LANDMARKS

Living History ~ The Tradition Begins With You



Baseball in Early Tiburon The Tiburon Playhouse: Greasepaint and Celluloid The Long Flight of the Tropic Bird Old St.Hilary's Concerts Become a Landmarks Member

President's Corner

In 2025 Landmarks is about to embark on several Lisignificant improvement projects for our historic sites. Thanks to the generous support of our community through memberships and the 2024 matching campaign, we are well positioned to maintain and preserve our historic buildings.



In 2024, we welcomed approximately 14,000 visitors who came to explore the rich history of Tiburon and Belvedere at our historic sites. These guests at our sites not only gained insights into our history, but also visited our local restaurants, hotels, and shops, providing a boost to the economic vitality of our community's businesses.

Our educational efforts continue, with the Bel Aire School Third Grade tours underway at the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum and the China Cabin. This year, five classes of Bel Aire students, along with one class from St. Hilary School, will learn about their town's past.

Our Executive Director, Patty Flax, continues to oversee the upkeep and operations of our sites, along with her dedicated team: Office Administrator Maren Jaffe, Property Rental Manager Paige Petrini, and Archivist Jennifer Hartung. Thanks to Paige's efforts, our rental events schedule for 2025 is strong, with fortytwo events already booked. These events provide vital financial support for the continued preservation of our sites.

On December 5th, we hosted the St. Hilary Parish for the 70th anniversary of its move to its current location on Hilary Drive. A well-attended special celebration Mass, led by Pastor Roger Gustafson, was held in the Old St. Hilary Mission Church.

In January and February, in collaboration with the Tiburon Heritage and Arts Commission, we presented the Artist as Historian exhibit at Town Hall. Visitors

were delighted to experience paintings from the Landmarks Archives on display.

Our 2025 concert series at Old St. Hilary's Mission Church is off to a great start, with performances scheduled most months (see page 12). Special thanks to Dave Gotz for managing these popular concerts.

As always, we are in need of dedicated volunteers to join our team. If you are interested in becoming a docent, assisting in the archives, or helping in the office, please don't hesitate to contact us at 415-435-1853.



Director's Message

T'd like to take a moment to express how fortunate we Lare to care for and share four historic landmarks that anchor the history of our beloved Tiburon and Belvedere. These places offer a unique connection to the past, and it is extraordinary to be a part of their preservation.

May, National Preservation Month, presents an opportunity to reflect on the importance of our historic



buildings and archives. Old St. Hilary's, the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum, China Cabin, the Art & Garden Center, and our extensive archives provide tangible connections to our rich history. Caring for and preserving them is not only a privilege but also a responsibility, and I'm continually inspired by the lasting impact this work creates.

Winston Churchill once said, "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see." His words remind us that understanding our history affords us insights that can help to shape our present and future. Our historic buildings and archives are not just reminders of the past; they are windows into the continuity of our community. By maintaining and sharing these sites, we ensure that future generations will continue to learn from, enjoy, and be inspired by them. Have you experienced a concert at Old St. Hilary's recently? Talk about inspirational!

This year, as we tackle our ever-growing list of projects, we're not only preserving our landmarks but expanding our archives to safeguard the collective memory of our community. From the hardscaping around Old St. Hilary's to the ongoing restoration of the China Cabin and the exterior painting of the Donahue Building, every project is an investment in our history. The support we receive from our members, visitors, and volunteers makes these efforts possible, and we are deeply grateful.

As we continue sharing the stories of Tiburon and Belvedere with members, our community, students and visitors, I invite you to reflect on the power of preservation. Together, we're ensuring that the legacy of our past remains vibrant for generations to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Patty Flax

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Phil Cassou, Susan Cluff, Patty Flax, Jennifer Hartung,

Walt Johnson

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Except where noted, all photos from the Landmarks Archives

Old St. Hilary's Hardscape – *Thank You*

We are thrilled to announce that the hardscape is now complete at Old St. Hilary's. A heartfelt thank you to our members and supporters whose generous contributions to the 2024 matching campaign made this vital project possible. Thanks to you, we've successfully created a protective hardscape around Old



St. Hilary's, shielding it from the threat of wildfire embers.

A special shout-out to **Gardens and Gables** for their expert installation, **Petersen Associates Landscape Architecture** for their brilliant design, and the **Belvedere Community Foundation** for their unwavering support of this important project. Together, we've ensured that Old St. Hilary's remains safe and preserved for generations to come. Thank you for making this all possible!



