

THE TATTLER

JOURNAL OF DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

For our January Zoom meeting, we've chosen the second Wednesday, January 13th, rather than the third since the inauguration will be that day. We welcome back the delightful Anne Evers Hitz, who previously has written two Arcadia series books *Emporium Department Store* (2014) and *San Francisco's Ferry Building* (2017)--before penning her most recent work: *Lost Department Stores of San Francisco* (2020). This will be a fascinating talk on the iconic venues that once graced San Francisco's Downtown and which many of us still remember fondly. This is sure to be a most informative and nostalgic look back to a simpler and more genteel era. To borrow from Hitz's writeup:

In the late nineteenth-century, San Francisco's merchant princes built grand stores for a booming city, each with its own niche. For the eager clientele, a trip downtown meant dressing up—hats, gloves, and stockings required—and going to Blum's for Coffee Crunch Cake or Townsend's for creamed spinach. The I. Magnin empire catered to a selective upper-class clientele, while middle-class shoppers loved the Emporium department store, with its Bargain Basement and Santa for the kids. Gump's defined good taste, the City of Paris satisfied desires for anything French and edgy, youth-oriented Joseph Magnin ensnared the younger shoppers with the latest trends. Lost Department Stores of San Francisco looks back at the strong, colorful personalities who created six major stores that defined shopping in San Francisco before the days of the Internet. Native San Franciscans and former employees also share their memories of these beloved institutions.

Our first Zoom general membership meeting over the Internet November 18th was a success. We had a few technical issues in the beginning and started a little late; once we learned how to 'share the screen,' our presenter was off and running. Ken Miles gave a very complete lecture on the history of the Pacific and Golden Gate in his Part 1 talk. He will return next year to finish the three-part series by combing Parts 2 and 3 into a single meeting. There were 24 viewers--not too bad. That is a bit smaller than what we usually have at in-person meetings.

Cont'd pg 2

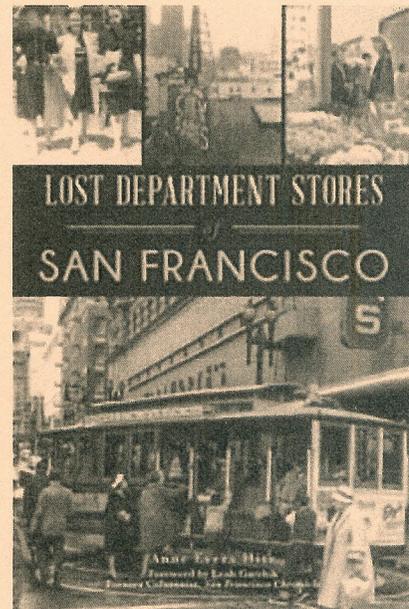
ONLINE LECTURE AND GENERAL MEETING

JANUARY 13TH AT 7 PM

Anne Evers Hitz

Presents

LOST DEPARTMENT STORES OF SAN FRANCISCO



PLEASE NOTE: Several days ahead of our January 13th meeting, Mark Weinberger will send an email invitation and zoom logistics to our membership whose email addresses we have on file; That is how you'll be able to join the zoom meeting. If you're unsure whether we have your email, please send one to events@dalycityhistorymuseum.org to ensure that we include you.

Several days ahead of our January 13 meeting, I'll send an invitation to our membership whose email addresses we have on file; same as last time. That is how you'll be able to join the meeting. If you're unsure whether we have your email, please send one to events@dalycityhistorymuseum.org to ensure that we have you. This would be for folks who have an email address and did not receive the link to the November meeting.

We have acquired more artifacts from the late Georgette Sarles' family. There are enough files, awards, mementos, and more that we are now referring to as the Georgette Sarles' Collection housed at the museum. Going through the reams of papers and photographs will take a good deal of time and we thank Rich Rocchetta for his help sorting donated documents. These documents and correspondence will eventually be pared down and consolidated into a manageable resource for future use.

Finally, in view of the fact that the pandemic necessitated that we cease operations until now--and only virtually, the board has decided to give our loyal Guilders a complimentary membership for 2021. Whatever membership level you are currently will be carried forward. This is our way of saying thank you for sticking with us during the hiatus. Unfortunately, and understandably, our creditors are not able to go the same route and that means we have bills that still need to be paid. If you are able and so inclined, please consider using the enclosed contribution envelope, which will help us to pay PG&E, water department, liability and disaster insurance, printing of *Tattler*, etc. Any amount is most appreciated.

