



Fog Cutter

Your community newsletter
Vol. 13 No. 2 Summer 2013

Daly City retrospects ...

... I. G. Knowles role in Daly City history

by Bunny Gillespie

ALMOST BEYOND RECALL are the days when merchants had the luxury of placing a "Gone Fishing" sign in their shop window, locking the door, and strolling off for a little nearby piscatorial pleasure. Popular among the first local fishing spots was a pastoral pond established by pioneer settler Israel Graham Knowles in 1878.

The pond area was located in Knowles' gulch. Today the area embraces Marchbank Park baseball field, east of Pacific Plaza on Junipero Serra Blvd.



Part of the Knowles property in 1905, with Daly's quarry in the foreground.

In the late 1800s, area pioneers were primarily devoted to dairy ranching on the gentle slopes of what would become known as the Top of the Hill. Among them was I. G. Knowles who was born in Ohio on September 28, 1828.

Knowles headed for California by wagon in 1849, yielding to tempting promises of wealth available at recently discovered gold fields. He travelled with nine other hopefuls, using the Isthmus of

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Centennial Plaza dedication ...

Mission Street improvement project

DEDICATION OF CENTENNIAL PLAZA this summer at Daly City's historic Top of the Hill marked the completion of one of the City's largest public works projects in recent years. Centennial Plaza commemorates the City's first one hundred years. The distinct pergola structure that shelters waiting bus riders is located at the northwest corner of John Daly Blvd. and Mission Street, one of Daly City's busiest transit hubs. The plaza is situated approximately where the properties of neighboring dairy ranchers John D. Daly and Israel G. Knowles once stood. Today Knowles Avenue runs parallel to John Daly Blvd. from Mission Street east to Woodrow Street, roughly marking the former property boundaries of two of the area's early settlers.



Centennial Plaza at the Top of the Hill — commemorating Daly City's first 100 years.

In addition to the construction of a new pedestrian plaza, the project included streetscape improvements on Mission Street from John Daly Blvd. south to Parkview Avenue. New landscaped medians and pedestrian-scaled lighting add to the overall revitalized look of the bustling commercial corridor. Other enhancements to pedestrian safety include traffic calming bulb-outs, widened sidewalks, and decorative crosswalks. New bus shelters, benches, and trash receptacles were added along the length of the project area on Mission Street.

Pedestrians walking along the western side of Mission Street may be unaware that a new water main lies several feet beneath the sidewalk. The new 12-inch main replaced an aging 8-inch main that serviced the area for many years. Increased capacity of the new pipe allows for better water flow in the event of a fire emergency and also adds to the dependability and reliability of the water system serving the neighborhoods east and west of Mission Street.

The Mission Street improvement project was made possible by a \$2.3 million grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and San Mateo County Association of Governments (C/CAG) through the Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC), Housing Incentive Program (HIP) and Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) programs. SamTrans also awarded the City \$700,000 in Grand Boulevard Initiative funding.

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Improving services to Daly City residents.

Major upgrades at Daly City public libraries ...

... technology updates improve service and access.

DALY CITY PUBLIC LIBRARIES unveiled several major technology updates at the four neighborhood branch libraries – Serramonte, Westlake, John Daly, and Bayshore. Over the last six months staff from the City's Department of Library and Recreation Services completed several upgrades to improve customer service and provide access to new tools and opportunities through the libraries.

Foremost among these changes are completely updated public computer labs at each library, equipped with Windows 7 computers and Microsoft Office 2013. Each library now offers a digital scanner for public use and a reserve-able computer for creative projects using Adobe Photoshop Elements. The new computer labs also include both black and white and color printing options.

Laptop users will also see beneficial enhancements. Serramonte and Westlake libraries have added more seating with access to laptop charging stations and all libraries have new network architecture that will provide improved wireless signal range and better spread out internet traffic in the buildings.

