

# THE LANDMARK

A bi-annual publication of the Landmarks Society



NWP Tank car converted to fire car c.####

## Hot Time in the Rail Town

By Jeanne Price

“A Hot Time in the Rail Town Tonight” is the theme of another historically accurate fundraiser for the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society on Saturday October 9 at 6:00 pm at the Fire Station on Tiburon Boulevard to celebrate its Year-of-the-Railroad.

The dinner dance will be 1940’s style with live music by Doozy of southern California. The band features John Allen (brother of Jim Allen) on saxophone and clarinet, playing those golden oldies. There will be a silent auction, gourmet barbeque, and “flaming” drinks. Attire for a 1940’s summertime dance is encouraged. Reservations are \$125 per person and can be made by calling the Society’s office at 435-1853. Invitations will be in the mail soon.

The Fire Department and the railroad are coming together for this event, but not for the first time. The railroad played a big part in the establishment of the first Tiburon Fire Department.

After the disastrous 1890 fire leveled the shacks on Water Street (renamed Main Street in 1911) there was an effort by a few individuals to organize a fire department, but it wasn’t until 1899 when, with an arsonist



Main Street before and after the fire in early 1900s. Look for the tree on left and railroad housing at the end of the street.

### Inside:

Landmarks 2010 Honorary Member of the Year & Volunteer of the Year

Historic House Tour : The Heart of Old Tiburon pictures

Artist as Historian - The Tiburon Rail yards

Fall & Winter Events

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# President's Corner

By Jim Allen, President

This is the year of the Railroad at the Landmarks Society. We have been able to greatly increase the hours that the museum is open and to make a number of improvements to the model, the



stationmaster's home upstairs and the general presentation of the museum. John Harris, Phil Maslin, Mary Eckland and Phil Cassou have been the primary volunteers at the RR Museum aided by other great volunteers. There is a steady stream of visitors whenever we are open so we know there is plenty of interest.

The model trains now run on 4 tracks accompanied by the sounds of the engines moving, the whistles blowing, bells ringing and steam breaks working. Mary Eckland continues to make the stationmaster's residence accurately represent its era. The new lighting in the museum has made everything there easier to see and enjoy. Dave Gotz has made it much easier for visitors to locate the various historical buildings and shoreline overlaid on a map of the current land and

buildings. The Museum really deserves a visit now if you have not been there lately.

The spring Historic House Tour of homes of Railroad workers was a huge success. The residents were so generous to open their homes to the tour. We were able to visit properties we would never normally be able to see from the inside. A week before the tour the Board hosted a cocktail reception in the old NWP Records Building on Mar West. We released the booklet written by Jeanne Price, editing and photo selection by Piper Berger and Dave Gotz, showing many scenes from the RR era. It is a wonderful addition to the publications that Landmarks has assembled over the years.

The next big event in the Landmarks year of the railroad is the "Hot Time in the Rail Town Tonight" party coming on October 9. Leslie Doyle and committee members have put

together a fantastic fundraising event that will be held at the current fire house in downtown Tiburon. The original Tiburon volunteer fire department grew from the railroad and the members were all from the NWP RR and old Tiburon families. The Hot Time party will have delectable BBQ food, wonderful period music, and fantastic drinks for our celebration of Tiburon Peninsula and Railroad History. This party will likely be a sold out event so don't wait to make your reservations.

The Board members and Landmarks staff will be there to help you have a "Hot Time" in Tiburon's rail yard. Bring your friends to support the Landmarks!



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## Landmarks Society 2010 Board of Directors

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## Party with History *Continued*

on the loose, “the citizens were awakened to the dangerous position in which their properties were placed by any casual blaze,” according to *Life in Belvedere and Tiburon 1890-1900* edited by Hillary Don of Belvedere. One of the first steps was to appoint a committee “to confer with the authorities of the California Northwestern Railroad and ascertain what steps they were willing to take in furtherance of the scheme.” The railroad company agreed to put in a new pumping plant and to furnish power to operate it. Salt water was used and steam kept up in the railroad shops twenty-four hours a day. This promised to be an “effective fire-fighting plant.”

