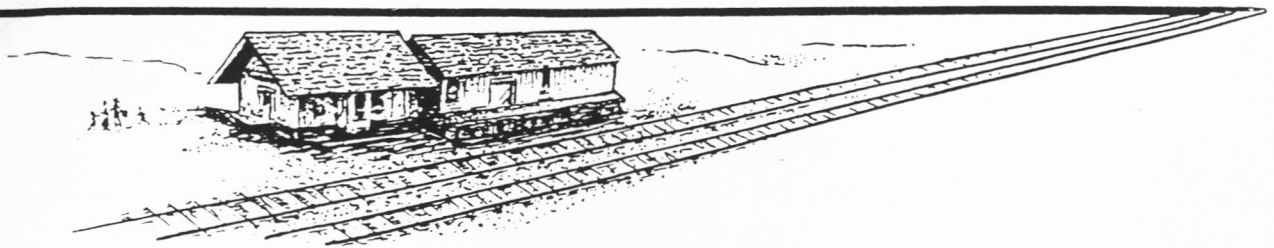


NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE COLMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

1993



February, March April 2000

Newsletter #50

MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

The news is that it has taken three months to go through escrow instead of the two or three weeks anticipated. You are invited to come and hear all about it from Roger Peters, our speaker on April 25th. This is the 2nd of our quarterly meetings of the year 2000. (Before we know it 2000 will be gone) Roger Peters is from the firm Cornell, Lange & Peters, the Town of Colma's Law Firm. Mr. Peters will tell you about himself, his firm and what they do for the Town of Colma. What procedures are involved in acquiring a piece of property and other problems that arise. This is the time to ask questions that he may be able to answer, so come with questions and enjoy an evening with friends and refreshments.

We had visitors from Idea Television based in Washington DC. They present interesting areas in the United States for broadcasting in Brazil & Portugal. We gave them a tour of Colma and they sent us a tape of what they had filmed. It takes 2 days of filming to produce a 15 minute show. What was shown was well done but most of it was in Portuguese so translation is needed. This is about the sixth television taping that we have done for other countries. We are getting to be very popular and are happy to tell everyone about our unusual town.



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SPECIAL DATES

April 25 - Tuesday

7:00 PM CHA Meeting
Colma Town Hall
Roger Peters, Speaker

May 2 - Tuesday

2:00 PM CHA Boardmeeting
Colma Council Chambers

May 17 - Wednesday

Daly City/Colma History
Guild Meeting at the
Doelger Center. Speaker
will be David Schooley on
San Bruno Mountain

May 20 - Saturday

10:00 am at the ranger
station on San Bruno Mt.
Daly City/Colma History
Guild will be sponsoring
a walk on the Mountain,
with a bring your own
lunch.

A message from Ronald L. Doyle
your Boardmember & Sunday Docent.

Since the last newsletter we were visited by two people from far, far away. One was a young man from London, England, and another was a young lady from the Ukraine. So, you see we are becoming known all over the world. We hope some of our visitors will become members. Again we ask all of our members to spread the word and help us to get new members. Everyone counts.



A message from Alice Letcavage
your Boardmember & Hospitality
Chairperson.

The Association would like to thank all the generous ladies who brought refreshments to the Feb. meeting. The empty & near empty serving plates are proof that the goodies were enjoyed by all. Our April 25 meeting is coming up and as always we need donations of after dinner snacks, such as cookies, cake, dips, crackers, cheese, or fruit. Anything will be appreciated. Call me at 755-3819 or sign up at the museum. See you there



Another Election

Our most esteemed Boardmember, Ralph Putzker is retiring from his three year term this July. He will be sorely missed as one of the best consultants we have had. He has given so much of himself with all his expertise in so many fields, particularly photography. He has helped with our newsletters and many other of our projects, too numerous to mention. So the bottom line is we need another replacement. The board has come up with a couple of names but we welcome anyone who is interested in serving for a three year term. Please give us a call or write to us if you are willing. The election will take place at our July birthday meeting.

