

News of the competition was in the next issue of the *Standard*. Six companies competed, with Co. D Home Guard of Martinez under Captain Edward Jensen winning first prize. The prize was a silk flag presented by the Crockett Home guards. Co. I of Cowell came in second. The gathering at Cowell consisted of the guards from six locations. After marching to the fire house, some then showed off their new uniforms. Colonel Veale opened the program, followed by a prayer from E. D. Hale of Co. D. The program ended with addresses by Constable E.B. Whelihan, District Attorney T.D. Johnston, Prof. A. Van Der Naillen, and Mayor W.R. Lane of Richmond.

The Home Guards were responsible for “providing a presence for keeping the peace and to carry out such tasks as directed by the governor, with the exception that it couldn't be used in labor and industrial disputes.” They were mustered out in March 1920.

This article was a result of research conducted in the newspaper Martinez Standard and in the Veale and Bray Collections at the History Center in Martinez. It represents our on-going recognition of America's entry into WWI 100 years ago.

Crockett World War II Hero, Charlie Naggi, Portrayed in WWII Movie “Everyman’s War”

Joyce (Naggi) DeMattei



My father, Charles (Charlie) Naggi, was a Crockett native (1916-2005). Charlie Naggi's father, Enrico Naggi and his mother, Teresa, came to the United States in 1911 from Buscate, Italy -- a small town near Milan in Northern Italy. Enrico's brother-in-law and

his wife lived in a Crockett home. Enrico and his wife, Teresa, lived in the downstairs apartment in the home. Charlie Naggi was born in 1916 in Crockett. The Naggi family was outgrowing their small apartment. Enrico had a home built for his



family on First Avenue, not far from his brother-in-law's home. The home on First Avenue is where my father grew up.

In 1941 Charlie Naggi was drafted into the US Army, (*see photo, left*) serving until 1946. He was sent to England for training to become an officer. He was then sent to France to guard captured German submarines. When the Battle

of the Bulge took place during a snowy and brutal winter 1944-1945, Charlie Naggi was a Lieutenant.

By Internet searching I found a web link to a movie released in 2009, *Everyman's War*, about WWII and the Battle of the Bulge, listing my father portrayed in the movie. The movie director, Thad Smith, told the story of his father, Don Smith, who like my father served in the US Army 94th Infantry Division, 302nd Infantry Regiment. The movie director's brother, Craig Smith, wrote the “Everyman's War” movie screen play and book “Everyman's War. The book and DVD portray scenes during the Battle of the Bulge of Lt Charlie Naggi giving orders both on the front lines and in a bunker.

I spoke on the phone with the movie director in July 2017. He told me his father, Don Smith, who served under Lt. Charlie Naggi during The Battle of the Bulge, was promoted to Corporal by my father. Craig Smith, the older brother of the movie director, crafted the movie screen play and book from WWII stories the Smith children heard from their father while growing up. The scene of Charlie promoting Private Don Smith to Corporal is in the book and movie.

Charlie Naggi had extensive injuries to his arm, shoulder, and leg. He was sent to Paris for triage and first aid. He was then sent to a hospital in Ireland. He was later sent to a hospital in Palm Springs,

California, where he spent 9 months. After removing his casts, he had rehabilitation and therapy. He was hospitalized for 348 days, not quite a year. He was given a medical honorable discharge in 1946. Shrapnel (artillery fragments) always were floating around his body causing him pain and discomfort.

Charlie went back to work for C & H Sugar refinery in Crockett where he had worked before the war. He was a mechanic and later on a foreman. Charlie married Augustine (Gussie) Algarda of St. Louis, MO in December 1945. The Naggis had two daughters, myself and my younger sister Elaine, who grew up in Crockett.