We hope that one and all are keeping safe during these difficult times. Please know that you are in our thoughts and that we look forward to one day soon welcoming you back to the Larcombe Clubhouse for in-person programs. Our very best to you and yours. We hope that everyone stays safe and well; wishing one and all a festive holiday season and pandemic-free 2021!

Some "Normal" in my mailbox!

It was SOOO wonderful to find the newest *Tattler* waiting for me yesterday and with such varied articles. With so many of the small businesses along Mission Street shutting down, the piece about Lisa's was particularly touching. I've been keeping myself occupied with reading, phone chats, gardening and getting a few projects on the house completed ... Best, Terry (Marie Counce)

Editor's Note: Thank you Terry! Like everyone else, I find it hard to be motivated in Pandemic times. Your note inspired this edition! – Dana

A JEOPARDY MENTION...

November 11th Helen Fiscaro forwarded this message from former Daly City resident Glenn Navor, now living in NYC.

The category was "Gateways", the answer "San Francisco".

My hometown made Jeopardy tonight...

NORTH OF PACIFICA &
SAN BRUNO, &
JUST SOUTH OF
THIS CITY,
DALY CITY, CALIF. IS
THE "GATEWAY TO
THE PENINSULA"

DALY CITY HAS THE MYSTERY BLIMP, PACIFICA HAS THE MYSTERY BOAT

From Guildler Bob O'Donnell

Hi Everyone, I hope this finds you all well and coping with our pandemic lockdown. We came across this boat recently here in Pacifica. It has quite a story... Briefly, a youth in Croatia many years ago lived near the sea and thought of becoming a merchant seaman, but was also drawn to medicine. He became a Doctor and came to Chicago to specialize in cardiology... after a very successful career he still had not lost his lure for the sea and he decided to ROW across the Atlantic.

It was a personal goal, and he did not seek sponsors or publicity. He set out on May 11th, 2001 had many ups and downs and on Sept. 30th in a desperate storm sent out an emergency signal. He was about 200 miles from Ireland, and the Irish and English Coast Guards responded and found his emergency beacon but no sign of him or his boat. Two weeks later two Irish fishermen saw what they thought was a dead whale and investigated, but on approaching realized it was the capsized "Lun" with no sign of life. They towed it into port. It was a big story in both Ireland and the U.S.

How did it get to Pacifica? The Irish man shipped the boat to his son in Vallejo, and he made every effort to donate it to a museum or maritime entity. No luck. Cont'd pg. 3

He was then transferred to L.A. and could not bring it with him. His friend in Pacifica offered to store it and so here it sits, unprotected from the elements. It really deserves a better fate. If you Google Lun, Dr. Nenad Belic, row across the Atlantic you can see numerous stories about this...

Again, I hope you are all doing well, stay safe, and let's hope this horrendous fire season abates, but brace for worse. We are in a new era of firefighting. Best Regards, Bob O'D



The Lun in Pacifica

SEPTEMBER 9TH... AN APOCALYPTIC DAY

Who of us can ever forget the day when we woke to daytime darkness and blood red skies. After a record breaking 23 Spare the Air days, smoke from the worse fire season in California's history created so much smoke in the upper atmosphere that wavelengths of blue light were scattered, allowing only warmer colors to reach the earth's surface. Many feel this was the earth sounding the alarm for a global climate change disaster.

The view from Dana Smith's deck facing west at 3 pm in the afternoon.



LIVING IN (TRAGICALLY) HISTORIC TIMES By Dana Smith

We've all heard the expression "That's one for the history books." Now we are living through a chapter of that book as we mark the anniversary of the 10th month of the Covid-19 pandemic. It's all beginning to wear thin as toilet paper hoarding jokes give way to depression... and darker humor.

Coronacoaster definition: Noun

The ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, baking banana bread and going for long walks and then the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like.

While writing this *Tattler*, I heard the emergency siren on my phone. Usually it announces "This is only a test of the emergency broadcast system." This time it announced the emergency stay at home orders for the pandemic. I quickly checked the online covid statistics, freaked out, drank a gin and tonic and went to bed.

My sister Judith (Christensen) and I call each other every morning for encouragement to get out of bed, brush our teeth, and put on some clothes. Sometimes that feels challenging. We've coined the term "Covid ennui" (French for boredom, tediousness). "Yeah, I've got a bad case of covid ennui!"



