

LANDMARKS

Living History ~ The Tradition Begins With You

In 1962, two young artists started a commune in the Tiburon hills, building rough rock houses, a wind generator made of junkyard parts, and the famous Hippy Tree.

Fall 2025



**Early Belvedere Trustee: August Fusenot
Tiburon's Hippy Tree
War Years on the Tiburon Peninsula**

**Glimpses of Belvedere
Old St. Hilary's Concerts
Become a Member Today**

President's Corner

In 2025, our historical sites have seen a healthy increase in visitors eager to explore Tiburon and Belvedere's rich past. Folks from nearby communities and from all over the world are coming to Tiburon to learn of our town's origins and the roles each of our four landmark properties played in our past. These visits also benefit our local economy, as many guests often stay to enjoy Tiburon's restaurants and shops.



We have completed several major preservation projects this year. In addition to the hardscaping around Old St. Hilary Mission Church to reduce wild-fire risk, we painted the exterior of the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum, giving it a fresh look after 140 years of life. We also replaced the China Cabin's six doors and cleaned and sealed the canvas roof. In our Archives, outdated computers were replaced with new computers capable of supporting current software thanks to the Belvedere Community Foundation's generous grant.

Our focus on younger learners remains strong. This year more than 100 third-grade students from the Bel Aire School enjoyed tours at the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum and the China Cabin. In October, the St. Hilary School third graders will visit both sites. We also welcomed 45 senior visitors and 26 preschool campers at the Depot Museum. The Art & Garden Center hosted junior campers in June and July, thanks to our partnership with The Ranch.

Our Executive Director, Patty Flax, led a successful matching campaign for 2025. Thanks to generous community support, we exceeded our \$50,000 matching goal, raising a total of \$67,000 to support our ongoing maintenance and preservation efforts.

Our rental venues, Old St. Hilary's, China Cabin and the Art & Garden Center, continue to be in high demand for events and provide an essential source of funding. To ensure these gatherings remain enjoyable for all, we are currently monitoring sound levels at the Art & Garden Center to help manage event noise.

Our 2025 concert series curated by Dave Gotz at

Old St. Hilary's will wrap up with performances by Musae and the Stinson Family Band's festive holiday concert.

Looking ahead, we invite you to join us on December 6th for our 18th Annual Holiday Arts & Craft Sale at the Art & Garden Center. Local artisans will offer handcrafted items perfect for holiday giving.

As always, we are in need of dedicated volunteers to join our team. If you are interested in becoming a docent at one of our historic properties, assisting in the archives, or helping in the office, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at 415-435-1853 to learn more.

Phil Cassou

Director's Message

As we reflect on 2025, I want to echo and expand on the thoughtful message shared by our Board President, Phil Cassou. It has truly been a year of meaningful progress for the Landmarks Society not only in terms of preservation projects and community events, but in the renewed energy and support we've seen from the people who make our work possible.

Thanks to the hard work and heart of our incredible docents and volunteers, our historic sites continue to thrive as places of learning and connection. Whether leading tours, supporting special events, writing for our newsletter, working in our archives, or lending a hand behind the scenes, their contributions are at the core of everything we do. Their dedication ensures that the stories of Tiburon's past are preserved and passed on to future generations.

To our community of supporters - thank you, thank you! Your generous donations, participation in our

events, and belief in our mission enable us to care for these beloved sites and keep them open and accessible to all. This year's matching campaign was a remarkable



success, and it's a testament to the shared commitment we all feel toward preserving the character and history of Tiburon and Belvedere.

It has been especially heartening to see so many young learners and local families engaging with our programs from third-grade ice cream making to summer campers exploring the cottage and gardens at the Landmarks Art & Garden Center. These experiences not only educate, but spark curiosity in our town's history and heritage.

As the year draws to a close, we're delighted to invite you to a season of special Landmarks events:

Howard Lazar Exhibit – October 24–26 at the historic China Cabin, featuring his sculptures of Tiburon luminaries.

Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale – December 6 at the Landmarks Art & Garden Center, a festive tradition perfect for holiday shopping.

Landmarks Art Exhibit – Early December through January at Town Hall, showcasing historic maps and photographs.

Concerts at Old St. Hilary's – Continuing through the end of the year (see page 12 for details).

We look forward to celebrating art, history, and community with you!

With sincere appreciation,

Patty Flax

Landmarks Society 2025 Board Officers

Phil Cassou, *Board President*
Mark Freiberg,

Board Vice President
Jim Allen, *Co-Treasurer*
Brooke Halsey, *Co-Treasurer*
Helen Lindqvist, *Secretary*

Board Members

Peter Brooks Eva Buxton
Bob Harrison Suzanne White

Staff

Patty Flax,
Executive Director

Jennifer Hartung,
Archivist

Maren Jaffe
Administrative Assistant

Paige Petrini,
Events Liaison

Editors/Writers:

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



Design:

Mark Shepard,
shepgraphics.com

Except where noted, all photos from
the Landmarks Archives

“Notable People I Grew Up Knowing” A Sculptural Tribute by Acclaimed Artist Howard Lazar

We are excited to present a moving new exhibition from nationally acclaimed sculptor Howard Lazar, whose sculptural portraits are featured in institutions such as the American Jazz Museum, the San Francisco Cable Car Museum, and coming soon to the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society’s China Cabin.

In “Notable People I Grew Up Knowing,” Howard brings his work close to home with eight life-sized busts of individuals he knew growing up on the Tiburon Peninsula in the 1950s and 60s. These include both celebrated and everyday figures whose stories reflect the



soul of our local history - from *Rosie Verrall*, Tiburon’s beloved “goat lady,” to *Smitty*, a local railroad worker whose legacy endures in the memory of those who knew him.

Each bust will be accompanied by a personal reflection from the artist, highlighting how these individuals helped shape his life, his art and the spirit of our community.

Exhibition Dates at the China Cabin:

Opening Reception: Friday, October 24
6:30 – 9:00 PM

Gallery Hours: Saturday & Sunday,
October 25–26 1:00 – 4:00 PM

More than an art exhibit, “*Notable People I Grew Up Knowing*” is a journey through time - a heartfelt tribute to the people who built, nurtured, and inspired our community.

We hope you’ll join us.



Join Our Team of Landmarks Docents!

Are you passionate about local history and enjoy connecting with people? Become a docent at Landmarks and help bring our historic sites to life for both our community and visitors. As a docent, you’ll share the rich stories behind our beloved historic buildings, offering meaningful experiences that celebrate our shared heritage.

What to Expect:

- ✓ **Time Commitment:** Volunteer just once a month for three hours or more, from April through October.
- ✓ **Flexible Scheduling:** Opportunities are available on both weekdays and weekends.
- ✓ **Training Provided:** We offer comprehensive training to ensure you feel confident, informed, and ready to inspire.

Whether you’re a history enthusiast, a natural storyteller, or simply looking to give back, we’d love to have you on our team.

