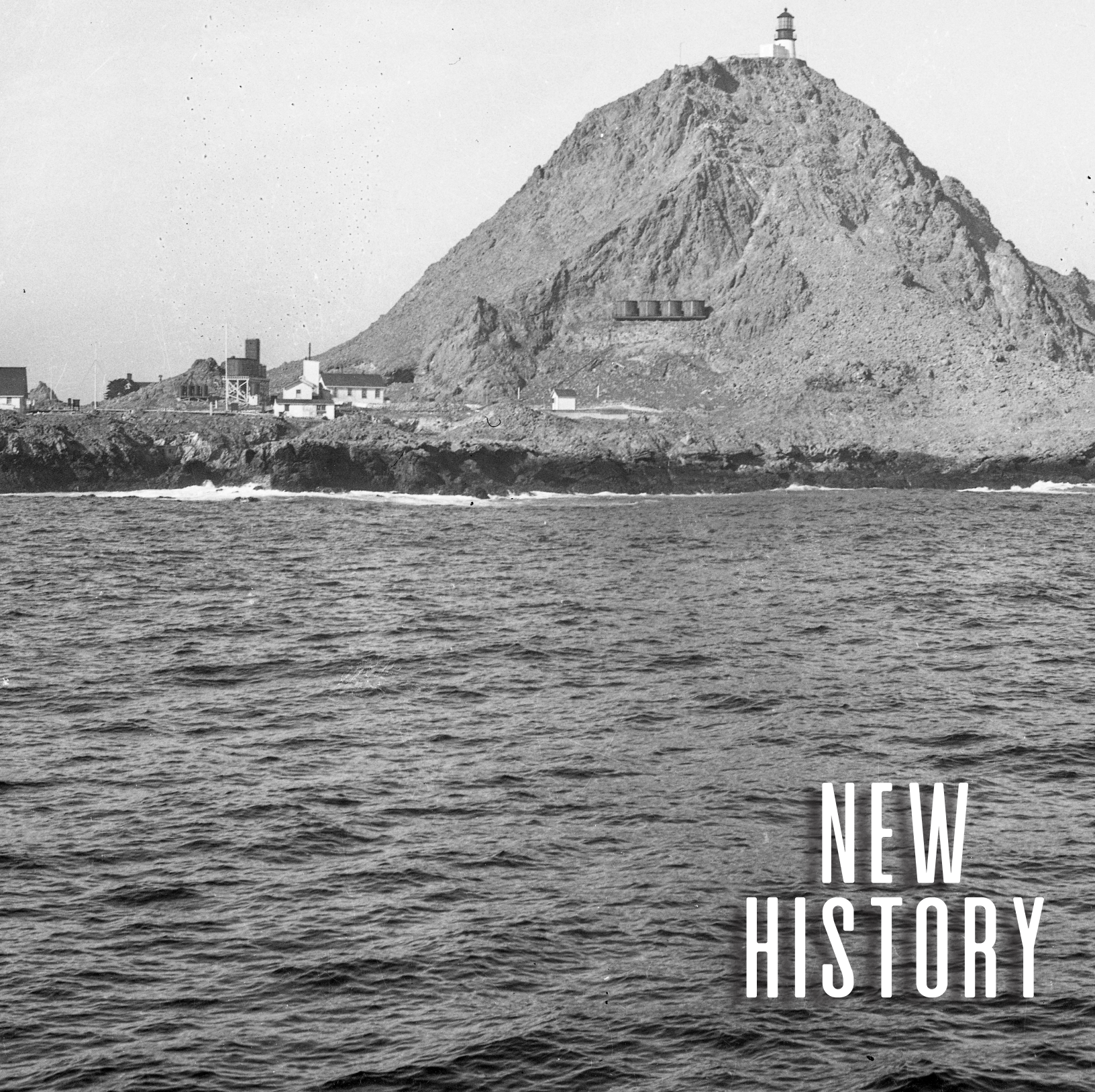
Outside Lands

San Francisco History from Western Neighborhoods Project

Volume 19, No.3 Jul Sep 2023



NEW HISTORY

OutsideLands.org
Western Neighborhoods Project

Outside Lands

History from Western Neighborhoods Project
(Previously issued as SF West History)

Jul-Sep 2023: Volume 19, Number 3

EDITOR: Chelsea Sellin

CONTRIBUTORS: Bonnie Bates, LisaRuth Elliott, John Freeman, Nicole Hallenbeck, Paul Judge, Nicole Meldahl, Margaret Ostermann

Board of Directors 2023

Arnold Woods, President
Kyrie Whitsett, Secretary
Carissa Tonner, Treasurer
Ed Anderson, Joe Angiulo, Michelle Forshner, Lindsey Hanson, Denise La Pointe, Nicole Smahlik

Staff: Nicole Meldahl, Chelsea Sellin

Advisory Board

Richard Brandi, Christine Huhn, Woody LaBounty, Michael Lange, John Lindsey, Alexandra Mitchell, Jamie O'Keefe, and Lorri Ungaretti

Western Neighborhoods Project
1617 Balboa Street
San Francisco, CA 94121
Tel: 415/661-1000
Email: chelsea@outsidelands.org
Website: www.outsidelands.org
facebook.com/outsidelands
twitter.com/outsidelandz
instagram.com/outsidelandz

Cover: Southeast Farallon Island, circa January 1939. (Courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp14.3086)

Right: Looking west on Clement Street from Park Presidio, circa 1923. (Courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp33.00956)

© 2023 Western Neighborhoods Project. All rights reserved.

Inside

1 Executive Director's Message

2 Where in West S.F.?
by Paul Judge and Margaret Ostermann

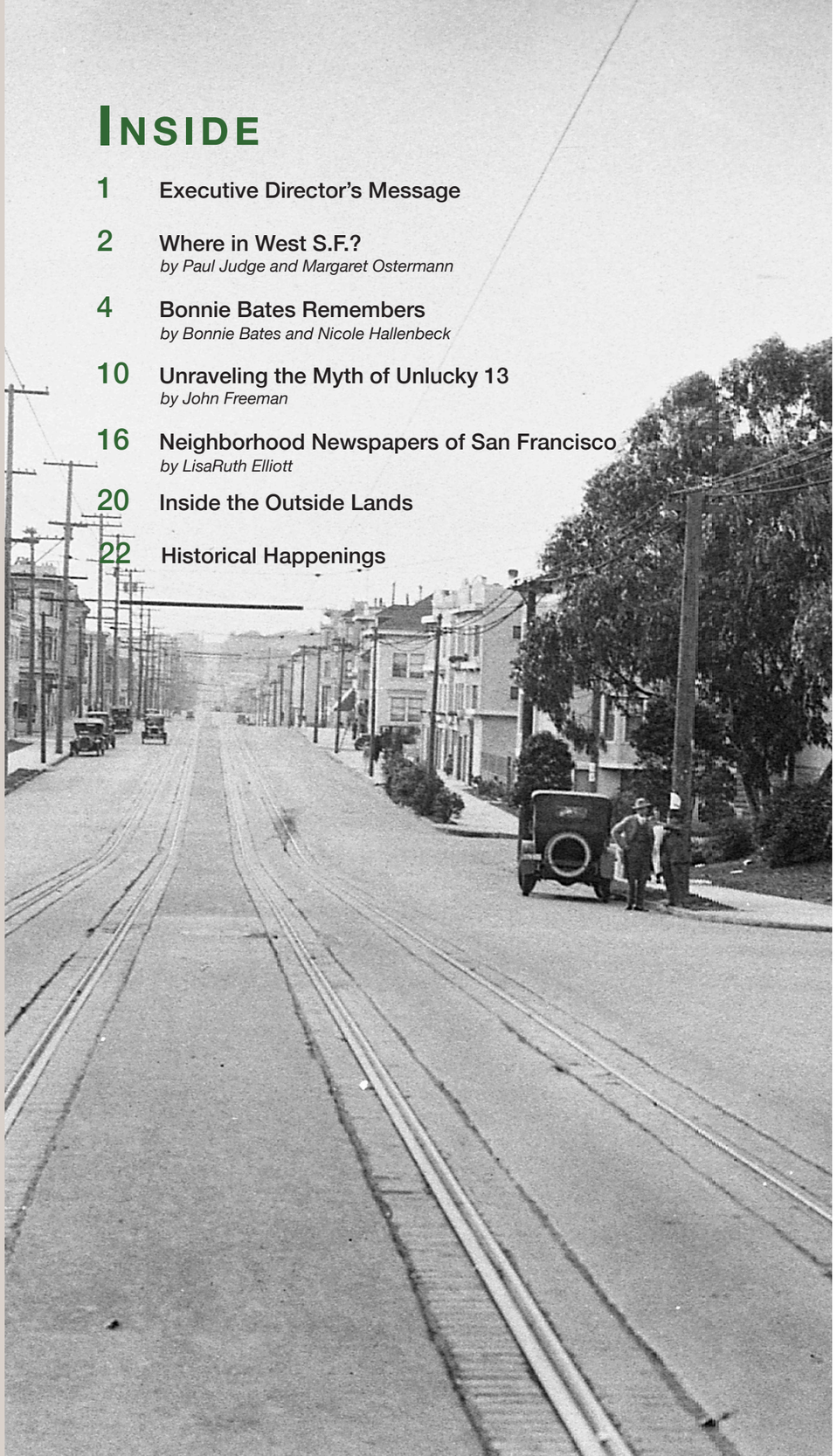
4 Bonnie Bates Remembers
by Bonnie Bates and Nicole Hallenbeck

