owned by A. Vogler, who offered "all kinds of chicken and horse feed at modest prices" and "best family flour, \$1.35 a 50-lb. sack." The Cottage Saloon, operated by W.J. Sweeney, offered "choice wines, liquors, and cigars" at the corner of Lake Avenue and Mission Road. Miss Marie Schliefer of Mission Road could make "switches and puffs from your hair combings at lowest prices. Puffs dressed, 15 cents."

Spring Valley Lumber Yard promised "delivery by auto truck" and warned "If you don't do business with us, we all lose money." K&BG

Editor's Note: San Francisco took an early lead in humane treatment of animals when the SFSPCA was founded in 1868 as the nation's fourth humane society and first west of the Mississippi when banker James S. Hutchinson rescued a hog that was being dragged along the rough cobblestone streets. The SFSPCA built the first horse ambulance in the West and later rescued hundreds of horses during the devastating 1906 earthquake and fire. The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA was established by animal welfare advocates in 1950 who were distressed by the way cities were handling stray animals. They opened a shelter for all of San Mateo County in 1952.

Centennial cake served at the museum open-house.

Photo by Michael Rocchetta





THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM

6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014



Please visit us on Facebook/
Daly City History Museum

FIRST CLASS MAIL



DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM

6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014
650/757-7177

Current Hours: Every Tuesday, Thursday, and
the first and third Saturdays of the month
from noon to 3 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Our costumed centennial music performers led by
Vaughn Jones will return at our member party on
Sunday, January 15th, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. with an all-new
performance!

GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mark Weinberger, President	415/750-1939
Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President	650/992-9144
Guild Program Director	
Dana Smith, Vice-President	650/892-2166
Museum Director	
Judith Christensen, Treasurer	650/756-3128
Marie Brizuela, Secretary	650/755-7188
Marian Mann, Director	650/991-9386
Michael Rocchetta, Director	650/756-3960
Marilyn Olcese, Director	650/755-5616
Dave Crimmen, Director	650/589-5852
Marcus Gonzalez, Director	650/757-9767

*Board meetings are held monthly and open to the membership.
Please call Mark for further information.*

Ken Gillespie, President Emeritus	
Bunny Gillespie, Secretary Emerita	650/755-5123
Elinor Charleston, Hospitality Chair	650/755-8267
Michael Rocchetta, Member Chair	

Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith

Contributors: Dana Smith, Bunny and Ken Gillespie, Mark
Weinberger, Rich Rocchetta, and Milinda Maeso. Thanks to
Richard Rocchetta, Michael Rocchetta, Dana Smith, Marie
Brizuela, and Judith Christensen for mailing our previous *Tattler*.
Michael Rocchetta maintains our address list & labels.

The History Guild of Daly City/Colma is a
501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization

*Please consider the History Guild of Daly City/Colma
in your will.*