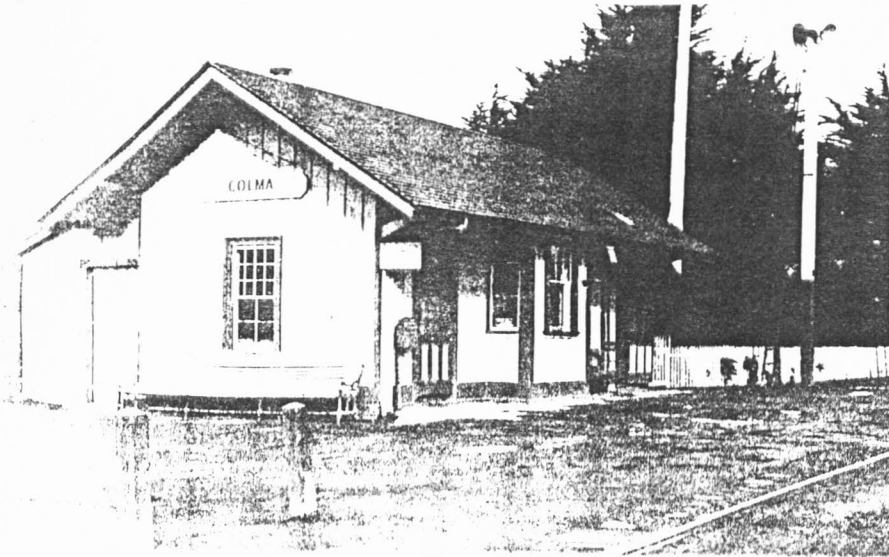
A Millennium Project Off the Ground

The San Mateo Historical Association has asked all of the cities in our county to participate in a special project. They asked if you had a choice, what would be the most significant object to preserve for future generations as a reminder of what life was like in San Mateo County in the 1900s? The problem for the Colma Historical Association is that we do not have a great number of artifacts that we are willing to share or give up. We are starting to plan for our own museum and need to keep them for our own project. What was decided that we could share is the history of the railroad that was one of the reasons for Colma's growth as well as the rest of San Mateo County. The requirements for any objects given was that they must fit into a space of 10 x 10 x 6 inches. We are giving a piece of rail, 10 inches long with a railroad spike from the Southern Pacific right of way. We have attached a photo of our train station in 1915 with a little history of how the railroad affected our growth and 3 small photos of the train passing through here. All entries will be displayed in a special exhibit at the Courthouse Museum from July 15 through the end of the year, at which time 20 will be selected for placement in a time capsule to be opened by future generations.

The Era of trains through Colma in the 20th Century

The growth of Colma was made possible by the railroad. Funeral cars helped promote the growth of our many cemeteries. The charge was \$5.00 for transporting a corpse and .50 for each mourner. This being the only train route from San Francisco through San Mateo County, they carried up to 700 passengers a day. A ticket one way was \$2.50 where a stagecoach fare could be as high as \$32.00

There was little passenger service once the Bayshore cutoff route was established in 1907, but freight trains continued. There was the last special passenger train for railroad buffs in 1956. Colma shipped in one four month period, 206,618 lbs of vegetables, 100 tons of grain, 1000 pigs & thousands of plants & flowers. July 6, 1978 was the last freight train that came through Colma. BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) purchased the right of way to continue their route south.



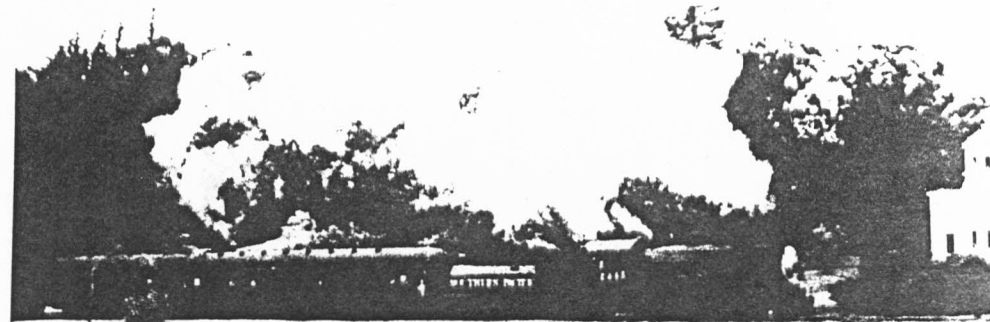
The Colma Train Station 1915

Photo given by Tom Gray



The SP local train from San Francisco to San Jose, passing through Holy Cross cemetery in Colma.

Photo by Robert H. Mc Farland - 1907



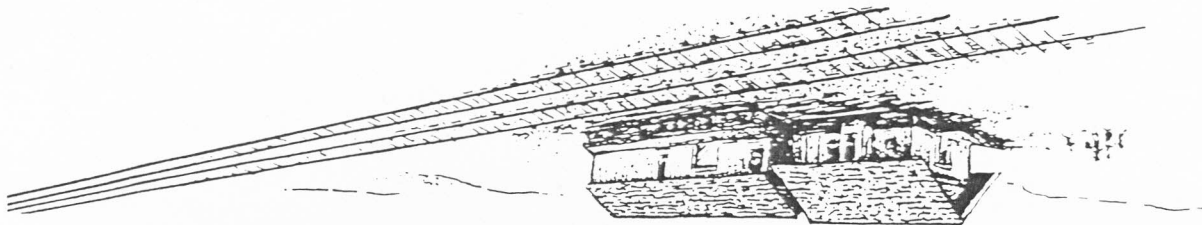
Last Southern Pacific passenger train (special) through Colma for train buffs.

Photo by Frank Maffei - 1956



Last freight train, July 1976, through Colma by Italian Cemetery.

Photo by Pat Guiney



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1993

COLMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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COLMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

You are invited



To hear Colma's lawyer, Roger Peters speak about what is happening to the land acquisition for our train station.:

Date: Tuesday, April 25th
Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Colma Town Hall
1198 El Camino Real

If you have any questions:
Phone: (650) 757-1676