10 Unraveling the Myth of Unlucky 13
by John Freeman

16 Neighborhood Newspapers of San Francisco
by LisaRuth Elliott

20 Inside the Outside Lands

22 Historical Happenings





Executive Director's Message

Nicole Meldahl

There's something about summer that has always inspired me to read. Lately, I've jumped around a bit but I'm mostly on a science and space bender.

It started with *Art & Physics: Parallel Visions in Space, Time, and Light* by Leonard Shlain, which explains how, since the dawn of human time, artists have prefigured scientific advancements by seeing them and making them visible before scientists could explain them. In plain English, the book also tells the story of how Einstein's theory of relativity opened the door to quantum physics, a field of study that came to define the 20th century. Hilariously, he spent the end of his life trying to disprove this "new physics" and if that doesn't speak to the irony of the human condition then I don't know what will.

This prepared me perfectly to see Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer* on 70mm at The New Mission Theater with Chelsea and two dear friends. I was the nerd in the theater thinking "OMG, Neils Bohr, I know him!!" After seeing the film, I began reading the Oppenheimer biography *American Prometheus* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. Highly recommend consuming both in that order so you can enjoy the film on the basis of the film, and then parse out Nolan's artistic license with the full picture of history in your pocket.

So, what is a history-loving gal doing mucking about with physics, you might ask? I see a lot of synergy between the two fields of research. J. Robert Oppenheimer believed that the miracle of quantum physics was its ability to explain observable phenomena in a "harmonious, consistent and intelligible way." This, dear members, is what I also find miraculous about history. In ***Where In West W.F.?***, **Paul Judge** and **Margaret Ostermann** bring the Farallon Islands to life — a piece of the western neighborhoods that can feel and look like a different planet frozen in time.

What I love about physics is its vitality as a field of study. The work is iterative, open, and collaborative; revolutions are allowed to consistently refresh concepts, and brash young minds are not only welcome, they're essential. It's taken for granted that we're not even close to understanding all that can be known. We're doing our best here at Western Neighborhoods Project to bring that energy to our history practice, as you'll see in ***Inside the Outside Lands***. In comparison, I believe that many people mistakenly think history is done as soon as it's written. But new resources and information come to light every day, and people like **LisaRuth Elliott** — one of the city's finest artists and public historians — make that possible. Read about her efforts to digitize neighborhood newspapers in the pages to follow. Additionally, **John Freeman**'s article debunks a longstanding superstitious myth connected to the naming of Funston Street: proof that what we think we know isn't always the reality.

Ultimately, that's what we're all trying to do here together — make sense of our reality. The more I read about new physics, the more I hope to see a sort of new history take shape. Oppenheimer grew up surrounded by art and music, read and wrote poetry, devoured contemporary fiction, rode horses through the New Mexico desert, learned multiple languages, and drew inspiration from Hindu scripture. All of this combined to make him a great physicist with a rigorous moral compass. That's the (far less accomplished) energy I try to bring to history, as well.



WHERE IN WEST S.F.?

By Paul Judge and Margaret Ostermann

What kind of initiation or torture are those men putting that woman through?

Our mystery photo shows journalist Caroline Clifton, who was sent to report about life on an island for a *San Francisco Call-Bulletin* article published January 28, 1939. However, she was not reporting the Golden Gate International Exposition's progress on Treasure Island. Caroline's destination is surrounded by waters so rough, no docking pier can be maintained. Although the Navy tug she disembarked is identified (by the article) as the *Undaunted*, in reality it knew its limits and anchored a few hundred yards offshore. Seated on a wooden desk chair rigged to transfer her from the tug to a lighter, Caroline glances over her shoulder with a look, as if to say "I'm a journalist, but I've never done assignments like this before!" In her article, she sounds pretty daunted. From the lighter, another derrick hoisted Caroline to a landing platform on the most isolated place in the City and County of San Francisco: the Farallon Islands.

Trod upon and known to relatively few humans, the string of islands are approximately 30 miles west of the Golden Gate. This is indeed the "Outer Outside Lands" of San Francisco. However, you will find no record that streetcar service reached these shores. Yet we here at Western Neighborhoods Project still claim the Farallones as part of the west side! They are technically included in Supervisorial District 4. Our readers pondered the mystery image, which was correctly deciphered by **Fred Baumer, Roger Goldberg, Bill Ruck, Kris Ruck**, and **Peter Tannen** as a landing on Southeast Farallon Island.

Although typically shrouded in fog, a clear day reveals the islands' jagged peaks standing boldly on the western horizon. What kid hasn't pondered their silhouette as being that of a giant crocodilian sea monster? Or imagined their rugged shape as the battleships of an invading armada? Perhaps a string of icebergs have floated in from the pole?



Reporter Caroline Clifton being hoisted on to a boat with Southeast Farallon Island in the background, 1938. (Courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp14.3082)



Children of families stationed on Southeast Farallon Island decorating a Christmas tree, 1938. (Courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp14.3088)

The Farallones are a cluster of at least 20 islets covering about 211 acres. The largest group is the South Farallon Islands; Middle Farallon Island sits 2.5 miles northwest; 5 miles farther northwest are the North Farallon Islands. Just beyond is Noonday Rock, named for a Boston clipper ship that wrecked there on New Year's Day 1863. The bight of the California coastline where the islands are located – stretching from Point Reyes south to Pedro Point – is referred to as the Gulf of the Farallones. Sitting west of the San Andreas Fault on the Pacific Plate, the granite rock of the Farallones originated 80 to 100 million years ago as part of the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The ever-active San Andreas Fault System is the cause of this considerable displacement. These 'geologic commuters" are only a temporary presence off our coast.

The Coast Miwok and Ohlone refer to the Farallones as the "Islands of the Dead," the end of a spiritual pathway traveled by the deceased. Archeological evidence that Indigenous Californians visited the islands has yet to be found, although it is possible, since the Farallones were much more accessible when sea levels were lower at the end of the last ice age.

The diaries of early European explorers show little consistency when naming the islands. The name *farallón*, Spanish for sea cliff or pillar, is traced back to 1603, when Sebastián Vizcaíno's expedition recounted "seven farallones close together." There's even a theory the islands contributed to San Francisco Bay remaining hidden to early explorers, who followed Vizcaino's observations to steer westward of the hazardous pinnacles.

Ecosystems and Exploitation

Within the chain of islands, only Southeast Farallon proves large enough to support human habitation. Despite the enormous risks and effort needed to set foot upon the islands, should we be surprised that early landings centered upon the common theme of exploitation? It's the reason Sir Francis Drake made a pit stop in 1579 (the first documented human landing) to hunt the plentiful seals and birds before continuing his circumnavigation. In the early 1800s, Russians – assisted by American merchant shippers – effectively abandoned enslaved Aleutians on the Farallones, commanding them to harvest seal pelts and blubber, before returning months later to collect the bounty. The pelts sold for high prices in the Asian and European markets, but the Aleut hunters were supplied with small amounts of water and firewood and left to fend for themselves. Despite the deaths and recurring illnesses associated with the island's scarce fresh water and a limited diet, the plunder only ceased when the fur seal population had been devastated by the 1820s.

The Farallones again found themselves in the crosshairs of resource exploitation when the Gold Rush transformed the tiny pueblo of Yerba Buena into boomtown San Francisco. With poultry in scant supply, and money to be made supplying voracious miners, the profusion of seabirds nesting on the islands proved to be an unusual yet lucrative source of protein. With eggs double in size but tasting similar enough to a chicken's, common murres found their laying efforts the target of unrestrained plunder.