Interested? Call us at (415) 435-1853 to learn more.

Let’s make history unforgettable, together!

Thank you to our 2025 Team of Docents:

Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum

Francis Brooks
Anne Butler
Jerry Butler
Steve Callender
Phil Cassou*
April Cassou
Fred Codoni
Amy Davis
Steven Davis
Peter Engler
Dan Engstrom
Elaine Enochs
Tandy Ford
Mark Freiberg

David Haines
Robert Harrison
Holly Hooker
Jay Hooker
Karl Hoppe
Jo Ellen Hyland
Dennis Jaffe
Charlie Kingman
Connie Kirwin
Gary Lavarack
Margaret Lewis
Laura Limber
Phil Maslin
Bruce MacGowan
Maggie McCann
Bob McDermott

Torill McDermott
Harry Miller
Priscilla Miller
Tod Moody
Robin Moore
Patrick Nance
Kayla Nelson
Jeff Newman
Sally Pasternack
Don Pino
Rob Poole
Becky Pringle
Taylor Savage
Sharon Terrill
Ted Wray

Old St. Hilary’s
Eva Buxton
Annette Gibbs
Chuck Hornbrook
Gee Kampmeyer
Helen Lindqvist*

China Cabin
Jim Allen
Mimi Clarke
David Gotz
Zohre Grothe
Carolyn Kohler
Maria McCormick
Jean O’Korn*

Art & Garden Center
Lynne Hayes*
Peggy Hodge
Suzanne White

Volunteers at Large
Susan Cluff
Robert Finch
Walt Johnson
Bill Lindqvist
Alison Pence

*Lead Docent



Old St. Hilary’s



Railroad & Ferry Museum



Art & Garden Center



China Cabin

TIBURON'S HIPPIE TREE

By Susan Cluff

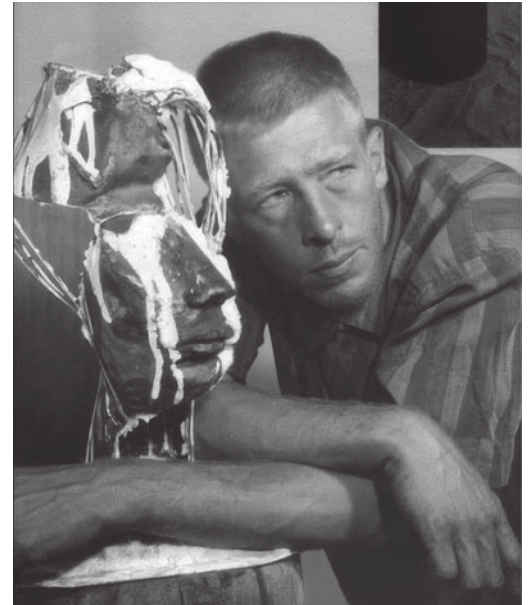
Everyone knows the Hippy Tree. High up on a windswept bluff off an unmarked dirt trail, it's the perfect spot for a quiet tryst, a sulk or just some peaceful contemplation. Its gnarled old eucalyptus branches, weathered wood swing and spectacular Bay views are right out of a picture book. But while beloved by hikers, teenagers and photographers, no one seems to know much about it. Who named it? Who built the swing? Did hippies really live here in Tiburon?

Turns out, hippies did. Before the Magic Mountain Music Festival on Mount Tamalpais in 1967, before the Summer of Love and Haight Ashbury, before "peace, love and flower power" and "tune in, turn on, and drop out" two young artists decided to experiment living outdoors and off the grid using only materials found in nature or the junk yard. "We

are not trying to prove anything or fight society," they explained that summer of 1962. "We are just living."

Marr Grounds, an architectural student at Berkeley, already knew the area and camped out there. His mother and stepfather, Seymour Warren, a former mayor, lived in Belvedere. Ron Boise, a metal sculptor and welder from Colorado who'd been travelling around the country in his old van, just needed a cheap place to live and work.

So, after getting permission from the property owner, they built a rough rock house with natural rock outcroppings serving as separate rooms. Screened their new home from the fierce winds with an old striped parachute and patchwork of tarpaulins. Furnished it with seats taken from junked cars, some rough tables and an oil drum stove. Built paths and benches, moved rocks, planted trees and put in a vegetable patch. Erected a wind generator that immediately blew over.



Above: Metal sculptor Ron Boise shows off a metal sculpture of a woman's head made of old auto parts. (The Beat Museum, San Francisco).

Left: Generations of local residents have enjoyed the Hippy Tree and its swing without knowing much of its history. (Penni Gladstone Photographer)



For a while, Boise's wife and four young children joined them on their rocky perch. So did a small community of other artists and writers, followers of Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac and Ken Kesey they'd met at local clubs, the Jabberwock in Berkeley or City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco. In June 1962, the *Marin Independent Journal* reported groups of young people living up on the ridgetop holding all-night parties with bonfires, guitars and dancing by the light of the moon.

There were also the relentless sounds of power tools as they added to their growing collection of sculptures made with auto and train parts, old metal pipes and scrap items. One giant artwork created by Boise was a great ribbed octopus of pipes covered with glass and canvas, designed to be walked in and experienced from every side. Other sculptures were more abstract, meant to move in the wind or make



interesting sounds. Soon large nude metal figures started dotting the hillside, some of them couples embracing in positions from the Kama Sutra.

Their halcyon days didn't last long. Boise's wife soon decamped with the kids to a house with walls in Tiburon. Grounds found that his few architecture jobs and Boise's art commissions wouldn't pay for their food and fuel. As fall rolled around and the weather cooled, other commune members drifted away, leaving them only their dogs Paz and Bvoomba

other could often be found in their "meditation seat," a rough swing in a giant tree extending into space where they'd retreat when the world became too much for them. That would have been the Hippy Swing 1.0, a distant ancestor of the one there today.

In October 1962, local police reported that Ground's tools – welding torches, wrenches, ballpeen hammers, protective goggles – had been stolen from his outdoor studio. That may have been the last straw. By November, the two men had gone, taking their few



Left: Commune members build a wind generator atop the Tiburon hills in 1962 under architecture student Marr Ground's careful supervision. (www.marrgrounds.com.au).

Above: Trail in Tiburon Open Space preserve leading to the Hippy Tree today. (Author)

for company.

While the two men claimed they planned to stay indefinitely, locals were more skeptical, noting that one or the

possessions with them.

Marr Grounds then finished his degree at Berkeley, joined the Drop City commune in Colorado building "habitable artworks," and moved to Australia, becoming an architectural professor specializing in environmental design. Ron Boise kept sculpting and exhibiting, was acquitted of an obscenity charge over selling his "artistic" sculptures in San Francisco, joined counterculture figure Ken Kesey in Santa Cruz as one of the Merry Pranksters, and died in 1966.

Soon after, the Town of Tiburon passed a moratorium on ridge-top development and purchased the bluff property as Open Space. Eventually, time and scavengers eradicated their old campsite, leaving only the rocks, the views and of course, the Hippy Tree for all to enjoy.

