

THE TATTLER

JOURNAL OF DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Greetings from President Mark-

In March we enjoyed a stellar lecture with our good friend, author and historian Anne Evers Hitz of Pacifica, who regaled us with a wonderful, nostalgic look back to the great shopping district that was once downtown San Francisco. Hearing the history and sharing the memories that were the White House, City of Paris, Joseph Magnin, I. Magnin, Emporium, and Gump's were a treat indeed. Very nostalgic for yours truly, who was not quite age six when the City of Paris closed in 1972. That was also the year, all within a few months of each other, that we lost the Big Three—City of Paris, Playland at the Beach, and Marin Town & Country Club, a Bay Area institution and destination for those seeking a weekend of sun, fun, and recreation from another era in the sleepy town of Fairfax. Anyway, I digress. Another great afternoon spent with friends and many a reminiscence.

For our May general membership meeting, we welcome historians and co-authors Bruce Cumming and Nick Veronico. They completed research at the museum for their recently published bestseller *Lost Gas Stations of San Mateo County*. They will share stories with us about an automobile culture that is long gone--a time when an attendant in an all-white uniform would greet motorists with a friendly smile and perform the entire routine, which is no longer routine in the era of self-serve. Windshields were cleaned, oil was checked along with tire pressure, as well as other aspects of the full-service treatment which went the way of the autocamps, to be discussed as well. You'll be revving to go and almost able to hear the ding when pulling into the service station and driving over the bell hose that would greet you and alert the attendant that a customer was ready for premium full-service experience.

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DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE



HISTORY LECTURE

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH 2 PM

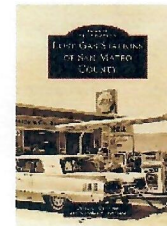
MERCED ROOM, PACELLI GYM, WESTLAKE PARK

145 LAKE MERCED BLVD., DALY CITY

BRUCE CUMMING & NICK VERONICO

PRESENT

LOST GAS STATIONS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY



REFRESHMENTS! REVELRY! RAFFLE!

FREE! EVERYONE WELCOME!

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT "DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM"

WWW.DALYCITYHISTORYMUSEUM.ORG



According to the authors: "The years following the 1906 earthquake saw a migration from the City of San Francisco to the suburbs, farms and orchards of San Mateo County. Mobility on the peninsula came in the form of streetcars and trains but was soon dominated by the automobile. Beginning in the teens and 1920s, the Peninsula was inundated with automobile service stations, or gas stations, where smartly dressed attendants practically ran to one's car to fill the tank, check oil and tire pressures, and clean the windshield. Numerous service stations were built along Mission St. to provide gasoline, repairs, and friendly service to motorists."

Authors Bruce Cumming and Nick Veronico have sought to capture the bygone era of the service station businesses on the Peninsula through a series of historic gas stations photographs stretching from Daly City to East Palo Alto and every city in between.

A GIANT thank you to all who have renewed or joined for the first time, and a final, gentle reminder to anyone who has not yet had a chance to either mail their remittance envelope or renew via the new credit card option on our website. Simply go to the **"Donate"** button on our website: <https://donorbox.org/dalycityhistoryguild-membership>, top right-hand corner, and click. It's that easy. Whatever level of membership you choose, please know that we are extremely appreciative and dearly value your continued support. You might not be aware, but the Guild does not and has never received city or other government funding. Not a single cent. [The museum is housed in the old John Daly Public Library, which is owned by the city; we're, of course, extremely grateful for this long-term use.] We are completely self-supporting and rely on the generosity of our membership and kind actions of those who support our mission to preserve, protect, and disseminate our community's shared history for today's generation and those generations to follow.

It is that time again. We hold board elections for officers and directors every two years. We have

current returning and past board folks who are all stepping up to serve. Our proposed slate is as follows:

- **Mark Weinberger, President**
- **Marcus Gonzalez, First Vice President**
- **Michael Rocchetta, Second Vice President**
- **Richard Rocchetta, Treasurer**
- **Perky Ramroth, Secretary**
- **Dave Crimmen, Director**

That leaves us with one Director opening that is going unfilled at this time. If anyone would like to fill it either at the election or at a later time, there is always room and a friendly bunch of folks eager to welcome him/her aboard the board. We would like nothing more than to expand the composition of the board in the future. The main requirement is a willingness to help staff with the museum in order to keep the doors open. We also need assistance to help us with fundraising, curating exhibits, cataloguing, filing and other endeavors. No previous experience or areas of specialty necessary; only a contagious curiosity to discover, learn and share.

