

# THE LANDMARK

Spring 2017

A biannual publication of the Landmarks Society

## Trestle Berm Restoration

By Dave Gotz



*NWP steam engine #3 leaves the Tiburon Depot headed for Eureka c. 1910. The train will pass over the Tiburon Trestle and through three tunnels before leaving the county.*



*Placing the first railroad tie on the trestle, from left: Phil Cassou, Jim Wood, Petey Stein, Tom O'Neill, and David Holscher. Photo by Elliot Karlan.*

Tucked into the sweeping curve at the entrance to the Tiburon Peninsula there is a reminder of our railroad past, which even though massive in size, was slowly disappearing. The railroad trestle berm at Blackie's Pasture has been the subject of a lot of attention in recent years, and is now looking better than it has in over 40 years, thanks to the efforts of Landmarks, the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation and the Town of Tiburon.

The berm was constructed as part of the San Francisco and San Rafael Railroad, which was announced in late 1882 and inaugurated as part of the San Francisco & North Pacific Railroad on May 1, 1884. The line connected the SF & NP station in San Rafael with Tiburon and ferries to San Francisco, completing Peter Donahue's rail line from northern Sonoma County. The berm was necessary to support the end of a massive wooden trestle measuring 750 feet, which carried the tracks above the marshy area at the end of Richardson's Bay, now Blackie's Pasture after years of silt and fill have made it dry land. During the active years of the railroad, the berm was kept well groomed for safety and rarely had more than just a superficial growth of grasses on its slopes.

After the tracks and trestle were re-

moved in 1968 (except for one small section of the trestle), the area was no longer maintained by the railroad and quickly became overgrown. The Town of Tiburon began acquiring the former railroad right-of-way beginning in 1971 to create what is now the Richardson Bay Lineal Park which includes the Old Rail Trail. As part of this process the Town acquired Blackie's Pasture from donations from Sam Shapiro (the Town's first treasurer), the Connell family (owners of Blackie and the property surrounding the berm), and the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation. The Town adopted various plans for the Blackie's Pasture area over the years; the last was one created in 1992 which called for leveling the berm and planting the area with a hardwood forest as well as restoring a large salt marsh in the center of the pasture. This plan was approved, but in 1993 the Council voted not to proceed with its implementation. The same year Blackie's Brigade, a group of prominent citizens led by former mayor Larry Smith, proposed a plan to clean-up and beautify the pasture using volunteer labor at a fraction of the cost of the Town's plan. Eventually the Town allowed the Brigade to do the work, the crowning element of which was in installation of the Blackie statue in October, 1995.

### Inside:

President's Letter

China Cabin Book #2

China Cabin Restoration

Walk Your History

Calendar of Events

*continued on page 3*

# President's Corner By Liz Kerslake



It's been a groundbreaking year so far for the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society. 2017 has marked the start of several long anticipated projects on the Tiburon peninsula, thanks to the generosity and hard work of our staff, volunteers, and the community.

The repairs to the south facing wall of the China Cabin are well underway. The Sail to the Orient event was a very fun filled evening that enabled us to raise enough money to perform some long-needed repairs on the China Cabin. For those of you who do not know, the elements and weather had taken a toll on the over 150 year old China Cabin and especially the south (weather facing) side of the building. Work is still underway and will serve to preserve the structural integrity for years to come.

The Trestle Trail project is full steam ahead with many of you probably wondering what all of the activity on top of the trestle berm the last few months has been about. After some delays caused by this winter's deluges of rain, the historic track section has been installed by the Trestle Trail volunteers with assistance from the Tiburon Public Works Department. The nearly 40 foot long mock-up has rails that actually used to be part of the

Northwestern Pacific Railroad. The construction of the rest of the over 600 foot long trail has not started yet, but plans are in the works to start in the future.

Saturday April 22nd is our annual Walk Your History event, this year taking place along the Old Rail Trail. For those of you that do not know, the Old Rail Trail (multi-use path) that runs along the Tiburon Shoreline used to be the railroad right-of-way that carried trains in and out of town for many years until it was converted into the beautiful trail that it is today. The family and pet friendly event will begin at 9:00 am at Tiburon Town Hall and will feature over 25 living history docents, refreshments, music, and more!

