

THE TATTLE

JOURNAL OF DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Greetings from President Mark-

I want to thank everyone who joined me on our second Broderick - Terry Duel Site Walk on July 27. It was a fun day reliving a fascinating chapter in our local and state history. Perky Ramroth and Mike and Rich Rocchetta did a fantastic job organizing our mini-reception at the museum afterward. We'll try to keep this an annual event through the San Mateo County Historical Association's summer walking tours' program.

On August 24 we will have dedicated our newly-installed front garden to the memory of our late secretary, Algis Ratnikas. At this writing, that has not happened yet. I will write about it in the January *Tattler*, but would like to thank all of the good folks at the City of Daly City who cleared the old vegetation and have been very helpful with our various projects; and San Bruno Mountain Watch who gave so generously of themselves to plant and landscape the frontage with native plants. Also, a great show of appreciation for Mark Fontana and everyone at V. Fontana & Co. monument makers of Colma for generously creating and supplying the wonderful plaque which we dedicated in Algis' memory. Thanks to one and all!

We had a fantastic time in May welcoming home Dave Crimmen, formerly of the board, to retell the fascinating history that is Broadmoor. Dave, of course, is the ultimate Broadmoor authority, having been born and raised there. He has been a Pacifica resident for many years now but often returns to his old stomping grounds and can be found explaining to those who are not locals how you know when you've left Daly City and entered Broadmoor. Easy! Street signs are green [Daly City's are blue] and curb cuts are curved/sloped [Daly City's are straight-cut like San Francisco's]. This was one of our largest attended meetings in a long time. Thanks again, Dave!

For our September meeting we welcome Carmen Blair, Deputy Director of the San Mateo County Historical Association, who will present *Discovering the*

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DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE



HISTORY LECTURE

SUNDAY, SEPT. 15TH 2 PM

MERCED ROOM, PACELLI GYM, WESTLAKE PARK

145 LAKE MERCED BLVD., DALY CITY

CARMEN BLAIR

PRESENTS

DISCOVERING THE EXTRAORDINARY COW PALACE

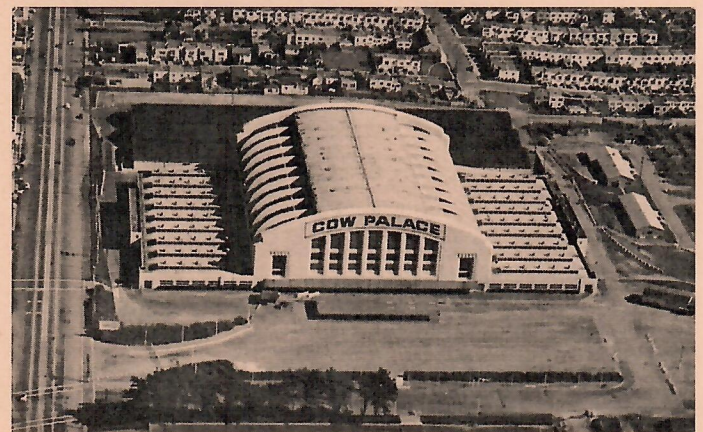


REFRESHMENTS! REVELRY! RAFFLE!

FREE! EVERYONE WELCOME!

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT "DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM"

WWW.DALYCITYHISTORYMUSEUM.ORG



Cow Palace

Extraordinary Cow Palace. According to the presenter: "Designed as a place to house a livestock and animal exposition, the Cow Palace has been the site of extraordinary events in California history." She will discuss some of the highlights of the site's history and the process of creating the changing exhibit, *The Extraordinary Cow Palace*.

Carmen Blair joined the staff of the San Mateo County Historical Association in 1998 and has been the Deputy Director since 2007. Among her responsibilities, she is involved with school programs, public programs for adults and children, exhibit design and publications. She received her B.A. in History from Gustavus Adolphus College and her M.A. in Museum Studies from San Francisco State University.