Members' Spring Social

Thursday, the 8th of May, 2025, 4:30 to 7:00 PM Landmarks Art & Garden Center



Please join us for an afternoon of delightful conversation, seasonal refreshments, and the joy of camaraderie in the beautiful surroundings of the Art & Garden Center. This gathering will be a celebration of the season's bloom, and we would be honored to have your presence as we come together to celebrate another year of fellowship. RSVP: office@landmarkssociety.com or 415-435-1853

Coming Up at Landmarks:

Wildflower Walks at Old St. Hilary's Preserve – Experience the beauty of nature on guided wildflower walks with expert naturalist Alison Pence, starting April 18th. Every Friday from 10 AM to 12:00 PM, explore the vibrant blooms and hidden gems of Old St. Hilary's Preserve. Meet at the historic Old St. Hilary's Chapel, located at 201 Esperanza. Be sure to wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring layers for comfort as you stroll through this stunning natural landscape. Limited parking is available, so we encourage carpooling or walking up to the chapel for a more eco-friendly experience.

Plein Air Painting at Landmarks Art & Garden Center – On the fourth Thursday of every month, from 10 AM to 1 PM, immerse yourself in the stunning outdoors and let your creativity flow at our Plein Air Painting Class. Whether you're a seasoned artist or just starting out, this class offers a relaxed and inspiring setting to paint amidst the natural beauty of

the Art & Garden Center at 841 Tiburon Boulevard.

Under the guidance of experienced instructor Carol Weiss, you'll learn new techniques and discover tips for capturing the essence of nature. Pastels and watercolors, are provided or bring your own supplies. Come join us for a peaceful, creative escape in nature. RSVP: office@landmarkssociety.com.

The Ranch Art & Garden Camp – Give your child or grandchild a memorable summer experience at the Art & Garden Center, where children ages 4 to 7 can explore the wonders of nature through engaging educational lessons and hands-on arts & crafts projects. Running from June 16 to July 25, this camp offers a perfect blend of creativity and outdoor exploration. Watch your little ones connect with nature, discover new skills, and unleash their imagination in a fun and nurturing environment. For more details, visit: www.theranchtoday.org.

Knitting at the Art & Garden Center –Tuesday evenings from 6 pm – 8 pm. Join us at the Art &

Garden Center for a relaxing and creative knitting group! Whether you're a beginner or an experienced knitter, come share ideas, tips, and projects in a welcoming and friendly environment. Bring your knitting supplies, enjoy some conversation, and unwind as we stitch together. This is a social knitting group, not a formal knitting class. While there won't be structured instruction, it's a great opportunity to get help and advice from fellow knitters. For more information contact office@landmarkssociety.com.

Float Your Boat History Tour - Date to be announced - Set sail for an unforgettable voyage through history! Join us for a captivating Landmarks Society history tour from the water.

We invite you to embark on a 2-hour historical journey around the scenic shorelines of Tiburon and Belvedere. Tickets will go on sale the first week in September. This tour sold out in two days last year so be sure to purchase early. Contact office@landmarkssociety.com for more information.

Baseball in Early Tiburon - A Community Passion

By Jennifer Hartung

For the first half of the 20th century, baseball was an integral part of the Tiburon and Belvedere community, bringing together players and spectators for friendly competition and to share their love of the game.

The first recorded evidence of a Tiburon baseball team appears in a *Sausalito News* article from 1896 when Tiburon and Sausalito crossed bats in Sausalito. Early teams were often informal with rosters comprised of regular players and last-minute recruits, but by the early 1900s the teams were more formally organized. In 1907, *Sausalito News* reported on a memorable match between the Tiburon "Sharks" and the Northwestern Pacific (NWP) "Railroaders", where the Sharks dominated over their neighbors, wining 15-1. The reporter humorously described the Sharks as being "too fast and clever," explaining how

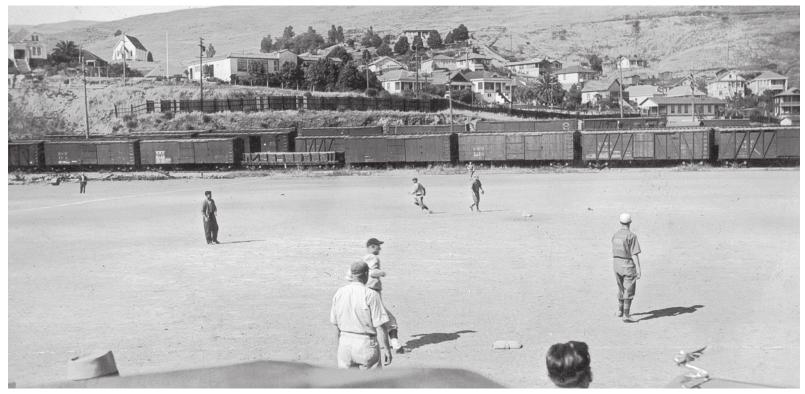
they "rolled over on their sides and flapped their left fins while running the bases."