Although evolution had invoked the Murres to lay cone shaped eggs weighed to roll in place on bare rocky ledges, the easily flushed parents were unprepared for the barrage of "eggers" invading their private islands. Scaling guano-covered cliffs, raiding eggers dropped dozens upon dozens of eggs into flour sack "jackets" strapped to their chests. As many as half a million eggs were collected each year. Testifying to the high prices the eggs fetched, the dangerous work became a lucrative industry, with rival eggers battling for territory. The escalating conflict left two men dead during 1863's Great Egg War, when invading marauders challenged the Pacific Egg Company's loose claim on Southeast Farallon Island's bounty.

Although the government casually ordered egg hunters off the islands in 1859, the eviction was made serious in 1881. Petaluma's burgeoning chicken industry helped ease pressure on the Farallones, though lighthouse keepers were known to continue cushioning their meager paychecks by smuggling murre eggs for some time after.

Light Community

With treacherous currents and frequent fog masking their very existence, the need for a lighthouse on the Farallon Islands was very quickly realized. It's little wonder 19th century sailors referred to the pernicious Farallones as "The Devil's Teeth"! The first structure built in 1853 proved too small for the first-order (i.e. largest) Henry-Lepaute Fresnel lens, requiring a complete rebuild. On New Year's Day 1856, the Farallon Island lighthouse was finally lit for the first time, making it the west coast's sixth such structure. The eight flash panels of the Fresnel lens revolved once every eight minutes, producing a brilliant white flash each minute. The clockwork mechanism to revolve the lens was gravity powered by a suspended weight and required winding every four-and-a-half hours, in addition to monitoring the flame of the oil lamp.

Perched atop Southeast Island's 358-foot peak, the Farallon lighthouse stands high in the background as intrepid reporter Caroline Clifton was photographed heading to the island. The resulting article speaks to the isolation experienced by the eight families then living on the island; four in the employ of the United States Lighthouse Service, and four connected with the naval radio station which reported ship traffic and weather to the mainland. Setting a monotonous scene, Clifton stressed the sequestration felt when "their only tie with the mainland [is] a cutter sent out once a week, carrying mail and supplies." Downplaying the importance of their work, Clifton surmised "Mostly they just sit and wait for the boat. And listen to the fog horn, which blew once for fourteen days and nights, uninterrupted."[1]

Like other U.S. light stations, the Farallon Light was automated in 1972 when an aero beacon replaced the noble fresnel lens. A regular human presence was no longer needed on the islands. Luckily the beautiful, massive glass lens was saved and can be viewed at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Visitor Center at 499 Jefferson Street.

Preservation At Last

After suffering through the 19th century, treated as a rugged wasteland fit to be plundered, the Farallones started receiving

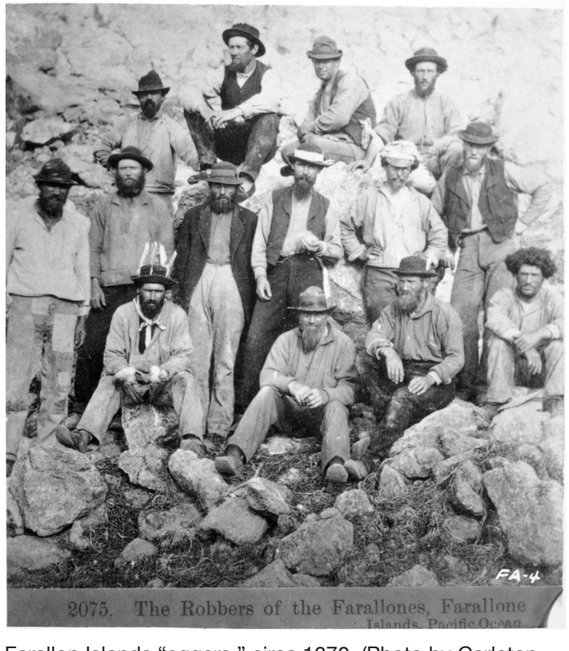


Sea lions basking on rocks, Farallon Islands, circa 1882. (Photo by Carleton Watkins; courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp4/wnp4.1095)

their due protections in 1909. That year, President Theodore Roosevelt created the Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge to protect breeding grounds on select (inhospitable) islands in the complex. The tide continued to turn in the late 1960s when biologists began documenting the island's rebounding wildlife populations. Increasing levels of protections rolled in, including the important addition of Southeast Farallon Island to the Wildlife Refuge. Today not only the islands, but the surrounding 3,295 square miles of water, are protected as the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

With no public access, the Farallones are once again a haven for the birds and thousands of seals, sea lions, white sharks, whales, and dolphins who rely on the nutrient-rich upwelling waters to provide them sustenance. The only humans on the islands now ask not what those animals can do for us, but what we can do to protect them. Homes long ago built for lighthouse keepers and their families today host researchers from Point Blue Conservation Science. While they may not use desk chairs to change between boats, arriving on the island is done in much the same fashion as Caroline Clifton experienced in 1939. From personal experience visiting Southeast Farallon Island, reader **Bill Ruck** reiterated the perennial process whereby passengers and supplies are transferred from a ship to a small skiff, which shuttles the last leg of the connection and is then hoisted up onto the island. While working to repair the island's radio connection, Bill and his wife, Siobhan, were able to spend the night. They experienced the "constant murmur of calls" from newly hatched chicks and parents, protected by the remote seclusion of living in the outermost Outside Lands.

1. "20 Persons Live Lonely Life on Farallones," *San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, January 28, 1939.



Farallon Islands "eggers," circa 1870. (Photo by Carleton Watkins, Martin Behrman Collection, GOGA 35346; courtesy of the Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives / wnp71.1396)



Charlie was relieved that no boat ride was required to see the Farallon fresnel lens. (Courtesy of Margaret Ostermann)



Let's return to the mainland - can you guess where this snapshot was captured?

Send your best guess to chelsea@outsidelands.org

BONNIE BATES REMEMBERS

BY BONNIE BATES AND NICOLE HALLENBECK

Bonnie Bonita Bates, a sixth-generation Californian and Bay Area native, shared her family's fond memories of San Francisco in an interview with Executive Director Nicole Meldahl on May 5, 2021. She recounted exciting stories of trips to Sutro Baths and Playland at the Beach, her parents' teenage years in the Sunset District, as well as her own experiences in the 1960s concert scene. This hour-long interview is full of rich Bay Area history and is sure to spark nostalgia in the hearts of San Franciscans.

Family History

Bonnie's family has an extensive history spanning over six generations in California on her mother's side. Although her complete lineage has been difficult for her to trace, her great-great grandmother was "Californio," a Spanish-speaking resident of Alta California. She married a "49er," and their daughter Jessie Martin was born in Fresno. Jessie went on to raise Bonnie's grandma, Jessie Delano Roberts, in Salinas.

Jessie Roberts lost her mother early in life and assumed the role as the woman of the house, taking care of her three older brothers and single father. Bonnie adds, "Back then women had their roles and men had their roles, so her role at a very young age was cooking and cleaning for the brothers, taking care of them. She dropped out of school somewhere around the fifth grade." When Jessie was 14-15 years old, she left home and started her own family in San Francisco with a man 15 years her senior. The pair eventually divorced, and Jessie remarried to a piano tuner from Indianapolis, with whom she had Bonnie's mother. After divorcing a second time, when her daughter was four, Jessie became a single mother and strong business woman. Bonnie adds, "Even with no education, she had good talents as a tailor, and she opened up a dry-cleaning store in San Francisco. Ran that. Managed the truck drivers. She was quite a bold woman back then."

Bonnie's grandmother lived in a cold water flat, which had a sink but no hot running water or showers. Like many other families in the 1920s and 30s, she took her children to Sutro Baths each week to bathe. Bonnie claims, "They'd wash their hair, take a bath, go swimming, and come back and wait 'til the next week when you could afford to go to Sutro Baths again." Bonnie's mother, Colette Doris Bowers, was raised in the



Sutro Baths, circa 1940. (Marilyn Blaisdell Collection; courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp37.01117)



The Big Dipper roller coaster at Playland at the Beach, circa 1935. (Courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp4/wnp4.0944)

Sunset District. Her older brother loved going to Playland at the Beach and according to Bonnie "he would take my mother there as a little girl from time to time. His favorite story was…he got on the roller coaster and he lost all his change and his money out of his pocket. His wallet and everything fell down through the slats in the roller coaster and he lost all his money. That was quite traumatic at the time. My mother told that story over and over again." Colette attended Commerce High School, where she learned bookkeeping.

