



Fog Cutter

Your community newsletter
Vol. 8 No. 3 Fall, 2008

Historical notes ... Countdown to Daly City's Centennial ... Daly City's Tunnel to Nowhere

Long before the Devil's Slide bypass was conceived, an Irish immigrant sought to shorten his commute by blasting an ill-conceived tunnel along Daly City's rugged coast. The man behind the tunnel was Richard Tobin, a San Francisco attorney and co-founder of the Hibernia Savings and Loan Society.



Richard Tobin was a prominent San Franciscan who arrived there on June 4, 1849 with his father and brother. He studied law and went into practice in 1852. He helped establish Hibernia Bank in 1859. Tobin kept two residences, one in San Francisco and another on the coast in the area of present day

—continued ... see **Tunnel to Nowhere**, page 3

Urban Design Charrette planned to study... The future of Mission Street

... scheduled for November 8

IMAGINE the Daly City of tomorrow ... one with an inviting central downtown district, where residents and businesses converge to exchange goods and services, and share public spaces and amenities in a social setting. Imagine that this district is widely accessible by both public transportation and cars, and that walking within this district is an enjoyable, memorable, and pleasant experience. Imagine that this district is a place where new transit-oriented housing development, new retailers, and existing retailers create an inviting place, where residents from outside the district and even outside Daly City rendezvous with friends and family to shop, dine, and/or just hang out. Now imagine that Mission Street is this place.



On November 8, 2008, the City of Daly City, in partnership with the San Mateo County Chapter of the American Institute of Architects ("SMAIA"), will host an Urban Design Charrette focusing on the future of Mission Street. During the charrette, over 40 volunteer architects from throughout San Mateo County will use their urban planning skills in combination with input from residents, business owners, and property owners to develop urban design concepts intended to transform underutilized areas along Mission Street into inviting and vibrant urban spaces.

So much has changed on Mission Street over the past 100 years, it's hard to imagine how much could change over the next 100 years. As the City moves forward with the update of the Daly City General Plan (see February 2008 Special Edition Fogcutter), it is important that we pay close attention to how urban corridors such as Mission Street define and influence the quality of life in Daly City, give the community it's sense of place, and provide vital goods and services to our residents and businesses.

—continued ... see **Mission Street design charrette** page 2

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A framework for the future of Daly City.

General Plan visioning workshops complete

Vision statement and goals for community planning process

As the first step toward updating the Daly City General Plan, the City has completed a four-month process of obtaining community input on how Daly City could look and function in the future. The process, which included three community workshops, a survey, and a number of focus group interviews, is described in more detail in the recently completed publication *Envision Daly City: A Framework for the Future*. In addition to providing a community vision statement that will be used as the General Plan is updated, the document includes a number of community goals on important topics ranging from Housing and Land Use to Community Services and Recreational Opportunities. In combination, the vision statement and goals provide an initial

framework for the community planning process in which residents and business owners will engage while the General Plan is updated.

Persons interested in materials distributed at the Community Visioning Workshops or in receiving a copy of *Envision Daly City* may do so by contacting the Planning Division at **(650) 991-8033** or by downloading the documents from the General Plan Update website at www.plandalycity.org.

Community Vision

We, the citizens of Daly City, proudly celebrate our location in the Bay Area, our distinct neighborhoods, our history and our views of the fog-shrouded hills that define us. We take pride in our cultural diversity and actively promote community interaction. Daly City will be a community with a strong identity. Our City will offer a variety of recreational, cultural and entertainment opportunities – with several attractively designed gathering and civic spaces including a “downtown”.

We will focus on being a clean, attractive city with an efficient infrastructure. We will provide services for all age groups and mobility levels. Daly City will provide housing choices in balance with a variety of economic opportunities for both small and large businesses. We are committed to connect all neighborhoods in a multi-modal travel environment.