During the Battle of the Bulge, Lt Charlie Naggi was an expert infantryman commander. Some medals and awards he was granted included the WWII Victory Medal (1945), American Defense Service Combat Infantry Badge, European Theatre

Ribbon with 3 battle stars, Bronze Star medal, and the Purple Heart (at GO 6 106th Evacuation Hospital, 27 Jan 1945). These awards and medals are in the Crockett Museum in Crockett, CA. The highest rank Charlie Naggi held was Captain.

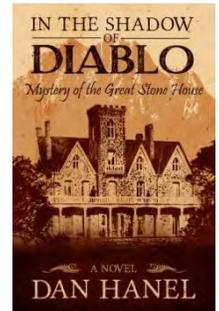
It is a tribute to the men of the 94th Infantry Division, 302nd Infantry Regiment that Thad and Craig Smith created the movie screen play, movie, and book from bits and pieces of stories their war hero father, Don Smith of Oregon, told them while they were growing up. The gift of the movie and book for their father, Don Smith, recognized the efforts of

men in this division and regiment during WWII. The movie was filmed during winter in Oregon. The actors went through a mini boot camp to learn how to work together, act as a team and unit, handle rifles, machine guns, and other weapons. Both the book and movie are available through Amazon.com.

Joyce (Naggi) DeMattei is a long-time member of CCCHS

Latest Author in the Archives Event a Great Success

Tara Weber



On Saturday, September 16, author Dan Hanel spoke to a packed house about his latest book, which alternates between a local teacher's present-day adventure and the brutal murder of Dr. John Marsh, one of the most important figures in Contra Costa County and California history.

It was a VERY interesting talk and Dan is a great speaker. Dan's talk wove through the life of John



Marsh and his time in East Contra Costa County. The standing-room only crowd had many questions. You must read to learn more!

Dan spoke briefly of his second book about the Byron Hot Springs Resort and gave a sneak

peek on his current book project "Ghost of Black Diamond Mines." He also spoke about the preservation efforts of the John Marsh Historic Trust (JM Heritage Day on Oct 21).

Dan's books can be purchased at the History Center and the CCCHS website. A portion of the proceeds go back to the John Marsh Historic Trust to support their efforts in preserving the house.

HISTORY IN A HIGH SCHOOL

Sandi Genser-Maack

El Cerrito High School hosts an in-school museum showcasing the school's history. There are very few high school museums, making the museum at El Cerrito High notable. When ECHS was demolished to make way for a new school, the museum was already in the plans. When the new school was built in 2009, the museum was put in place. As part of the City of El Cerrito's Centennial celebration, there will be a special tour of the museum on Saturday, Oct. 14th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., open to the public.



In 2005, the impending demolition of El Cerrito High School inspired a group of volunteer parents, alumni, community members, students and teachers to form the ECHS Archiving Project. This dynamic group of people quickly started the arduous process of gathering and preserving the 65 years of Old School history. Currently, there are more than 800 items catalogued. Some significant fixtures from the old building were reinstalled in the new school. These include four original California Art tiles, the gym clock and students' art work. Many ECHS graduates are highlighted in the displays, most famously Creedence Clearwater Revival, class of '63. Others include fashion designer Byron Lars ('83), major-league baseball players Pumpsie Green ('52), Ernie Broglio ('53), John Flavin ('59) and Les Cain ('66), and Miss USA 1966 Maria Remenyi ('63).

The members of the Archiving Project currently support and care for this unique museum and the many display cases located throughout the school.

They also give annual college scholarships to graduating seniors who represent and embody the Gaucho spirit.

The main museum is located near the administration office of the new school. Additional items are displayed in cases located throughout the school, including a major display in the area of the gym. The Museum is open at any time that the school is in session, but rarely on weekends, and rarely with members of the Archiving Project present to tell the stories depicted in the displays, as they will be on October 14th.

El Cerrito High School is at 540 Ashbury Avenue in El Cerrito. There is no charge for the visit on October 14th, and you don't need reservations.