Bonnie's father's family immigrated to Canada from Ireland during the Great Famine of the 1840s and 50s. Her paternal grandfather played for the Quebec hockey team and ran a hunting and fishing lodge. His wife, Julia, passed away when Bonnie's father was nine. According to Bonnie, "The Depression had hit, and my grandfather became an illegal immigrant from Canada. Snuck into the U.S. with my dad, who was very young, and settled in San Francisco." Her grandfather supported his family by playing in a poker ring. She adds, "His poker winnings kept them eating. As an illegal immigrant, he couldn't find work back then, so that's how he fed the two of them as my father grew up."

As a kid, Bonnie's father enjoyed boxing, riding the cable cars, and roller skating down the city's hills. He attended Galileo High School, before transferring to Lowell High School. "He actually went to high school with Carol Channing." Bonnie's parents met while ice skating. She remembers, "they always called it the 19th Avenue Ice Rink, so I don't know anything different because this was so long before I was born. That's when they were dating…my mother was born in 1921, my father was born in 1919. At the time, they were in high school." According to Bonnie, since neither of her parents came from wealthy families, they also enjoyed ice skating at Sutro's, which was an inexpensive place for San Francisco teens to hang out. The couple also visited the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island.

A Teenager in San Francisco

Bonnie was born at Stanford Hospital and grew up in Palo Alto and Los Altos when they were budding tech towns. Her father worked for Hewlett-Packard as a controller, having received electronics training on a U.S. Navy submarine during World War II. Bonnie's mother worked for the company as well and "was in the original 100 employees."

In the early 1960's, Bonnie and her family briefly lived in San Francisco when she was 14 to 15 years old, first in a Nob Hill condominium at 1170 Sacramento Street and later in the Sunset District. Bonnie remembers visiting Sutro's with her younger brother nearly every day. She describes walking in and seeing the ice skaters through the glass, passing by walls full of photographs of the city prior to the 1906 earthquake, and spending time in the museum galleries. They would visit the Tom Thumb museum and spend time exploring the empty baths. Bonnie adds, "You could look through the frosted windows and see the washed-out parts of the building and the cliffs below. I remember that part, too, but the building I



Cow Palace, circa 1958. (Courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp25.0586)



House of Prime Rib, December 1955. (Courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp25.3841)

"His poker winnings kept them eating. As an illegal immigrant, he couldn't find work back then, so that's how he fed the two of them as my father grew up."

remember especially for how massive it was, and mysterious that way…By then, the Baths were gone, and there was all these empty nooks and crannies and bleachers and stairs, and it went on and on."

Bonnie also reminisced about the classic restaurants she and her family frequented together. She remembers eating "old-school Italian food" like spumoni ice cream and spaghetti in North Beach at San Remo's, dinners at Original Joe's and Polo's, and on special occasions, the House of Prime Rib. The family also visited Fisherman's Wharf often for seafood. She adds, "We were raised on crab and French bread. It was a staple, and at home, very much a staple. Crab, French bread and artichokes." On date nights, her parents would take themselves to upscale restaurants like the Blue Fox and Trader Vic's.

While in their Nob Hill condo, the family lived across from the director of the Cow Palace, who gave Bonnie free tickets to see the August 19, 1964 Beatles concert. She states, "The screaming was so loud you could not hear them…Everybody was hysterical. It was a lot of fun." Bonnie also scored tickets in 1965 to see the Rolling Stones at Civic Auditorium. "You had a floor and a balcony full of totally girls who had gone wild. The police couldn't hold them back. They stormed the stage…Mick Jagger was scared to death…He walked back and forth, and he kept singing and singing, trying to keep the crowd settled down from going too crazy, because he knew if he stopped singing, it would get worse. He sang for two solid hours without stopping, two or three." To this day, she remembers watching in awe from the balcony's front row as the crowd was in an uproar.

Bonnie's parents divorced in 1965 and she returned to the South Bay. She and her brother both followed in their parents' footsteps with jobs at Hewlett-Packard. Bonnie entered the workforce during a time where women were still heavily discriminated against. She adds, "Women didn't get ahead then, so you were relegated to clerical or secretarial work. By then, I had a college degree, and I wasn't going to settle for that long." HP paid for her to go back to school, and she achieved an MBA at Golden Gate University. Although HP was a traditional company and there was no formal internal feminist movement amongst the employees, when a female manager was hired at the company, the tide began to turn. Bonnie and other women began moving up the ranks within the corporation. "Before then, women were traditionally at-home housewives, and that's how they were viewed, so anybody that did anything different, it was a little shocking." Bonnie thinks back on the strong women in her family. "My mother learned bookkeeping so she'd have a skill beyond just doing nothing. My grandmother was the one that was a real pioneer. Running her own business like that was something I admired her tremendously for." Still, she says "I wish I'd known more of them…If I had it to do again, I would get so much more family history."

If you want to be a part of history as the subject of our next interview, have written memories that are just dying for publication, or know of someone who should have their stories saved, email Nicole Meldahl at nicole@outsidelands.org.



View south on Funston (13th) Avenue from Judah Street toward undeveloped Golden Gate Heights, August 12, 1916. (Photo by Horace Chaffee, SF Department of Public Works; (Courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp36.01321)

Unraveling the Myth of Unlucky 13

By John Freeman

The avenue named “Thirteenth” first appeared on a map not long after the 1866 Outside Lands Act officially made the future Richmond and Sunset Districts part of the City of San Francisco. With a grid in place, the east-west streets were named for geographic features (Lake Street), as extensions of existing streets (California Street), and for a pioneer attorney (Clement Street). The Point Lobos toll road eventually became an extension of downtown’s Geary Street. The remaining streets south of Geary got alphabetical letters: A, B, C, etc., extending south through the undeveloped Sunset District. By 1870, the development of Golden Gate Park removed E, F, and G Streets. The north-south avenues ran in numerical sequence from 1st to 49th. Aside from the Point Lobos Road to the ocean, some racetracks, and a few scattered structures and farms, the neighborhood really only existed on paper. There would be years of squabbles over land ownership, but no challenge was yet made to the numerical naming of the north-south avenues.

This sparsely settled area was slow to develop, but a bond measure passed in 1902 included a beautification plan that set aside a special extension connecting Golden Gate Park and the Presidio military reservation. The block between 13th and 14th Avenues would be annexed and a boulevard created down the middle, which would be landscaped and provide a roadway from the park to Mountain Lake. The east side of 13th and the west side of 14th Avenues were left for residential development.

The Richmond District west of 13th Avenue still remained little developed at this time, housing a race track, two dairies, a brewery, and sporadic dwellings. The section between about A to F Streets (Anza to Fulton) and 14th to 40th Avenues was roadless and so barren it was called the Great Sandbank. The plan to construct and landscape this section would need a major miracle to encourage development of a new district.

The earthquake and subsequent fires of April 1906 put this project on hold, but still contributed to the west side master plan in unforeseen ways. With the major commercial and residential districts east of Van Ness Avenue destroyed, residents fled west for safety. Many became refugees in tent camps in Golden Gate Park and other city-owned parcels. These temporary shelters were canvas tents, and the relief authorities were well aware that something sturdier should be provided before winter. Additionally, Golden Gate Park Superintendent John McLaren was adamant that the two primary refugee camps in the park would have to be cleared so that his crews could plant trees, shrubs, and grass prior to the winter rains.

The city had started negotiations or already owned the as-yet minimally developed park extension between 13th and 14th Avenues, so preparations were made to have this stretch of land graded, plumbed, and readied for the construction of simple one-, two-, or three-room refugee cottages. Ultimately, only the parcel from Lake Street south to A (Anza) Street was improved; the three-block section from A to Fulton Street was left untended. Camp Richmond, or #25, opened on November 20, 1906 and housed slightly over 4,000 people by May 1907. It closed after 13 months on January 1, 1908. Residents in any of these refuge cottage camps that had loyally paid their rent, if they bought or leased a lot, could have one or more cottages moved to that site as a starter home. Many former residents of Camp Richmond, having become familiar with the area’s weather, elected to remain in the neighborhood.

There were further negotiations and threats of eminent domain action for those who had failed to sell their lots between 13th and 14th Avenues to the city, but all titles were transferred by the fall of 1908. The road was graded and surfaced down the middle, and the margins eventually landscaped. It was officially named the Golden Gate Park Extension. Before the grading and planting were even completed, real estate interests began the campaign to sell individual or parcels of lots on the 13th Avenue and 14th Avenue sides, calling it “the best property for a home, speculation or investment” and “destined to be one of the very choicest residential sections in San Francisco.”[1]

The creation of this nascent greenbelt was soon followed by the further grading and surfacing of roads and sidewalks, and installation of power and sewers for property in adjoining blocks north of Point Lobos Avenue to Lake Street. The Golden Gate Park Extension was the push needed for the Richmond District improvement clubs to nudge the city into extending infrastructure, amenities, and transportation links into the entire neighborhood. A building and buying boom quickly followed.