Volunteers laid pipe down the center

of Water Street. A steam fire pump was located in the center of the rail yard to send water running from there along the length of the street. There were fire hydrants at 75 to 100 foot intervals along this pipe. The first fire house was completed and all was duly celebrated at the inaugural Volunteer Fireman’s Ball in 1899.

The first test came a few months later in August when Judge Hayden’s roof caught fire. The fire whistles at the railroad yard sounded and volunteers poured out of their houses to fight the fire. “...in less time than it takes to tell it, a coupling was made and a strong stream played on the shingles. It took only two minutes to extinguish the blaze.”

There were more fires, disastrous ones, in spite of the new precautions. One in 1901 burned down the Sonoma House Hotel on Main Street and in April, 1921 a fire destroyed much of Main Street again. In July of that year a fire at the rail yard demolished the machine shop. It was reported in the *Marin Journal* of April, 1921, “Residents of Tiburon say that their town has suffered five disastrous fires and in every instance the damage would have been greatly minimized had there been adequate firefighting equipment.”

Now fast forward to 1941. The Tiburon Fire Protection District, a volunteer organization, was established in July. “Seventeen men comprised the first roster of volunteer firefighters in Tiburon. Many were employed by the Northwestern Pacific and lived on the hillside above the railroad yard,” according to the Fire District’s archives. In addition, according to Fred Codoni, a NWP railroad historian, “NWP – like all railroads – was very concerned with the possibility of fires. There were hydrants on the Tiburon property and a fire-fighting crew made up of employees who normally had other duties. I remember seeing a hose cart in a shed and fire hoses throughout the property.”

By the end of 1941 the United States was at war. “Although railroad workers in general were exempted from military service, many of them signed up anyway,” according to Codoni. By mid-1942 90 NWP employees were in the service. This created a great shortage of workers for the railroad. Desperate for men (and women) to work for the railroad it placed ads for helpers for machinists, boilermakers, carpenters, mechanics, plumbers, offering liberal age limits, pensions, medical benefits, housing and rail



Main Street before the fire and after the fire in early 1920s. Look for the two railroad houses at the end of the street.

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## Party With History *continued*

passes. Codoni continued, “Those that remained at their jobs worked long hours. The NWP was so short of people it recruited more than 150 students from high schools along the line to work on weekends and advertised for older people and retired railroaders to return to work.”

As the community grew in 1959, the District board decided to formally test for the position of Fire Chief. In December, the department’s second Assistant Chief, Franklin J. Buscher became the first paid Chief of the department and remained in that position for 34 years. Frank came from a railroad family. His grandfather started working for the railroad in 1908 as a car man or wood worker. Frank’s father Fred worked as a tool man from 1923 to 1961. But the railroad was not for Frank. His heart was with fire fighting.

Under his leadership “new goals were developed for the department including an emphasis on training, improved records and standards of operation and a systematic plan for building a full-time work force,” according to the department’s history files. The first paid firemen were hired in 1960 and 1961. The new sub-station at Trestle Glen was established. The Tiburon Boulevard station was remodeled and enlarged several times until it was demolished in 1991 and the present building constructed and occupied in 1992.

Belvedere had its own volunteer fire department dating back to 1918. Although it had a chief, it was governed by the City Council through an appointed Fire Commissioner. This arrangement was in effect until 1980 when Belvedere contracted for fire and paramedic services from the Tiburon Fire District. During those 65 years, the Volunteer Fire Department had “over 200 members who dedicated themselves to providing such essential services at

considerable risk, donating some 200,000 hours of personal time and effort, day and night,” according to the Belvedere City Council’s minutes of July 11, 1983.