Glimpses of Belvedere: The Photographic Legacy of Charles Edward Holmes

By Jennifer Hartung

In the archives of the Landmarks Society rests a remarkable treasure: an album of photographs taken by Charles Edward Holmes. An accomplished amateur photographer, Holmes left behind an extraordinary record of the landscape, architecture and people of Belvedere at the turn of the 20th century.

The album, dating to about 1903, is itself a work of art. Its cover of dark green leather is embossed with the title “Glimpses of Belvedere” alongside a delicate bouquet of California poppies tied with a bow. A small window in the cover reveals a timeless view: the southern point of Belvedere, with fog rolling across the hills of Sausalito in the distance. The scene, as familiar today as it was more than a century ago, invites the viewer into the world Holmes sought to preserve with the images he captured.

Inside, more than 200 photographs offer an artistic portrait of Belvedere during a time of growth and transformation. The photos range from sweeping landscapes – scenes of fog, sunlight and water – to images of homes, landmarks, and people. Among the landmarks captured in his photographs are the first



The cover of Edward Holmes' photograph album. The photographs in the album are circa 1903.

Belvedere Post Office, the grand Hotel Belvedere, and the Presbyterian Church, now Belvedere City Hall. Panoramic images of the island reveal the stately houses built in the 1890s, standing as proud symbols of Belvedere's emerging prominence as a community.

Holmes' album also provides a record of Belvedere and Tiburon's connection to San Francisco. His photographs include views of the San Francisco and North Pacific (SF&NP) railyard in Tiburon, as well as

views of San Francisco and Belvedere, taken from the decks of ferryboats.

The creator of this album, Charles Edward Holmes (1866–1927), known as Edward, was the son of Charles Stuart Holmes (1832–1906). The elder Holmes came west during the Gold Rush in 1852, but instead of mining, he made his fortune in lumber. By 1905, both father and son were listed in the *Marin Directory* with the occupation “lumber” and had homes in Belvedere. Charles Stuart Holmes was among the early residents of Belvedere, building “Oakholme,” at 350 Bella Vista in 1893. A decade later in 1904, Edward hired renowned architect Albert Farr to design his own residence, “Hursley-on-the-Hill,” at 334 Golden Gate Avenue, directly across from his parents.

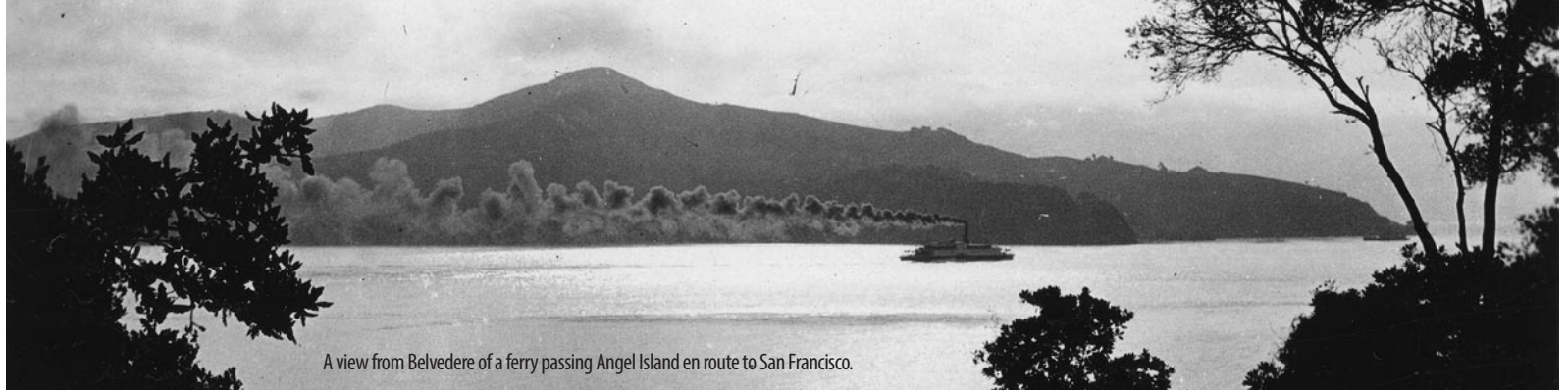
Today, more than a century after Holmes captured his “glimpses,” the album remains a fascinating resource for the Landmarks Society. Thanks to the breadth of images, the album provides a detailed historical documentation of the period. And through the artistry of Edward Holmes' photographs, we see Belvedere as its early residents saw it: a place of beauty, community, and promise at the dawn of the 20th century.



An image looking north on Golden Gate Avenue with Mt. Tamalpais in the distance. The home on the right still stands today at 416 Golden Gate Ave. In the 1890s, Belvedere Land Company planted over 1,000 trees on the island, including the eucalyptus seen on the left.



Looking up at the homes on Belvedere from Belvedere Cove. The white turreted house is Edward's parents' home at 350 Bella Vista, which still stands today. Within a few years, Edwards own home will be built further up the hill just behind his parents' home. The large home in the foreground was owned by Luis Dunbar, one of the first trustees of Belvedere. The home has since been replaced.



A view from Belvedere of a ferry passing Angel Island en route to San Francisco.



A view from Belvedere looking toward Beach Road and Corinthian Island. The *Tropic Bird* and Shamrock Lodge are among the structures on Beach Road when the photo was taken. In the distance are the railyards and the boarding houses near Main Street, Tiburon.



This photograph taken on the ferry dock where the trains disembark appears to show newly arrived visitors to Tiburon boarding horse drawn carriages bound for their homes on Belvedere. In the distance, one can faintly see the boarding houses located near Main Street, Tiburon.



A photo capturing a moment of everyday life inside Edward Holmes' parents' home at 350 Bella Vista. The woman at the desk is likely his mother, Elizabeth Stannage Holmes.



A photograph taken from the deck of a ferry, likely the Ukiah, looking toward Belvedere and Corinthian Islands. On the right is the old Corinthian Yacht Club building. The white building we know today was built in 1912.

Auguste Fusenot: City of Paris & City of Belvedere

by Walt Johnson - Corinthian Yacht Club Historian

On the afternoon of December 28, 1896, the first Board of Trustees of the newly formed City of Belvedere met at the offices of the Belvedere Land Company. Elected just nine days earlier, they were a Frenchman, an Englishman, a Hoosier, a Gloucesterman, and a first-generation San Franciscan of English and Alsatian parentage. The Frenchman, Auguste Justin Georges Fusenot, had been born in Doubs in 1830 and immigrated to San Francisco in 1873, where he soon became a salesman at the famed City of Paris dry goods store. The store's French founder, Émile Verdier, had arrived in San Francisco in 1850 on a chartered ship, *La Ville de Paris*, loaded with silks, laces, fine wines, champagne, and cognac. When the gold-enriched residents bought out the contents of the ship before it could even be unloaded, Émile and his brother Félix knew they were onto something big. Emile immediately returned to France for a second load, and upon his return in 1851 the brothers opened a small store, naming it after their first ship.