For more information on the ECHS Archiving Project, visit <http://elcerritogauchos.net/archiving/archiving-project>

For a schedule of other events celebrating the City of El Cerrito's centennial, visit www.ElCerrito100.org

A Note from a Satisfied Customer

One of our members recently sent us the following note, along with a check for \$200:

I just had to tell you how much I enjoy the "Bulletin"--truly. I read it at least three (3) times--seeing, or rather reading--something new each time! Keep up the good job you're doing.

Leonard Nerenberg

Thanks, Leonard. We will do our best.

Correction: In our last issue, we paid tribute to long-time volunteer Bernie Sanders. We have since received a message from Bernie's daughter Irene, who pointed out that we had omitted the name of Bernie's first-born son, Arthur. We are hereby correcting that omission.

In partnership with
Amy's Hallmark Shop in Pleasant Hill,
 the **Contra Costa County Historical
 Society** invites you, your friends and family to
 participate in the fundraiser weekend event by
 shopping at Hallmark!



Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Friday 10-8, Saturday, 10-7, Sunday, 11-6

October 20-22, 2017

**Amy's Hallmark Shop, 20 Crescent
 Drive, Ste. B, Pleasant Hill**

**15% of ALL pre-tax purchases
 will be donated to the Contra
 Costa County Historical Society.**

Shop these dates for all of your
 Halloween, Thanksgiving and Holiday
 gifts, ornaments and greeting cards. And
 please be sure to thank the Amy's team
 while in the store!



The History of Hallmark

The story begins in 1910, when 18 year-old Joyce Clyde Hall stepped off a train in Kansas City, Mo., with nothing but two shoeboxes under his arm. He had little money, not even enough to take a horse-drawn cab to his lodgings at the YMCA. But he had an entrepreneurial spirit and the determination of a pioneer. Hall quickly made a name for himself with the picture postcards that he sold.

Early Innovation: 1910s – 1930s

Armed with the success of the greeting cards, J.C. and his brother continued to innovate. Their first foray

into other product lines came in 1917 when the Hall brothers “invented” modern gift wrap. During the peak Christmas season, the brothers ran out of solid-covered gift dressing, and improvised by selling fancy decorated French envelope linings. These sold out so quickly that the brothers decided to begin printing their own gift wrap.

More than 100 years and billions of well-wishes later, Hallmark Cards, Inc. continues to thrive with the grandsons of that Nebraska teenager at the helm.

CCCHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Renew Gift

Date: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____

_____ Please check here if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by e-mail—saves money and trees

DUES:

Individual \$40 Couple \$70 Sponsor \$100

Patron \$200 Corporate \$500

Benefactor \$1000 Student \$20

Your membership renewal date can be determined by checking the address label on this newsletter. If you receive your newsletter via e-mail please call the History Center at: 925-229-1042, or e-mail info@cocohistory.com.

Please consider CCCHS in your estate planning. It is simple, and any gift is tax deductible. We have a Schwab account that makes it easier for members and others to donate shares of stock to the Society, a good way to make a year-end or other contribution

Volunteers



Perhaps you recently received a renewal notice. We sent out quite a few. A team of

the volunteers on duty on the premises when the mailing was ready to go pitched in and got the entire mailing of 158 pieces folded, stuffed, sealed, and stamped in less than two hours! If you'd like to help break their record and to be involved in short projects like this, please call Priscilla at 925-229-1042 to be put on a list she can call on when needed.

Board Members Go Above and Beyond



Oliver Bray joined our board in the winter of 2015. He is an attorney, and is the grandson of A.F. Bray, a prominent judge in **the county, one of the founders** of the CCCHS, and the great-

grandson of R.R. Veale, probably the best-known sheriff in the County's history. In the short time he has been with us, he has proven to be an invaluable guide in unraveling legal questions, elaborating on local and family history, and generally keeping the board on an even keel. He recently added an additional reason for our admiration by reporting that he had secured a \$5,000 grant from the Contra Costa County Bar Association's Estate Planning and Probate Section. It is safe to say that, without Oliver's efforts, we not only would not have received this grant, we would never even have known about it.