I want to thank our secretary, Perky Ramroth, for organizing a future summit of the various history organizations in San Mateo County. We are planning to convene a meeting with as many similar organizations to the Guild as possible so as to strategize on best practices for recruitment, fundraising, community involvement, and other points of shared interest and concern to us all. Most if not all such groups are facing declining membership and lack of active participation, which we're trying to address to keep ours and the other organizations relevant and successful for both now and well into the future. We hope to let you know in the near term how this all went and what nuggets of wisdom might have been gleaned.

Finally, please see the article inside written by young Dashiell Dulany, one of our newest members along with his family. He and his scout troop have taken a keen interest in working to restore some weathered and worn elements of the Broderick-Terry Duel Site Park. Working under the auspices of the City of Daly City, Dashiell is leading the effort to further beautify this historic and rather out of the way space adjacent to secluded El Portal Way that many have never visited nor ever heard about. We thank Dashiell and his troop for both having an interest and then pursuing that heed and concern through actual deed. He and his troop are the future leaders who will also impart their knowledge of our local history to future generations--perhaps even leading the Guild one day. Good work, Dashiell. Keep it up!

The following is written by Dashiell Dulany, age 14, our newest and perhaps youngest Guild member.

The Broderick-Terry Duel Site is an important memorial of the last official duel in California, which took place in the areas surrounding Lake Merced in pre-incorporated Daly City, California on September 13th, 1859. David Terry, a former Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, was pro-slavery, and he shot and killed a member of the United States Senate, David Broderick, who was against slavery, in the duel.

The Broderick-Terry Duel Site marked a turning point in the movement against both slavery and dueling. Ultimately, this duel resulted in California becoming a free state and outlawing dueling. The site is part of the Broderick-Terry Duel Site Park in Daly City and offers visitors a reprieve from urban life and a place for families to walk their dogs or rest from a long jog. In 1949, a memorial plaque on a plinth was placed by the state to commemorate the last official duel of California. However, the plaque is now very rusted, and its plinth is unevenly painted due to being tagged by graffiti over the years. The grounds of the site are beautiful and serene and a gravel path connecting the two entrances to the park is well-used.

Dashiell Dulany, a Scout with Troop 333, has been working with the Daly City Parks Division to benefit the long-term safety and aesthetics of an often-used path within the Broderick-Terry Duel Site and to restore the Site's rusted memorial plaque and its plinth, which has been discolored after years of being tagged with graffiti. The project should be completed by June, if not before. So be on the lookout for the improvements and enjoy the site!

If you are interested in volunteering with Dashiell and Troop 333 on May 10th, please reach out to dashielldulany@gmail.com for further information regarding the project.



JEFFERSON HIGH GYMNASIUM OPEN HOUSE

Come and say "farewell" to the historic Jefferson gym for the last time before demolition.

Saturday, May 3rd from 10am to 1pm



Time Capsule inside cornerstone

A NEW JEFF HIGH GYMNASIUM

The historic Jefferson High School gymnasium will be torn down and a new gymnasium will be rebuilt on the site sometime after this school year. Built in 1937, the building would be too expensive to be seismically upgraded. On May 3rd the building will have a public open house to say "goodbye" for the last time. We hope to publish some photos of the event in the next Tattler.

Our archives contain a May 25, 1937, Daly City Record newspaper article on the laying of the cornerstone. It is interesting to note the items that were included in the time capsule that was sealed in the cornerstone. It is hoped that this "metal box" can be recovered and the items saved and some or all can be displayed, either at the school, district office or even the History Guild Museum. Below is an excerpt from the article:

HI (sic) CORNERSTONE LAYING DRAWS BIG ATTENDANCE

**Newspapers, List of Civic Leaders, Officials And
Programs Sealed Up**

Several hundred friends of Jefferson Union High School and many alumni members of the school attended the impressive cornerstone allaying ceremonies for the new gymnasium and swimming pool last Sunday afternoon (May 23rd).

Principal James Ferguson presided and introduced Mrs. Stella M. Jensen; clerk of the board who greeted those present on behalf of the Board of Education. Mrs. Jensen stated in part: "Our youth of today, the citizens of tomorrow, will gather within these walls and through personal contact with the splendid members of our faculty, they will receive that cultural training which will better equip them to take their places in world affairs"

Mr. A. Vereno, chairman of the board, in a few words expressed deep gratitude for the interest that the community has taken in the project.

