

The Novato Historian

The Quarterly Publication of the Novato Historical Guild, the Novato History Museum, and the Hamilton Field History Museum

Preserving Novato's History News Section

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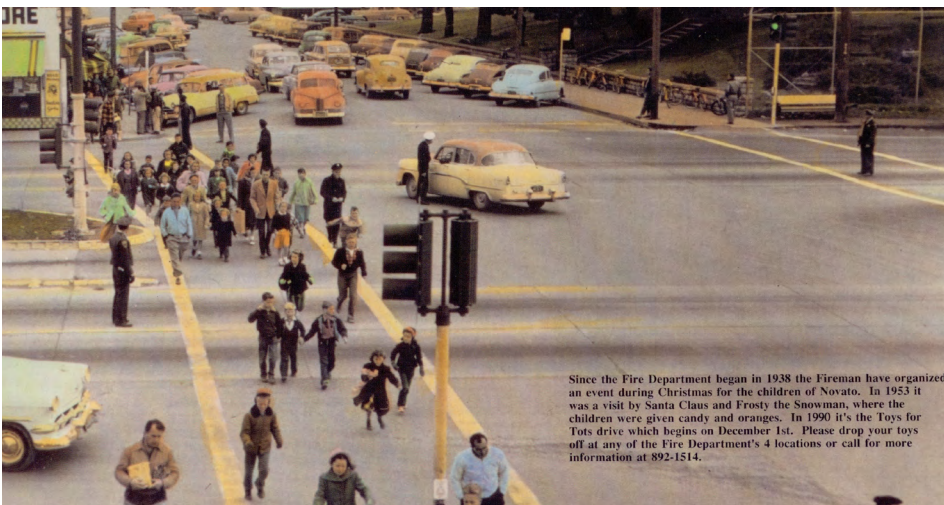
October - December 2014

The Novato Historian

Volume 38, Number 4

Memories of Christmas Past

(Written by E. Marie Davalor, executive manager of the Novato Chamber of Commerce. Published Wednesday, Nov. 21, 1984 Independent Journal)



Since the Fire Department began in 1938 the Fireman have organized an event during Christmas for the children of Novato. In 1953 it was a visit by Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman, where the children were given candy and oranges. In 1990 it's the Toys for Tots drive which begins on December 1st. Please drop your toys off at any of the Fire Department's 4 locations or call for more information at 892-1514.

Novato youth leaving movie theater on Grant Avenue on Saturday morning and walking to the downtown firehouse on Redwood Avenue for Christmas holiday treats. Novato, 1953

"Who are you and what are you?" asked Scrooge. "I am the Ghost of Christmas past ... Rise! and walk with me!"

Walking in Novato during the holidays in the 1920s, we would have witnessed high school students waiting at the train depot to catch the 7:35a.m. train for San Rafael High School. They would return to Novato each day on the 5:15.

Judge Rudolff's cheese factory was located across the street from the railroad depot, and he would be packaging his cheese in wooden boxes to sell for the holidays.

According to Tom Keena, the bigger boys were sent by Lulu Sutton, principal of the Novato Grammar School, located where McDonald's is today, up into the hills to cut a redwood or evergreen tree for the schoolchildren to decorate. Decorations consisted primarily of paper chains.

Al Cain and his brother; Albert, would ask Dan Wise Sr., to climb the stately pine tree in the corner of the schoolyard and string

it with electric lights. The Cain Brothers founded the Novato Utilities Co. in 1916 and passed out ink blotters which stated, "yours for service."

The farming community of Novato could call H. Pini and Co. at Main 182 and order supplies for their holiday tables. Novato rivaled Petaluma in chicken farms and produced turkeys and chickens for many tables around the Bay Area. The Pini Company would also have an "open house" and give candy to the children while the adults looked forward to a "powerful punch" each year, according to Keena.

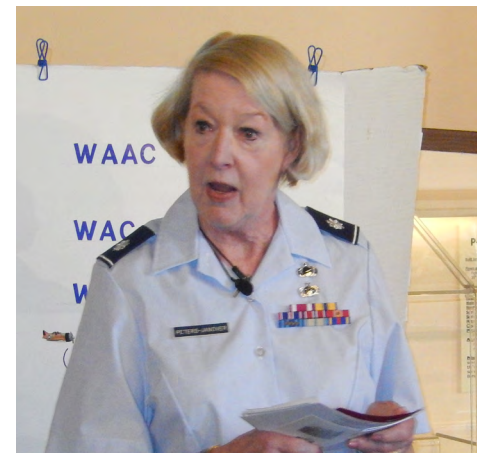
Residents of Novato would attend Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church located on South Novato Boulevard until it burned down in 1937, or the Presbyterian Church of Novato which houses the Novato City Hall today.

The Novato Chamber of Commerce, formed in 1916, advertised Novato as "The Valley the of No Regrets" and

one could dial the chamber at 71-M. The chamber worked closely with Farm Bureau and would bring farm advisers from the University of California-Berkeley campus to demonstrate to the farmers how to prune the acres of fruit trees that were abundant in this "valley of no regrets."

There was intense community spirit, as witnessed by the building of the Community House in 1923. Residents collected \$10,000 to \$12,000 and also donated labor to build it. Today, many residents and buildings of years ago still play an active role in Novato. Sam Marzell can still recite poetry he learned while plowing the field at St. Vincent's Orphanage behind a team of horses. Marzell, orphaned in 1905 while living at the McClure Ranch near Tomales, played Santa to Novato's youngsters for many years. He recalls passing out oranges to hundreds of children at the fire station on the Saturday before the holidays. The fire house would be decorated with a sleigh on top, which was built by the fire chief, as well as evergreen boughs.