On Saturday, October 19 from 11 am to 5 pm, Daly City will be hosting its inaugural Top of the Hill Street Festival. For those of you who remember the Gateway Festival of years gone by, this will be a similar event. Various booths, food vendors, community organizations, etc. will have a presence along Mission Street and around the Daly City BART station. The Guild will have a table in front of the museum and will have expanded hours that one day. Since we will keep the doors open double time—a full six hours—we are seeking volunteers to help us that day. Ideally, we'd like a couple of folks to help us for two to three hours, in two shifts, to assist us with sitting at our table while a board member is inside the museum to greet visitors. Please consider helping us out during this special day. Who knows? You might even enjoy yourself so much you will want to join us on another Saturday when we're open only for three hours. We need your volunteer support. Please call the museum at 650-757-7177 and leave a message or send an email to president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org.

Under the direction of Secretary Perky Ramroth, the board recently spent a Sunday at the museum cleaning our back room and clearing the very space-limited museum of 'junk' and items that were of no use to us. Where possible we donated things that had taken up storage since we moved into the facility 15 years ago and had never been used. So much has come to us through donations, and items we had first thought would be useful later proved ill-suited: broken white board easel that was found on the street; baby guard rails for our fireplace insert; greeting card rack, etc. Bill Ramroth generously volunteered his truck to haul away what was determined needing to go to the landfill. We minimized as much of that as was possible.

We received some vintage 16mm film canister reels from City Clerk Annette Hipona. One of them is labeled "Daly City 50th Anniversary Parade" and is from 1961. We haven't viewed it yet and don't know the quality, length or if there is sound. Perhaps some of you remember that festive parade of almost 65 years ago. We hope to have the reels, as well as others we have at the museum, transferred to a format that we can then watch. If there is sufficient viewable content, we would hope to show it at a future Guild meeting and develop a program around it/those. Thanks for always thinking of us, Annette!

Finally, I want to explain about the membership application you'll see inside. This is another version of the renewal that we mail each January. It is NOT for you to clip and return. We will continue to send renewal notices as remittance envelope inserts when we mail in January. We also distribute the *Tattler* at street fairs—Top of the Hill Street Festival, Oct. 19, 11 am - 5 pm on Mission Street—and elsewhere. It is handy to have it already printed for prospective new members rather than as a loose insert that can easily get lost. **Again, if you are already a member receiving the *Tattler*, this renewal is NOT for you.** Please do, however, pass it along to a friend or neighbor who might be interested in joining the Guild. Of course, anyone who would like to pay more than once...well, we'll never say no. 😊

The following article was originally written in 1996 and appeared in the newsletter FoundSF. Used by permission of the author.

Serramonte Mall in Daly City is sometimes called the "capitol" of Filipinotown.

Photo: James Sobredo

Fred Basconcillo, a retired member of the Iron Workers Union (AFL-CIO), sits by a large window in his Daly City home and describes himself as a "Filipino American." Born in the South of Market district in downtown San Francisco in the late 1930s, he grew up in the Fillmore District and has vivid memories of visiting the former "**Manilatown**" community on Kearny Street. Basconcillo eventually became the president of the Iron Workers Union and represented more than 40,000 iron workers from the Pacific west coast states. Today, as a "Lolo" (grandfather), he plays the role of a benevolent Filipino patriarch, helps in taking care of his granddaughters, and drives them to school daily. Down the hill from Basconcillo's house is St. Francis Square, a mini-mall filled with Filipino delis, video shops, and grocery stores where one can shop for the latest cassette tapes, CDs and

videos coming out of Manila. It also has Tito Rey's Restaurant, a very popular restaurant and nightclub for upscale Filipinos. Dining at Tito Rey's is just like dining at a fashionable Makati restaurant in Manila's financial district.