Fusenot, whose family owned both a famous Paris restaurant and a textile manufacturer, quickly learned the department store business and rose to become manager of the Verdier brothers' establishment and in 1888, he became a partner in the store. Like several successful San Francisco businessmen, Fusenot purchased a lot in Belvedere, at 160 Bella Vista Avenue, and in March 1891 announced his intention to build a summer home on the property. Designed by San Francisco architect Charles Rousseau and built by contractors C. H. Wilson and G. A. Foster, the home was ready for occupancy by that December. A newspaper reporter for *The San Francisco Call & Post*, visiting Belvedere in 1895, described the house as "a mansion adorned by turrets and spires that glistened in the bright sunlight."

The first formal consideration of Belvedere's incorporation was launched on July 17, 1896, just a month after the public-spirited Fusenot had become



Auguste J. G. Fusenot (1850–1907): Manager of San Francisco's City of Paris department store and a founding father of the City of Belvedere.
(The Fusenot Foundation, fusenotfoundation.org)

a naturalized U.S. citizen. A committee, consisting of Fusenot, banker Charles O. Perry, and UC Professor Luis L. Dunbar, was charged with determining the boundaries of the proposed city and reporting back the following week. Their report took the form of a petition to the County Board of Supervisors asking that Belvedere be incorporated. They claimed there were 600 residents within the proposed boundaries

which extended eastward to the railroad right of way and included the water surrounding the island for a distance offshore of 1,000 feet.

The committee then expanded to further investigate the question of incorporation. Now consisting of Perry (chair), Fusenot, Dunbar, stockbroker Arthur Page, and investor Peter Dean, the group reported its findings at a meeting at the Belvedere schoolhouse on the evening of August 10. Among its recommendations was to adjust the proposed boundary line to leave the Beach Road drawbridge outside the city limits and to include only about one-half of Valentine's (Corinthian) Island.

The committee was then empowered to prepare an incorporation election.

With the vote scheduled for Saturday, December 19, a public meeting was held two weeks prior to select candidates for the City offices. Once again held in the Belvedere schoolhouse, the attendees nominated a slate of trustees (Fusenot, Dean, Dunbar, lithographer Valentine J. Rey, and mining secretary John Pew), as well as a clerk (Henry F. Buhrmeister), a marshal (Neil A. McLean, Sr.), and a treasurer (Perry). Incorporation passed by a vote of 32 to 25 and all the nominees were elected.

In 1893, Fusenot had convinced the City of Paris to open a location in Los Angeles, where it rapidly became a premiere dry goods store. When the Verdier family decided in July of 1897 to convert their business to a stock corporation, the partners all received shares in the reorganized business. However, Fusenot chose to withdraw from the company and was given the Los Angeles store as a portion of his partnership interest. In October 1897 he resigned from the Belvedere Board of Trustees and moved to Southern California.

Becoming a well-known and successful businessman in Los Angeles, Fusenot was appointed Consular Agent for France in 1897. His life came full circle when he died in France during a visit in 1907. He is buried in the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.

WAR YEARS ON THE TIBURON PENINSULA (1941-1945)

By Susan Cluff

After the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the U.S. was thrust into World War II and everyday life changed dramatically. A compulsory draft, begun in 1940, had already registered all able-bodied men between 21-45 years of age for military service. Gas, tires, food and clothing were rationed, unnecessary travel curtailed, and Victory Gardens planted at schools and parks. Local communities held mass defense meetings, conducted black out and emergency drills, and set their clocks to "Pacific War Time" to save electricity.

Since it was thought California would be attacked next, National Guardsmen were called up to patrol the coast and guard army and navy bases, ports and rail tunnels. Huge searchlights were installed at the two ends of the Golden Gate Bridge, and air raid sirens, defense wardens and civilian guards showed up in town centers. Posters and newsreels urged citizens to "Do their Part," "Make Do and Mend," and warned "Loose Lips Sink Ships."

In February 1942, Tiburon and Belvedere held their first blackout drills. Tiburon residents in outlying areas didn't hear the warning siren and many downtown bar-owners left their signs on. Belvedereans didn't wait for the "all clear" signal, but turned their lights on as soon as they saw the City of San Francisco light up. In March, volunteers knocked

on doors to ask residents to pledge at least ten percent of their income to purchase war bonds. Red Cross volunteers organized blood drives, taught first aid classes, and held teas and dances.

With the San Francisco Bay Area now the center for the Pacific War effort, existing army and navy bases, shipyards and military training facilities were enlarged and many new ones built. To construct the ships, armaments, and equipment needed to win the war, women, retirees and even teenagers trained in war defense jobs and public safety. Civilians with planes and boats were recruited to assist in reconnaissance, search and rescue, and transport.

On Tiburon's east coast, the former Navy coaling station was turned into the Tiburon Net Depot constructing steel nets, floats and booms for a seven-mile-long submerged barrier to protect San Francisco's harbor from enemy submarines. In 1943, the base employed 70 officers and 800 men who built, maintained and installed anti-submarine nets for ports in the Pacific. Servicemen lived in hastily erected barracks that included the old river paddle steamer, the *Delta King*. About 200 civilians, working as riggers, helpers, loaders and kitchen workers, were offered naval housing in the Hilarita barracks at "reasonable rentals."

The Navy then acquired the "Annex site" at Paradise Cove for the Tiburon Floating Dry Dock Training Center, building a long pier, barracks, service



Left: Air Raid Warden booklet outlined duties of local wardens, mostly women, who were taught to put out incendiary bombs, direct emergency vehicles, and make detailed maps and reports. Right: WWII Victory Garden posters encouraged civilians to plant food gardens in backyards, schools and parks to supplement food supplies, free up commercial agriculture for the war effort, and improve morale at home. (Courtesy Oakland Public Library, Oakland History Center)



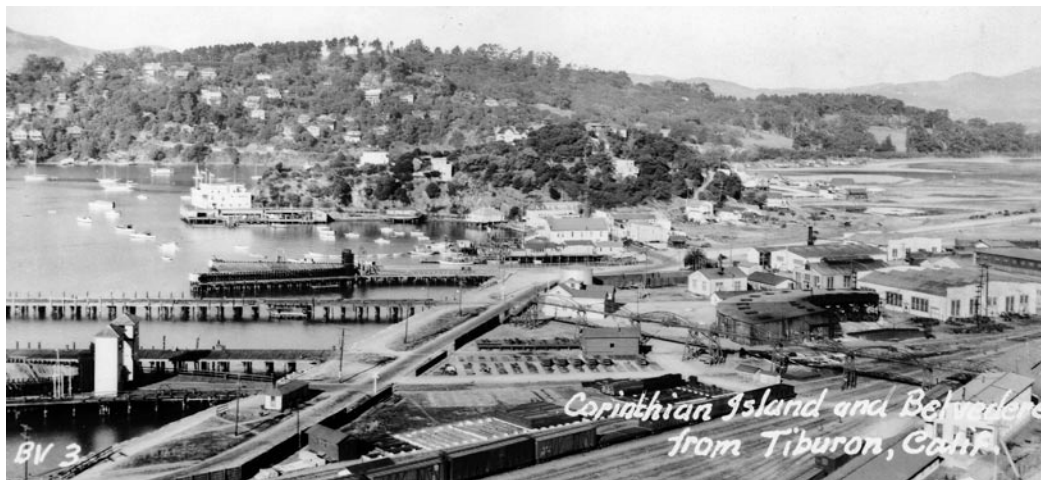
Armed sentries stand guard on transport docks in December 1942. (Library of Congress)



Red Cross "grey ladies" Grace Kretchmer, Agnes Johnston and Grace Gale from Belvedere organized social events for service men, taught first aid, rolled bandages and sent care packages and letters overseas.