In 1909, the Board of Supervisors selected a committee charged with proposing corrections to the duplication and confusion of street names. A huge portion of San Francisco had been destroyed in the 1906 fires and it seemed like an ideal time to reexamine the street patterns that had evolved when the city was more like a series of autonomous villages. A controversial plan to eliminate the numeric north-south running avenues in the Richmond and Sunset neighborhoods and replace them with Spanish names was defeated, save for two instances. First Avenue would be widened and renamed for José Dario Argüello, who had a distinguished military and



Camp Richmond, looking north from Balboa Street, 1906. (Photo by Balfe D. Johnson; (Courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp27.7987)

"This street, which is part of the Park-Presidio drive, is one of the most attractive in San Francisco, and worthy of the best in nomenclature."

political career in Spanish California. The other Spanish name retained was La Playa, or "the beach," which replaced 49th Avenue. The rest of the avenues in the Richmond/Sunset grid kept their original numerical pattern.

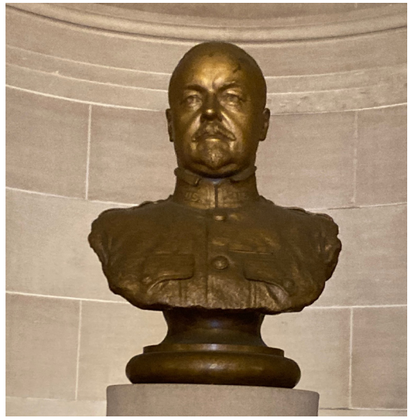
The Richmond was rapidly adding modern homes, rental units, commercial amenities, parks, schools, and religious intuitions. The dreams of real estate developers were being realized west of the Park Extension (which they had begun to call "Park-Presidio"). Neighborhood improvement clubs successfully lobbied the city to officially change the name of the entire Richmond District to Park-Presidio District in 1917. The main argument was that the name was being confused with the city of Richmond, across the bay. The Park-Presidio boulevard project, along with aggressive real estate development and savvy residents lobbying for city services, led to a property boom and the changing of the name of a city neighborhood.

At the time of the district name change campaign, World War I was raging in Europe. Then, on February 19, 1917, Major General Frederick Funston died of a heart attack at the age of 51. He was one of the highest-ranking generals in the U.S. Army and rumored to be President Wilson's favorite candidate for Allied Commander, should the nation enter the war. Funston also had a long relationship with San Francisco, and his wife was from a prominent Oakland family.

Upon the shocking news of his death, Mayor James Rolph immediately arranged to have Funston's body transported to San Francisco for his funeral. Funston became the first person to lie in state in the rotunda of the new City Hall. This honor was followed by a solemn funeral at Old First Presbyterian Church and a full military burial in the Presidio Cemetery. Questions about Funston's brash behavior 11 years earlier as the acting commander of the Presidio during the 1906 earthquake and fire were not mentioned, for in the immediate aftermath of his death, he was looked upon as the military hero who "saved San Francisco." His passing also set off a whole series of memorial acknowledgments.

Honoring Funston was a process that actually started many years before his death. The first attempt to change a street to honor him was in July 1906. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported "a petition having fifty signatures and asking that the name Devisadero [*sic*] street be changed to Funston avenue… as a mark of our appreciation of the excellent work of General Frederick B. [*sic*] Funston during the exciting days following April 18, 1906."[2] There were minor objections, followed by a letter to the editor from Funston himself, obliquely declining the honor as "inadvisable on the broad ground that it is not customary to honor living men in this fashion."[3] The Board of Supervisors denied the petition, but after Funston's death, the memorial recognitions proliferated.

On March 12, 1917, two citizens (one living across from the Park-Presidio Extension) requested that the Board of Supervisors rename 13th Avenue to Funston Avenue. They cited as a precedent "the changing of the old Thirteenth Street in the southern part of the city to Duboce street in memory



Bust of Frederick Funston at San Francisco City Hall. (Courtesy of John Freeman)



Row of homes built during the 1910s on Funston (13th) Avenue, looking north from Balboa Street, circa 1925. (Courtesy of a Private Collector / wnp27.3286)

of Colonel Duboce of Spanish-American war fame." The request also stated the total fantasy that "Thirteenth avenue for years has suffered because of its name. Its development is being retarded because of dislike of people, particularly timid persons, to locate on a street with this name."[4]

The *San Francisco Examiner* challenged this flawed reasoning in a March 17 editorial: "The objection to the name of Thirteenth avenue on the ground of superstition may be amusing to the class that is not superstitious; but the proposal to call this thoroughfare after the famous little general, for any reason whatsoever, should stir patriotism in the hearts of all and meet with general approval. 'The Examiner' does not believe that either good luck or bad will camp on anybody's trail because they live in a street that is tagged with a certain numeral. But it does believe that this change would be a good one, for the reason that it would provide one more way of honoring a man who well deserves to be honored and remembered by us. This street, which is part of the Park-Presidio drive, is one of the most attractive in San Francisco, and worthy of the best in nomenclature. That it is part of the system of boulevards linking the city with the Presidio military reservation is another good reason why it might bear the name of Funston." Two days later, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the resolution to change 13th Avenue to Funston Avenue for its entire length on both sides of Golden Gate Park.

Funston was honored in many other ways, locally and nationally. After the United States entered the war in April 1917, army training camps were given the Funston name. Here in San Francisco, the Coast Artillery camp near Lake Merced was named Fort Funston in August 1917, and still retains that name as a recreational park. In January 1924, during an extensive upgrading of roads and streets in the Presidio of San Francisco, a street on the main post was named Funston Avenue.

On the day of Funston's funeral, it was suggested that Lobos Square (today's Moscone Square) near Fort Mason be renamed for him. The official renaming was not supported by the Park Commission until the early 1920s, when a playground was set aside with Funston's name, followed by the 1924 construction of the Funston Field House. (All were renamed for Mayor George Moscone shortly after his assassination in 1978.) A bust of Funston was completed by local artist Haig Patigian in 1917 and is displayed in a niche facing the Van Ness Avenue exit to City Hall. At nine feet, it is the tallest of the busts in our seat of government. Ironically, the issue of height was very sensitive for 5'4" Funston, and it has been speculated to be one of the motivating characteristics of his bravado.

Online sources have repeated the initial *Chronicle* error that assumed 13th Avenue was renamed for superstitious reasons. Hopefully this urban myth has been dispelled. The avenue was named for Funston in a flurry of patriotic zeal, not fear. In a similar emotional passion, real estate developers had successfully renamed the entire Richmond District as Park-Presidio. It was the official name for the neighborhood until called to the attention of the Board of Supervisors in 2009, who restored "Richmond District" as the neighborhood's name.

1. "Golden Gate Park Extension Lots," *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 24, 1908.
2. "To Name Street For Funston," *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 11, 1906.
3. "Funston Has No Friends Here," *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 19, 1906.
4. "Want Avenue Named In Honor Of Gen. Funston," *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 13, 1917.

VOL. 1. NO. 1 FREE SEPTEMBER 2023

Neighborhood Newspapers of San Francisco

LISARUTH ELLIOTT

OpenSFHistory.org is an incredible resource thanks to the ongoing efforts of Western Neighborhoods Project (WNP). Within this photographic archive documenting San Francisco, you can really piece together the evolution of the Outside Lands. Yet there is another rich and diverse local archive spanning the geography of the city, which hopefully you will soon come to know just as well: Neighborhood Newspapers of San Francisco. Through this archive, you can also zero in on west side neighborhood development in the past half century. This project is a grassroots effort to preserve and digitally showcase San Francisco community newspapers. Volunteers of the San Francisco Department of Memory have brought obscure or archivally-hidden papers into the public realm, including most issues of *t*he *OMI News* and issues of *The Richmond ReView* (from 1988 to 2008 so far!). I am the co-director of Shaping San Francisco, and I have been managing the digitization of this project since its inception.