The Novato Community House still echoes with holiday events, as do many of the buildings in Old Town Novato.



*Guest speaker Nancy Peters-Janover gave a presentation on **Women in the Air Force** at the Guild's Fall General meeting.*

The Novato Historian

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Guild Mission Statement

Our Mission is to collect, preserve, and make reasonably available to the public, exhibits and information related to the historical and social development of the Novato valley, Hamilton Field, and the adjacent North Marin area.

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Original articles and photographs related to Novato history are welcomed!

Deadline for the March issue is Feb. 1st

Address Changes

The Novato Historian is mailed by bulk mail and will not be forwarded by the Postal Service. Please notify us promptly of your address change at Novato Historical Guild, P.O. Box 1296, Novato, CA 94948.



President's Corner

Tom Keena

President, Novato Historical Guild

Where did 2014 go? I can't believe it's almost Christmas again. Actually, the past two years have really flown by. Thank you for letting me be your Guild President. I must admit moving forward without a curator was difficult. However, your fellow Guild members have done a remarkable job. Ray Dwelly continues to run and improve the Hamilton museum. He has a wonderful group of dedicated docents. Downtown, Susan Magnone has assembled a similar dedicated group. Together with her faithful docents, the exhibit committee, and 3rd grade tour program, she has completely transformed the Downtown museum.

I'm not sure how many of you notice the wide variety of items that our museums' Gift Centers offer. With Christmas approaching it might be wise to pick up a few early presents. You know, it's amazing how as merchandise is sold, more items just seem to appear. Not really, we actually have a volunteer who spends a number of hours each month placing orders for new merchandise and inventorying both museums. This is a thankless job that she has done for a long time. Next time you see that great display at our museums, think of her. I can't tell you her name but her initials are: Pat Johnstone! Thank you Pat.

Speaking of Exhibit Committees, our downtown Museum has a very active Exhibit Committee led by Edna Manzoni. Check out the new exhibit showcasing the history of baseball in Novato. There's several beautiful displays. The Exhibit committee has really worked to hard to present a memorable display. Edna, along with Roland Fuette, Dee and Ron Vela have hit this one 'out-of-the-park'.

Also, I want to point out our 3rd grade docents gave 32 tours this past year. Some of which are schools from other Districts. Cindy Motsinger certainly has a very dedicated group. Please contact Cindy if you'd like to be involved.

Want to be a docent? There's a great picture at our Downtown museum of Anna Morrison and Chase Caligiuri. They're two all-star docents. Being a docent is an excellent way of spending four hours/month learning about the history of Novato. Please come by either museum and talk to the docents. You

may find it a perfect fit for your spare time. Remember, as a member you can attend our Guild Board meetings. We hold them at the Druids Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM.

Downtown, Bill McDill and Bill Damon are sorting through the stacks of historic maps. They've consulted with other facilities on how to catalog and display the old treasures. Hopefully, their work will assist the Exhibit Committee in future exhibits.

Hamilton has installed a new patio, just outside the lower display room. Ray has been working with the local Rotary who installed the donated pavers. In addition, Ray is constantly upgrading exhibits. He keeps the Hamilton museum running like a Swiss watch.

Downtown, museum manager, Susan Magnone, is working with a professional web designer to create a Guild website. Check out the website: www.novatohistory.org. Susan is also working to upgrade the computers and software.

Finally, Dad would always talk about old times in Novato. He told me there were about twenty telephones on the switchboard when he came to Novato (1917). One day I asked him how he felt about all the growth Novato had experienced. He didn't mind it at all. Dad felt the population increase had brought many nice families to the area. It's important our Guild view our community in the same manner. Talk to your friends and neighbors and ask them to visit the museums or attend a General Meeting. It's imperative we involve our new Novatans in the Guild. This blend of old timers and new timers will strengthen the Guild and carry it through for many more years.



BBQ at September General Meeting



Novato-50 Years Ago

(October, November and December 1964)

by Bill Almeida and Tonie Brown

“Novato 50 Years Ago” is a collection of items culled by Bill Almeida from the October, November and December issues of the Novato Advance newspapers in the collection of the Novato History Museum and the Novato Advance. Tonie Brown retypes the articles for the newsletter. Enjoy reading the names and happenings of 1964.