The main speaker of the afternoon was Dr. Dexter, state superintendent of public instruction... (Dr. Dexter) made the trip to the bay area especially to be present at the cornerstone laying.

Pansy Jewett Abbott, county superintendent of schools, was present and expressed words of appreciation and gratitude to the district for the fine progress made in their program which will mean so much to this section of San Mateo County.

Mayor Selmi, Councilman J. Tweston and John Cavagarno (sic) were guests of honor, along with the architect, contractor and federal government representatives.

The actual laying of the cornerstone was done by Dr. Dexter. ***Before the stone was placed, a metal box was sealed in it which contained copies of the Daly City record; the Totem Pole, the Jefferson High School publication; a scroll containing the names of the embers of the Board of Trustees and faculty, personal cards of construction contractors and engineers, a directory of the schools of the county and the program of the present school semester*** (note: bold and italicized by the editor)

Music for the occasion was furnished by the high school band and the acapella choir under the direction of Thomas J Stevens.



Current Jeff High Gymnasium



Preliminary artist rendering of the new Jefferson High School Gymnasium

NOTABLE JEFF HIGH PROFESSIONAL ATHLETIC ALUMNI

With the construction of a new Jefferson High gymnasium, it's interesting to note some notable professional athletes who passed through the doors of the historic gym over its lifetime. If our readers have any more to add, please let us know through our website email and we'll include them in the next newsletter.

REGGIE CAMP – born 1961

Played college football for the California Golden Bears at Berkeley. Selected by the Cleveland Browns in the third round of the 1983 draft, he was a defensive end in the NFL. He also played one season for the Atlanta Falcons in 1988.

TONY COMPAGNO – born 1921

Selected by the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Football League in the 1943 draft and played three seasons with the team. He was a member of the St. Mary's Gaels (St. Mary's College) from 1939 to 1942. He died in 1971.

FRANK DUNCAN – born 1956

Played college football at San Francisco State University. Played professionally for the San Diego Chargers of the NFL and then three years for the United States Football League Oakland Invaders and New Jersey Generals.

JOHN MADDEN – born 1936

Noted NFL coach of the Oakland Raiders guiding them to a Super Bowl victory with 103 wins over his years with Oakland. He became a well-known television and radio broadcaster. He is probably the most famous of Jeff High graduates. He paid for the cost of the lights at the high school's football field. He died in 2021.

DON MOSSI – born 1921

Originally signed with the Cleveland Indians of Major League Baseball, his major league career record was 101 wins and 80 losses with the Indians, Detroit Tigers, Chicago White Sox and Kansas City Athletics. He was an All Star in 1957. He died in 2019.

EDWIN MULITALO – born 1974

Played professional football for the Baltimore Ravens (1999-2006) and the Detroit Lions (2007-2008). He earned a Super Bowl Ring with the Ravens in Super Bowl XXV in the 2000 season.

KEN REITZ – born 1951

A third baseman who played 11 seasons in Major League Baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals, San Francisco Giants, Chicago Cubs and Pittsburgh Pirates. He won the Gold Glove award in 1975 and was an Allstar in 1980. His lifetime batting average is .260. He died in 2021.

APPLICATION TO JOIN

*** NEW MEMBERS ONLY ***

THE DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

All joining members will receive 4 editions of our Tattler newsletter of local history

Dalycityhistorymuseum.org

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

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ADDRESS: _____ **Zip:** _____

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Make checks payable to: Daly City History Guild

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

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Or go to www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org

6351 Mission Street

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Daly City, CA 94014-2012



**DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM
& ARCHIVE**

6351 Mission Street Daly City, CA 94014-2012

(650) 757-7177

OPEN SATURDAYS NOON - 3 PM.

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

www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

ONE VACANCY ON GUILD BOARD

We have one vacancy on the board at this time.
The position of Director. If you have an interest in
this 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, Treasurer (Raffle), *Tattler*
editor

**Marcus Gonzalez, 1st Vice-President/Museum
Director**, (programs)

Secretary, Perky Ramroth

Michael Rocchetta, 2nd Vice-President (database,
mailing labels, *Tattler* set-up, coeditor)

Director – vacant

Director – vacant

Ken Gillespie (1924-2011) President Emeritus

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.