

# THE TATTLER

## JOURNAL OF DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

### Greetings from President Mark-

We had a great St. Patrick's Day meeting when we welcomed artist and author Jim Torlakson, originally from Daly City. Jim also brought his older brother, Tom, who spent many years in the CA Legislature and took a turn as the state's superintendent of public instruction. Famous D.C. alumni, and from Westmoor High School, too! Jim shared from his latest book, *Torlakson's Daly City: My Hometown in watercolors, oils, and etchings*. He touched on his artwork, growing up in Westlake, the local scene during the late 1960s and early 1970s, and much more. We were very happy to welcome home this local celebrity from his far-away place of residence all the way in Pacifica!

Dave Crimmen, originally from Broadmoor and presently of Pacifica, former board member and author of a couple Arcadia books, will be our May featured speaker. He will present on his definitive history of Broadmoor and have copies of that book for sale. We haven't had this program in more than a decade so we felt it was time to revisit the small, unincorporated but proud community which is landlocked on all sides by Daly City and in the news of late.

We have two vacancies on the board at this time. The office of Treasurer is vacant and also the position of Director. If you have an interest in either position and would like to learn about their responsibilities, please contact Mark at [president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org) or leave a message at the museum, 650-757-7177. Thank you for your consideration.

The museum is now open only the first four Saturdays of each month. With limited volunteer docents available at this time, we reluctantly made the decision to close when there is a fifth Saturday in the month. Hours of operation remain the same: noon to 3 pm.

Continued on page 2

### DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE



#### HISTORY LECTURE

**SUNDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> 2 PM**

**MERCED ROOM, PACELLI GYM, WESTLAKE PARK**

**145 LAKE MERCED BLVD., DALY CITY**

### DAVE CRIMMEN

#### PRESENTS

**THE HISTORY OF BROADMOOR VILLAGE:**

**A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE**

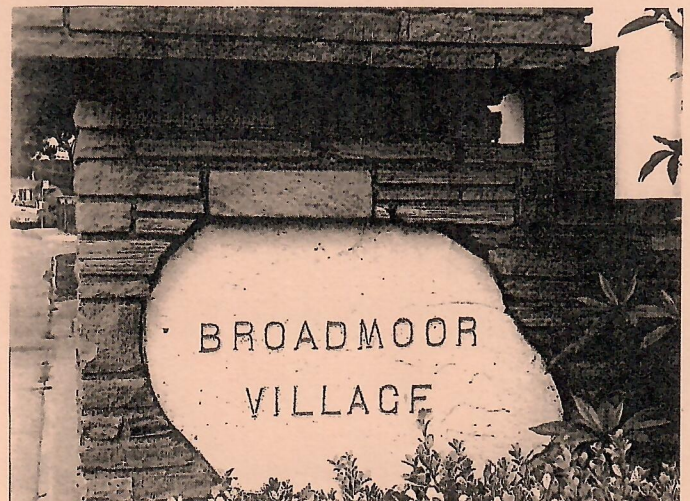


**REFRESHMENTS! REVELRY! RAFFLE!**

**FREE—EVERYONE WELCOME!**

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT "DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM"

[WWW.DALYCITYHISTORYMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.DALYCITYHISTORYMUSEUM.ORG)





The Guild recently lost one of our loyal members. Audrey Winn was the widow of Bernie or "Bern", who wrote the authoritative tome about oldtime Daly City, *From the Top of the Hill*. Bern also self-published a few other books on local history, including his fascinating revelations about man-hole covers. These limited copies are for sale in our gift shop. Audrey was absent in recent years, but she always supported the Guild, and we will certainly miss her and continue to remember both Winns fondly.

Special thanks to Secretary Perky Ramroth, who organized the two-day birthday celebration we had in March. It was a great event enjoyed by so many, both members and, we hope, potential new members. All reveled in camaraderie, conversation, and cake. As Marie Antoinette is supposed to have remarked, "Let them eat cake!" and we did, fortunately keeping our wits and--heads!--in the process. Michael and Richard Rocchetta created a wonderful slideshow that showcased the transition of the former John D. Daly Library to the Daly City History Museum by our industrious board, past and present, and many faithful volunteer work crew. Mayor Juslyn Manalo and Councilwoman Pamela DiGiovanni joined us for the festivities. The Guild received a commendation for our 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary on Mission Street.

