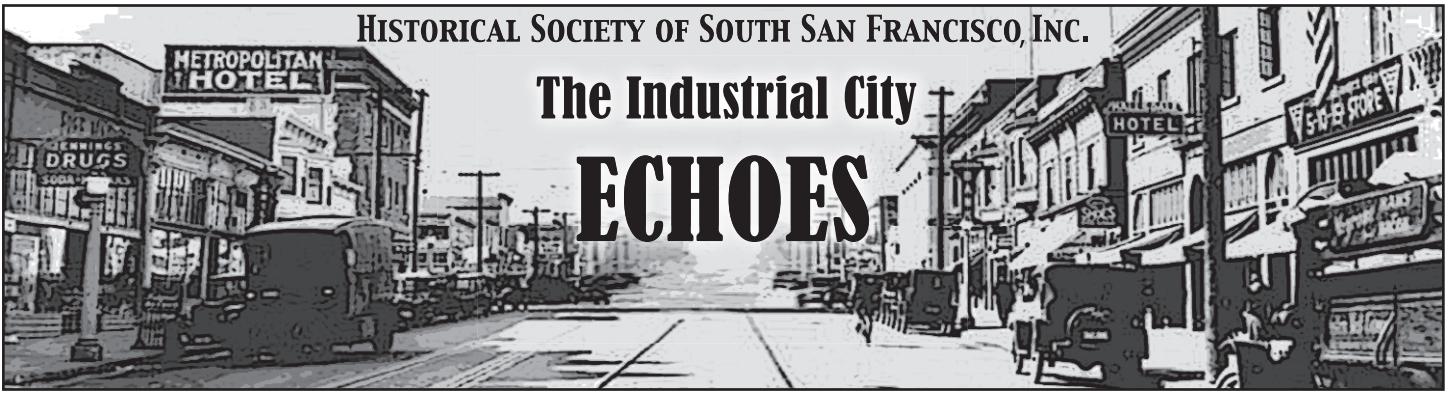


The Industrial City ECHOES



Newsletter No. 170 - June 2025

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2025 Calendar

July 19 & 20	Victorian Teas
July 21	Board Meeting
July 26 & 27	Victorian Teas
August 16	Rummage Sale
August 18	Board Meeting
Sept. 15	General Meeting
October 4	Champagne Garden Party
October 20	Board Meeting
Nov. 17	Board Meeting
Nov. 21	Annual Banquet
Dec. 15	General Meeting

*Members are welcome to
Board Meetings.*

*Members and non-members
are welcome to General
Meetings.*



June General Meeting

Monday, June 16 at 7:00 pm

Roberta Teglia Center (Magnolia Building)
601 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco

Join us at the general meeting. Frank Risso, South San Francisco City Treasurer, will speak about the history, the duties of the treasurer, why it is an elective office, and why he is only the fifth city treasurer in the 100 year history of our city.

This program is free and open to members and non-members.

*Cookie Reminder: Any sweets that you can contribute
for our meeting will be much appreciated!*



Museum News



Thirteen of the volunteers came from the Historical Society and IPP regulars and seven from Turner Construction. Turner Construction has a contract with SFO to do a major upgrade to Terminal 3. We thank them for donating their afternoon to help with our project. A big thank you to the City for supplying the 20 cubic yards of chips and the tools to do the work. Also, thanks to Sally, Margie, Julie and Jo for providing refreshments for the workers.

Looking ahead, our rummage sale at the museum parking lot is set for August 16. We have already gotten many fine donations for the sale. If you have household items in good shape, small furniture or antiques to donate contact me at 650-922-0570. Unfortunately, we can not take large items or clothing.

Bill Zemke

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Madeleine Banfield

Dave & Margie Casagrande
Cisca Hansen
Dennis & Helen Fiscaro

In Memory of Betty Carey

Mary Giusti

In Memory of Jake and Boots Jones

Barbara Ervin
Ginnie Ervin
Mary Giusti

In Memory of Leon & Lorraine Fraysse

Alan & Julie Chimenti
Gail Davison
Wayne & Geraldine Joseph
Ginny Tilton

In Memory of Olga Crotty

Jackie Crotty Radenbaugh & Gene Crotty

In Memory of Americo Juricic

Johnny Juricic

In Memory of Hugh Cisneros

Gene Hessler

Society Donations

Caroline DeNardi
Bill & Jo Zemke

Museum Acquisitions

Wendy O'Brien: Lou O'Brien, Merk Plant Manager, personal album of plant modernization.

Theodore Simmen: 3 issues of "Inside Track" with 40-Line articles.

Richard Rocchetta: Vintage SSF business ephemera.