- A panel of four speakers met at the Novato High School cafeteria on October 15 to discuss unification of the Novato Unified and San Jose elementary school districts. The unification was to appear on the November 3 ballot.
- A 15-acre school site was leased from the Air Force for \$1 a year by the San Jose Elementary School District. The land was located southeast of the Capehart military housing tract. A permanent neighborhood school was to be built to serve Hamilton Air Force Base.
- The Fabian Bobo family captured a goodly share of awards presented at the Grand National Quarter Horse Show at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. Kirby and Lynette were trophy winners.
- Mrs. Alta Johnson of Novato was selected “Leader of the Year” by the Hi 4-H Club. Mrs. Johnson, very active in 4-H club work for the past 17 years, was awarded a silver trophy.
- The Novato Teachers’ Association president, John Weston, presented a check to Chamber of Commerce president Rich Nave for dues for one year. The organization representing some 170 teachers in the Novato Unified School District, was the largest local organization to join the Chamber.
- Chapel of Marin Funeral Home held an open house at 1801 Novato Blvd., across from Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church, on Oct. 30-31 and Nov. 1. Norwood Arnold was Funeral Director and President and Lauren Elkin was vice president. The chapel seated about 200 people.
- Unification of the Novato and San Jose School Districts passed by an overwhelming majority of both districts in the election held November 3. The vote was 5328 for unification and 1538 against. It was the fourth time the issue had been presented to voters here.
- The city of Novato failed to be considered among the 22 finalists in the 1964 All-America Cities Competition, Chairman James F. McConnell learned by letter in early November. The letter to McConnell was from William J.D. Boyd, senior associate with the National Municipal League which with Look magazine sponsors the All-America City Award competition.
- Alton Lerch was elected president of the Marin County Historical Society for the third time on October 23. He was not present at the meeting and had intended to retire as president after two consecutive terms.
- The Novato school board authorized its chairman, William Kirk, to sign agreements totaling \$646,765 for the purchase of two new local school sites. To be purchased by the district are a junior high school site at the junior high school site at Vineyard Road and Wilson Avenue and a high school site at San Marin Drive and Novato Blvd. in the San Marin subdivision. The junior high site covered 25 acres and cost \$201,550, purchased from Mrs. Luz Pino. The high school site consisted of 40.12 acres for \$445,215 from Sunset International Petroleum corporation.
- The Burdell Ranch was sold for over \$1,000,000 by University of San Francisco in November. Purchasers were a group of investors from San Francisco and Marin County. The ranch site was part of Rancho Olompali, which was a Mexican land grant to the Olompalis. The new owners plan to preserve the historical Burdell mansion.
- Louis (Louie) Bugeia, 86, longtime resident of Novato, died November 9 in a Petaluma hospital after a long illness. Mr. Bugeia never married and devoted his life to raising horses on his 500 acre ranch here. One of his most famous thoroughbreds was the race horse, Kenilworth. *Note: The Bugeia ranch was located at Valley Memorial Cemetery on Bugeia Lane.*
- Chief of Police Robert di Grazia announced the city police station would be open 24-hours-a-day starting November 29. This was made possible by the hiring of three part-time police cadets, all of them university students majoring in law enforcement. They manned the police station while regular officers continued their routing all-night patrols of the city.
- James G. Bunker, named superintendent of the new Novato Unified School District on December 7, planned to meet with Ralph Giovanniello, his deputy, to discuss personnel assignments.
- Mel Morse, executive director of the Humane Society of Marin County, spoke of the dire need for increased housing and educational facilities when he appeared before a group of almost a hundred people on December 4. Morse hoped to receive enough donations to erect a \$250,000 plant on seven acres in Ignacio east of Hwy. 101. Included in the audience were Mayor Robert Carrow, Supervisor William Gness and Richard Nave, Novato Chamber of Commerce president.
- The Novato Chamber of Commerce was in negotiations with Harry Locke for

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Novato Historical Guild Board Highlights

by Kathryn Hansen

September 2014

New Business

- Key Policy – Tom - a sample policy was distributed that would require a signature from anyone who has a key to the museums.
- Credit Card Terminal – the US is converting to credit cards with micro chips. This will require new credit card machines. The deadline is October 2015. Further information will be coming.
- Brass Plaque – John – Susan Trumbull suggested putting a plaque on the cabinets Phil Goebel made. One at the Downtown Museum and one at the Hamilton Museum. He also made the table upstairs and many other things at each museum. A motion was made by Roland, second – Ray, all agreed, the motion passed.

City Report – the cost to set up internet at the Downtown Museum is \$12K. Hamilton Pool has a MIFI that is a portable receptor for internet and it works. Jeff Carroll, IT with the City, will test the MIFI to see if it works at the Downtown Museum. If so then a MIFI for the Downtown Museum can be purchased. Secondly,

Samantha Kimpel has resigned due to an opportunity at the family business. She will still be available on a consulting basis.

Treasurer’s Report –
Year to Date 9/30/14 - (9 months)
Income \$24,741.01
Unrealized Gain on Investments \$10,611.87
Expenses \$21,368.22
Net Income \$13,984.66

October 2014

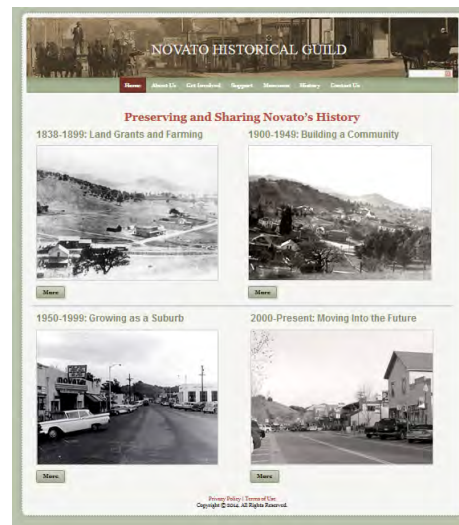
New Business

- Criteria for accepting donated items is “The items must have something to with Novato”.
- Edna reported on the new display, “100 Years of Baseball in Novato.” The display has a lot of new items “thanks to several generous donors”. The exhibit will debut Nov. 1, 2014. The guest speakers will speak on their experiences playing baseball in Novato.
- Edna asked if anyone had old toys that the exhibit committee could use in a future display.

City Report – no report

Treasurer’s Report

Year to Date 10/31/14 - (10 months)
Income \$24,844.42
Unrealized Gain on Investments \$10,611.87
Expenses \$23,313.44
Net Income \$12,192.85



New Website


The Novato Historical Guild now has a website. You can get information about the museums and read about Novato’s history at <http://www.novatohistory.org>

In Memoriam

Ralph Feyh

The Guild Extends Sympathy to
Lawrence Feyh on the death of his father, Ralph Feyh

Jeff and Shirley Graves on the death of their son, Gordon Ness



MEMORIAL PLAQUE GIFTS
You may honor a friend or loved one by having his or her name engraved on an individual brass plate on the Memorial Plaque in the History Museum. Please call the Museum at 897-4320. All con-tributions are tax deductible. Plaques cost \$250 per person named.