Move over Sir! Two women railroad workers during the war years. During the war, women took critical railroad jobs, replacing men serving in the military. With railroads critical for the war effort, women worked as mechanics and switchers. (Library of Congress)



Tiburon rail yards, machine shops and sprawling maintenance yard stretched across the waterfront in the 1930s with long docks and gallows wheels where railcars and cargo could be loaded directly onto barges and ships.



Lieutenant L.A. Wilson displays a model of the huge anti-submarine net guarding San Francisco running from Sausalito to the City near St Francis Yacht Club in the marina. (Marin IJ)



Tiburon Naval Net Depot base in 1942 which built and deployed anti-submarine nets and trained sailors and civilian workers to install, maintain and repair them.

and storage buildings in about six weeks. There they trained about 4,000 officers, naval mechanics and deep-sea divers to repair damaged warships and cruisers at sea using mobile dry docks that were constructed in sections then barged into combat areas and reassembled.

Tiburon rail yards and machine shops owned by Northwestern Pacific Railroad were also expanded to accommodate war freight traffic, requiring trained machinists, boilermakers, carpenters, and car men. During the war years, freight trains operated 24/7 with locomotives pulling up to 40 cars of explosives, ammunition and supplies to be taken by barge from



Huge steel antisubmarine nets were constructed on a concrete slab and then pulled off into the Bay and dragged into place by net tenders, with a section that opened to allow friendly ships to enter and depart.



U.S. Navy attack transport warships in San Francisco Bay, 18 May 1945. (Naval History & Heritage Command Collection)



U.S. Navy sailors gather partially-completed antisubmarine netting at the Tiburon Net Depot in 1941. (Library of Congress)



Naval crews were trained in Tiburon on floating auxiliary dry docks that allowed U.S. warships, cruisers and submarines to be repaired out at sea. (Naval History & Heritage Command Collection)

Tiburon and loaded onto cargo vessels at anchorage in the Bay.

As the war waged on, families who'd uprooted their lives, moved for jobs, lost sons, brothers, fathers and friends, tried to stay optimistic. On May 8, 1945 the

U.S. celebrated VE day, marking the end of the war in Europe and redoubled efforts to win the war in the Pacific. On June 7, an announcement came authorizing construction of a new munition loading zone on Paradise Drive. "Uncle Sam Seizes Vast Marin Area for Ammunition Docks, Rail Storage, All Residents Must Move Out!" blazed a headline in *The San Rafael Independent*.

The new munitions installation was to include 3,503 acres, everything south from the railroad trestle between the highway and the Bayshore (except Hilarita housing and downtown Tiburon) and north of the ridge and northwesterly to the San Clemente junction at Highway 101. Property owners were told the government would take over their property September 1 and they'd be evicted. Contracts were then let for the \$13 million project and work on the new branch rail line and storage facilities began.

But with the Japanese surrender August 14 after

the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the project was abandoned. Riotous celebrations then took place all over the Bay Area lasting three days. On October 15, the victorious Third Fleet steamed under the Golden Gate Bridge into San Francisco Bay almost hidden in deep fog. To honor the returning troops, a 60-foot-high sign was erected on Angel Island — "Welcome Home, Well Done."

The war was finally over.



Illuminated sign on Angel Island welcomes returnees from World War II. (San Francisco History Center, SF Public Library)

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 in our community. You can support Landmarks by making a tax-deductible gift today.



A Pictorial History of Belvedere 1890-1990

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-six 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 *Fall-Winter-Spring, 2025-2026*



Crying Uncle Bluegrass Band – October 26, 2025, 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.



Michael Manring-Larry Kassin-John R. Burr - Sunday, November 16, 2025, 4 p.m.

Manring, master of the electric bass, joins cutting-edge jazz flutist Kassin and rollicking pianist Burr to collectively create extemporaneous-jazz-chamber-fusion-music for our time.

Musae – December 7, 2025, 1 & 4 p.m.

Musae is a 17-voice treble vocal ensemble who bring unique arrangements of holiday season favorites to Old St. Hilary's every December.



A Holiday Concert for Old St. Hilary's: The Stinson Family Band – December 14, 2025, 3 p.m.

The band is a Bay Area-based Americana music group that specializes in harmony-driven original and cover songs. All proceeds from this concert are being donated to Landmarks for the preservation of Old St. Hilary's. **THANK YOU**, Stinson Family Band!

A Tribute to Michael Hedges - February 22, 2026, 4 p.m.

A tribute featuring fingerstyle guitarists Jeff Titus, Teja Gerken and Janet Noguera.

Jazz Caliente – March 22, 2026, 4 p.m.

Guitarist and composer Lee Waterman's Latin jazz ensemble, Jazz Caliente, percolates with infectious Afro-Cuban and Brazilian rhythms.



Mads Tolling & John R. Burr – May 17, 2026, 4 p.m.

Two-time Grammy Award-winning violinist Mads Tolling and pianist John R. Burr take the listener on a captivating musical journey filled with rich improvisations and heartfelt interplay.



Musae – April 26, 2026, 4 p.m.

The 17-voice treble vocal ensemble brings their fresh spring program to Old St. Hilary's Landmark.

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](https://www.ticketleap.com).

Heartfelt thanks to:

The Belvedere Community Foundation for their steadfast support and generous funding, which made possible both the purchase of new computers and hardware for the Archives and the much-needed sealing and painting of the China Cabin roof. Their commitment to preserving our community's history is deeply appreciated.

Piper Berger for sharing her expertise in valuing our Ester Meyer prints and, most importantly, for the generous gift of her time.

Susan Cluff for her exceptional writing skills and unwavering dedication to historical research. Her vivid storytelling transports readers to the past, making history feel immediate and alive.

Dave Gotz for always coming to our rescue, day or night. If anyone deserves a superhero cape, it's Dave!

Peggy Hodge for her extraordinary work in the gardens at the Art & Garden Center. Through her dedication and vision, she has transformed an entire acre into something truly beautiful. The gift of her time, talent, and care is priceless.