Candace Gianni: Gordon Boblitt campaign signs & flyers.

Carol Ann McDaniel: Marian Cavassa Wagstaff family photos.

Jan Battistini: Photos of ship launching and 1951 tea at All Souls.

Anna Cavaliere Nannini: SSF Societa Operaia Mutuo Soccorso membership books, ephemera & flag.

Vorisia Henderson: Various historic newspaper clippings re: South San Francisco.

Plymire-Schwarz House Acquisitions

Ron Raquel: Antique dresser, vintage linen.

Message from Historical Society President

It's Summertime and can you believe no morning pea fog on Grand Avenue. Those days are long gone, Historical if you like, as our museum continues to preserve our local city history. This old map, we now have hanging in our museum, is waiting for someone to identify the date it was made along with all the historical markings of many years past.

At our next general meeting, June 16 at 7pm, at the old Magnolia center, we will have our city treasurer speak about the history, the duties of the treasurer, why it is an elective office, and why he is only the fifth city treasurer in the 100 year history of our city.

Our volunteers have been busy planning and organizing our annual rummage sale in August and our annual Tea at the Plymire-Schwarz house in July. Volunteers are always needed to help fill the positions that document and preserve our museum's work.

Wishing you a fun and wholesome summer of activities.

John Penna



Check out our website
www.ssfhistory.org



Facebook and Instagram!

@ssfhistory @ssfhistorymuseum
@plymireschwarzhouse



Historical Society Dues Expired on December 31st.

To renew or become a member
please fill out this form and mail
with check made out to:

South San Francisco
Historical Society,
80 Chestnut Ave.,
So. San Francisco, CA 94080

Name/Names/Corporation _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

- ☐ Student\$5.00
- ☐ Individual\$15.00
- ☐ Family\$20.00
- ☐ Supporter\$25.00
- ☐ Corporate\$100.00
- ☐ Life Membership ...\$500.00

NEW MEMBERS

Wayne Rocca
Christine & Roger Tsu

S.S.F. Woman Slain in Ambush; Poet Hunted

MRS. CAMILLA SMITH, 41, OWNER OF A SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO KENNEL, was shot to death near her home on El Camino Real near Orange avenue today in what authorities term a grudge murder. Sought as her slayer was Mike Milligan, 55, who neighbors said, blamed Mrs. Smith for his separation from his bride of a few months. He was seen by a man and two children running from the scene of the killing, a pistol in his hand, according to Police Chief Louis Belloni. With Milligan at large, residents of the little cluster of homes and stores known as the Los Cerritos district ... were terror stricken. Neighbors Louise Gotelli and Mrs. Dario Teani feared Milligan would return to 'get them.'



Camilla Smith

Mr. Teani, proprietor of the El Camino Market, a short distance from Mrs. Smith's home and kennels, waited on customers with a shot gun under the counter. It was into Teani's store shortly after 8 o'clock in the morning that Milligan stormed, muttering curses against Mrs. Smith and talking in an incoherent manner. Milligan, Teani said, paced up and down the store for nearly ten minutes raving that Mrs. Smith had 'spread' stories that he caused the death of his first wife and so influenced his second wife to leave him. A short time after Milligan left, Mrs. Smith came into the store to buy a loaf of bread and some milk.

It was while starting to cut through the front garden of the residence of Mrs. Maria Coruccini, 225 El Camino Real, adjoining her residence, that Mrs. Smith was slain.

Mrs. Coruccini in the rear kitchen of her home, and others in the vicinity, including Teani, said they heard four shots. One of the bullets shattered a glass panel in the front door of Mrs. Coruccini's home ... She rushed out to find Mrs. Smith body, clad in a light blue polk-a-dot dress over which was a pink apron, lying down on the ground. Nearby was the loaf of bread, the slices scattered about.

The sound of what neighbors thought were two shots in a willow grove near Milligan's home gave rise to belief that he had ended his life. Search of the vicinity failed to reveal any sign of Milligan or his body, Chief Belloni said.

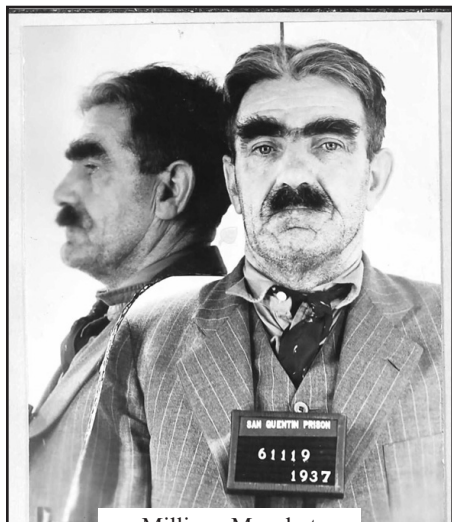
Innocent of the tragedy was Mrs. Smith's 8-year-old son, Jimmy, who was waiting at home for the bread and milk for his breakfast. Neighbors took him to the home of a friend, Mrs. John Mangini on A Street.