MEMORIAL GIFTS
You may make a gift of appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) to the Novato Historical Guild. Your gift is not only tax-deductible, but if you have held the shares for more than one year, your tax deduction will equal the full value of the securities on the date of the gift.

Congratulations

**Happy 50th Anniversary
Ron and Dee
Vela**

Novato Memories

by Jim McNern



Anna Young

Anna Young was in the last class (1958) of Novato students to graduate from San Rafael High School. She worked with Peg Coady on the committee that founded the Novato Historical Guild and established the Novato History Museum. Anna has been a very successful Novato real estate investor and businesswoman. She shares her Novato memories in this December issue of the Novato Historian.

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

I was born in San Francisco at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1941. I was named Souya Litza Tzene Elsa Britta Linnea Anna Young. Both parents were from Sweden.

PARENTS

My father, Albert Wilhelm Ljung (Young), was from BJORBO, Dalarna; which is in the north of Sweden. My mother, Linnea Hedwig Olson, was from Udavella, which is in the south of Sweden. Both father and mother came to America in the 1920's, on different ships and a few years apart. My father on a tramp steamer; bottom class, and my mother first class with a large trunk for clothes. My parents emigrated from Sweden through Ellis Island, where my father changed his last name from Ljung to Young. Now he was a true American. The Swedish people had a cultural community all over the United States. My father and mother held onto their cultural heritage and attended many Swedish folk events, one at which they met.

MY CHILDREN

I have three daughters. Their names are Britta, Sig-Britt, and Deann, and one son, Erik. I have three grandchildren: Christian, Daniel and Max.

EXTENDED FAMILY

There are three girls in our family. I am the oldest, and then there is Jone Bondoc, and Cathrin Van den Toorn. We all

attended Fairmont Grammar School in the Mission District of San Francisco before moving to Novato in 1954. My father had planned this move in 1937, because he knew that the Golden Gate Bridge would open up to Marin County and to his renewed life as a farmer. In 1939, he bought our present home and property on Canyon Road, where my sisters and grandchildren still reside.

WHAT WAS YOUR NEW HOME LIKE?

Novato in the 1950's was a culture shock from San Francisco. My father was long into organic food; long before the word "organic" was used.

It was so organic that the milk from our cows was filtered through cheese cloth to keep the flies out, the only thing separating the milk from the flies and other vermin. Needless to say, even our country friends were not interested in imbibing in our milk. My father loved farming more than life itself, while my mother was in San Francisco running our family bar on the waterfront. Other than a successful egg business, we had quite an assortment of animals: pigs, sheep, cattle, guinea hens, ducks, geese and a man-made lake for fishing.

The lake is stocked with black bass and bluegill and French Bull Frogs. They are all still in the lake today. (Years ago there were poachers who would go out at night with flashlights, kill the frogs and sell them.) When we saw them, we would tell them to "Watch out for the alligators!" "We had a great childhood; often observing a variety of wild animals on the ranch. There were and still are: bobcats, mountain lions, deer, jackrabbits, coyotes, foxes, skunks, (and in the last twenty years) possums.

As kids, we were active in 4-H and the Novato Junior Horsemen. The horses became a big part of our lives and carried on into the future lives for all three families on the street.

EXTENDED FARM LIFE

Our cousin, Sven Olson, and his wife, Ruth, and son, Karl-Erik, came in the 1940's from Sweden to help work on the farm. They had a second son, Kenneth Olson, who was born in this country. Like most Swedes, they were proud to be Americans. Karl-Erik attended San Rafael High School, and was drafted into the Korean War. Karl-Erik especially was quickly absorbed in Novato; he married Joan Smith from a well established Novato family. The Smith family had the gas station downtown called Smith and Sjoblom. We were still living in San Francisco and coming to Novato on weekends.

NOT REALLY A FARMER

My father was always making improvements - streamlining his business and work. He said, "I don't want to be another guy's janitor." As an example, he elevated the chicken coops so that the middle was a walkway, and the manure dropped below and the eggs rolled out. This lasted several months, and then a big wind came. Then the birds truly "FLEW THE COOP!" He built v-ditches to all plants, so the water would flow without having to water individually.

To kill the bugs in the trees, he would wrap a long pole with rags and saturate them with kerosene and then light the end to incinerate the caterpillars. Now we spray. My father was always an independent thinker. The swimming pool had blue stone, instead of chlorine. This blue color made it deep blue, like the ocean. The smoke house was where he hid his liquor from my mother. We always had a lot of beef jerky. He would fish almost every day for food with Joe McNern, our neighbor.

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Novato Memories

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There were fish tails, fish heads, etc. for stew. He would fill cans and put the legs of the table in the well house in the water to drown the ants trying to get his butter. To solve the bee problem, he'd take a bucket, fill it with sudsy water, put a string across, and a piece of rotten meat in the middle. The bees would dive in and drown.

THE ORR RANCH

My parents bought the 20 acre Orr Ranch from George and Hazel Orr in the mid 1950's. The Orrs had two children: Cliff and Virginia. They raised registered Guernsey cattle and showed them at fairs throughout northern California. Their herd prefix was Indian Valley Guernseys. George Orr worked for the telephone company in San Francisco, and he commuted to the city each day by Greyhound bus. Cliff Orr built a milk barn on the Kreloff property off Tamalpais Avenue. George was the livestock leader for the Novato Aggies 4-H Club. The purchase of the Orr Ranch increased our ranch size by many acres. (My parents had already bought the Frenchman's house on Canyon Road.)