In 2013, neighborhood history groups and individual researchers/historians came together following the beloved San Francisco History Days at the Old U.S. Mint. Since that event only happened once a year, we wanted to build on the connections made during that weekend. We became a community history collaborative called the San Francisco Department of Memory, interested in what this official-sounding name might suggest by way of possibilities for institutional support given to history and the humanities. Amongst the group's aims are the promotion of collaboration around local history, and sharing resources related to local history gathering and dissemination.

To that end, we identified several underutilized large collections of neighborhood newspapers – some which are now out of print. The papers came from local neighborhood associations, history groups and archives, individual publishers, cultural organizations, columnists, collectors, and activists. Many thanks to Woody LaBounty for acquiring the *OMI News* issues and to WNP for preserving and loaning both that paper and its *Richmond ReView* collection to this project!

To digitize the newspapers, we entered into a relationship with the Internet Archive, who not only hosts the collection online, but offered us space and use of their equipment for several hours once a week. The books scanning team at the Internet Archive has been an excellent support system and helped us process and upload everything. We also coordinate with the San Francisco History Center at the Public Library to make sure we are not duplicating their digitization efforts, and we can fill in any gaps in our collection with issues held there.

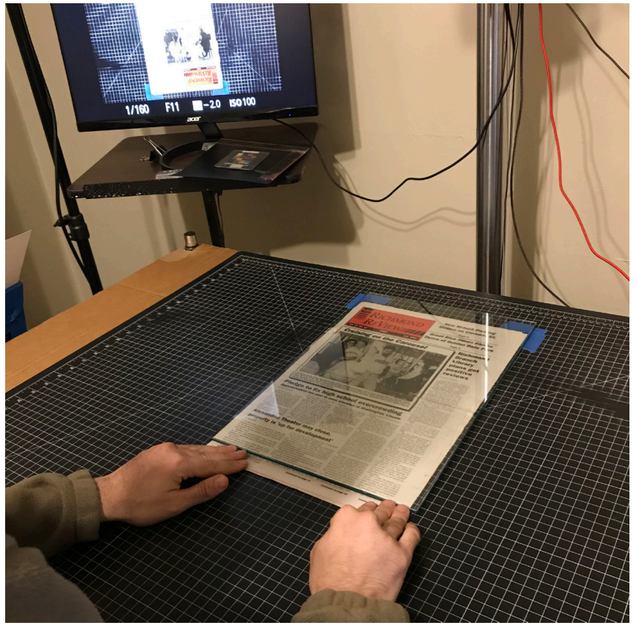
Some newspapers in our collection began in the 1960s: the *Bernal Pictorial* (later the *Bernal Journal*) and the *OMI News.* Many started in the 1970s: *El Tecolote*, *The Potrero View*, *The Tenderloin Times*, *Noe Valley Voice*, *Street Art News*, *Tenant Times* (the newsletter of the San Francisco Tenants Union), *The NewSunnyside* (later the *Sunnyside News*), and the *Glen Park Perspective* (subsequently the *Glen Park News*). A few were born in the 1980s: *North Mission News*, *The New Fillmore*, and the *Richmond ReView;* and one in the 1990s: The Visitacion Valley *Grapevine*. A couple go back to the 1950s: the *Telegraph Hill Semaphore* (now *The Semaphore*) started in 1956, and the St. Mary's *Park Bell* (of the St. Mary's Park Improvement Club on the south slope of Bernal Hill) emerged in 1959. Those still in publication are: *El Tecolote, The Potrero View, Glen Park News, Richmond ReView, The Semaphore*, and the St. Mary's *Park Bell.*

Over the years, 35 volunteers have helped with various aspects of the project including cataloging, scanning, uploading, formatting, filing, and social media work. Thanks go to each and every one of them! This project was made possible in part through grants from the San Francisco Historic Preservation Fund Committee and the SF Heritage Alice Ross Carey Preservation Fund. Much gratitude to these funders for helping amplify local history in the form of these newspapers and recognizing the importance of historic preservation in all forms.

In the last 10 to 15 years or so, with the advent of high-quality personal digital recording devices for images, video, and sound, and increasingly better scanning equipment and cameras, historians, authors, scholars, preservationists, students, and the general public are able to access a wide variety of aging source material. This allows us to deepen and further develop our study and arguments, as well as provide material for planning and historic context statements. Most importantly, we can see our own history reflected in the reporting.

A Short-Lived Phenomenon?

Where did these newspapers originate? How did neighborhoods create this vehicle? Why did each neighborhood have one? Which ones still exist?



Volunteer Mike Khodaverdi prepares a newspaper for scanning, November 2019. (Courtesy of LisaRuth Elliott)

Some of the papers in the collection have their origin in a period where they received government funds to support neighborhood development. In the mid-1970s there was consciousness around neighborhoods as social centers and places where community organizing was happening. People were facing eviction, they were protesting redevelopment and urban renewal, Third World Liberation was waking people up, there were vigils happening — the city was changing. There was also federal money being directed toward neighborhood revitalization: The Model Cities Program of 1966 provided funds for community improvements ranging from structural development to issues like housing, education, employment, and health. President Nixon cut Model Cities funding in 1973, but a federal law enacted that same year, Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), created jobs for public service including environmental quality, health care education, and public neighborhood improvements — which included local on-the-ground reporting, beautification, and community improvement. Other newspapers evolved out of neighborhood association newsletters.

What is true about all neighborhood newspapers is that one is able to reach a personal level with the things WE are affecting, WE are involved in. Whether it's a hard-hitting article about social and racial relationships or observing the evolution of neighborhood business ads over time, archiving these papers gives us access to the collective memory of each village. Here you can learn about the development of the city as it happened, not through broad strokes, but brick-by-



The Richmond ReView
Vol. 2 No. 2 FREE November 1989

The Pumpkins have come page 7

Richmond superstar page 6

Richmond recovering from the 'great quake of '89'

Outer Richmond badly damaged

by Paul Kotakiewicz

The biggest earthquake in 83 years rolled through the Richmond District, Oct. 17, causing considerable damage and reminding even the most stalwart of San Franciscans that, compared to the awesome power of nature, mere mortals are often helpless.

The temblor rocked the Richmond District at 5:04 p.m., causing the loss of electricity and interrupting telephone service, as well as shaking several large apartment buildings off their foundations.

The quake left countless cracks, dents, broken windows and displaced bricks for businesses and homeowners to contend with.

The 7.1 temblor was also responsible for one death in the Presidio Heights when Marina resident Donald McGlinchy fell down a flight of stairs at 3401 Clay St.

It also appeared to hit the outer Richmond District the hardest. At least two apartment buildings on 20th and one on 23rd Avenue were declared unsafe due to structural damage, by Bureau of Building inspectors.

At the Zephyr Cafe, Balboa Street and 37th Avenue, there was extensive damage, including broken windows and cracked walls, causing cafe owner, Meg Kimuri and her friend, Terry Cole, to spend the night at the cafe, fearful of looters.

"Meg and I slept on the floor of the cafe with knives at our sides," Cole said.

Fortunately, there was little looting or crime in the Richmond District, according to Richmond District Police Station Lieutenant Joaquin Santos.

When the earthquake hit, there was a "general mobilization" and about 74 off-duty officers were called in, Santos said.

Santos and many of the District's personnel were sent to the Marina District, because that district was hard hit and needed the bulk of the City's emergency people.

Firefighters were also part of the mobilization in the Richmond. Many also ended up in the Marina, according to Richmond District Fire Department Battalion Chief Paul Mallatni, fighting the large blaze that erupted there immediately after the earthquake struck.

The chief said that four of the District's eight "engine" trucks were sent to the Marina, but that there was adequate staffing in the Richmond for "normal range" fires.

The mobilized police and firefighting personnel worked 12-hour shifts until four days later on Saturday.

In the Richmond, crime went down after the quake, and no major traffic accidents were reported. According to Santos, this was thanks in large part to citizens who took control during the crisis, including directing traffic with road flares at major intersections lacking functional traffic lights.

At the Community Police Forum, October 24, Santos praised the efforts of the City's residents for assisting police, firefighters and each other during the critical time immediately following the earthquake.

"I have a renewed faith in humanity and the people of San Francisco," Santos said of volunteer efforts.

This apartment building on Anza Street was stripped of its bricks by the fury of the October 17 earthquake.

Damage in the Richmond

The earthquake that rattled the Richmond was a 7.1 on the Richter Scale and was centered 70 miles south of San Francisco, in Santa Cruz County.