We are also lucky to have our treasurer, Steven James. Not only has Steve simplified and regularized our entire budget process, he has also benefited the



Society with his generosity. As a Chevron retiree, Steve is able to take advantage of a Chevron Corporation matching grant program, which will match Steve's donation up to \$2000.

Steve recently gave \$2000 to the Society, which will be automatically matched by the credit union.

We are lucky to have Oliver and Steve on our board.

Bylaws Change Requires Your Vote

This year, the Board of Directors approved a change in the CCCHS bylaws. Our bylaws allow us to approve changes on an interim basis, pending approval by the membership. This vote normally takes place at our annual membership meeting.

Previous to this change, a simple quorum was all that was required to have a legitimate meeting and to conduct business. This meant that, given a meeting where only a bare quorum was present (7 members at the moment), a vote of only four directors could approve (or disapprove) a motion affecting the entire board, and, of course, the Society. This was felt to be unfair and unwise. Thus, the by-law was amended to state that any action by the board must meet the approval of at least half of the total board number, plus one. The effect of this change would mean that, in a meeting of a bare quorum, a unanimous vote would be required for approval (or 7 members rather than 4).

At our general membership meeting on December 2, at the newly-opened Concord Historical Society Museum and Event Center, you will be asked to consider this amendment and hopefully, to approve it.

Thanks for your attention.

Buying via Amazon? Remember to avail yourself of Amazon's *Smile* program, to benefit non-profits, and designate CCCHS as the recipient. Doing so helps the Society and costs you nothing.

From the Executive Director:



As summer turns to fall, everyone at the History Center is involved in one of several projects:

- Completing a Finding Aid to the CCCHS collections
- Preparing 19th century assessors' maps for a possible State Library grant that would digitize the maps and get them on a world-wide website
- Preparing for transition to the Past Perfect database
- Cataloguing thousands of negatives recently received from the *Contra Costa Times*.
- Preparing for the upcoming Hallmark partnership fundraiser

Meanwhile, we are welcoming ever more visitors both in person and through e-mail and our website, with more inquiries than ever. Consequently, even with a volunteer staff of nearly 30, we are stretched to the limit. This is certainly a good sign of our growth on every front as well as a sign that we can use even more volunteers.

We have also been pursuing grant opportunities that have resulted in a new 3-year grant from the Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation, a grant from the City of Martinez, and, most recently, a grant from the Estate Planning and Probate Section of the Contra Costa County Bar Association that will help to preserve and maintain the important Court documents that are part of our collection.

I certainly appreciate everything each one of you can contribute to the growth of our now 66-year-old institution. I hope to see you soon at the History Center.

Priscilla

From the President:



I hope you come in to visit us at 724 Escobar Street in Martinez. You will be in a place that is changing for the better over the next six to twelve months.

You will most likely notice the new hanging signboard out front. And soon, as you enter, you will be treading on a new custom printed floor mat with our logo printed on it. Both these projects have been spearheaded by Steve James, our treasurer.

Something that might not be so noticeable is the carpeting throughout the building. That was recently steam cleaned by a volunteer, at no cost to the Society which not only extends the life of the carpet but keeps it looking clean and spiffy! It's another way of presenting a positive face to our visitors.

There is a huge project going on that is invisible to anyone visiting. And that is our software conversion project which is now in the early stages. But make no mistake, this is a crucial change we are making to ensure reliability in our database management. Our current system is no longer supported and the new one is more in keeping with the rest of the archive world. Board member Scott Saffler is taking the lead on this.

Finally, utilizing funds raised from our members over the course of several of our annual and year-end appeals, we are installing a fire detection system throughout the archives. We already have modern climate control and burglar alarm systems, but this is a remaining improvement that we have been advised to implement, and we will be doing that over the next several months. John Burgh, another board member, is helping sort out the various proposals we have received.

We are working to make positive changes that will protect our archives and the rest of our investment.

John Mercurio