NEIGHBORS

On the hill on Ridge Road lived Mrs. Sawyer. Ridge Road was entirely graveled with views of Indian Valley at the top. There were lots of summer homes. Mrs. Sawyer's husband was a state legislator. She would let her dogs out of the car at the end of Canyon Road and they would follow the car to the top of Ridge Road. The dogs would chase anything in their way. Everything was fair game, including horses, and they would bite them in the haunches. Bernard Keena worked for the post office in San Francisco close to my parents bar on the Embarcadero.

His sister was Mrs. Margaret McNern, and we were her son's friends. My sisters were in 4-H with Jim. The Kingsleys were on the hill and also in 4-H. The Kreloff's had two German shepherds that patrolled the fence line. We would sneak to see the little cabin at the end of the lake; these were interesting people. The Kreloffs had emigrated from Russia after the Russian Revolution. They had one of the first truck farms in Novato. Their son, Richard, became a close friend. He had an auto shop, flew planes, and we taught him to ski.

Middlefield Farm was owned first by the

Fraser family from Canada. They sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray. He owned the large Payless Drug Store in San Rafael and she owned Modern Eve, an exclusive womens' wear shop in San Rafael. The Gray's cook was a former White House Chef in Washington, D.C. and would fix whatever you wanted. Their daughter, Ronie, was a riding companion. Middlefield Farm was sold by the Grays to the Haas family, owners of Levi Strauss and Co., who still own the property today.

HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

I attended San Rafael High School, and my sisters went to Novato High School. I skipped half a grade in San Francisco and that is why I ended up in San Rafael. We were the last class of students from Novato to graduate from San Rafael High School. Having friends from the San Rafael area was great. In my freshman year, I traveled to school by bus. The bus traveled around west Novato before going up Wilson Avenue and around Indian Valley before it came to our pick up spot on Hill Road. It seems like it took for hours. Our bus driver was Louis Milani. It was probably one and a half hours from San Rafael to home.

There were two buses to S.R.H.S. from Novato. Julie Berkov lived over the hill from us and sometimes I would get off the bus and walk over the hill through Middlefield Farm to Canyon Road. Mike Watters, the handsome football player, lived on Gage Lane and some of the kids would go over there for fun after school. Linda Nagel lived on Indian Valley Road and was a good friend.

There were many students who would go to the ice cream shop that was next to the present day theater after school. There was lots of noise and teasing on the bus. I was so glad that Vern Dwelly, an older student, offered me rides and we shared gas. When I was 16, my father bought me a 1956 Ford four door sedan. I then started to drive and picked up students in Novato and Hamilton Field.

One of my best friends today is Penny Berg, who would also drive. We would change cars at Hamilton. I graduated from San Rafael High School in 1958 and then went to San Francisco State. I stayed with my old San Francisco friend, Laurie Crafts. We then transferred to San Jose

State. I stuck by my old girlfriends from San Francisco, and many of them would spend the summer on the farm.

GETTING OFF THE FARM

My father and mother purchased the Bill Johnson Garage, which is now the Viking Bar in the 1940's. One of the building's tenants was Mr. Thorsson. The present day Chianti was also purchased in the 40's, and was a very popular truck stop. Over the years it has been known as Novato Inn, Novato Truck Stop, Tommy's Joint, Octopus, Italian Village, Capras, and now Chianti Cucina. In the summer, as teenagers, we had to open the restaurant at 5:00 a.m. to serve the patrons. Our closing time was 10:00 p.m.

THE HILL TOP

The Hill Top property was purchased as Maison Marin. My first impression of the Hill Top was that it was very high end. There were pink leather chairs from Yugoslavia with horse hair stuffing, recessed lighting and ice sculptures; there were rooms with large doors and even a piano room. It had three marble fireplaces and a smoking room with beautiful wood work. The molding was victorian, the coat closet had broadcasting equipment for the Sunday radio program at Maison Marin called "What's New in Marin?"

The reason that Maison Marin was sold was because Rene Nusele's wife was ill. My father found out about this new listing at a Novato watering hold called "Karl's Club," now Finnegans. He said "You make the best deals in bars." He met a realtor there named Fern Mongovan. The cocktail waitress at Maison Marin carried a cigarette tray and there were numbered coat hangers. The bar at the Hill Top was moved in 1955, and the small rooms were included into the dining area. There still remains a three room apartment below and five single rooms where the employees stayed. In the area of the five rooms there were mens' and womens' bathrooms and both had showers.

Outside, there were beautiful small orange trees that lined the building and walkways.

The Carriage House was to the side. This was torn down by my husband, Gary Flynn, who was our tenant when he opened

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Novato Memories

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the second Hill Top Restaurant. My family had the first Hill Top Restaurant, which I operated and paid rent to my parents. Gary Flynn also owned the McDonalds in Novato and then expanded to San Rafael and Petaluma. We have a son, Erik Flynn.

The Hill Top has always been a popular place for Novatans. What happened was that the tenant in what is now Chianti's helped my father take back the restaurant from Inge Lindholm, who had been renting after the purchase in 1954. She had been running the restaurant as "Little Sweden." She had a restaurant in San Francisco and moved to Novato with her two children.

I named it the Hill Top in the early 1960's. The reason for the name "Hill Top" was that it described a hill and something on a hill, so it was "The Hill Top Restaurant." My two sisters and I now own the building and surrounding property. My father also built the present VFW building on Sweetser Avenue.

MUSEUM

I was running the restaurant and Peg Coady and her husband were good customers and she knew that my family was so much a part of the history of Novato. Will Lieb was a very good family friend from an old established Novato family. We talked many times about preserving the history of the wonderful town we loved so much.