No volunteers received any pay for fire fighting, emergency service or training and no insurance was carried for them. When eight Belvedere volunteers were injured in a 1932 Tiburon fire, the community organized a whist party which netted a little over \$200 for the injured.

With great ingenuity in the early 1940’s when the volunteers ran out of water at a fire in Little Reed Ranch near the present Del Mar School, milk from five gallon cans was poured into the engine’s booster tank to extinguish the fire.

The final event for this year’s celebration of the Railroad is an Art Exhibit at Town Hall during November and December. The exhibit will present paintings of the railroad yard and depot featuring work by Jean Hull and John Norall.

If you haven’t been to the museum lately, there have been many improvements according to Co-Executive director of the Society, Leslie Doyle. All four train tracks are working and can be operated by visitors; new audio and lighting gives an added dimension of reality. There are new display cases filled with objects from the Landmarks’ History Collection and a map showing the rail yard site as it was yesterday and today. The Museum is now open Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 pm through October.

Bring a friend to see the newly revealed history! If you’d like to be a docent - and we could sure use your help - please contact the Landmarks office @ 435-1853 to learn more.



Belvedere Fires Department 1936



Tiburon Fire Department 1942

**Mark Your Calendars !**

**LANDMARKS**

**HOT TIME IN THE  
RAIL TOWN TONIGHT**

**OCTOBER 9, 2010  
TIBURON FIREHOUSE**

**CALL 435-1853 TO JOIN THE FUN**

**Old St. Hilary's Concerts**

Presented by  
the Landmarks and Tiburon Heritage & Arts  
Thank You Telli Marin for printing the  
concert program and tickets

**October 14th at 8 pm - AlmaNova: Guitar and Flute Duo**

**December 9th at 8 pm - Musae: Women's Vocal Ensemble**

Free Shuttle Service is available 30 minutes before the show from the Boardwalk Shopping Center  
Please call the Landmarks office for more information 435-1853



**Landmarks Holiday Art & Craft Sale**

**Saturday, December 4th**

**10 to 4**

**In the Cottage at the Art & Garden Center**

**841 Tiburon Blvd., Tiburon**

The Landmarks Fifth Annual Holiday Art & Craft Sale will be here before you know it!  
Join us for some hot cider and our famous Pear Brandy while holiday shopping with local  
artists. 20% of all sales to benefit the Landmarks Society.

**Bring a Friend!**

# Making History

Top: **John Harris** readies the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum for the new season by washing windows. **Steve Hoffmire** keeps the Old St. Hilary landmark shining brightly with new paint. Children attending the Community Recreation summer camps at the Art & Garden Center are thrilled to be digging in the Children's Garden. Middle: **Dave Gotz, Fred Codoni, Richard Torney and Angelo Figone** thrill a standing room only audience at "Tiburon's Railroad History" lecture in Town Hall. Bottom: **Wendy Soule** purchased a Wine & Cheese party at the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum at a Landmark fundraising event. **Mary Eklund** brought the cheese and **Alan Brune** brought his Bergstrom wines for a delicious tasting.



Mark Your Calendars  
for the

## Landmarks Annual Member Meeting

Sunday, November 14th, 4 p.m.

at the Tiburon Town Hall

View the "Artist As Historian - the Tiburon Railyards" and meet the artists

John Norall and Jean Hull

and help us to honor the 2010 Landmarks

Honorary Member of the Year Phil Cassou & Volunteer of the Year Sue Ohrenschall

## Landmarks Honorary Member of the Year Phil Cassou



Phil Cassou is Landmarks 2010 Honorary Member of the Year, in recognition for his leadership in the development of the Tiburon Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum, as well as his years of service on the Board of Directors. Phil started working at the Museum as a docent in the first year that it was opened in 1999. In the beginning it was just Beverly Bastian, Landmarks founder, and Phil who split the oversight responsibilities - with Beverly recruiting the docents and Phil managing their work schedules which allowed Landmarks to be open to the public during the week and on the weekend.