Two men who are currently writing an Arcadia series book entitled *Lost Gas Stations of San Mateo County* are doing research at both our museum and that of the Colma Historical Association. Bruce Cumming is a former police chief of Menlo Park and Nick Veronico is a San Carlos author who has previously written a book entitled *Hidden Warbirds: The Epic Stories of Finding, Recovering, and Rebuilding WWII's Lost Aircraft*. We hope to have them as future speakers once their book is published.

In clearing my late parents' Westlake home, I discovered well-preserved plastic shopping bags from the old Junior Bootery and King Norman's Toys—the former in Serramonte, and the latter in the Westlake Shopping Center. I've donated them to the museum, and you might say, "it's all in the bag!" [I simply couldn't resist.]

Finally, the board would like to especially thank Perky and Bill Ramroth for donating funds to the Guild for the express purpose of purchasing a new computer for the museum, which we have desperately needed for a very long time. This extremely generous gift will make it possible for us to write, edit and produce

the *Tattler* much more efficiently in addition to all of our other needs, such as maintaining memberships; tracking payments; and maintaining a database of the collection, etc. This will make life for us so much easier! Our heartfelt gratitude can best be expressed by quoting Gomer Pyle: "THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!"

(Part II)

*Continued from the March Tattler*

## Adventure to the Legendary Crystal Cave of San Bruno Mountain

We made it to the cave relatively unscathed and feeling a little more alive than when we started. As we stared down The Devils Arroyo into civilization less than a mile beyond, we felt the ironic feeling that although we were standing in what felt like wilderness, civilization was in very close proximity.

After Roger explained the likely history of this hole in San Bruno Mountain, I pointed at the trail that continued. It is very grown over now, but I explained the trail eventually meets up with the creek again. Then the creek comes to a rock wall that is roughly fifteen feet high, and covered in moss as the creek disperses itself down its face. Above this wall is a small cliff where the creek comes out of the hillside. Resting, and staring at the nettle infested trail, we decided to not make the final leg of the journey on this day. Instead we took a roundabout trail to the top of the cave, and it was clear from this vantage point that the line of orange quartz runs vertically down the hillside. We rested and admired the quartz crystals and the wildflowers. Then we started the journey back to the urban environment we came from.

The three of us who made this trek consider ourselves environmentalists, the type who "leave only footprints, take only pictures" so we did seriously discuss not writing about our little adventure. Ultimately we decided that the article should be written. To those that may be upset about the confirmation of this local legend that we would like to note that our photos purposely left out any landmarks that that could be used to triangulate its location. Also, the trail being as overgrown and filled with Poison Oak and stinging Nettles as it was, we thought it unlikely that anyone would make such a journey simply to fulfill bad intentions.



Local legends and history are important. They connect us to the places we live and connect us together as the history of this place we live belongs to all of us. That is why history is one of the broader themes of the Open the SF Watershed movement, so we can explore and tell the tale to our children the colorful history of the San Francisco Peninsula. What you see, and what is beneath your feet has a few stories to tell, once you know them, they are yours forever.

-Andy Howse, Editor *Open the SF Watershed*

**Roger Cain contributed to this article**

*If anyone has any documents to the history of these mines/caves, we'd be interested to hear about them so we can continue this story. Please share here or contact [EverythingSouthCity@gmail.com](mailto:EverythingSouthCity@gmail.com)*

## UPDATE:

Because we have heard many say they want to climb the mountain and explore and search for the cave this added information is important. Please take heed. We would like to add a warning to this story for those who may go out searching on the mountain.

- \*To be successful you must be in good health and physically fit
- \*Do not go alone, always bring another person with you
- \*Let others know your plans before you head out
- \*Dress covered head to toe to protect yourself from Stinging Nettles and Poison Oak.
- \*Bring water & emergency supplies including rope, gloves, etc
- \*MOST IMPORTANT! Carry in, carry out. Leave nothing behind but your footprints. Always respect the Mountain



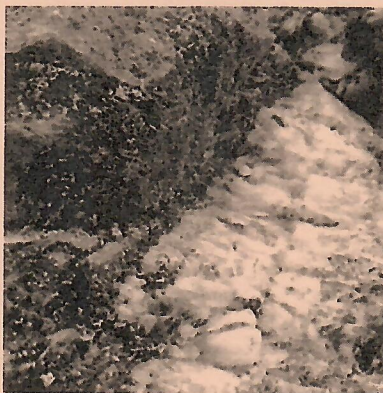
Stinging Nettles keep explorers out  
Photo: Andy Howse