The temblor left parts of the District without electricity for several days. As well, several apartment buildings in the Richmond District were designated unsafe by City building inspectors. Many other buildings also suffered damage, including the Asian Art Museum, the Palace of the Legion of Honor and the Richmond Police Station. The post office on 36th Avenue had to be closed because of structural

Continued on page 3

Locals come together to share quake tips

by Laura Jacoby/Chatham

The Great Quake of 1989 couldn't keep the Richmond District Community/Police Forum from holding its regularly scheduled meeting just one week later. It did, however, inspire a last-minute change of topic.

About 150 people, a record-breaking number, attended the meeting, straining the capacity of the Richmond Police Station meeting room to overflowing.

Lieutenant Joaquin Santos of the Richmond Station and Richmond District Fire Department Battalion Chief Paul Mallatni reported on current earthquake-related conditions in the Richmond District, and discussed what happened around the City the night of the earthquake.

As well, a major portion of the evening was devoted to discussing earthquake preparedness. Santos urged everyone to read – now – the earthquake survival guide printed in the front of the Pacific Bell White Pages (pages B9-12).

"The first thing I'm going to tell you is nobody is going to come. (The fire and police departments) will be busy elsewhere," Santos warned. "You have to depend on yourself."

As well as preparing their personal emergency plans, Santos and Mallatni urged people to get to know their neighbors and form neighborhood emergency plans. People living in apartment buildings must learn how to turn off the water and gas for the building, especially if the owner or manager does not live on the premises.

Exemplifying the spirit of self-dependence, the meeting evolved into an open discussion wherein everyone contributed earthquake survival tips and techniques. Some of the more unusual bits of earthquake survival information offered were these:

- A lighted pilot light is NOT an indication that there is no gas leak.
- In trying to turn off the gas, some people discovered that the shut-off valve was "frozen" in the open position. It is a good idea to test that valve before the next crisis. However, be aware that Pacific Gas &

Continued on page 2

Front page of *The Richmond ReView*, November 1989.

brick. After looking through the papers, it's a little hard to say San Francisco has one direction, one value system. They show the wide diversity of people who live in the city, but all at a very personal level – at a community level. People know each other. They're telling stories about each other. They are using the papers as a mirror to reflect who they are and what they are agents of making happen.

Beyond Falling Bridges

For the Neighborhood Newspapers project, we initially wanted to find something that connected all of the papers. What was one experience in recent history that was shared across the various San Francisco neighborhoods? You won't be surprised to learn we created the "1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake collection", comprised of 19 issues from 12 distinct newspapers published in the few months following the 6.9 temblor.

While most of the stories reported in the mainstream press included the collapsing of freeways, the fallen Bay Bridge section, the interrupted baseball game, etc., the papers in this subcollection offer a unique perspective of the quake's aftermath on the ground. For those of you living in the western neighborhoods at that time, you may recognize the following stories.

The Richmond ReView reported that buildings were shaken off their foundations, stripped of their brick façades, and suffered broken windows and cracks. The Outer Richmond was the location of at least fifteen buildings declared unsafe. Streets like Clement were described as untouched on one side and having major structural damage on the other. We also can read that, in the immediate aftermath, sharing of preparedness tips and wisdom became important news — serving as a reminder today to be prepared with basic items on hand!

Portrait of a Neighborhood

Our most complete west side newspaper collection is the *OMI News*. (We are still in the process of adding *The Richmond ReView* issues to the online collection; the *Sunset Beacon* is not part of the collection at this time.) Some of you may remember reading this paper or even participated in some of the below highlighted moments. For west siders, I'm probably not going to share anything too groundbreaking. (See the Loma Prieta collection for that!) But some of the pieces will hopefully jog your memory, affirm your work and place in the neighborhood, or give deeper perspective to our city's evolution (and perhaps even be slightly entertaining). Full disclosure: my goal is to offer tidbits to motivate you to spend time within the newspaper collection discovering the stories that move you.

One fun feature of the newspapers is noting how their look evolved. There are nostalgic examples of design periods exemplified in the typography, in the shifting shapes and styles. You get a sense of how those change over time as the neighborhood does. It can be seen in the mastheads of several papers, so many of which in the collection feature their neighborhoods' unique landscapes or features (see the *Bernal Journal*, Visitacion Valley *Grapevine*, *Noe Valley Voice*, and *The Potrero View*). Over the years, *The Richmond ReView* masthead stays largely the same, but it gets a little graphically fancy with a 90s flair in late 1993, until mid-2004 when it drops that look for a pure font-based display.

The *OMI News* (from Ocean View, Merced Heights, and Ingleside), within its first year of publication, adopted the tagline "Working Toward a Model Interracial Community," prominently displayed as part of the masthead. Indeed, the mission statement of the OMI Community Association was to work for the following: good schools, beautification, a day care center, community health, and a model interracial community. The masthead starts out in 1969 with a funky font but soon incorporates the neighborhood association logo, branding it as their mouthpiece, while simultaneously going for a more old-timey typeface. Suddenly in late 1976 we see shadowed balloon letters surrounding the logo. Fresh! These letters only increase in size over the next few and final years of publication, with the paper increasingly deciding to give more weight to images of community folks than to the masthead; in many issues, photos of people dominate the front page.



Police officers on horseback riding through Ingleside during the San Francisco State College strike, 1968-1969. (Photo by Gerald Grow, Gerald Grow Photography Collection, larc.pho.0072_0048; courtesy of Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University)

"Here you can learn about the development of the city as it happened, not through broad strokes, but brick-by-brick."

In 1970, this volunteer-produced paper had a circulation of 12,000. There are 85 issues available to read online in our collection. In the early issues, it can be read as a direct outgrowth of the activism at San Francisco State and during the college's Black Student Union and Third World Liberation Front-led strike from November 1968 to March 1969. After all, these neighborhoods sit right across the street from SF State, and many young people living close by crossed 19th Avenue to start their higher education. A throughline coming out of the strike, seen also in the newspaper, is a commitment to community education.

Among its reporting on a wide variety of neighborhood improvement activities, the *OMI News* contained some hints of the very real shift in racial relationships and social upheaval that was happening in the late 60s and early 70s throughout

the city, including a short mention from August 1970 of a pipe bomb found in an Air Force recruiting office on Ocean Avenue. One article imploring residents to get engaged in advocating for services and neighborhood improvements alludes that these multiracial neighborhoods are in a battle against redevelopment — the same forces that declared the Western Addition blighted and bulldozed entire swaths of the Fillmore, displacing so many Black residents.

The *OMI News* is an excellent document of the evolution of San Francisco's Black history, with many profiles of local business and community leaders. This is one of my favorite characteristics of the entire Neighborhood Newspapers of San Francisco collection: the faces in the photos show an ethnically diverse San Francisco, but not out of tokenism—these were the people who were *making* things happen.

The *OMI News* also contains neighborhood resident profiles, showing the very real result of the Second Great Migration, which brought Southerners by the thousands to work in the city's emergency shipyards during World War II. There are a lot of folks from Louisiana and Georgia represented in the newspaper's pages who had moved to the western neighborhoods when the jobs in Hunters Point dried up. In a 1970 story about Lola Mae Tooks, a cafeteria worker at SF State, we learn of the impacts of the strike on workers who ended up unemployed due to supply shortages, and who in turn had to fight for their pay. We see neighborhood figures intersecting with local history when an (unnamed) indigenous woman who was part of the Alcatraz occupation appeared on a 1970 panel on Black-White relations alongside Irene Wise of the Ingleside Cultural Arts Association.

An article titled "To the People" addresses disparaging attitudes towards what beautification and tree planting mean for a neighborhood. Turning to an ideal where children can grow up on tree-lined streets and a place where people can take pride in where they live, because they have done the work themselves, takes the conversation away from window dressing and into a space of self-determination. Tree planting efforts began in 1970 in earnest by including detailed descriptions in the paper of how to advocate and pay for trees in front of one's house.

Here are some tidbits just from the first year of publication:

— Ingleside Terraces was built within the space that a horse-racing track used to operate on. But did you know a jockey in the 19th century had his house built on Byxbee Street, uphill from the racetrack, at 2/3 size because he was a small guy?

— How about the fact that the OMI had a 14-time National Synchro-Swim Champion Team, the San Francisco Merionettes?

— Or that Ocean View kids in 1969 got the treat of 49er Tommy Hart spending his summer as the Director of the Recreation Center?

A fun exercise is reading about the House of the Month and then looking the address up on Google Maps. At least one house boasting a tree planted in front and extensive gardening seems to have removed all traces of green — including the tree — in today's street view.

Now it's your turn!

What can you learn reading the Neighborhood Newspapers of San Francisco? The collection in its entirety — we have now surpassed 2,340 issues online — can be found at: https://archive.org/details/sanfranciscconewspapers


OMI NEWS

Vol. 8, No. 6 Published by the OMI Community Association December, 1976

OMI News masthead, December 1976.