But Phil's heart was in playing with trains so he became actively involved in the model building and the large layout of Tiburon railyards in the c. 1910s.

A model train buff since that age of 10, Phil was delighted to find out that the Landmarks Society was building a HO gauge model. Phil's own personal collection includes nearly 450 rail cars. He has also built over 50 model buildings for different layouts (which can take months or even years depending on how difficult they are). At home he has an elaborate 5' by 9' setup and during the holidays he enjoys setting up three or four other layouts throughout the house!

The current layout at the Railroad museum has 4 different trains that can be operated manually with railyard sounds so that it provides a more complete experience to the visitors.

Phil has been active in the Landmarks Board and has served as Vice President from 2000-2002 and then President from 2004-2007. He has served on numerous committees outside of the Museum including the Bylaws Review Committee and Nominating Committee.

"I have loved developing the Museum and one day hope that it is open more days to the public. On a normal Saturday or Sunday we are getting over 100 visitors and 50 on Wednesdays to the Museum. "If people are interested in becoming a docent, they should contact Landmarks." Phil said, "It is a lot of fun."

Great job Phil and congratulations on your award!

## Landmarks Volunteer of the Year Sue Ohrenschall



Sue Ohrenschall is Landmarks 2010 Volunteer of the Year, selected for her dedication in staffing the Tiburon Thrift Shop on Ark Row. The Thrift Shop is a non profit that is staffed primarily by volunteers from local churches or other non profits such as Landmarks. Sue has worked tirelessly to ensure that each month the Landmarks shifts are staffed and our volunteers are well trained.

Sue has also served on Landmarks Board from 2000 to 2003. Landmarks was extremely lucky that Sue joined the Board because originally Landmarks was considering her husband, Bob, but since he had not retired yet he was unavailable. However, during the discussion with both of them, it became apparent that Sue had interest in the work that Landmarks was doing and had great organizational skills that would be of great value to Landmarks. Thus, a new Board member was elected

Later on, Sue was approached by Hildy Manley and Nancy van Ravensway to volunteer at the Tiburon Thrift Shop. Given her experience working at the San Francisco Symphony Thrift Shop she decided it would be fun to contribute a little closer to home! Little by little she assumed more and more responsibility and now she is in charge of all the staffing for the Thrift Shop days dedicated for Landmarks. Sue has been described by her co-workers as even keeled, unflappable, and a delight to be around. Sue loves working at the Thrift Shop because she runs into her friends there all the time - either those who are donating unwanted items or friends who come down to browse in the shop to see what is new there!

A Stanford grad majoring in Psychology, she met her husband Bob at a costume dance party on Telegraph Hill. Sue and Bob have lived now in Tiburon for the past 15 years. Previously they were up in Greenbrae, but once their four kids left for the four corners of the world they decided to downsize and fell in love with Point Tiburon.

A stalwart in the local Tiburon community, Sue has also been President of the Newcomers Club as well as active in the San Francisco Symphony Thrift shop.

We are excited to have Sue as our Volunteer of the Year!

## “Artist as Historian – The Tiburon Railyards”

In association with the Tiburon Heritage & Arts Commission, the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society will be presenting an Art Exhibit at the Town Hall from November through the end of the year.

Concluding the 2010 events which have highlighted the Railroad and Ferry Depot Museum, we will draw upon the fine art collection housed in the Landmarks History Collections to present a show of paintings that depict the Depot and the Tiburon Railyards. The show will spotlight the work of artists John Norall and Jean Hull. Please join us for a reception for the show and the artists on



“Stucco Office Building, Old Railroad Yard, Tiburon” by Jan Hull



“Donahue Depot” by John Norall (1960).