Some of the many digital enhancements include significant updates to the library website (www.dalycitylibrary.org/library), and an expansion of the popular Discover & Go service that connects library patrons to free museum passes. New partners for the program include The California Academy of Sciences.

The next few months will see several more technology improvements come to the Daly City libraries, with services benefiting patrons both inside and outside of the library buildings. Both computer lab users and patrons with personal computers will see significantly increased bandwidth using the library



Updated public computer labs available at each Daly City library

network. Personal computer users can expect wireless printing within each library, so visitors can print using their own laptops.

The library staff is also working to set up a mobile computer lab to provide more on-site technology training opportunities at each library branch. This will supplement the popular Book-a-Librarian program that serves beginning computer users.

Also on the horizon: a Peninsula Library System mobile app that will allow iOS® and Android users the chance to look up library hours and locations, find materials, place holds, manage library accounts, and even borrow ebooks from one app; and a redesigned online catalog sporting new features like personal shelves, lists, and reviews, Facebook® and Twitter® integration, and an improved browsing and discovery experience.

All these changes add up to a Daly City Public Library ready to meet the technology needs of our 21st century patrons. Visit your branch of the library to take advantage of these and many other great services, or visit us online at www.dalycity.org/library.

Daly City representatives needed for Bus Rapid Transit Planning Community Advisory Committee

The San Francisco County Transportation Authority, in partnership with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, is undertaking a study of the feasibility of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the Geneva Avenue-Harney Way corridor. The Authority will be advised during this process by a Community Advisory Committee which has two seats reserved for Daly City residents. An additional two seats are reserved for "at large" members to be drawn from pedestrians, bicyclists, students, commuters, or BART/Caltrain riders. The Committee will meet every three months, and members are expected to attend all meetings. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday, September 3, 2013; they are available on the project website, www.genevabrt.org, or by calling (415) 593-1655.

FogCutter

The FogCutter 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 website: www.dalycity.org

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Building our future ... while recalling our past.

Seeking applicants for Citizens Academy 6 ...

... the perfect course for residents to learn how your city works for you.

DALY CITY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for its Sixth Annual *Citizens Academy*. Returning this fall, the nine-week course begins October 3 and continues through December 12. Classroom sessions will take place Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at City Hall. Optional field trips will take place on one or two Saturdays. City Manager Patricia E. Martel will kick-off the course with an introduction to local government history and practices followed by a general overview of Daly

City's municipal services. Department heads and division managers will present more detailed information about specific City operations in the following weeks (the tentative schedule is provided by the table at the left).



Citizens Academy 6 Class Schedule

- Session 1: October 3** - *Introduction to Local Government*
- Session 2: October 10** - *Finance and Human Resources*
- Session 3: October 17** - *Economic and Community Development and City Attorney*
- Session 4: October 24** - *Public Works and Water/Wastewater Resources*
- Session 5: October 31** - *Police*
- Session 6: November 7** - *Library and Recreation Services*
- Session 7: November 14** - *Daly City History and Boards/Commissions/Committees*
- Session 8: November 21** - *North County Fire Authority/Emergency Preparedness*
- Session 9: December 5** - *Wrap-up/Graduation*

Citizens Academy students will participate in both classroom presentations and discussions along with hands-on activities. Students will have the opportunity to examine firefighting equipment up close, exercise split-second judgment when battling bad guys in a "shoot or be shot" police training simulator, and ponder the unimaginable at the sewage treatment plant.

If you are looking for a way to become civically engaged, or you are just curious how things in your city work, the *Citizens Academy* may be for you. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory to complete the course. Space is limited, and Daly City residents will be given first priority.

Applications for the *Citizens Academy* are available online at www.dalycity.org/academy6. To request an application by mail, please call **(650) 746-8367**. Completed applications are due no later than Friday, September 20, 2013.

I. G. Knowles role in Daly City history

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Panama route. The party was detained in Panama for three months, waiting for sea passage north. Four of the travelers succumbed to Panama fever; two died on the voyage, one died on arrival in San Francisco, and another died in the gold fields.