I've been sleeping like a cat... so much so that my cats are annoyed. It's upsetting to their world view to see their human sleeping like a cat!

So many of the things that we enjoyed have been "cancelled." This is the first year in over 20 that I had to put up a sign "Sorry, no trick-or-treat this year. Come back next year when the pandemic is over." I had to put away my plastic witch fingers and Dracula teeth with fake blood for next year. Driving through Colma the day before Halloween every street had signs announcing that trick-or-treat was cancelled because of covid. And Halloween is a BIG deal in Colma!

A sign of the times in Daly City is the cars in line on Mission Street for free food distribution at Jefferson HS. I've seen the cars along Mission Street turn the corner and reach nearly to Junipero Serra Blvd. You may have been caught in the traffic jam food lines near the county building and City Hall.

Let me know how you are coping and I will include some of your efforts in the next *Tattler*. (dana@vikingsmith.net)

My neighbors, Guilders Fred and Barb Stevens, and I have been gardening at a social distance... he built a small greenhouse and the "victory garden" produced Santa Rosa plums, cucumbers, beans, tomatoes, lettuce and broccoli The sweet peas, dahlias, Papa Ott morning glories and sunflowers have been glorious and raised our spirits every day through summer and fall. Now we are sharing bird watching notes of visitors to our winter feeders.



Guilders Don Grant and Marianne Petroni send humor and beautiful photos in emails regularly to friends to keep our spirits up. Michael and Rich Rocchetta have picked hundreds of lemons and limes from their backyard orchard, which I have distributed to dozens of neighbors, along with my baked goods (when I'm upset, I cook up a

storm!) The Rocchettas take an afternoon drive as part of their pandemic daily routine and captured this picture in San Mateo of covid topiary. Guilder Maureen O'Connor (President of the Colma Historical Association) continues her feral cat work, including rescuing a mother cat and 5 kittens from the roof of a donut shop on El Camino!



This social isolation can certainly make a person a bit looney. I developed a "friendship" with a bottle of hand sanitizer shaped kinda like a human. Let me explain... Sister Judith attempted to buy hand sanitizer online at the beginning of the pandemic. The only available bottle was

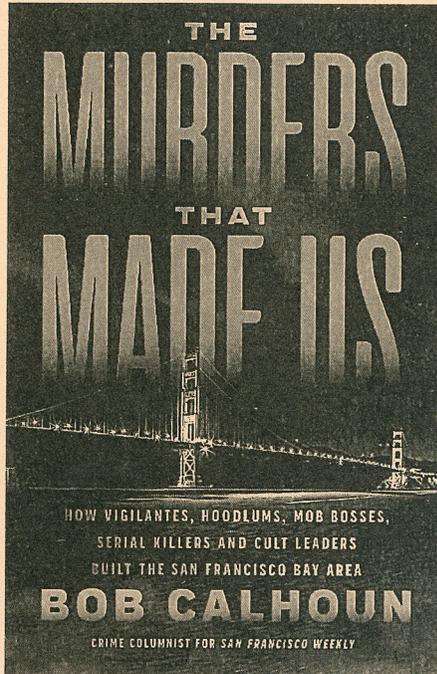
Buddy, with arms and legs meant to encourage the use of hand sanitizer at work.

Buddy at Lands End and after one too many martinis!



Of course, "Buddy" went on car excursions and he/she? soon became an integral part of the family. Buddy's exploits became the grist of emails.

Editor's note: Share your pandemic story, photos, and insights for the next Tattler. I would also like to give some thought in the next edition to how this tragedy will affect our future history. How will we change culturally, economically, technologically, etc. Give it some thought and share with me at dana@vikingsmith.net



Guilder, author, and frequent *Tattler* contributor Bob Calhoun will soon be celebrating the publication of his new book by ECW Press, publication date May 2021. Some infamous Daly City crimes will be highlighted:

I asked Bob the question I've asked you above about the future after the pandemic"

Thank you so much for asking. I'm flattered. Here we go...

I think the economy will rebound pretty quickly once enough people are vaccinated. But so many people have lost so much--loved ones, the company they used to work for, their businesses, their very own lives--that a lot of people won't be part of that recovery. It's not 2008. It's much more profound than that. The other thing that scares me is that a lot of billionaires profited greatly during or even from the pandemic and I worry that we'll get more pandemics. I hope I'm wrong about that.