We formed a committee consisting of the first Board of Directors: Arnold Heise, Chairman; Elsie Andersen, Anna

Flynn(Young), Lynn Hilton, Eleonara Lafranchi, Wilfred Lieb, and Maureen Yavorsky. We needed the Parks and Recreation Department to support us with the building accession and funding. We got bylaws from other cities in order to write CC&R's and our own bylaws. We had so many meetings to just figure out how to do this in order to fit with the City of Novato. We would meet in the ice cream shop and at people's homes. It was a very long process. The approval and acceptance of the City was such an honor for all of our hard work.

HI FI

The Hi Fi in Novato was a very popular local teenage hangout owned by the Hoekman family. It was frequented by Novato Roadsters. The boys drove raked cars, had slicked back hair, and wore Levis that you would never dare wash and white tee shirts rolled at the sleeves to hold your pack of cigarettes. Hamburgers sold for 19 cents! The kids who hung out at the Hi Fi were mostly older boys and girls. It was not so much for families. Another place that young men liked to hang out was the gas station on the corner of the then 101 Highway and Grant Avenue.

BURGE'S DRIVE IN

Burge's Drive-in was in Ignacio. It was popular with the airmen from Hamilton Air Force Base. The boys from Novato loved to pick on them.

Sometimes there were fights. It was nice to be able to drive your car up. A cute waitress would put a tray on the side of the

car. You needed to roll your window up a bit, and she even roller skated at one point to take your order and serve you. French fries with catsup and a coke were the popular items.

KING COTTON

The King Cotton, in San Rafael, on the frontage road off the 101 Highway was another popular gathering place for young people in southern Marin. There were also confrontations with the "fly boys" from Hamilton and with students from different Marin high schools.

NOVATO THEATER

The theater was owned by Don Donahue. His father had been the Marin County Tax Collector. There was a strict 'No Gum Chewing' policy. It was the 'Go To Place' for Novato children, teenagers and families. The theater was the only activity in town, except for the tennis courts next to the Community House. There was a mud swimming hole off Atherton Avenue. There was not much happening in Novato. You had to go to Petaluma or San Rafael. The young couples courting were always holding hands. THEN, there was that handsome boy, Dietrich Stroeh, who loved to watch the girls. He went on to be one of the most successful young men in Novato.

WESTERN WEEKEND AND PARADE

Everyone looked forward to this. It was the family event of the year. The rodeo even had Brahma bulls and cowboys to ride them. The parade down Grant Avenue

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Novato Memories

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was for everyone. The horse riders had so much silver on their saddles that the horses could hardly move and they just danced in circles. THEN: The Gypsy Jokers came to town to disrupt things. They showed up for several years-but then things got so out of control, that this event had to cease.

SHOPPING

Food Fair, the first super market, was on Front Street. In fact, the strip that is there today, was the market. Mr. Bill Jonas, the owner, was a wonderful man and he left money in his estate for the Rotary to construct a building. Ascherman's Market was where the end of the old Pini Hardware building is. They delivered to your car and home. There were a few clothing stores on Grant Avenue where there was a limited selection of clothing. You could not buy a sheet or linens in town. The big yearly fall event were the showing of the new cars at Andersen Chevrolet; everyone went to gape. This was the time when people bought a new car every two years.

CLASSMATES AND FRIENDS IN NOVATO

Some of my classmates and other friends in Novato were: Barbara Hooks, Claire Byers, Dolores Cardoza, Donna Blackwell, Bobby Buckwalter, Clara Correia, Pat Slade, Linda Wells, Shirley Whitson, Judy Guinnane, Sherry Strombeck, John Catallo, Barbara Bruff, Susan Olson, Carelle Wheeler, John Gustafson, Richard Zunino, Bill Gness, Jean Thorman, Charles Thorman, Henrietta Catallo, Maureen Corr, Betty Haymart, Jack Slade, Joan Smith, Sharon Smith, Rosalie Skinner, Dietrich Stroeh, Joyce Overly, Anita Johnson, Julie Berkov and Mike Watters.

OLD NOVATO FAMILIES

Some of the old Novato families that I knew growing up in town were the following families with the last names: Baccaglio, Manzoni, Lieb, Knutte, Mangovan, Smith, Olson, Eide, Stroeh, Mattos, Kingsley, Tresch, Borloz, Weseman, McNern, Keena, Paladini,

Melson, Burgi, Gray, Young, Haas, Orr, Driscoll, Roach, Pronzini, Silva, and Bobo.

SENIOR CELEBRATION AT RANCH

We took our partying seriously and were often entertained by JOHNNY ALLAIR and THE PETE LIND BAND - who like Mick Jagger - are still rock and rolling today and carrying on our tradition. One memorable evening, the Senior Class of San Rafael High School, plus a few other drifters were still partying at my house, when the sheriff's patrol interrupted our festivities. The band quickly started playing the theme from "Dragnet." The teenagers were escorted in their cars, single file, followed by the sheriff's cars down the 101 to San Rafael. Parents were called and had to pick up their teenagers at the Marin County Sheriff's office.

When my father was interviewed by the newspaper about the event, he covered for us as usual. He said his occupation was a fisherman, and that he was out fishing.

The rodeo was first class. Dad would take us out to the Novato Horseman's arena on Bugeia Lane. It was a big-time event with professional caliber bull riders, team ropers, and bronco riders. Naturally, we kids all loved to watch the bull riding because the rodeo clowns would really work the crowd.

Western Weekend came to an abrupt end in June of 1975. The town was invaded by a group of motorcycle thugs known as the Gypsy Jokers. They took over several local bars and began to make a real nuisance of themselves. Two of the bikers were driving a small convertible hot rod. They lost control on Atherton near Hwy 37 and were DOA at the Novato Hospital. A host of young local boys gave the bikers a Novato welcome and sent them on their way. Unfortunately, that was the end of Western Weekend.