Milligan was seen running from the scene of the murder by G. A. Mertes, proprietor of a nursery in the same block as Mrs. Smith's home, and by Robert Venturini, 9, 223 A Street and Aldo Padreddi, 8, 217 A street.

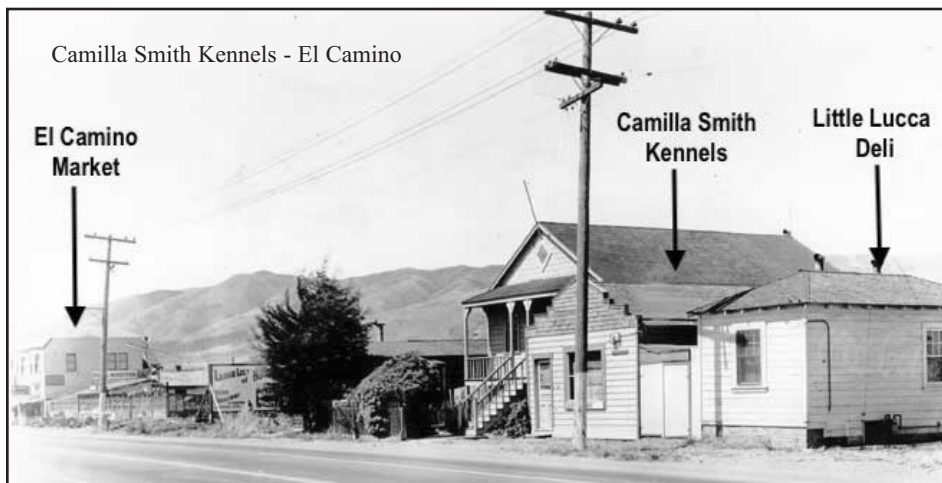
Posses formed and scoured the willow groves in this vicinity, State traffic officers kept close watch on the roads and San Francisco police were notified.

Milligan known here as 'The Porcupine' because of his bushy eyebrows and bristling moustache, had resided in this vicinity for more than 5 years.

.....
Milligan evaded capture by hiding in the willows and hopping a train out of town. He managed to live a free man, using the alias "Barney Barnato" for over a year in the town of Pioche, Nevada. He was eventually captured and sentenced to a life term at San Quentin where he died in 1948.



Milligan Mugshot





The Industrial City ECHOES

Historical Society of South San Francisco, Inc.
80 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

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Second Vice President Ginny Tilton
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Financial Secretary Donna Smith

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Director: Dave Casagrande

Jeanette Acosta, Molly Boyll, Julie Chimenti,
Mary Giusti, Gene Hessler, Donna Smith

Museum Committee

Julie Chimenti, John Penna, Lois Severi, Valerie Sommer,
Donna Smith, Bill Zemke

Event Planning Committee

Lynn Boldenweck, Molly Boyll, Sally Busalacchi, Margie
Casagrande, Julie Chimenti, Gayle Davison, Elaine
Garbarino, Barbara Irl, Donna Smith, Ginny Tilton and
Jo Zemke (with "on call" help from Rich Busalacchi,
Dave Casagrande, Alan Chimenti and Bill Zemke)

*The Historical Society is co-sponsored by the South San Francisco
Parks & Recreation Dept. It is through the City's
generosity that many of the Society's goals are accomplished.*

Contact & Location Information

Historical Society of South San Francisco, Inc.

80 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080
info@ssfhistory.org

Historical Society Museum

80 Chestnut Avenue
650-829-3825
info@ssfhistory.org
Saturdays (1-4:00 p.m.)
Please call if you are interested
in volunteering at the museum.

History Room / Grand Avenue Branch Library

306 Walnut Avenue
650-877-8533
By appointment only.

Historical Society's Plymire-Schwarz House

519 Grand Avenue
650-875-6988
info@plymirehouse.org
Saturdays (1-4:00 p.m.)

Memberships Expire December 31

Membership runs on a calendar year expiring
annually on December 31st.
Membership is \$15.00 per person - \$20 per family.
If you are interested in becoming a new member contact
the Society at 650-829-3825 or
Mail your check to:
Historical Society of South San Francisco
80 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

ECHOES: 650-829-3825 • info@ssfhistory.org
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