While respecting the past, we embrace our future. By our actions, we will showcase our environmental stewardship by being a livable, sustainable community. We believe in directed growth that will increase opportunities to both live and work in our community. As a city and community working in partnership, we will emphasize interaction and participation from all, finding meaningful ways to display our civic pride and showcase our strengths.

Mission Street design charrette ... from page 1

Mission Street will continue to evolve with new development projects and public improvements that have the potential to greatly affect everything about Mission Street: what it looks like, how many people live there, and even the ability for Mission Street to remain a viable commercial corridor in the face of increasing competition from nearby suburban shopping centers. As these changes occur, the General Plan can establish policies for Mission Street to help realize a new vision for it as a “downtown district”, a concept for which strong support has been expressed in the Community Visioning Workshops and Community Priorities Survey.

The charrette begins at 8:30 a.m. in the War Memorial Community Center, located at 6655 Mission Street. Persons interested in participating in the charrette are encouraged to contact the Planning Division in advance at **(650) 991-8033**, although doing so is not a prerequisite to attend.

FogCutter

The Fog Cutter is the community newsletter of the City of Daly City. Please address inquiries to:

Community Information Office
CITY OF DALY CITY
333-90th Street, Daly City, CA 94015

For information about Daly City activities and programs, please check our web site: www.dalycity.org



Mission Street over the years

1904

1914

Your community ne

Community input helps define our future.

Community priorities questionnaire ...

Exceptionally high response shows community interest

The City of Daly City has completed a survey of residents and business owners as part of an extensive community outreach effort undertaken as an initial step to updating the City's General Plan. The City mailed the survey as part of a Special Edition Fogcutter in February to every postal customer in Daly City, about 31,750 residential and business addresses. The City received approximately nearly 2,000 responses to the survey, representing a 5.5 percent response rate, which is considered an exceptional response rate for a survey this large.

Based on the survey responses, we now have a number of significant observations of what the community thinks about Daly City ... valuable input for future planning efforts.

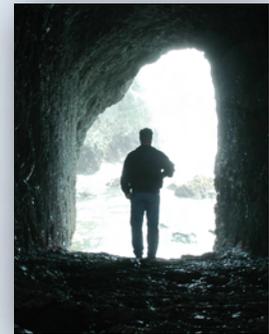
Persons interested in receiving a copy of the survey findings may do so by contacting the Planning Division at **(650) 991-8033** or by downloading the document from the General Plan Update website at www.plandalycity.org.

Tunnel to Nowhere ... from page 1

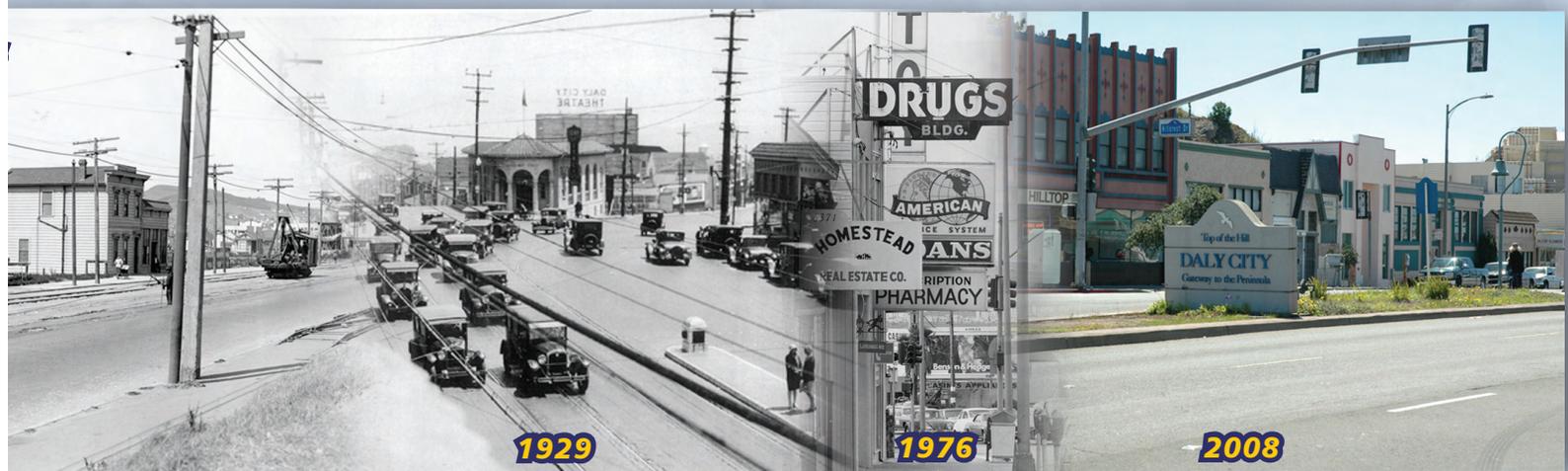
Rockaway Beach in Pacifica. He preferred to travel by buggy rather than horseback. In the 1870s, the route along the coast was blocked by an outcropping near Mussel Rock. Rather than forge a path around the obstacle, Tobin decided to blast a tunnel through it. He commissioned his grand tunnel in 1874 at a cost of \$5,000. The tunnel completed in January of 1875 was ten feet high, ten feet wide, and nearly 180 feet long.