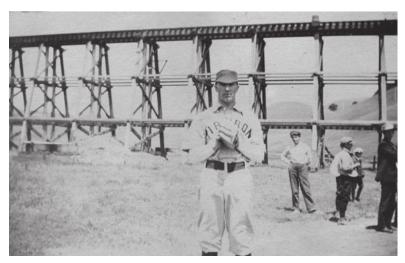
Throughout the 1910s and 1920s, baseball in Tiburon flourished with local boys calling themselves the "Corinthians" and the NWP team renamed the "Time Cards." Games were a competitive endeavor, but also important social events, often followed by dances and community gatherings. In 1913, the Corinthians hosted a benefit dance that featured a "grand march" with players in uniform. There were also informal games such as one in



Above: The Corinthians pose on the northwest end of Belvedere around 1913. San Rafael Avenue and the lagoon are in the background.

Below: The Tiburon baseball field circa 1940 with Old St. Hilary's in the background. The best hitters were able to clear three boxcars to secure a home run.





The Tiburon team would play wherever they could find flat, dry land. This is Billy Beyries playing near the trestle where Blackie's Pasture is now located. The date of this photo is unknown but could be as early at 1910.



Ed Vigno of Tiburon bunts the ball in the 1937 game vs. the Bear Photo team of San Francisco in Tiburon. Notice the hills of Tiburon in the background.

1910 where married men faced off against bachelors. The married men claimed victory and enjoyed a celebratory banquet at the bachelors' expense.

Early teams played in a variety of locations around town. The 1907 game between the Sharks and Railroaders was in "the Reed amphitheater, just south of Reed Station" where the Bel Aire neighborhood is today. Photographs of the Corinthians from about 1913 suggest they played on the north end of Belvedere where the golf course was later developed. In 1926, the Mill Valley Record reported the "Tiburon Baseball Club" was moving to new grounds "near the Reed trestle" (now Blackie's Pasture) to accommodate the growing crowds. The field that had the longest lifespan was on the edge of the railyard near Main Street Tiburon. Sometimes referred to as "Laguna Park," this field was used during Tiburon's earliest games and through the 1940s. The best hitters were able to "clear three rows of box-cars in center field" (Mill Valley Record), the ultimate way to clinch a home run.

During the 1920s and 1930s the local team's connection to the Northwestern Pacific Railroad (NWP) was particularly significant. The NWP acted as both sponsor and a source of players. There was a



Judge Field circa 1960. The location is now the parking lot for the Tiburon Peninsula Club.

NWP team that represented Tiburon, as well as company-based teams with matches between different NWP departments, such as the Car Shops and the Round House employees. By 1929, the team played under the name "Tiburon Northwesterners" or sometimes simply the "Railroaders." One notable annual matchup during this era was with the San Quentin Prison team. These games "inside the walls"

presented stiff competition. The *Mill Valley Record* reported that the San Quentin team was a "notch above most semi-pro aggregations" as they had "5,000 men to pick from." In April of 1934, the papers reported that Tiburon had reason to hope for a win since "Pretty" Goode, one of San Quentin's best hitters, had paid his debt to society and had left the prison.

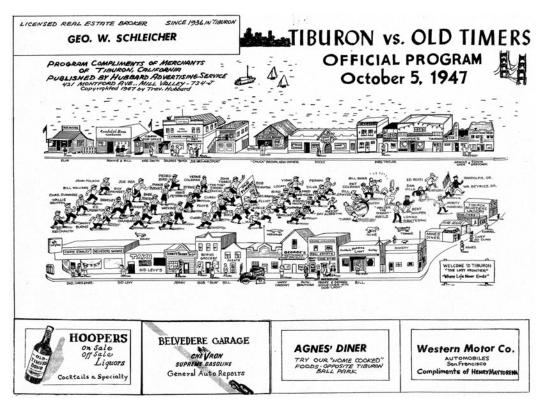
Another memorable game took place in June of 1934 when Joe DiMaggio's Jolly Knights played the NWP nine in Tiburon. Although DiMaggio was out with injuries, he attended the game and coached his club. DiMaggio was already famous as a result of his 1933 season with the San Francisco Seals where he had hit 66 straight games. Local papers gleefully reported that the Tiburon team trounced Joe DiMaggio's club 11 to 5 before a large crowd in Tiburon. (San Rafael Independent)

The 1930s saw the rise of Tiburon's most famous player, Sam Chapman. Chapman played for the NWP team while still a student at Tamalpais High School and went on to play baseball and football for the University of California at Berkeley before eventually signing with the Philadelphia Athletics.