BIGGEST CHANGES IN NOVATO

Positive: Highway 101 now bypasses downtown. We have a much better library. There is much more open space land.
Negative: The loss of downtown parking. There is still not enough activity for our youth. We have lost many of our 4-H Clubs of the past.

NOVATO'S TREASURES Carlile Hardware Building



1910

815-817 Grant Avenue

This building was built in 1910 to expand the hardware business Charles Edgar Carlile originally started in the Flatiron Building. Known as the Carlile Hardware Store, the business was known for the range of items that were considered "hard to find," including fender replacements for a Model-T, and fine china and crystal that his wife sold in the gift department.



2014

Carlile owned and operated it at this location until just before his death in July 1961. The site has been home to many businesses, including the Solarium, Mili, Country Cupboard, and Catherine's.

The original high sidewalks are still here, although they have been filled in with cement.

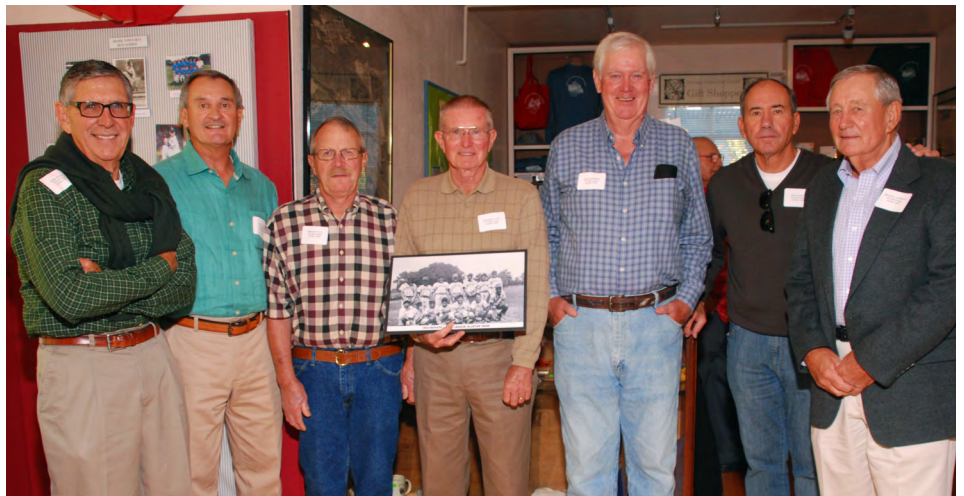
A Field of Dreams in the Valley of No Regrets

Over the summer months the exhibit committee has been very busy and challenged with a new exhibit for the downtown museum. While we explored many topics we settled on baseball and titled it "A FIELD OF DREAMS IN THE VALLEY OF NO REGRETS". Baseball has been played through out our history in every city and town across this great country of ours and Novato was no exception our records show the game being played here since the early 1900's.



1953 NOVATO LITTLE LEAGUE ALLSTAR TEAM

Can you imagine what Novato was like 100 years ago when baseball was the summer activity on Sunday afternoons? By 1914 Henry Ford's "Tin Lizzie" was making it easier to play teams from the surrounding communities, Pt. Reyes, Nicasio, Mill Valley, San Rafael and even teams from San Francisco. The Novato team faced players like Lefty Gomez and Joe DiMaggio on the diamond.



Novato Little League All Star team in 1953 and seven members today

More recently the kids have taken over the baseball fields starting in 1953 when Little League was introduced to Novato. It wasn't until 1974 that girls were accepted on the previously all boy teams. Other Leagues were formed Babe Ruth League,



Baltimore Orioles pitcher Bud Norris and his family visit Novato History Museum's new Baseball Exhibit

American Legion, the Knicks, a semi-pro team we have tried to capture these in our new exhibit.

On Saturday, November 1st, our new exhibit opened with the approval of those who came. Our special guests were the men who played on the first ever Novato Little League All Star team in 1953. Of the fourteen players on the team, seven came and enjoyed an afternoon of renewing old friendships of more than 50 years ago.

Our very special guest was our own home town boy - Bud Norris. Our exhibit covers Bud from T-ball through this season as pitcher for the Baltimore Orioles.

Our exhibit runs through June 2015 don't miss it.

50 Years Ago

Continued from Page N-3

space on the second floor of the Harry Locke building at 857 Sweetser Avenue. Locke offered the Chamber 1075 square feet of space on a 5-year lease at \$175 a month. The present location for the Chamber was the patio in the 800 block of Grant Avenue.

- The Novato Little League board of directors' elected former Mayor Babe Silva an honorary life-time member of the board, marking the first time in local Little League history that the honor has been awarded. The honor was made for "his untiring service to the league" since its beginning here.

- Funeral services were held for Charles H. (Curly) McIntosh, 91, who passed away December 9 in a local hospital. A resident of Novato since 1920, Mr. McIntosh was born in Ontario, Canada in 1872. He worked as foreman of the Marin County road crew for many years, retiring when he was 70 years old.

- Captain James (Jack) Kidder was promoted to the position of assistant chief

with the Novato fire department, effective January 1. Kidder joined the department in July, 1954. Lt. Alvin Butti was promoted to Captain to fill the captaincy left vacant by Kidder. Butti's promotion also took effect Jan 1.

- Postmaster Harry Overly told the Advance that "Novato has not had a rural delivery address since 1954, but the post office receives a goodly number of letters and cards each Christmas addressed to rural routes." His clerks manage to locate the addresses and send the mail to them. A total of 500 this year.