# 2010 Historic House Tour -The Heart of Old Tiburon

Thank you to all who participated in last spring's Historic House Tour to eight historic homes along Mar West and Las Lomas Lane. The Landmarks annual event drew over 100 walkers and 15 new members. A special Thank You to the homeowners who opened their homes for a bit of living history: Susan & Bill Lukens, Pat & Don Pickett, Magnus Le'Vicki, Jane MacLean, Ann Aylwin & Bill Smith, and Leissa & Phillip Jackmauh. Photos below clockwise from top: Landmarks Board members, Cathleen Andreucci & George Rodericks place directional signs before the walk. Piper Berger and friend, Lisa Davoren simmer pasta sauce for visitors. Jack Fiorito in his railroad cap shows walkers the 'Then & Now' photographs of the rail yard. Gerhard Laufer from the Belvedere Public Works assists Dana Thor with flags to guide walkers. Susan & Bill Lukens greet walkers enjoying thier beautiful home and gardens. Magnus Le'Vicki tells walkers the history of his home. Dennis Trumble from the Tiburon Public Works puts up flags marking the houses on the tour. Joy Kuhn greets walkers at the entrance to the Lukens home.



# Board Member Update



*Phil Maslin*

Earlier this year, Phil Maslin became a new member of the Landmarks Board. Phil became aware of the Landmarks Society while participating in a “Walk Your History” tour several years ago, and as he said, “... was fascinated by the rich history of the Belvedere/Tiburon Peninsula, and fell in love with the Railroad and Ferry Museum.” Phil became a docent at the museum, and also has used his electrical engineering background to re-wire and digitize the museum’s train and ferry layout. He offers a standing invitation “to come on down, and run the trains.”

What's Your Favorite Filled Cookie?

Chocolate Chip? Peanut Butter? Oatmeal?

We've got 'em. But how about a...

Rosemary Lemon Sugar Cookie  
with a Blackberry Jam center?

But ya didn't think about that one?  
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# New Members

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 73 Alcatraz LLC            | Rubbee Miranda                                 |
| Joshua Armel               | Colleen Mullin                                 |
| Adrienne Barbas            | Kirsten Mole                                   |
| Nancy and Jeff Bellinger   | Paul Norwood                                   |
| Teresa On and Ulrik Binzer | Oji A. Oji, MD                                 |
| Ashley Boysen              | Reed Heights Tiburon<br>Knolls Property Assoc. |
| Bob Bryant                 | Renata Pizza                                   |
| Caffee Acri                | Michael Preston                                |
| Brewster Carroll           | Jillian Rudman                                 |
| Robin Copeland             | Selina Sager                                   |
| Tom and Dawn Coyan         | Hugh Scott                                     |
| Kristine Curran            | Melissa Small                                  |
| Carrie Defever             | Jean Allen Snyder                              |
| Mark Dehnert               | Steven Sommer                                  |
| Del Mar PTA                | Diane Steffen                                  |
| Meagan Evans               | Sean Thomas                                    |
| Angelo Figone              | Elizabeth Ury                                  |
| Mia Grieb                  | Luke Wojewoda                                  |
| Laura Guzman               | Brian Wood                                     |
| Allen Hallock              | Karen Young                                    |
| Anne Harman                |  |
| William Hastings           |  |
| Paige Heimsoth             |  |
| Elizabeth Heinrich         |  |
| Athena Hewett              |  |
| Robbie Jaenecke            |  |
| Susan T. Juarez            |  |
| Myka and Russell Keil III  |  |
| Denise Lucia               |  |
| Carolyn Losee              |  |
| Rowena Marzan              |  |
| Robert McDermott           |  |
| Elizabeth McKee            |  |



Jewelry created and donated to the Landmarks from David Benoit to help pay for new display cabinets in the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum. Visit the History Collections to purchase this treasure!