After a lull during World War II, baseball in Tiburon flourished again. An annual "Old-Timers" game was a favorite town event of the late 1940s and 1950s drawing as many as 1,000 attendees. "The Old-Timers are former players on the Tiburon club, who come annually from as far away as Eureka to hurl bats and balls at the current club" the Mill Valley Record explained in 1948. Festivities included a parade before the game and a reception and dance for "the members of both teams and their ladies" following the game. The competition was summed up brilliantly by the Mill Valley paper: "For the third straight year, Tiburon Old-Timers abandoned their wheelchairs and walked off with the annual baseball game with the Tiburon Pastimers. The oldsters, playing before a crowd of more than 1,000, walloped the Tiburon club 16 to 5."

As the local population grew, the community came together to create a public recreation center, including a new baseball field. "Judge Field" at the Southern Marin Recreation Center (now Tiburon Peninsula Club) opened on June 4, 1950 as the new home of the Tiburon "Pelicans" baseball team. The Pelicans continued to participate in the semi-professional Marin league into the early 1960s however, with the formation of Southern Marin Little League in 1954, much of the local enthusiasm for baseball shifted to the youth.

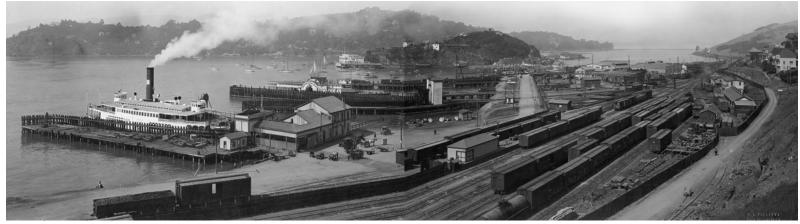
Still, baseball in Tiburon was more than just a sport—it fostered a sense of community and forged lasting memories that would endure for generations.



The Official Program of the 1947 Tiburon vs. Old Timers game included a sketch of the storefronts of Main Street with the players parading towards the field.



Northwestern Pacific (NWP) team representing Tiburon photographed at San Quentin in 1932.



Did You Know?

Most of San Francisco Bay is shallow, just 12-16 feet deep, but right off Tiburon and through the Raccoon Straits it's 200 feet, part of an ancient river trench that runs from the Golden Gate up to Carquinez. This deep-water port is what drew industrialist Peter Donahue to Tiburon in the 1880s — he could run his fleet of steamships and trains with passengers and cargo between San Francisco, Tiburon, San Rafael and the north Coast.

Did You Know?

Tn March 1962. some local residents got tired of fighting the traffic and started commute clubs to charter passenger ferries to get them from Tiburon to San Francisco. The Marin Marine Club charged "members" \$5 per week and the Belvedere Tiburon ferry



Belvedere-Tiburon commuter clubs reintroduced regular passenger ferry service to the Bay in 1962. Above, commuters disembark from a commuter ferry in 1969.

40 trips, which included a special opening day ferry to see the Giants at Candlestick Park. During their trial run, over 1,000 people turned out to welcome the ferries back to Tiburon.

"Artist as Historian" Exhibit Delights Visitors

From January 6th to February 28th, Landmarks, in collaboration with the Heritage & Arts Commission, presented the "Artist as Historian" exhibit, which garnered enthusiastic attendance at the reception on January 30th. Over the past 65 years, the



Former Landmarks Historian and Archivist, Piper Berger, leads a private tour of the exhibit.

Archives Donations Oct. 2024 – March 2025

Jim Allen - Belvedere Grocery Store photo envelope from 1937.

Linda Emberson – Two original Northwestern Pacific train tickets from 1960 and 1962; one Zephyr train ticket from 1959.

Jack Fiorito – Heritage Preservation Award, presented to Jack in 2013.

Estate of Gabrielle Keil – Original "Shark Point High Point" from 1954; Framed etching "Weary" by Esther Meyer; additional framed artwork.



Historian and Archivist Jennifer Hartung discusses a piece with exhibit visitor and Belvedere resident. Susan Cluff.