Walt Johnson for his outstanding research and writing skills and serving as an invaluable resource to our archives, helping to deepen our understanding of local history.

Gary Lucas for coming to our rescue and repairing the threshold at the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum within minutes of our call!

Alison Pence for inspiring others through her wildflower walks on the Preserve and generously sharing her deep knowledge and passion for this cherished open space we are honored to steward.

Paige Petrini for consistently going above and beyond for our couples, for Landmarks, and for anyone in need. She's always the first to offer to lend a hand!

Ivan Silva and the Belvedere-Tiburon Library for their collaborative spirit and generous support in printing our music programs, Float Your History program, and exhibit photographs.

And thanks to all of our fabulous volunteer drivers for concerts at Old St. Hilary's:

Mark Freiberg, Jennifer Hartung, Chuck Hornbrook, Helen and Bill Lindqvist, Paige Peterson and to our fabulous beverage captain, **Jane Riney**.



On August 28th like-minded railway enthusiasts from Landmarks including Board President Phil Cassou, Archivist Jennifer Hartung, and volunteers Rob and Debbie Poole took a field trip to the Western Railway Museum in Solano County. They were treated to a ride on one of the museum's historic electric cars by docent Fred Codoni, who also volunteers at our own Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum in Tiburon. The Western Railway Museum was founded in 1946 when a group of rail fans pooled their money to save an Oakland streetcar from the scrapyard sparking decades of preservation work that continues today. A kindred museum!

IN MEMORIAM

Corinne Wiley (December 2024)

Corinne "Connie" Wiley, known to many as Madam Belvedere, passed away at 98 on December 24, 2024. Connie was a longtime Landmarks supporter and a devoted resident and civic leader. She served on the Belvedere City Council and Planning Commission for a combined 12 years and was named Citizen of the Year in 2005. She also represented the City on the board of Sanitary District No. 5 of Marin from 2007 to 2011. Beyond government service, she strengthened community life through her work with the Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the Tiburon Economic Development Committee, and as co-chair of the first Friday Night on Main in 2004.

Connie's love affair with Belvedere began in her youth, sailing into Belvedere Cove, and endured throughout her life. She became a symbol of civic pride and leadership, remembered as a role model and elder stateswoman whose legacy of care and dedication will continue to inspire the community.



Archives Donations April – September 2025

Mark Chiolis – San Francisco Yacht Club newsletter, 1993.

Susan Cluff – Cancelled envelope from the Floating Drydock Training Center circa 1942 and other WWII related ephemera.

Dave De Tomasi – Photographs and documents from 1920s-1950s from his grandfather, Tiburon native Harvey Anderson.

Ned Farnkopf – Southern Pacific potbelly stove.

Marcia Felton – St. Stephen's Potluck Cookbook, 1982; DVD of interview with Warren Callister.

Barbara Ford – Photographs of the Lyford House and Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary, 1970s and 1980s.

Anne Kircher – "Redemption of Oblivion" and other books relating to local history.

Chris Morrison – Photo envelope from Belvedere School circa 1962.

Jeff Newman – Framed photograph of the Donahue Building, 1973.

Hal Schmidt – Commemorative ribbons, 1982-1984.

Maria Shuman – Directories, flyers and periodicals relating to Tiburon and Belvedere, 1960s-2000s.

Jack Suderman – Framed aerial photograph of Corinthian Island, 1920s.

New Members and Landmarks Supporters

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our members and supporters, both new and returning, for their generous contributions toward preserving our local history.

September 2024 to present

Anonymous (3)
The 5 Ryan Foundation
Wayne Alexander
Anne and Andy Allen
Donna Allen
John Allen
Lynda and Jim Allen
Winifred and Harry B. Allen Foundation
Deborah Alstad
Donna Amon
Andy Anderson
Naomi Shankute and Kene Aningo
Philippa Norman and Rob Arathoon
Maria Fernandez and Robert Araujo
Allison Arcos and Petria Thompson
Lisette Rodriguez and Rodrigo Avila
Anne Marie Siu Yuan and Peter Bacchetti
Caroline Bailey
Katharine S. Baker
Nancy Barbour
Sharon Barncord
Tanja Obear and Mark Bartlett
Lisa and Peter Barto
Lesley Bates
Nick Bates
Meagan and Ben Becker
Catherine and James Bedilion
Joan and Don Bekins
Victoria Belardi
Belvedere Community Foundation

Carol and Leslie Benet
David B. Bennett, CPA
Debbie and Shawn Bennett
Susan Benson
Piper and Miles Berger
Joan Bergsund
Marika and Richard Bergsund
Rayna and Jim Bernard
David Berry
Shannan and Steve Bishop
Bailey Sullivan and Kris Black
Shari Cruz and Jared Blumenfeld
Boeck & Associates
Barbara and Larry Bogel
Beverly Boorman
Jean Bordon
Deborah Boyd
Kristen Breck
George Brewster
Kimi and Peter Brooks
Louise Felton-Brown and Brian Brown
Elliott Brown
Faith and Stephen Brown
Peter Bruck
Jo Burnett
Alicia and Andrew Burns
Kristen Palmer and Eamonn Burns
Maureen Buscher
Anne and Jerry Butler
Caffe Aciri, Kathryn Servino
California Rose Catering
Peggy C. Campbell

Carol and Dick Canady
Laura Henry and Ken Canham
Louise and Angelo Capozzi
Pat and John Carapiet
Jennifer Weaver and Derek Carson
Diane and Rob Cassil
April and Phil Cassou
Marie Cavanagh
Pamela Dekema and Richard Champe
Brian Chase
Chevron
Stefanie Cho
Mimi Clarke
Julie Coffin
Barbara Cupper and Richard Colonno
Belvedere Land Company
Dolores B. Conlan
Joan Coolidge
Rosalyn Brandt and Tom Coté
Stone D. Coxhead
Jeff Craemer
Susan Cronholm
Ingrid Woods and Steve Cummings
Tracy and Tim Cunningham
Kari and Jeffrey Cusack
Jeanne and Don Dana
John Daniels
Ken and Ann Davis
Kathleen Burke and Ralph Davis
Rodney Davis
Nick Davoren and Evelyn Wood
Dave De Tomasi
Bente Hansen and Edwin Deer
Virginia and Phillip DeMaria

Ann B. Dey
Jackie Dickson
Joan Don
Grace Severino and Reese Dorger
Anne and Larry Drew
Elizabeth Duff
Agneta and John Dupen
Mary and David Eklund
Scott M. Elrod
Daren Engel
Eva and Sven Ericsson
Bob and Anne Falltrick
Ned Farnkopf
Jennifer Fearon
Melissa and Patrick Feder
Angelo P. Figone
Robert O. Finch
Shirley and Jack Fiorito
Debbie and Rick Fisher
Catherine Fitzgerald
Patty and Howard Flax
Toby Flax
Douglas Floyd
Erdmuth Folker
Mary Fox
Andrew Frankl
Alice Fredericks
Rose Freedman
Melanie S. Freeman
Diane Liu and Mark Freiberg
Michelle Friend
Katelyn Boland and Kevin Fuchs
Georgann Fuller
Rena and Spencer Fulweiler
Kelsey Tenney and Benjamin Gadbaw
The Julio R. Gallo Foundation
John Garretson
Luke Garrison
Mary Geiger