Spring is here, and by the time you are reading this article, all of our locations will begin to regularly open for the 2017 season. If you have not visited us recently, come see us and bring your families and

friends as well. No matter what your interests are, the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society has something for people of all ages; however we still need your help. Whether you are a long time resident, new resident, or visitor, get involved! Volunteer, join the Landmarks Society, or give the gift of membership to a friend or family member. There are so many reasons to be proud of our history here and without you, all of this would not be possible.

As the first article I am writing as the President of your Board of Directors, I must say I am honored to be involved in carrying on the tradition to preserve the rich history here. I am a third generation Tiburon and Belvedere resident who is committed to serving the community and carrying on the dedication and enthusiasm that our board, who has several hundred combined years of experience and stewardship has established.

---

## Landmarks Society 2017 Board of Directors

Liz Kerslake, *President*  
Phil Cassou, *Vice President*

## Board Members

Jim Allen, Cathleen Andreucci, Peter Brooks, Eva Buxton, Brooke Halsey, Gabrielle D. Keil, Liz Kerslake, Helen Lindqvist, Phil Maslin, Dolores Mizis, Alan Perper

## Staff

Alan Brune, *Executive Director*  
Leslie Doyle, *Executive Director*  
Michelyn Russell, *Office Manager*  
Patti Flax, *Rental Manager*  
Dave Gotz, *Archivist*

Landmarks Office: 415-435-1853 Archive Office: 415-435-5490

Email: [lmsoffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lmsoffice@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.landmarkssociety.com](http://www.landmarkssociety.com)

Landmarks News: [www.telli.com](http://www.telli.com), type Landmarks in search window

---

# Old Rail Trail continued

The berm however continued to be neglected; in fact the ravine between the berm and Tiburon Boulevard was used as a dumping/composting area for Town vegetation waste, and a spontaneous fire occurred in 2005 which smoldered for several months. In 2006, interested in returning the berm to its former condition, the Landmarks Society applied to the Town to have the site designated as a local historic landmark. Although the Heritage and Arts and Parks and Open Space Commissions approved the plan, the Town Council balked at this designation on Town property because it would prevent the area from any future changes, and that it was contrary to the 1992 plan which was still on the books. We revisited the idea last spring, this time boosted by a grant of \$25,000 procured through the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation from the Carol Ann and Dennis Rockey Fund of the Marin Community Foundation. Working with the Town to make it happen this time, Landmarks and the TPF agreed to forgo landmark designation with the promise that the 1992 plan would be rescinded (the Council did so in June, 2011) and the berm would be preserved.



Working with volunteers (I pulled a lot of broom myself) and a hired landscaping company, the berm was cleared of non-native shrubbery and trees in the summer of 2011 and the ravine area the next spring. Heavy equipment was brought in to smooth out the contours returning the area between the roadway and the berm to its original form and making it easier for the Town to maintain. This area was then hydro-seeded with grasses and wildflower seeds. The result has brought the berm much closer to its historic look.



The fall of 2012 saw the remnants of the trestle pulled up into an upright position using support posts of aged wood. The top of the berm was smoothed out to provide access to the trestle remnants and the fine view from there of Richardson Bay. In early 2015 Redwood Engineering came in with heavy equipment to do a final clearing

*Two bottom photos by Elliot Karlan.*

of non-native vegetation in the ravine between the berm and Tiburon Boulevard.

A plaque display describing the trestle and berm was made last year to join the TPF's Historical trail. However before that plaque was installed, a new project was started...



## THE TRESTLE TRAIL PROJECT

In early 2016, TPF board member Jim Wood launched the idea of creating a trail on the top of the berm, replicating the path of the original train tracks. The Trail would be a place for recreation, reflection and to remind us of the significant part the railroad played in the history of the peninsula. Jim was joined by fellow TPF board members David Holscher and Petey Stein, Tom O'Neill and Landmarks board member and railroad expert Phil Cassou to develop the plans.

The plan as approved by the Tiburon Town Council in April 2016 is to have approximately a 560-foot walking path on the berm, being an extension of the existing Old Rail Trail, beginning where the berm flattens out and meets an offshoot of the trail, concluding at the trestle remnants. At the end of the trail there is to be a 40-foot stretch of actual historic rail, complete with original ties, running toward the trestle timbers. There will be a wide area to take in the beautiful view up to Ring Mountain and back to Richardson Bay with two benches and informational plaques. The walking path itself is to be colored concrete imbedded with eight foot long ties made of cedar every six feet.