Landmark Society's art collection has grown to include more than 100 pieces, 17 of which were showcased in this special exhibit featuring images of Tiburon and Belvedere.

Held at Town Hall, the curated exhibit offered a unique opportunity for visitors to view the community through the eyes of local artists, as well as renowned artists from the Bay Area and beyond.

Mark and Kappy Reed – Monroe adding machine used by the J. R. Hanify Co. and The Martha Co.

Linda Sackett – Oil painting of Lyford House by F. Dubrulle c. 1960.

David Sell – Forty-one photographs of NWP Tiburon rail yard, 1910s-1930s.

Hap Smith – Collection of printed photographs of Tiburon and Belvedere, 1880s-1930s.

Brad Zavattari – Crank telephone from the NWP Tiburon rail yard's shops.

boat club \$30 for

Tiburon Playhouse: Greasepaint & Celluloid

By Susan Cluff

n July 16, 1958, Marin's newest and smallest theater opened on Main Street —the Tiburon Playhouse. The owner and builder was painting contractor and developer Fred G. Zelinsky (1894-1984) who helped restore the dilapidated commercial area in the 1955 community "Paint Up," then bought up most of Tiburon's downtown and started restoring it.

After visiting Disneyland in Anaheim (which opened that same year), Zelinsky envisioned a type of Main Street USA along the waterfront with new-old hotels, restaurants, shops, and a theater, keeping the old railroad town's historic charm. "I don't want a super-duper shopping center," he said in 1956, "I want Tiburon to be made as beautiful as it can be and Main Street as beautiful as possible."

To cater to young families moving into the area as well as long-time residents, his new playhouse would offer Hollywood feature films and cartoons as well as performance space for the Cove Players, a local theater group, to put on three stage productions a year.

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Souvenir Program of the 1958 Cove Player's production "Ways and Means" starring Joan McKinney and Michael Graham.

Zelinsky then drew up plans for a 300- seat Western style theater with 1880s-era metalwork and

> gaslights and hired experienced theater manager Don Donahue of Novato to run it. Fred and his wife Juanita, who spent weekends at the old China Cabin on Beach Road, also helped fundraise for stage equipment and expenses.

On opening night, a well-dressed audience attended the first night of Noel Coward's "Ways and Means," about a broke heiress and her gambling husband who join forces with a robber. Uniformed ushers showed guests to their seats, the Belvedere-Tiburon choristers sung some selections, there was a travel feature (on Disneyland!), and champagne served at intermission.

The next day, the double movie feature sold out quickly, a wartime thriller "The Enemy Below" starring Robert Mitchum, and the



The Tiburon Playhouse opened in July 1958 as a 300-seat movie house and theater. In April 1962, theater playbills featured "Bachelor in Paradise" with Bob Hope and "Ben Hur" starring Charlton Heston.



Fred and Juanita Zelinsky on Tiburon's Main Street in 1956. Owner of a large San Francisco painting company, Zelinsky bought up and restored most of Tiburon's downtown in the 1950s and 1960s.



Theatrical director Dan Tetheroh reads through a script with producer Lucille Shreve in 1963. (Courtesy Anne T. Kent California Room, Marin County Free Library)

romantic musical "April Love" with Pat Boone and Shirley Jones. Hollywood movies were shown Friday through Monday, with foreign films Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Tickets cost \$1.00 for adults and 25 cents for children.

Saturday afternoons were reserved for children's cartoons — Sleeping Beauty, Rocky & Bullwinkle, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and Quick Draw

McGraw. Many residents here can remember their mothers dropping them off to meet friends with an extra ten cents for the snack bar which sold popcorn, Raisinets, M&Ms, Junior Mints and red licorice Twizzlers. Kids were encouraged to sing along with the bouncing ball on the screen, and stay as long as they liked.

Through 1966, the Cove Players performed regularly at the Playhouse, often directed by actor, author and producer Dan Tetheroh of the Mountain Play. That fall, it was Agatha Christie's murder mystery, "The Mousetrap." Spring of 1959 featured "How to Murder A Rich Uncle," with a premier to benefit the newly-formed Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Historical Society.

Other memorable performances included "An Inspector Calls." "My Three Angels," "Women in Black," "Pajama Game," "You Can't Take it With You" "Table for One," and "Time of Your Life." During the "Angels" run in 1961, a show was hastily cancelled while the cast hunted for "Adolphe" a poisonous pet snake with a part in the play who'd escaped in the theater.