Salpi Suzmeian and Peter Geissler
Annette and Fred Gellert
Annette Gibbs
Joe Gillach & Reynaldo Zertuche
Jeri and Fred Goldberg
Ira D. Goldfine
Vickie Rath and David Gotz
Allison and Taylor Greason
Geraldine G. Green
Christine Greene
Carolyn and Doug Grey
Bambi and Robert Griffin
Sallie Griffith
Judy and Jon Groesbeck
Judy Wilson and Lawrence Guinness
Patricia and Anthony Guzzardo
Elizabeth and Tim Hachman
John Hagel
David Haines
Anne and Ken Hammer
Naomi Fulgenico and Andre Hanna
Cynthia Herrera and Joe Hanrahan
Gay and Wyman Harris
Muriel M. Harris
Nancy and Scott Harris
Gabriella Sebastiano and Brent Harrison
Bonnie Hart
Elizabeth and Robert Hart
Nena P. Hart
Margie and Bill Hart
Gail Harter
Joan Harter
Lois Hartley-Cannady
Judy and Bruce Hartung
Jennifer and Chris Hartung

Alan Heath
Elizabeth and John Held
Ingrid and James Hession
Susan Hoeschler
Kristin and Michael Hogan
Charlotte M. Honda
Holly Nyerges and Jay Hooker
Joanna Clark and Mark Hoose
Chuck Hornbrook and Lisa Edwards
Dale and John Houck
Maria Zakeri and Mike Hoyle
Jennifer and Gordon Hull
Karen and Richard Hyde
Jo Ellen Hyland
Molly Keil Hynes
Gabriella and Glenn Isaacson
Deborah and William Ivy
Tina and Jay Jacobsen
Henry and Robin Jacobson
Paula and Dennis Jaffe
Jacqueline and Ian Jaffee
Mary and Thomas Jasek
Ann Jewett
Jewish Community Federation
Elaine and Brian Ji
Barbara Johnson
Beverlee Johnson
Walt Johnson
Ben Johnston
Jonathan Kahn
John Kalleen
Joyce Kami
Gee Kampmeyer
John H. Kaufmann
Patricia and Terry Keenan
Jean-Marie Kelly
Laryn Kelly
Patricia and Scott Kern