These new ties are to help raise the funds for the project which is estimated to cost \$250,000. For \$2,000 a donor gets a personalized bronze plaque inset into the center of the tie. Sponsorships can also be had in the form of rail spikes, rusty, bronze, silver and gold, which are driven into the historic rail

*continued on page 6*

# CHINA CABIN



Hillary Don

Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society  
Belvedere, California

The Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society is very proud to announce, the upcoming publication of the second book by Hillary Don – *China Cabin*. Well-known author and historian of the Tiburon Peninsula, Honorary Life member and past-President of the Landmarks Society, Dr. Don has spent nearly ten years researching and writing this fine book.

The sequel to *Across the Pacific Ocean with Paddle Steamship China*, *China Cabin*, is an account of the restoration of the deck house of the wooden sidewheel paddle steamship. The synopsis of the book is available on our website. [www.landmarkssociety.com](http://www.landmarkssociety.com).

**Join us for our Book Signing & Celebration on Wednesday, June 21st at 4:00 p.m. in the China Cabin**

**Support the publication of this book  
with your sponsorship:**

**Admiral - \$1,000    Captain - \$500  
Purser - \$250      Steward - \$100**

**Please call the Landmarks with your questions and donations, 415-435-1853**



The Construction work on the China Cabin is underway!

The weather-beaten south wall of Belvedere's China Cabin is being replaced. Interior beams, not in need of repair, were found to have been fire-scorched sometime in the far past. This discovery immediately causes you to imagine the Paddle Wheel Steamship CHINA thrumming away at sea, when smoke is discovered seeping up from below. "FIRE!" is called out and the crew jumps to action to save the ship and its passengers. Obviously the fire was put out and the CHINA was saved and is still telling tales today.

The curvature of the China Cabin's back wall has increased our construction costs.

Please call the Landmarks office with your questions and donations at 415-435-1853 and join the growing list of supporters:

Allen Foundation  
Belvedere Community Found.  
Hugh and Muriel Harris  
Tom and Peggy O'Neill  
Sylvia Chase  
Kim and Bruce Sams  
Piper and Miles Berger  
Jay Carson  
Phil and April Cassou  
Larry and Anne Drew  
Mary and David Eklund  
Craig and Kathi Ellick  
Dave Gotz and Vickie Rath  
Russell and Julia Keil  
Helen and Bill Lindqvist  
Bruce and Lois Moody

J. Fraser & Helen Muirhead  
Gig and Melville Owen  
Becky and Bob Pringle  
Ed Regan  
Sarah and Stuart Ryan  
Robert and Wendy Walley  
Ingrid and Bill Wheeler  
Frank and Laura Fennema  
David A. Cobb  
Frank and Barbro Greene  
Gabiella Issacson  
Bob and Sharon Kahn  
Joy and Gene McCabe  
Dolores Mizis  
Andy Anderson  
Jeff Birkenseer

Dolores B. Conlan  
Judith Ets-Hokin  
Jason Holmes  
Katherine H. Johnson  
Joe Lavigne  
Suzy Carter Orb  
John Owen  
Garrett Price  
Jeanette H. Price  
Ruth Wosser  
Sue Orenschall  
Jerry and Anne Butler  
Eva Buxton  
Peter J. Davis  
Angelo P. Figone  
Judy and Bob Huret

Molly Hynes  
Diane and Andrew Kahn  
Gee Kampmeyer  
Marilyn Knight  
William W. Lary  
Ron and Jackie Okulski  
Camerin Ross  
Elizabeth H. Simmons  
Peyton and Jeff Stein  
Joan Bergsund  
Peter and Mimi Clarke  
Lorna Gentile  
John Hetherington  
Beverly Hopps  
Donna Kline  
Jean Hoffmire

# Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum



*Jerry Romain passed away recently. He was a very active supporter of the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum. He served as a docent for four years on Wednesdays and Fridays. With his background in electronics, he made our donated telegraph equipment work as it should. He got our antique Emerson radio to once again receive news and programs over the air. With his many creative approaches, he helped improve the museum operation. With our Third Grade student tours, Jerry helped our local youngsters appreciate our railroad history. He is a member of the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum Honor Roll.*

*The museum and docent team will miss his enthusiastic work on behalf of Tiburon history.*

*- Phil Cassou, Head Docent*

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Thursday  
September 14**

**Belvedere-Tiburon  
Open  
Golf Tournament**

**Proceeds to benefit the  
Landmarks Society  
and The Ranch**

**Walk Your History  
Along the Old Rail Trail**

**Saturday, April 22nd  
9 to 12:00**

**Tiburon Town Hall to Blackie's Pasture  
Living History Volunteers at Historic Hot Spots  
Drinks, Snacks, & Music at Blackie's Picnic Tables  
Shuttles back to Town Hall**