Tiburon Playhouse's early years also saw fashion shows, concert recitals and lectures with profits going to local charities. In 1965, the Cove Players moved to a smaller theater-in-the-round space upstairs at Tiburon Tommy's. Manager Don Donahue then ran the Playhouse just as a movie house until 1975.

The Blumfeld movie house chain then took over the lease, with manager Avila Shane bringing in mostly "art house" movies. While many small theaters struggled to keep their doors open, Tiburon Playhouse kept going by appealing to different interests and age groups. A 1976 playbill featured "King of Hearts" starring Alan Bates, "Bambi &

> Godzilla," and the "Masked Man."

In 1990, the theater was remodeled and "tripled "so more than one movie could be shown at the same time. In 1993, Lelah Zelinsky started a Children's Film Festival with a different film shown every week. From 2002-2022, Tiburon resident Saheed Shafa ran the International Tiburon Film Festival with films from around the world, many by independent film makers.

In 2023, LA-based



Hollywood movies were shown on large celluloid reels like these until digital projectors replaced film projectors in the early 2000s. Most full-length films had five reels and projectionists had to stay alert to change them. (Courtesy Marin History Museum)



In 1964, Tiburon-Belvedere's Boyd Guild held a fundraiser at the Tiburon Playhouse for Marin's Junior Museum to help young people learn about wild animals and nature. (Courtesy Marin History Museum).

theater operator Christian Meoli took over the Playhouse, now owned by real estate investment firm ACV Argo Tiburon. Meoli remodeled the theater to accommodate special events and offer dine-in food options, renaming it the Cinelounge.

HITHER THITHER AND YAWN

Normally sleepy Tiburon must've been the gayest town in the country Fri. night. Paint mogul Fred Zelinsky opened his charming Tiburon Playhouse -- and the whole community was alive with black ties, white jackets and minks traipsing in and out of parties that raged from Kirby Atterbury's Caprice to Michael Graham's aerie on the cliffs of Belvedere. Big success. Although the streets were awash with spilled champagne, nobody fell in to the Bay. Well, nobody who counted anyway.

- Herb Caen, SF Chronicle, July 15, 1958

The Long Flight of the *Tropic Bird*

By Walt Johnson Corinthian Yacht Club Historian

For nearly thirty years the hulk of the old sailing vessel *Tropic Bird* was a prominent feature of the Belvedere waterfront. With her stern firmly grounded on Beach Road and bow pointed toward San Francisco, she appeared ready to return to the open sea that had been her home for so long.

But where did *Tropic Bird* come from? And how did she wind up in Belvedere Cove? Launched in 1864 in Nova Scotia, *Tropic Bird* was a medium-sized brig (a two-masted, square-rigged vessel) of about 200 gross registered tons; she was 103 feet long, 26 feet broad, and drew about 11½ feet.

Even before the end of the American Civil War the *Tropic Bird* was at work carrying cargos from Caribbean ports to cities on the eastern seaboard of North America. In October of 1877 *Tropic Bird* left

Norfolk with a load of barrel staves for Barbados, but when she encountered heavy weather along her route, she was forced to put in at Bermuda, leaking badly, with her spars sprung and hull strained. In no condition to continue her voyage, she discharged her cargo and was sold at auction in mid-January 1878 for scrap value (\$35).

But *Tropic Bird* proved to be tougher than expected, and a few months later she was refitted and returned to service. While lying at Boston in mid-July she was sold to Captain Jared Jernegan of Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard. Jernegan had her converted into a whaler at New Bedford, then sailed for the Pacific Ocean. Rounding



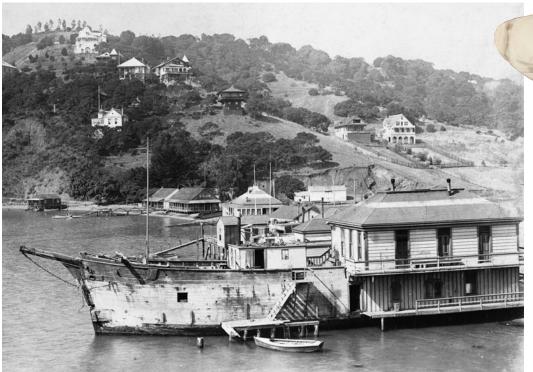
Jared Jernegan converted *Tropic Bird* into a whaler and brought her to San Francisco. (Courtesy Martha's Vineyard Museum)

Cape Horn, she arrived in Honolulu in April 1879, then began a new Arctic

whaling career the following month.

Tropic Bird made her first appearance in San Francisco that November, where she unloaded whale oil, bone, and ivory, before departing the following month on another voyage. The whaler returned to San Francisco in October 1880, this time bringing whale and walrus oil, walrus ivory, and whalebone.