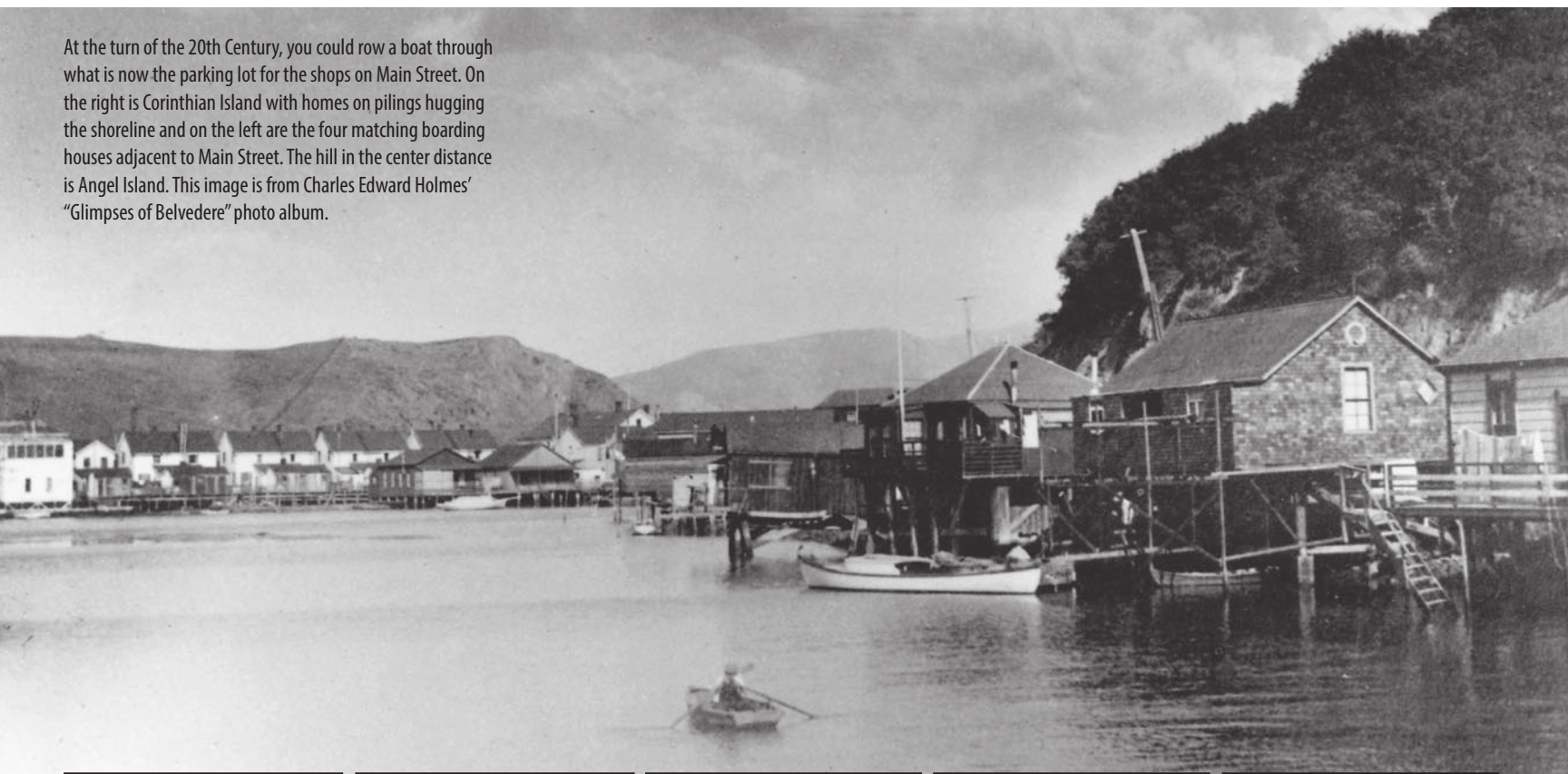
Lindsey Navarro and Yusuke Kihara	Don Mathews	Susan and Robert Perkins	Cristene Schonefeld	Georgene and Kirk Usher
Gretchen B. Kimball	Matt Mathews	Carolie Pescatello	Sally and Steve Schroeder	Katherine and Stephen Van Dusen
Bruce King	Anne and Harry Matthews	Paige and Dave Petrini	Jayne Sciaroni	Naomi Redding and JD Van Hayen
David King	Judy Mayne	Janice Pinkston	Becky and Doug Scott	Jim Vetter Photography
Brookie King	Charmaine and Luke Mazur	Megan Kilduff and Bogdan Demetrius Popa	Stephanie Selin	Taylor Wega and Tiberio Visona
Robert Kline	Claire McAuliffe	Monica Thiede and David Powell	SF Foundation	Paul von Stamwitz
Bill Knick	Joy and Gene McCabe	Dean R. Powell	Nancy Shen	Mekel Wakshlag
Marilyn V. Knight	Maggie Brooks McCann	Jeanne Price	Sally and James Shepard	Anne-Marie and David Walker
Carolyn Kohler	Pam Martori and Bob McCaskill	Becky and Bob Pringle	Jennifer and Mike Shepard	Jett Walker
Danielle St. Germain and Steve Kulinski	Jane McConnell	JoAnn Quinn	Maria and Kip Shuman	Tinman Walker
Ann and Tad Lacey	Jean O'Korn and Michael McDaniel	Danielle Racich	Jennifer and Jeremy Sicklick	Gretchen Burmaster and Roger Ward
Thomas G. Lacey	Maggie McDonogh	Jon P. Rankin	Jill and Richard Sideman	Jena and Eric Watson
Sharon and Jeff Lamoree	Joan and Roger McGee	Sally Rankin	Shirley Silvestri	Liz and Jeff Webb
George Landau	Michael and Ellen McHenry	Allan Rappaport	Lindsey Munar and Ivan Sinkevich	Kim and Carl Weichel
Eleanor Laney	Caitlin McVarish	Kappy and Mark Reed	Claire and Rob Slaymaker	Elizabeth A. Weisheit
Cathy Larson	Janice and Steve Meisel	Irene Martin Slisky	Irene Martin Slisky	Ann and Larry Wheat
Marsha and Michael Lasky	Stephanie Mendel	Smissaert Family Trust	Ann Aylwin and Bill Smith	Ingrid and Bill Wheeler
Teri Lasky	Susan W. Michaud	David Kenneth Smith	Suzanne and Harry Smith	Suzanne and James White
Madison Lasky and Tyler Launer	Ashley Casida and Gilbert Milam	Suzanne and Jerry Riessen	Gloria and David Sparrow	Malcolm Whyte
Patricia and Howard Lazar	Harry S. Miller and Diana Chulick	Barbara and Eric Roberts	Cathy and Gary Spratling	Julie and Malcolm Whyte
Susan and Michael Lazarus	Nicole Gaetano and Connor Morgado	Dexter Roberts	Rachael Steele	Gary Widman
Jolie and Blaine Leeds	Susan Morris	Shana Rohde-Lynch	Amanda Stephens Fund of MCF	Christy Wise
Mardi Leland	Fraser Muirhead	Ruth and Mel Ronick	Elle and Paul Stephens	Hiala Witt
Mimi and Walter Levison	Leslie Airola-Murveit and Hy Murveit	Robert F. Rosenbluth	Donna J. Stewart	Nikki and Jim Wood
Lorrie Meyercord and Jack Lewis	Marla and Michael Napolitano	Camerin Ross	Kathy and Larry Stoehr	Woodlands Market
Craig L. Lieber	Suzanne Fong and Frank Nappi	Sylvia Ross	Austyn and Abby Stone	Dellie and Doug Woodring
Jean Wang Lin	Christina Newkirk	Rotary Club of Tiburon (Sunset)	Claire Strazulo	Julia Couch and Isaiah Woods
Helen and Bill Lindqvist	William W. Newland	Marcia and Michael Rubenstein	Tara Sullivan	Jianhao Wu
Lisa and Fred Lowell	Diane and Jeff Newman	Susan Cluff and Neil Rudolph	Patricia Montag and John Swain	Katherine Ye
Susan and William Lukens	Arlene and Chip Nielsen	Rebekah and Luis Ruiz	Thelma S. Taich	Patty and Dave Young
Diane Lynch	Kathy Niggeman	Sarah and Stuart Ryan	Christine and John Telischak	Betsy and Coleman Youngdahl
A'Laina and Patrick Lyons	Jennie Noerr	Gretchen Saeger	Geri Thayer	Ronald Zech
Meredith and Lachlan MacLean	Hilda Nogueiro	Sara and Dennis Sakai	The Angel Island-Tiburon Ferry	Sima Zeiger
John and Francesca Madden	Marcelino and Shirlee Nogueiro	Salesforce	Ann Thompson	Zelinsky Properties LLC
Jan Maisel	Terry D. O'Neill	Caroline R. Sanders	Rod Thompson	Laleh Zelinsky
Marin Community Foundation	Jordan Duval-Smith and Jack Ortel	Romney Resney and David Sandrich	Michelle and Dave Thomsen	Elizabeth Zettersten
Marin Event Lighting, Rodney Davis	Keiko Otsu	Felipe Santiago and Barry Joseph	Tiburon Thrift Shop	Ziyi Li and Yu Xuan Zhang
Marin GreenPlay Camp, Ms. Julie Hanft	Dawn and John Owen	Katherine Whitney and Taylor Savage	Henry O. Timnick	Alphonsa Vadakethalake
Jared Martin and Adolfo Moreno	Nancy Parker	Julianne Schaefer	Robert and Theresa Tomasello	Zubrik
Joyce Martin	Lynn M. Pasternak	Sue Mazzetti and John Schaeffer	Richard Torney	William Zuendt
James Martinoni	Lynn and Richard Payne	Cynthia and Stephen Schneider	Ellen and David Turner	
Kathlyn M. Masneri and Arno P. Masneri Fund	Kathy Pearson	Susan Schneider	Jeanne and Peter Tymstra	
	Vicki and Pete Pedersen	Laura and Timothy Schneider	University of California Library Acquisitions	
			Jodee and Richard Upjohn	

Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society
1550 Tiburon Blvd., Suite M
Belvedere-Tiburon, California 94920
415-435-1853

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN RAFAEL, CA
PERMIT NO. 87

www.landmarkssociety.com
[instagram.com/belvederetiburonlandmarks](https://www.instagram.com/belvederetiburonlandmarks)
[facebook.com/belvederetiburonlandmarkssociety](https://www.facebook.com/belvederetiburonlandmarkssociety)

At the turn of the 20th Century, you could row a boat through what is now the parking lot for the shops on Main Street. On the right is Corinthian Island with homes on pilings hugging the shoreline and on the left are the four matching boarding houses adjacent to Main Street. The hill in the center distance is Angel Island. This image is from Charles Edward Holmes' "Glimpses of Belvedere" photo album.



RAILROAD & FERRY MUSEUM
1920 Paradise Drive



CHINA CABIN
52 Beach Road



OLD ST. HILARY'S
201 Esperanza Street



ART & GARDEN CENTER
841 Tiburon Boulevard



HISTORY COLLECTIONS
1550 Tiburon Boulevard