Mia Addiego  
City of Belvedere  
Belvedere Community  
Foundation  
A P A Bindusaran  
A. Keith Burch  
Jerry and Anne Butler  
Martha L. Cannon  
Jay Carson  
David and Bunny Cobb  
Ramon Colen  
Damon L. Covington  
Rodney Davis, Marin Event  
Lighting  
Steven Davis  
Virginia and Phillip A.  
DeMaria  
Destination Tiburon  
L. John Duran  
Craig and Kathy Ellick  
Patricia and Howard Flax  
Seth Foreman  
Monica M. Gill  
Chad Grant and Windy  
Baldrige  
Kristyn Hara  
William A. Hastings  
Deborah Hiers  
Melissa Hoffman  
Jason Holms, Holms  
Burrell  
Andrew Dean Holzbaur  
Heather Marie James  
Jeri Johnson  
Diane and Andrew Kahn  
Lisa Kampmeyer  
Reed Lindsay  
Kiyoe Logan  
Anthony Lomelino  
Bernadette McCormack  
David McCraig  
Matt McDole  
Garrett H. Price, III  
Venice F. Salvacruz  
Daniel Stancato  
Terry R. Underwood  
James and Suzanne White  
Jill and David Wolff

section at the end of the path. TPF and the Belvedere Community Foundation have each contributed \$15,000 to the project and The Town of Tiburon has pledged \$40,000.

After the Town approval the volunteers got right to work on setting up the section of the trail with actual rails and with new ties displayed near the start of the Old Rail Trail at Blackie's parking lot in time for promoting the donor ties at Blackie's Hay Day. In February about a dozen volunteers turned out to help move the rails up to the berm, building the first stage of the Trestle Trail, the 40-foot section of actual historic rail. The section is now complete with old ties, rusty rail and spikes as well as shiny bronze, silver and gold spikes which have already been sponsored. Two new ties with the sponsor plaques are also in place.

With Town final approval the TPF hopes to begin construction of the concrete path in early June, with a completion date of July 14th. There will be several opportunities to volunteer in the months to come. Look for "Help Wanted" signs posted on the trestle remains – come out and enjoy the beautiful view from the top of the berm and help make the path a reality.

The Landmarks Society is very proud of the successful transformation of the railroad berm and would like to recognize that it was a team effort. Thanks go to Arlene Nielsen and Ed Lynch of the TPF, and Peggy Curran, Nick Nguyen and Joel Brewer of the Town of Tiburon for the initial clearing of the berm. We also praise the current efforts by TPF, BCF, the Town and particularly Jim Wood and Phil Cassou who worked together to make the Trestle Trail idea a reality and has spent many hours working on the plans, permits and getting dirty doing the real work. ([www.trestletrail.org](http://www.trestletrail.org)) Join us on Saturday, April 22nd for Walk Your History - Along the Old Rail Trail to see all our work!



*Phil Cassou, Landmarks Board Vice President and Head Docent at the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum, heaves a 20-foot length of iron rail. Photo by Elliot Karlan.*



*Jerry Riessen hoists a rail for the Tiburon Public Workers, Juan Gonzalez and Mike Vanderbilt, and Tiburon Fire Protection District, Mike Ayers and Grant Eules; the shirtless volunteers "Hans and Franz" guide it into place. Photo by Elliot Karlan.*

# Donations to Landmarks

SEPTEMBER 2016 - MARCH 2017

Jeanette H. Price

## General Donations

The Allen Foundation for  
China Cabin  
Belvedere-Tiburon Golf Tournament

Belvedere Community Foundation for  
China Cabin

Hugh and Muriel Harris for  
China Cabin

Timothy Paul Bogan and  
Richard John McCarthy

Diane Lynch

Leslie Airola-Murveit and Hy Murviet

Jill Sideman from Fidelity Charitable

Ida Baugh and John Harrington -  
Fund for Humanity Charitable Foundation

Michelle and Robert Friend - The Jewish Com-  
munity Federation

Neil Rudolph and Susan Cluff - The J.P. Morgan  
Charitable Giving fund

Donald W. Davis - The San Francisco Foundation  
Pinecrest Fund

YourCause, LLC Trustee for Chevron Matching  
Funds

## Sponsors China Cabin Book #2 By Hillary Don

Winifred and Harry B. Allen Foundation  
Laleh Zelinsky  
Piper and Miles Berger  
Rosalind and John Colver  
Hugh and Muriel Harris  
Gig and Melville Owen  
Mordechai and Barbara Winter  
Janice Anderson-Gram  
John F. and Shirley Fiorito  
Gee Kampmeyer  
Jeff and Sharon Lamoree  
Shirley C. Levy  
Joan Bergsund