Tropic Bird was sold to a group of local investors in January 1881 for \$5,526. Now under the command of Captain E. E. Smith (one of her new owners), she left immediately for Japanese waters and the Sea of Okhotsk. She



The *Tropic Bird* on Beach Road in Belvedere, circa 1895. Newly built houses in the background are on Bay View and Bella Vista including the two McLean houses on the far right.



returned in October after a very successful trip, having found particularly good whaling in the Sea of Japan.

February 1882 saw *Tropic Bird* preparing for another Arctic expedition. This time, however, her quarry was not whales, but codfish, and with this trip *Tropic Bird* inaugurated the Bering Sea cod fishing grounds. When she returned to San Francisco in September she was carrying 95,000 codfish in her hold, destined for the T. W. McCollam processing plant at Pescada Landing on the west side of Belvedere Island.

After she had delivered her 1883 haul to the Belvedere codfish plant, McCollam Fishing and Trading Company purchased *Tropic Bird*. The next April, they sent her north again and she returned in



1885 billhead from the McCollam Fishing & Trading Co. listing their ships below an engraving of "Pescada Landing" on the west shore of Belvedere.

October with 82,000 codfish, which she again took directly to the Belvedere facility.

She continued in the cod fishing trade until September 1887, when McCollam auctioned her off for \$750. Newspapers described her as "a very old vessel" that was nevertheless "as sound now as when built." *Tropic Bird* was thoroughly repaired and put into the coasting trade. That December found her anchored off Ensenada, where her captain and mate had gone ashore. A strong northeast gale suddenly sprang up and her anchor couldn't stop her from being blown out to sea. A second anchor was set, but the chain parted. At this point her six crewmembers panicked and abandoned her, taking to her ship's boat. They rowed

out to a nearby

steamer, which brought them aboard. *Tropic Bird* was not lost, though: the steamer put three of her own crewmembers aboard and towed her back to the harbor.

She continued in the Humboldt lumber trade, being sold to the Occidental Mill Company in March 1888 for \$3,500. Finally, that August, she was bought for \$500 by Captain Nick Bichard of Belvedere. Bichard announced his intention to keep her in the coastal lumber trade. But in the end, he beached her and by July 1890 was converting her stern into living quarters.

Tropic Bird would never sail again, remaining on the beach at Belvedere for the rest of her days. The continuation of her story, with a detailed description of life on the *Tropic Bird* at Belvedere, can be found in the article "*Tropic Bird*: Half Ship, Half House" by

Dave Gotz, which appeared in the Spring 2022 issue of *Landmarks*.

Advertisement for the sale of *Tropic Bird*. Note that she could be seen at "Pescad[a] Landing, opposite Saucelito" (on the west side of Belvedere Island). (SF *Examiner*, 30 Aug 1887)



Join the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society

Please join us as a member of the Landmarks Society. Your membership directly supports the

preservation of our historic sites and archives and helps to make Tiburon and Belvedere's history a meaningful part of everyday life



A Pictorial History of Belvedere 1890-1990

in our community. You can support Landmarks by making a taxdeductible gift today.

BENEFACTOR \$5,000

Special Benefits: A private event at Old St. Hilary's, China Cabin, or the Art & Garden Center for three hours. A historic photograph of your choosing from the archives. Four tickets to a future concert of your choice at Old St. Hilary's.

GUARDIAN \$2,500

Special Benefits: A private event at Old St. Hilary's, China Cabin, or the Art & Garden Center for three hours (Monday – Thursday). Two tickets to the concert of your choice at Old St. Hilary's.

STEWARD \$1,000

Special Benefits: Two books of your choice on local landmarks and history. A print of the Northwestern Pacific Railway Map (9.5 x 20"). Two tickets to the concert of your choice at Old St. Hilary's.

HISTORIAN \$500

Special Benefits: A book of your choice on local landmarks and history. Two tickets to the concert of your choice at Old St. Hilary's.

PATRON \$250

Special Benefits: Two tickets to the concert of your choice at Old St. Hilary's.

PRESERVATIONIST \$100

Special Benefits: A copy of A Pictorial History of Belvedere 1890-1990.

FRIEND

\$65

Celebrating sixty-five years of Landmarks.

All members are invited to our annual Spring Social and receive our newsletter twice a year. Visit the Landmarks' office to pick up your book or call to reserve tickets to a future concert.

Music at Old St. Hilary's



ArcoStrum – April 13, 4 p.m.

