

LANDMARKS HISTORY COLLECTIONS

By Dave Gotz

In 1959, the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society began gathering and conserving historical items, documents and photographs that chronicle the history of the area known as El Rancho Corte Madera del Presidio, the area that includes the Strawberry and Tiburon Peninsulas, the City of Belvedere and the Town of Tiburon. Initially housed in Old St. Hilary's, which was a museum and library for local history as well as a landmark building, the Landmarks History Collections have been located in the Boardwalk Shopping center since 1996. The climate-controlled space contains record and filing systems for safe storage of thousands of irreplaceable items, a work area, equipment for the repair and care of fragile material and a small display space for rotating exhibits as well as being a retail outlet for Landmarks books, pamphlets, and photographs.

Our history collections include artifacts, fine art, photos, documents, oral histories, and ephemera, which chronicle the history of this area from the pre-Columbian era to the present. The collections are the primary source of information and illustrations for our historical publications and for newspaper and magazine features. For the past 20 plus years digitization of photos and documents has been a central part of our activity. This allows fragile and sensitive materials to be preserved without harming the originals and disseminated through digital media and easily added to our printed materials. Although some of these digitized photos and documents are accessible on our website, our goal for the next 20 years will be to allow greater online access to this amazing collection.

All around the peninsula you will find images and information which come from our collections, from the historical trail signs along the Old Rail Trail and around Belvedere to photographs displayed in several businesses and of course in our Railroad & Ferry Museum on the waterfront. Two beautiful paintings from our fine art collection by Marin artist Jack Wisby were included in an exhibit at the Bolinas Museum last month and we hope to again be featuring our art works in the Tiburon Town Hall as we have in years past.

We are indebted to numerous members of our organization who built this wonderful collection and used it to bring local history alive through our numerous books, pamphlets and live presentations. Of course this collection would not exist without the donations of precious family photos, stories and records, which help to connect the present with the past. We hope that community members will continue to add to our collections – we are currently looking for photographs, posters, menus, and memorabilia from the 1960s and 70s, when post-railroad downtown Tiburon and much

of the peninsula was evolving into what we see today. Contact the history collections at imsarchivist@sbcglobal.net; or, 415-435-5490. Hours are: Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 am to 1 pm.

Help Landmarks Society preserve our local history and keep it accessible for the community and visitors. To become a member, or volunteer, visit our website at www.landmarkssociety.org or call 415-435-1853. "The Tradition Starts With You!"



1. West end of Belvedere by Jack Wisby, circa 1920 2. Tiburon waterfront 1927 3. Landmarks History Collection office



RAILROAD & FERRY
DEPOT MUSEUM

CHINA CABIN

OLD ST. HILARY'S

ART & GARDEN
CENTER

HISTORY
COLLECTIONS