The land is alive  
'Millipede'  
Photo:  
ROGER CAIN



Making their way through Stinging Nettle and Poison Oak  
Photo: Andy Howse



Crystals have been abundant on the mountain  
Photo: Andy Howse



Ducking to enter the 6' entrance  
Photo: Andy Howse

### DID YOU KNOW.....

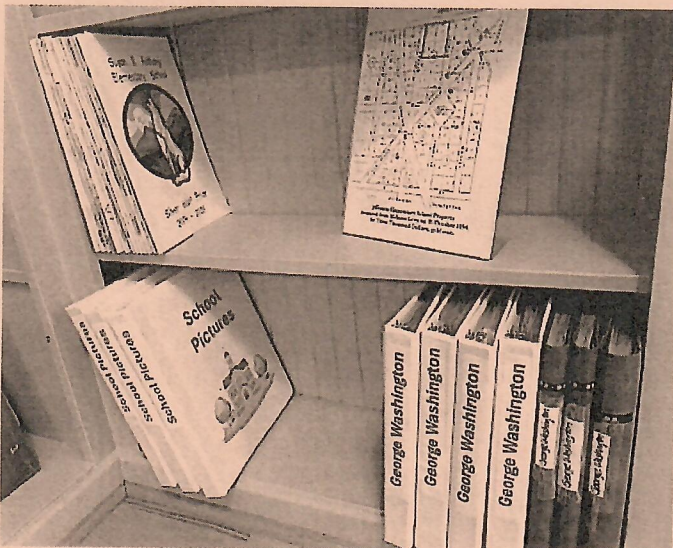
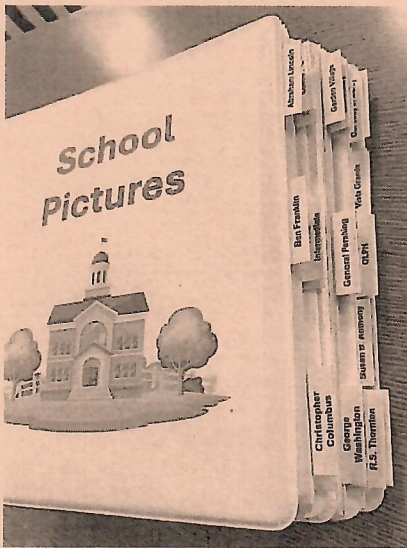
In 1940, the Daly City Record referred to the city as the "*Gateway OF the Peninsula.*" By 1955, a Daly City Chamber of Commerce publication referred to the area as the "*Gateway TO the Peninsula.*"



## SEEKING ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL PICTURES FOR THE MUSEUM

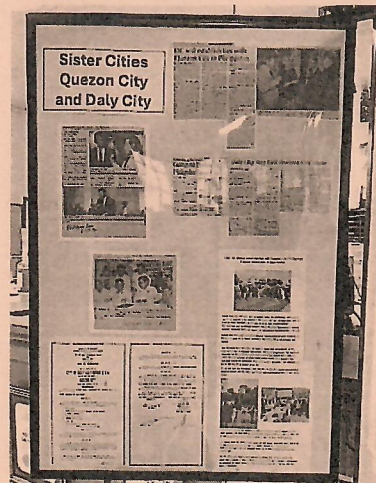
If you went to elementary or middle school in Daly City, do you have your old school pictures? Museum volunteers are actively seeking class group pictures from all elementary and middle schools in the Jefferson Elementary School District, OLPH, Holy Angels and OLM! They will be available to the public in binders for everyone to enjoy and will compliment our collection of high school yearbooks.

Please scan your pictures as jpegs and email them to Perky Ramroth at [dchgsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dchgsecretary@gmail.com) or drop them off when the museum is open. Your pictures can be scanned at the museum and returned to you, if you wish. Any questions? Email Perky at [dchgsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dchgsecretary@gmail.com).



## NEW POSTERS AT THE MUSEUM

Stop by the Museum and see the new posters in the flip display at the entrance to the Gillespie Room. New additions include pictures and dates of mayoral terms of all of Daly City's mayors, articles about Daly City's Sister City relationship with Quezon City, and memories of Daly City's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2011. Many thanks to City Clerk and Guild Member Annette Hipona for providing the dates of each mayor's terms. Plans are in the works for posters about the Cow Palace and Daly City's elementary schools.