As far as culturally, I think we've all picked up some nervous tics and phobias that we didn't have before. I might always feel nervous about being in crowds and I love being in crowds. It remains to be seen how that will play out nationally or globally. If I was in college tho, I'd get my psych degree. All the best, Bob

GUILD NEWS AND THANKS

Thanks are due to Al Hipona for volunteering to fix a plumbing problem at the museum and donating the parts, this saved us a bundle. Congratulations are due to

Annette Hipona, our former Hospitality Chair, on her recent re-election to a fourth term as Daly City Clerk. Thanks to Marcus and Grace Gonzalez for trips to the museum to pick up trash in the plantings on our frontage. Thanks to Mark Weinberger for repeated trips to secure donations from the Sarles estate. And finally, thanks to Michael Rocchetta for his work every year end to scan and post updated *Tattlers* to our website.

A reminder, we have a treasure trove of past *Tattlers* posted on our website. If you want to know more of Daly City history than almost anyone, read through the *Tattler* archive. The earlier *Tattlers* were edited by our esteemed Secretary-Emerita, former Daly City Historian, and author, the late Bunny Gillespie.

OUR MUSEUM “TRASHED”



Just now as I am finishing the *Tattler* on December 20th, we received a text message from City Clerk Annette Hipona as she was driving past the museum. A huge pile of trash was dumped last night at the museum entrance. We will be contacting the city for assistance. Recently Daly City sent a special flyer to all residents asking for assistance in reporting any witnessed street dumping. It has become a serious problem citywide.

Report illegal dumping in Daly City online at www.dalycity.org. Click on the "Citizen Service Request" tab at the bottom of the left margin of the home page. You may also report illegal dumping by calling the Public Works Department at (650) 991-8038.

HISTORIC MILESTONES WE MAY HAVE MISSED IN 2020

August 18, 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote across the United States. San Francisco, now known as a bastion of liberal politics, surprisingly did not support the suffrage movement. In the early twentieth century population spread out from San Francisco across the state. When San Francisco voted in 1911 against the suffrage amendment, the *Examiner* and *Chronicle* announced the suffrage movement was dead. Both publications had strongly opposed the right of women to vote. The *Call*, another newspaper in San Francisco which had been supportive of the suffrage movement, reminded the public that all California votes were not yet in. Surprise! On October 10, 1911, California became the sixth state where women could vote equally with men, nine years before the 19th Amendment enfranchised women nationally. (Does this election suspense remind you of our recent 2020 election?)

www.foundsf.org recounts interesting local suffrage history. Despite the vote in San Francisco, the City was home to an active suffrage movement centered around the home of California Senator Aaron Sargent and his wife Ellen. "Senator Sargent was the first person in the entire US Congress who uttered the word "suffrage" and wrote a suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In 1872, when Ellen Sargent became secretary to the National Suffrage Association, her husband went "to bat" for Susan B. Anthony who was jailed for registering to vote—a federal offense. Actually, she was fined for registering to vote, and when she refused to pay the fine, she was incarcerated. Senator Sargent went to President Grant to intercede on behalf of Miss Anthony and, in effect, "sprung" the great lady from jail...

At the time of the 1896 campaign, when Mrs. Sargent was president of the California Woman Suffrage Association, the Sargent home on Folsom Street was one of the main headquarters for the suffrage vote." Unfortunately, only a few days before women won their right to vote in California, Ellen Clark Sargent died.

In 1870, 150 years ago, an act of the state legislature created Golden Gate Park. Skeptics said a park could never be built atop San Francisco's sand dunes. However, a determined engineer, William Hammond Hall and master gardener John McLaren figured out a way and the park began rising from the city's western sand dunes. OutsideLands.org and the Western Neighborhoods Project has a wonderful archive of historic San Francisco photographs, including a large collection of early photos of Golden Gate Park. The anniversary starting on April 4th had to be celebrated virtually due to the pandemic (GoldenGatePark150.com)



DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM

& ARCHIVE

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Museum Closed due to pandemic



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

www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org

STAY SAFE



FIRST CLASS MAIL



"Buddy" celebrates the 150year anniversary of Golden Gate Park.

A **Community Memory Project** was initiated last spring at the beginning of the pandemic by the Bayshore Library. We plan to coordinate Guild efforts to archive pandemic history with library efforts. More information to follow in the next edition of the Tattler.

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 Gonzales 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)

History is our legacy. It tells future generations our story – our values, what we thought, and what we did right and wrong. History inspires, cautions, and always educates.