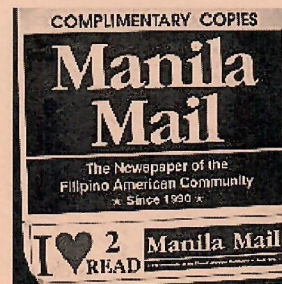
This is today's Daly City, the "New Filipinotown" and dubbed by *Asianweek* as the "Capital" of the Filipino American community. At 27 percent of the population (1990 census), Filipinos comprise the largest ethnic group in Daly City. It is home to the highest concentration of Filipinos in the United States and a sister city of Metro Manila's Quezon City. It is also a place where Filipinos can pick up several newspaper copies of the *Philippine News*, *Manila Bulletin*, *Manila Mail*, and the nationally distributed *Filipinas Magazine*. Filipinos can watch Philippine cable television broadcasts on The Filipino Channel, or on public broadcasts such as "Manila-Manila" TV, "Pinoy Pa Rin!", and the Manila weekly news program "TV Patrol." The "capitol" of this Filipinotown is Serramonte Mall, where nearly everyone you meet is a Filipino and speaks Tagalog, Visayan or Ilocano. Westlake Mall is another popular spot, which also holds a Filipino festival in June. But it is the restaurants and nightclubs that really give the flavor and beat to the New Filipinotown: restaurants such as Goldilocks, Three Bears, Manila Bay Express, and Manila Bay Cuisine, where you can eat chicken adobo, pancit noodles, beef kare-kare with bagoong, and halo-halo ice cream shakes and turon (fried bananas wrapped in crepes) for dessert; and restaurant/nightclubs such as Tito Rey's, Solita's, and Pinay's. On weekends after midnight, after an evening of dancing, Filipinos would form long lines outside the very popular Ling-nam restaurant on Gellert Square and endure a 20-minute wait for a late-night Filipino meal.

Incorporated as a city in 1911, Daly City citizens were worried of being swallowed up and incorporated into the expanding City of San Francisco. Named after John D. Daly, one of the City's original settlers and owner of the San Mateo Dairy, Daly City was nicknamed "the Gateway to the Peninsula." Originally settled by Irish immigrants, the City eventually became known for its numerous pig and dairy farms, as well as drinking saloons and gambling establishments. In the 1906 Earthquake, John Daly gained popularity when he donated dairy products and provided shelter to San Franciscans fleeing from the disaster.

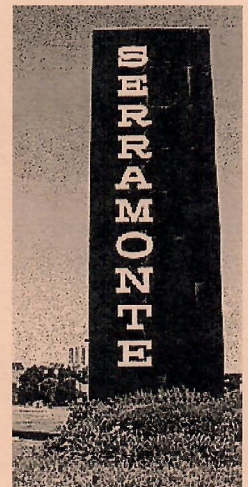
After World War II, Daly City experienced a massive construction boom and suburbanization: the famed developer Henry Doelger built Westlake Mall and subdivision, and the brothers Carl and Fred Gellert built Serramonte Mall and subdivision. It was within this context that Filipinos moved into Daly City in the 1970s: the 1968 Civil Rights "fair housing" act was passed, and affordable suburban homes were now available to Filipinos.

Filled with all the familiar reminders of their Filipino culture and lifestyle, Daly City is an ideal community for Filipinos. Breaking the stereotype of Filipinos as being complacent and apolitical, Filipinos had enough of a critical mass and political influence in the 1990s to elect a Filipino mayor. In 1995, Michael Guingona, a second-generation Filipino American and practicing attorney, became Daly City's first Filipino mayor.

Daly City is nationally known as the Filipino community in America. Right next door to Daly City's borders, however, lies the little-known Fort Funston Park, named after Col. **Frederick Funston**, the American soldier who captured Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, who led the Philippine Revolutionary Army against the American military forces in the Philippine-American War (1899-1902). Today, while Fort Funston is a park known only to hang gliders, hikers, and dog walkers, Daly City is featured in the front pages of *Asianweek* as the "capital" of Filipino America and nationally recognized as the new "Filipino town."



Newsbox selling the *Manila Mail* in Daly City.



Original Serramonte Sign

School Pictures Project Update

By: *Perky Ramroth*

To date, over 500 Daly City elementary and middle school class pictures have been donated, printed and placed in binders at the museum! These join dozens of pictures that were already on site from George Washington School.

Special thanks to just a few of the numerous donors: thanks to Guild member Marianne Petroni, we were able to take pictures of about 100 of OLPH's 8th Grade graduating class pictures that are on display in the school's cafeteria. They will be printed and on display at the Museum very soon!

Thanks also to new member Colleen Soracco for lending her Ben Franklin 1965 yearbook to be scanned, and to new friend-of-the-museum Jackie Byrns of Millbrae who donated all of her class pictures and several class T-shirts from her lengthy career as a classroom assistant in several JESD schools.