OMI Ocean View Ingleside Merced Heights NEWS

Working Toward a Model Interracial Community

Vol. 2, No. 3 Distributed Free By Volunteers 184 August 1970

OMI Center In Jeopardy

After two years of arduous effort by the OMI Child Care Committee, a Children's Center" has at last opened in the OMI area at Temple Methodist Church, 1000 Shields Street, for pre-school and elementary school children whose families meet the state's income eligibility requirements.

The Center can accommodate 120 children, but as of middle of July, only 26 children were enrolled with majority of those coming from areas other than OMI. According to Mrs. Theresa Keller, Director, Children's Centers Division, San Francisco Unified School District, impractical to run the Center unless it is operating to full capacity. She is hopeful, however, that the enrollment will improve once parents become aware of the

Children's Center is a full operation and is from 7:00 to 6:00 p.m., through Friday. Any family in San Fran-

Joseph M. Caverly (third from left), General Manager of the San Francisco Park and Recreation Dept., discusses gutted gym at Ocean View Playground with OMI Community.

Photo: Harris House of Photography

Recreation Dept. Head Meets With OMI at Ocean View

Joseph Caverly, General Manager of the Park and Recreation Department, met with a number of youths and adults from the OMI Community at the Ocean View Playground on July 14 to dis-

Bob McMains, vice president of the OMI Association, chaired the informal meeting in the absence of President Clarence Bryant.

Mr. Caverly reported that it

okayed by the mayor, approved by the comptroller, passed by the finance committee and then finally approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The youth, however, vocif-

No Funds From EOC

OMI will not receive f in the form of Econom portunity Council money at the present t directive from Rodgers Regional Director of fice of Economic Oppo (OEO), instructed t Francisco EOC that for The Youth Deve Program, the EOC s implement any new p during the four month period." Other co program proposals w city were also turned cause of this.

According to Jack M Director of Plannin San Francisco Econ portunity Council, d next four months t EOC program in S cisco will be reorgan grams presently bei will receive funds d four month period. ber EOC hopes to b to provide 12 mon blocks.

Mr. Morrison co assurance that C receive funds in but encouraged C mit a new proposa tion.

OMI Prot

A letter of pro to Mayor Alioto hearing of the p fer of Captain J roy from the Ir Station to City P

The letter s OMI commun mently oppose fer because between the p and the co largely to the tain Conroy.

The Mayor'

OMI News, August 1970. (Courtesy of LisaRuth Elliott)



JHU students on 3rd Avenue and Clement, July 2023. (Courtesy of Nicole Meldahl)

Inside the Outside Lands

Western Neighborhoods Project loves supporting students, and this quarter we've been extra busy. In July, we hosted an intensive seminar for museum studies graduate students from Johns Hopkins University (JHU). Executive Director **Nicole Meldahl** was a teaching assistant for the seminar, supporting her dear friend and former University of San Francisco professor, **Stephanie Brown**. For two weeks, 11 students learned the WNP approach to collaborative community history, even crafting and leading their own mini history walks and pub crawls. Colleagues from around the Bay Area made themselves available for site visits and panel discussions. We visited the Angel Island Immigration Station, California Academy of Sciences, de Young Museum, Exploratorium, GLBT Historical Society Museum & Archives, Oakland Museum of California, SF Maritime, and SFMOMA. In addition, the WNP Clubhouse hosted visitors from the Palo Alto Art Center, Presidio Trust, and SFO Museum. Shoutout to **Johanna Loacker**, a WNP member and JHU student who spent all two weeks with us.

We now have two successful neighborhood history trivia nights with Fort Point Beer Company under our belts. If you haven't heard, attendees enjoy drink specials while Nicole and **Chelsea Sellin** MC a historically fun evening. The first was held in April on our home turf, The Little Shamrock in the Sunset District, and featured trivia questions we could not have prepared without the help of **Angus MacFarlane** and his trusty companion, **Ichabod**. In August, we posted up at Nicole's favorite North Beach haunt, Specs' Twelve Adler Museum Cafe. Many thanks are due to **Katherine Petrin** for helping us brainstorm new trivia questions; **Maralisa Simmons-Cook**, who owns the bar now; **Mike**, a longtime Specs' bartender and 20-year Richmond District neighbor; and, of course, **Dina Dobkin**, **Christina Shatzen**, and the rest of our Fort Point friends. It truly warms the heart to see so many people enjoying iconic businesses and having fun while learning more about San Francisco. Please join us for the next one, date and location TBD, because someone has to give our two-time champions, The Richmond Specials (**Jamie O'Keefe**, **Pam Wright**, **Rob** and **Graciela Ronconi**), a run for their money!

WNP Board Member **Lindsey Hanson**'s incredible exhibition, *Windmills of Golden Gate Park*, will soon disappear from our Clubhouse windows (although it will live forever on our website). But never fear, the windows shall not go empty! Lindsey is now intently working with artist and theater historian **Gary Parks** on a new exhibition that celebrates the Alexandria Theatre on its 100th anniversary. That's due to be installed in the fall. The public got a sneak peak on September 9th when the Clubhouse was open for the California Preservation Foundation's statewide event, Doors Open California. We also debuted a new exhibition of OpenSFHistory images curated by Nicole, *Time Frame*, which features a fun Polaroid interactive. We'd love to have regular open hours on weekends and weeknights, but need volunteers to help us staff the exhibitions. If you want to throw your hat into the ring, email chelsea@outsidelands.org.

We're very excited to formally announce that the second week of October will be WNP's first (and hopefully annual) Shipwreck Week. If you're wondering what the tone of the week will be, think Shark Week – but about shipwrecks – and instead of programs on TV, you get to experience programs in real life. The marquee event of Shipwreck Week will be an all-star panel discussion at The Balboa Theater, at which **James Delgado**, **Stephen Haller**, and **John Martini** are served whiskey and chat with each other about west side shipwrecks. John needs no introduction here but, as a teaser, Steve and Jim co-authored the seminal book *Shipwrecks At The Golden Gate*, and Jim is one of the foremost maritime archaeologists in the world. (Yes, world: give him a Google!) All three have been friends since their time working for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and this promises to be an unforgettable evening. In addition, we're planning podcasts, a happy hour, and so much more. Flip to the back page of this magazine for event listings and check our website for the full slate of happenings.

October promises to be a busy month for us. Just before Shipwreck Week sets sail, Nicole will be attending the Western Museums Association (WMA) annual meeting in Pasadena, California. Nicole is on the WMA Program Committee that helped organize this four-day learn-a-palooza and is participating in three separate sessions where attendees can gain insight into how WNP gets the history done. The winter season won't be slowing down for us either, but that's the way we like it!



Stephanie Brown and JHU students in the WNP Clubhouse, July 2023. (Courtesy of Nicole Meldahl)



JHU students at Angel Island Imigration Station, July 2023. (Courtesy of Nicole Meldahl)



JHU students on F-Market streetcar, July 2023. (Courtesy of Nicole Meldahl)

Western Neighborhoods Project
1617 Balboa Street
San Francisco, CA 94121

www.outsidelands.org

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Francisco CA
Permit No 925

Historical Happenings



Tue Oct 10 at 6pm: Shipwreck Week Hangout
Join us for a no-host hangout at The Riptide bar, 3639 Taraval Street, from 6-9pm (21+ only with valid ID). There will be a spicy rum cocktail special and a robust Chantey Sing at 7pm thanks to our friends at SF Maritime National Historic Park. This event is free but please RSVP.

Thur Oct 12 at 6:30pm: ShipWRECKED!
Attend a once-in-a-lifetime conversation at the Balboa Theater between three former National Park Service historians and longtime friends James Delgado, Stephen Haller, and John Martini. General admission tickets are $40 and VIP packages are available for $70. See the website for more details.

Sat Oct 14 at 10am: Lands End History Walk
Historian and retired park ranger John Martini gives a tour of Lands End. See the remains of two shipwrecks (if the tides are right), and explore the once-lavish grounds of Adolph Sutro's estate at Sutro Heights. $10 for members, $20 for non-members; moderately strenuous tour lasts 2 hours and the meeting location will be emailed to you when you purchase tickets.

outsidelands.org/events

Not a WNP Member?

Outside Lands magazine is just one of the benefits of giving to Western Neighborhoods Project. Members receive special publications as well as exclusive invitations to history walks, talks, and other events. Visit our website at **outsidelands.org,** and click on the "Become a Member" link at the top of any page.