In 1850, Knowles tried his luck in the gold diggings on the Feather River. The next year, he sought his fortune at Rich Bar and Long Bar on the Yuba River. In September of 1851, he opted for milking cows in Sacramento County rather than panning for gold.

Two years later, Knowles established a ranch on hillside property, later to be called Vista Grande. Located south of San Francisco, his grazing and farming land became part of Township One when San Mateo County incorporated in 1856. Knowles played a major role in the formation, development, and prosperity of the new county. His dairy was among the first to supply milk products for the growing population of San Francisco.

In 1878, Knowles recognized profit-making potential in a natural pond in the "bowl" on his property, stocked it with 14 trout, and invited fans of the finny creatures to try their skill at casting and catching. It was unique among commercial ventures of the north county. His devotion to breeding game fish became more than a pastime.



Skinny-dipping at Knowles Pond was a popular pastime.

In the next year he installed more ponds and, reportedly, soon had some 30,000 carp. His ponds ranked among the best in the state, attracting scores of urban sportsmen to the challenge of angling. Skinny-dippers also frequented Knowles' ponds, much to the delight of sight-seeing passengers aboard trains that passed nearby.

Knowles never lived in Daly City. He died in 1903, eight years before the city incorporated. A main road that bordered his ranch in the Vista Grande section is now called Knowles Avenue. It honors his name.

(Bunny Gillespie has been Daly City's official Historian since 1987.)

**Fog Cutter
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Community Information Office
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Daly City, CA 94015**

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Make a Difference Day — October 26 ...

... 15th anniversary of Daly City's largest volunteer event!

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 Daly City will mark its fifteenth consecutive year of celebrating *Make a Difference Day*. Known as the "National Day of Doing Good," *Make a Difference Day* presents an opportunity for residents to volunteer for a variety of projects throughout the City. *Make a Difference Day* remains the single largest volunteer event of the year in Daly City and throughout the United States.

If you are interested in volunteering for *Make a Difference Day*, call **(650) 991-8054** or visit www.dalycity.org/mdd2013 for registration instructions. Volunteers will report directly to pre-assigned work sites beginning at 9:00 a.m. the morning of the event. A "thank you" lunch for volunteers is scheduled for noon on the southwest plaza at City Hall courtesy of the Daly City Host Lions Club and Outback Steakhouse.



Highlights of this year's *Make a Difference Day* include:

- Free flu vaccine clinic courtesy of Walgreen's and the Daly City Host Lions Club at City Hall (the clinic is free to the public regardless of insurance coverage – Medicare recipients please bring your Medicare card).
- Free document shredding at City Hall – Two box maximum.
- Free e-waste drop-off – No appointment needed.
- Re-use exchange of gently used clothing and household items – 3rd Floor, 350 90th Street, Daly City – Drop off gently used items no later than 3:00 p.m., Thursday, October 24.

Mark your calendar and plan — rain or shine — to participate in this year's *Make a Difference Day*. For more information visit the web site for this great event: www.dalycity.org/mdd2013.

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

Library Board of Trustees

City Hall – 6:00 p.m.
3rd Tuesday of each month

Recreation Commission

City Hall – 6:00 p.m.
4th Tuesday of each month

Fun, Health, Safety Fair and Library & Recreation Services Day

Saturday, August 24 • 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Serramonte Shopping Center

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

September 4 – October 23 (Wednesdays)
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Franciscan Park • 700 Hoffman Street, Daly City
Register online at <http://northcountyfire.org>
For more information call **(650) 991-8138**

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Thursday, September 12 • 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
War Memorial Community Center
6655 Mission Street, Daly City

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

by appointment only
Saturday, September 14 • 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Main Parking Lot – City Hall
333 90th Street, Daly City
Make appointments online at
<http://events.smhealth.org> events