- The Novato Chamber of Commerce gained 103 new members in 1964 bringing total membership to 229, an astounding performance.

- Novato's closed Chevrolet agency was scheduled to open in early January under the ownership of Ted Schuman of Menlo Park. He purchased the building and existing facilities of the now defunct Andersen Chevrolet from Mrs. Gordon Andersen .Schuman also bought 10 acres owned by

Mrs. Andersen on the west side of Highway 101 across from Lamont Avenue. Schuman also planned to build a new and larger building for his Chevrolet business.

- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wright, of Vineyard Road, sold their hardware store on Grant Avenue to Harold Johnstone of San Francisco. Johnstone formally took over Wright Hardware on January 4. He had been in the hardware business in Modesto.

- Masonic last rites were conducted in Redwood Chapel Funeral Home on December 28 for Herbert E. Enyeart, 75, a former Novato resident who died of a heart attack in Marshall. Mr. Enyeart moved to Novato in 1919. He started Enyeart's Mobil Service Station on Highway 101 at Olive Avenue. Mr. Enyeart also served on the Novato Sanitary District board from September, 1944 until 1952, serving as secretary during part of that time.

- A Northwestern Pacific Railroad spokesman said that a box-car passing improperly through a switch probably caused the derailment of two freight cars on December 22 alongside Highway 101 south of Highway 37. The first of two box cars jumped the tracks in front of the Frosty Acres refrigeration plant and dragged a second car off the tracks. A giant crane righted both cars. Both sustained minor damage according to Northwestern Pacific.

Welcome New Guild Members Novato Historical Guild Membership Report—Dec. 2014

Individual Memberships:

Judi Brady
James E. Galbraith
Eleanor Renati
Phyllis Mizell
Elizabeth Pedrick

Student Memberships:

No new members at this time

Family Memberships:

Jeane Rodgers & Matt Greving

Life Memberships:

Bette and Milton Holloway

Patron Memberships:

No new members at this time

*If you have questions about membership, call Edna Manzoni,
Membership Chairman, 415-892-9603.*

A gift membership always meets the need for that person who has everything.

Please support our Guild Business-Members:

Acme Digital and Screen Graphics
Andrew McAgnon Landscaping
Bank of Marin
Burrous Bros. Cleaning
Marin Landscape Materials
Marin Trophies
McIsaac Dairy
Nave Enterprises
Pini Hardware
The Wright Salon
Trumbull Manor Inc. – Novato
Zenith Instant Printing



Guild volunteers hand out Halloween treats in front of Druid's Hall on Saturday, October 25th, 2014

The Gift Shoppe

The Museum Gift Shoppe has the perfect unique Novato gift!

Books and Pamphlets

- Novato Township** the definitive history of Novato by May Ungemach \$30.50
- Novato, Then and Now* by Novato Historical Guild \$21.00
- Hamilton Field* by Novato Historical Guild \$21.00
- Hamilton Airfield History* \$3.00

Videos and DVDs

- Hamilton Field History (VHS or DVD) \$15.00
- Novato History (VHS or DVD) \$10.00
(available only at the museum)

Sweatshirts (M, L, XL) \$18.00

Novato History Museum (blue or green)

Ornaments

Novato City Hall \$12.75

T-Shirts (M, L, XL) \$11.00

Guild Historic Buildings (3 designs):
Postmaster's House, City Hall/Church, Railroad Depot

Miscellaneous

- Novato Historic Buildings Notecard Sets \$10.00
- Guild Tote Bags \$12.50
- Ceramic Thimble \$1.00
- Novato History Collector Cards\$3/pack or 30¢ each
- Hamilton Field Historic Picture Reproductions \$10.00
- Mugs \$5.00
- Laminated Place Mat (11 x 14) \$5.00
(available only at the museum)

Leather Goods

- Coin Purse \$15.00
- Business Card Holder \$12.50
- Small Purse \$23.00

WE ACCEPT VISA OR MASTERCARD

* All proceeds from the sale of *Novato Township* go directly to the support of the History Museum.
Prices do not include sales tax. To Order: Call the museum at 897-4320 or email patjohnstn@aol.com for shipping charges and information. Supporting and Life Members receive a 10% discount at the Gift Shoppe!



Membership Form

Please mail checks to Novato Historical Guild. P.O. Box 1296. Novato. CA 94948.

Yes, I want to join the Novato Historical Guild and help preserve Novato history! new renewal

- Student (full time) membership \$10 year Name _____
- Individual membership \$20 year Address _____
- Family membership \$30 year City _____
- Patron membership \$100 year State _____ Zip _____
- Supporting membership \$200 year Phone _____
- Life membership, individual \$350 Additional donations? _____
- Life membership, joint \$500 Interested in volunteering? _____
- Benefactor \$1000 year Email address: _____
- Business membership \$50 year
- Corporate membership \$1000 year



Novato Historical Guild
P.O. Box 1296
Novato, CA 94948



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YOU ARE INVITED

**General Membership Meeting
Novato Historical Guild**

**Saturday, December 13, 2014 - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
Margaret Todd Senior Center - 1560 Hill Road, Novato**



The business meeting will include the election of Guild Board Members and the approval of the budget for 2015. There will also be a presentation on the Guild's new website. We will have an "old toy display" at the meeting. If you have old toys that you would like to display, please bring them to the meeting with you and they will accompany you home. Holiday carols will also be shared.

Guild Members and prospective members are welcome

Novato History Museum

815 Delong Avenue

(415) 897-4320

Hamilton Field History Museum

555 Hangar Avenue

(415) 382-8614

COME VISIT AND BRING A FRIEND!

The Museums are open three days a week -- Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday - Noon to 4 p.m.

Closed Major Holidays