## History Collections Donations

**Molly Keil Hynes** – Framed photo of the “Keil Women”  
on Belvedere Cove circa 1900.

**Jack Fiorito** – Officer of the Deck (OOD) armband.

**Jim Allen** – School book from Belvedere School circa  
1905.

**Chris Morrison** – Angel Island Day program (1952),  
Tiburon Peninsula Guide (1958).

**Jeanette Clark** – Shark Point and High Point (1955  
edition) and Shark Point - High Point (1958 edition).

**Kim Steinhardt** – The Dr. David Steinhardt/Audubon  
Collection: Photographs, documents and newspaper  
clippings regarding the successful effort to preserve  
Richardson Bay, 1954-1959.

**Leslie Doyle** - Documents from Mayor Al Kuhn.

## In Memory Of

Lori M. Radzikowski - from Kristina K. Gale

Theodore and Marilyn Stolte from  
Betsy Stolte Youngdahl and Coleman  
Youngdahl

Ronald Roberto from  
Hill Haven Homeowner’s Association

Joan Lucas from Sylvia Ross

Jerry Romain from Betty Williams

## Sponsors Walk Your History - Along the Old Rail Trail

Town of Tiburon  
City of Belvedere  
Tiburon Peninsula Foundation  
Belvedere Community Foundation  
Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks  
The Ranch

THE LANDMARKS SOCIETY  
 1550 Tiburon Boulevard, Suite M  
 Belvedere-Tiburon, CA 94920  
[www.landmarkssociety.com](http://www.landmarkssociety.com)  
 415-435-1853

NON PROFIT  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
 BELVEDERE-TIBURON, CA  
 PERMIT NO. 8



Art & Garden Center  
 Open by appointment



China Cabin  
 Open Sat & Sun 1-4 p.m.



Railroad & Ferry Museum  
 Open Wed thru Sun 1-4 p.m.



Old St. Hilary's  
 Open Sun 1-4 p.m.

April 22, 9-12:00	Walk Your History - Along the Old Rail Trail FREE	Tiburon Town Hall to Blackie's Pasture Picnic Tables
April 23, 4:00 p.m.	de Grassi/York Guitar Duo	Old St. Hilary's
April 27, 10 - 2:00 p.m.	Plein Air: Celebrate the Four Seasons - Draw & Paint in the Garden FREE	Art & Garden Center
May 21, 4 p.m.	Musae: A Child's Garden	Old St. Hilary's
May 25, 10 - 2:00 p.m.	Plein Air: Celebrate the Four Seasons - Draw & Paint in the Garden FREE	Art & Garden Center
June 11, 4 p.m.	Hiroya Tsukamoto: Guitarist/singer	Old St. Hilary's
June 21, 4 p.m.	Hillary Don China Cabin Book Signing & Celebration	China Cabin
June 22, 10 - 2:00 p.m.	Plein Air: Celebrate the Four Seasons - Draw & Paint in the Garden FREE	Art & Garden Center
July 27, 10 - 2:00 p.m.	Plein Air: Celebrate the Four Seasons - Draw & Paint in the Garden FREE	Art & Garden Center
August 24, 10 - 2:00 p.m.	Plein Air: Celebrate the Four Seasons - Draw & Paint in the Garden FREE	Art & Garden Center
September 14, 12 p.m.	Belvedere-Tiburon Golf Tournament	San Geronimo
September 17, 4 p.m.	Caroluna: Opera arias	Old St. Hilary's
October 7, 6:30 p.m.	Landmarks Fall Fundraiser: Tiburon Tommies	Downtown Tiburon
November 12, 4 p.m.	Landmarks Annual Member Meeting	Tiburon Town Hall
December 2, 10 - 4 p.m.	Landmarks Holiday Art & Craft Sale	Art & Garden Center
December 10, 1 and 4 p.m.	Musae: Winter concert (Women's Vocal Ensemble)	Old St. Hilary's

Please visit our Website at [www.landmarkssociety.com](http://www.landmarkssociety.com) for up-to-date information.