We are delighted to have **ALL** of your contributions to the archives. Tell your friends about the project and come take a look!



OLPH Class of 1950... John Madden is left 2nd row from bottom, middle picture

Did you know.....

The slogan used by Daly City in reference to its 50th Anniversary celebration in 1961 was:

"A CENTURY OF PROGRESS IN HALF THE TIME"

AN UNSOLVED MYSTERY

FROM 50 YEARS AGO

By" *Richard Rocchetta*

In March of 1963 the following headline appeared in the *San Francisco Examiner*:

"Daly City Teenager Missing"

The article goes on to state that police were searching for a 13-year-old Daly City youth who left his home on February 8th to play basketball and hadn't been seen since then. His name was Wayne Silber, and he lived in the Hillside neighborhood with his family. He was a seventh-grade student at Colma Intermediate (now Pollicita Middle School).

The next newspaper article on April 18th from the *Examiner* tells of Daly City police and San Mateo County jail trustees searching the Crocker Hills area east of the city but found no trace of him. Inspector Philip La Bruzzo of the Daly City Police was handling the investigation, along with a San Mateo County Deputy Sheriff said, in the end, that they were satisfied that Wayne was not there. There were rumors that the boy was hiding out and being fed by "a little old lady". The article goes on to state they reported no evidence of foul play.

Less than a week later, according to an April 24th article in the San Mateo Times, "Three separate and intensive searches last week failed to turn up any trace of ...the 13-year-old." In addition to the initial search, eight adults and 25 Boy Scouts "undertook a thorough search of the same area and the adjacent region" including San Bruno Mountain into South San Francisco. "They searched caves and crevices without any result" La Bruzza reported. Later a police squad from Daly City "combed vacant houses awaiting demolition along the Junipero Serra Freeway route...covering about a mile" to no avail.

This is where the story ends, at least regarding news articles. It's been over 60 years and still nothing has turned up regarding the fate of a Daly City youth named Wayne Silber. It is truly an "unsolved mystery".

This is from the SF Examiner on November 23, 1924

100 years ago, this fall, the announcement was made that a new Catholic church would be built in Daly City on the corner of Wellington Ave. and Mission St., just around the corner from the Museum. It has been going strong since its establishment in 1925. Originally called St. Maximus Parish, the name was changed to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in 1929.

Daly City to Get New Catholic Church

Plans are being prepared for a Catholic church by Architect H. C. Jensen of San Francisco, to be

erected at Daly City, San Mateo county. It will be a one-story structure of reinforced concrete, and will have a large seating capacity. It will be located at the corner of Mission and Wellington streets.



DAY CARE CENTER

(Dave Dornlas Photo)

Groundbreaking ceremonies for Daly City's first Day Care Center were held last week on the grounds of George Washington Elementary School, site of the new facility. Officiating at the ceremonies was Mayor Victor Kyriakis, while "sidewalk supervisors" (l-r) Rena Gonzalez, Elvinia DeGarmo, Councilman Tony Giammona, City Clerk Anna Ohlendorf, Councilman McRobert Stewart (front, kneeling), JESD Superintendent Herb Hemington, president of the Daly City Children's Care Services, Juan J. Escobar, and City Manager David Rowe look on.

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NEW MEMBER APPLICATION TO JOIN

THE DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

All joining and renewing members will receive 4 editions of our tattler newsletter of local history

Dalycityhistory.org

CIRCLE your Membership donation amount: \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$ _____

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____ Zip: _____

PHONE: () _____ EMAIL: _____

Make checks payable to: Daly City History Guild

The History Guild is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization/Tax ID #94-2928704

Please mail your check and this form to: **Daly City History Museum & Archive**
6351 Mission Street
Daly City, CA 94014



**DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM
& ARCHIVE**

6351 Mission Street Daly City, CA 94014

(650) 757-7177

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Museum & Archive"

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 or leave a message at the museum, 650-757-7177. Thank you for your consideration.



DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mark Weinberger, President, (Facebook, Programs)
650/757-7177 president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org

Richard Rocchetta, Vice President (Raffle)

**Marcus Gonzalez, 2nd 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.
Membership begins at \$25 per year.**