*The following editorial in the November 30, 1928 issue of the Daly City Record*

## DALY CITY'S NEW THEATRE

Every resident of this community who attended the opening ceremonies at the new Daly City theatre last Tuesday evening must feel proud of that magnificent new home of clean entertainment.

Judging from the action of the large crowd that attended the formal opening of our new theatre, they were more than pleased with its appearance and the attractions presented. They had expected much, and their expectations were more than fulfilled. Many were unable to secure admittance at the opening performance, such was the interest shown in the opening of the new theatre.

The addresses delivered by Mayor H.H. Smith and City Attorney McCurdy were warmly applauded, and the most optimistic predictions of the speakers heartily concurred in by the audience.

One of the pictures presented during the opening program was that of the Heather Farm, owned by J.W. Marchbank. Many who saw this picture realized that had it not been for the firm belief in the future of this section held by Mr. Marchbank, the Daly City Theatre would not have been erected—at least for some time to come. And the residents who appreciate clean entertainment in a pleasing environment are glad that this public spirited citizen was enlisted in the movement to provide Daly City with a place of amusement of which we can all be proud.

*The Daly City theatre at 6212 Mission Street was closed in December 1955 and torn down in 1958. An auto parts store is among the businesses that currently occupy the site*

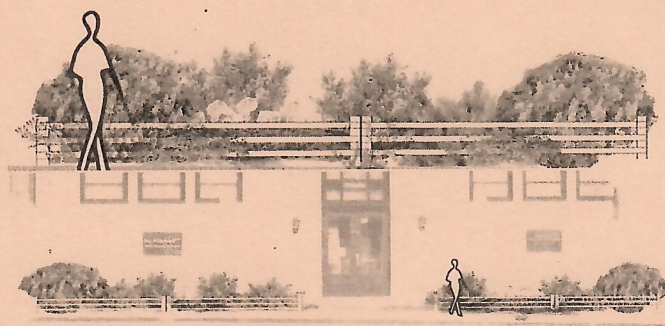


## NEW LANDSCAPIING AT THE MUSEUM

We would like to thank the great folks of the City of Daly City for the outstanding job they did in clearing all of the old plants and other growth along the frontage of the museum. The plants that were there for many years were sickly and well past their prime. This summer or sooner we'll have some wonderful new landscaping with native plants that will help to refresh the entrance to the museum and further beautify the Mission Street corridor. We want to especially express our gratitude to Kris Carr, Public Works Maintenance Supervisor, Chris Caliendo, Maintenance Supervisor of Parks, Jeff Fornesi, Assistant to the Director of Public Works, Richard Chiu, Jr., Director of Public Works, Tom Piccolotti, City Manager, and all of their teams who made this possible.

The forthcoming garden will be collaboration between San Bruno Mountain Watch, Yoni Carnice, Master in Landscape Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design, and Victoria Bevington, Master of Landscape Architecture, University of California, Berkeley.

Photos of the new garden will appear in the September Tattler. Stay tuned!



Proposed plan for front of museum

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

For many years, at the corner of Mission and East Market Streets there stood a landmark—the old Collopy building. It looked like something out of the Old West. Boarded up windows, dark and spooky, it was finally torn down in October of 1969. It started out as a roadhouse for travelers. Polk's Directory of 1890 lists a George Collopy as owner of a livery and saloon. Wendy's restaurant is now on the site.



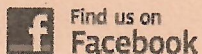


**DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM  
& ARCHIVE**

6351 Mission Street Daly City, CA 94014

(650) 757-7177

OPEN SATURDAYS NOON - 3 PM.



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

[www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org](http://www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**TWO VACANCIES ON GUILD BOARD**

We have two vacancies on the board at this time. The office of Treasurer is vacant and also the position of Director. If you have an interest in either position and would like to learn about their responsibilities, please contact Mark at: [president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org) or leave a message at the museum, 650-757-7177. Thank you for your consideration.

**GUILD OFFICER AND DIRECTORS**

**Mark Weinberger, President** (Facebook, Programs)  
650/757-7177 [president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

**Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President** (Raffle)

**Marcus Gonzalez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President/Museum Director** (programs)

**Perky Ramroth, Secretary**

**Treasurer - vacant**

**Director: Michael Rocchetta** (database, mailing labels)

**Director - vacant**

**Tattler Production: Board of Directors**

Ken Gillespie (1924-2011) President Emerita  
Bunny Gillespie (1926-2017) Secretary Emerita

Grace and Marcus Gonzalez, Hospitality Crew  
Raymond Jue, photographer

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

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