Unfortunately for Tobin, the Pacific Ocean didn't cooperate with his scheme. Severe winter storms of 1875 rendered the tunnel impassable after just three family journeys. The erstwhile lawyer and banker abandoned his project leaving generations to ponder the tunnel's origins. Even in-the-know locals assumed the tunnel was part of the failed Ocean Shore Railway.

A remnant of Tobin's Folly, as the tunnel became known, remains today. Most of the fabled passageway is believed to have been destroyed during the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. The remaining section is in a remote area enshrouded in fog and pounded by the surf.



The law firm established by Richard Tobin in 1852 is still in business (Tobin & Tobin in San Francisco). Although history will remember Tobin as a San Francisco banker and lawyer, Daly City will always remember him as the man who gave us the tunnel to nowhere.





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Saturday, October 25, be a part of ...
10th annual Make a Difference Day
— volunteers needed for this great event

Daly City's 10th annual Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 25, will include familiar neighborhood-based projects including **graffiti paint out, litter collection, and gardening.** Additionally, two new components have been added to the event – a first ever Re-Use Exchange and Community Document Shredding.

The **Re-use Exchange** will take place at the Daly City Community Services Center, 350 90th Street. Daly City and Colma residents are invited to drop-off gently used clothing, furniture, toys, and books between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. The items donated will be made available — at no cost — to other Daly City and Colma residents from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Individuals and families wishing to participate in the Re-use Exchange must present either a Daly City or Colma photo identification card, such as a driver's license. Some items cannot be accepted, including televisions, electronic components, washers and dryers, refrigerators, computers, mattresses, box springs, and bed frames. For a complete list of acceptable donation items please visit www.dalycity.org and click on the Make a Difference Day icon or call **(650) 991-8127.**

Daly City and Colma residents may also participate in the first-ever **Community Document Shredding** event in the main parking lot at City Hall, 333 90th Street, between 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon. Residents will be allowed to shred up to two boxes of documents absolutely free. No appointment is necessary to shred some of that accumulated paper in your home or business.



Daly City Community Calendar

City Council Meetings

City Hall – 7:00 p.m.
2nd and 4th Monday of each month

Planning Commission Meetings

City Hall – 7:00 p.m.
1st Tuesday of each month
(except Election Day)

Make a Difference Day

Citywide – Register as a volunteer at
www.dalycity.org
Saturday, October 25
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Election Day

Tuesday, November 4

Mission Street Design Charrette

War Memorial Community Center
Saturday, November 8
8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

By Appointment Only
register by phone:
(650) 363-4718
or online:
<http://events.smhealth.org/events>
City Hall Main Parking Lot – 333 90th St.
Saturday, November 8
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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Daly City, CA 94015

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