# Landmarks Donations – MARCH 2010 - AUGUST 2010

## Historic House Tour Sponsors

Town of Tiburon  
 Tiburon Public Works  
 City of Belvedere  
 Belvedere Public Works  
 Belvedere Land Company  
 Chong Cook - Pt Tiburon Plaza

## In Memory of Peter Hunt

Hill Haven Homeowner's Association

## In Memory of Jack Selzer

Hill Haven Homeowner's Association

## In Memory of Margaret McIlroy

Bob and Rachel Marker

## To the History Collection in Honor of Justine Oyster

Gabrielle Keil

## In Honor of Dr. Robert E. Carroll

Brewster Carroll

## General Donations

Steve Hoffmire – Painting of Old St. Hilary's  
 Sylvia Chase  
 Helen Lindquist – Old St. Hilary's Maintenance Fund

## General Donations (continued)

Daniel Goldberg – Donation of bricks to the Art & Garden Center

Alison and Arthur Kern

## History Collections Donations

David Benoit – Handmade jewelry

Jim & Joan Wilson – Oak map cabinet

Margaret May – Men's vests, oak frame, 2 prints

Marvin Mizis – Childs' history book, 1940

Patty VanKirk – Kellogg wall telephone, c. 1900

Philip Maslin – HO scale model locomotive with digital control

Shirley Mitchell – Supplemental material for several oral histories

Carol McKegey – RUSD Scrapbooks and school yearbooks for the Betty McKegey collection

Ruth Wosser – Reed School photos and family photos

Pricilla Miller – 1918 libertyLoans poster, maritime books, copper candlesticks, wallpaper from 207 Beach Rd, c. 1900

Dolores & George Conlan Redwood pew - Old St. Hilary's

Estate of George and Phyllis Ellman – Photos, proclamations, Awards and Scrapbooks

David Imrie – Clippings and letters from Belvedere Fire Dept., 1962-81

George Coleman - Clippings and letters from Belvedere Fire Dept., 1962-81

Town of Tiburon – Planning documents and reports (1964-1993) from the files of Bob Kleinert

## Historic House Tour Volunteers

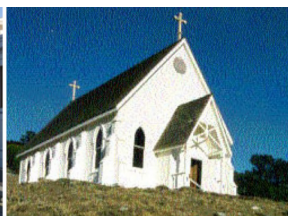
Jim Allen  
 Cathleen Andreucci  
 Ben Bialla  
 Piper Berger  
 Seamus Brady  
 Alan K. Brune  
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 Mimi Clarke  
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 Jay Davis  
 Laurel Doyle  
 Leslie Doyle  
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Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum



China Cabin



Old St. Hilary's



Art & Garden Center



History Collections

THE LANDMARKS SOCIETY  
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Belvedere-Tiburon, CA 94920  
www.landmarks-society.org  
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**Volunteer at the Tiburon Thrift Shop**  
**Landmarks Friday shifts are from 10 to 1 or 1 to 4**  
**Shop while helping local non-profits**  
**Call the Landmarks office to Get Shopping! 435-1853**

**Landmarks Docent Training**  
**Saturday Mornings at the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum**  
**Bring a Friend!**  
**Call the Landmarks office to Get On Board! 435-1853**

## ON THE CALENDAR

October 9th, 2010, 6 p.m.	Hot Time in the Rail Town Tonight	Tiburon Fire House
October 14th, 8 p.m.	AlmaNova: Guitar and Flute Duo Concert	Old St. Hilary's
October 21st, 7:30 p.m.	Tiburon - A Railroad Town for 83 Years Dave Gotz & Fred Codoni	Whistlestop in San Rafael, CA
November 14th, 4 p.m.	Annual Member Meeting Landmarks 2010 Honorary Member of the Year and Volunteer of the Year Artist as Historian - The Tiburon Railyards Art Exhibit Volunteer Appreciation	Tiburon Town Hall
December 4th, 10 - 4 p.m.	Holiday Art & Craft Sale	Cottage at the Art & Garden Center
December 9th, 8 pm	Musae: Women's Vocal Ensemble Concert	Old St. Hilary's

*Please visit our Web site at [www.landmarks-society.org](http://www.landmarks-society.org) for up-to-date information.*