Original transcriptions of beloved classical repertoire and traditional Chinese instrumental music infused with modern instrumentations, as well as virtuosic non-classical instrumental progressive rock.

New West Guitars – Friday, July 25, 4 p.m.

The guitar trio featuring Tiburon native Perry Smith, with John Storie and Will Brahm, return to OSH to perform exciting originals, jazz standards and popular covers.





Musae - May 4, 4 p.m.

Musae invites you to experience *The Voice of Nature*, a breathtaking choral program that explores the deep, timeless connections between the natural world and the human soul.



Charged Particles – June 8, 4 p.m.

This trio features funky Latin jazz repertoire, blending in elements of classical music and unique arrangements of jazz standards, each played with a new twist.



The John Kalleen Group – September 28, 4 p.m.

A classic "Blue Note Era" jazz quintet delivers swinging, spirited arrangements of the classics from hard bop and post-bop eras of the 50s - 70s.

Crying Uncle Bluegrass Band – October 26, 4 p.m.

One of the most exciting young bands in acoustic music playing a unique mix of bluegrass, Dawg, jazz and original modern music.



To purchase tickets, contact the Landmarks Society office at (415) 435-1853, drop by the office at the Boardwalk Shopping Center, or go to Ticketleap.com.



Troop 48: Honoring Tradition at the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum

We were thrilled to welcome Tiburon Troop 48 to the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum recently to practice their flag ceremony. Fun fact: we found board meeting minutes from October 2002, stating that the flagpole would be completed and dedicated in November 2002. The first raising of the flag took place at that dedication, and Troop 48 was there to do the honors. It was so special to see them return and continue this important tradition. Raising and lowering the flag with respect is one of the key skills Scouts learn, and we're proud to witness them carry on this practice.

Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale a Huge Success!

ur annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale, held on December 7, 2024, was a festive and delightful event, as always! Local artisans showcased their beautiful creations, offering a unique array of handmade goods perfect for holiday gifting. Attendees had the opportunity to check off items on their shopping lists while supporting talented local crafters in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.





Bel Aire Third Graders Visit Landmarks

Recently, third-grade students had the Copportunity to explore the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum and the China Cabin. During the visit, Archivist and Historian Jennifer Hartung captivated the students with stories about the paddle Steamship China, including its journeys across the Pacific and the fascinating history behind how the China Cabin ended up in Belvedere. Hartung also shared intriguing details about the beautifully restored Victorian drawing room, bringing the ship's rich history to life for the young visitors.

Railroad & Ferry Depot Painting — A Labor of Love

If you've noticed, we are currently painting the Railroad & Ferry Depot. Caring for historic buildings like this one comes with its challenges, requiring meticulous attention to detail and specialized care. Boeck & Associates Painting Company is expertly managing this crucial restoration work, ensuring the landmark receives the care it deserves for lasting preservation and future generations. We expect the project to be completed in April.



Victorian Birdhouse in Need of Restoration

Our charming Victorian Birdhouse at the Art & Garden Center is in need of restoration after

being weathered by the elements. We are seeking a skilled and patient woodworker who can help restore this historical treasure to its original beauty.

This 5-foot-by-7-foot pagoda-style birdhouse, dating back to the 1890s, is a Victorian garden folly that reflects the period's fascination with oriental design.



It was a beloved fixture in the garden at 207 Beach Road, Belvedere, for many years.

If you are interested in taking on this project—or know someone who might be—please reach out to us at office@landmarkssociety.com or call 415-435-1853.

A Special Thank You To:

The Belvedere Community Foundation for their continued and steadfast support of Landmarks.

Piper Berger for her invaluable contributions to the archives and her assistance with the *Artist as Historian* exhibit.

Peter Brooks and Brooks Tree Care for their expert care and essential tree work at the Art & Garden Center.

Susan Cluff for her meticulous editing and proofreading assistance.

David Gotz for producing outstanding concerts at Old St. Hilary's and for his countless other contributions to the Landmarks Society.

Peggy Hodge for her dedicated work in the gardens, replacing, rejuvenating and nurturing everything green.

The Tiburon Thrift Store and Boutique for their generous and meaningful support of the Landmarks Society.

New Members and Landmarks Supporters

We are grateful to our members and supporters, new and returning, for their generous contributions to preserve our local history.

January 2024 to present

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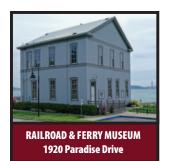
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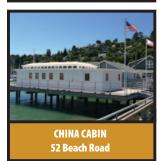
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