

# LITTLE REED RANCH TO DEL MAR SCHOOL

By Dave Gotz

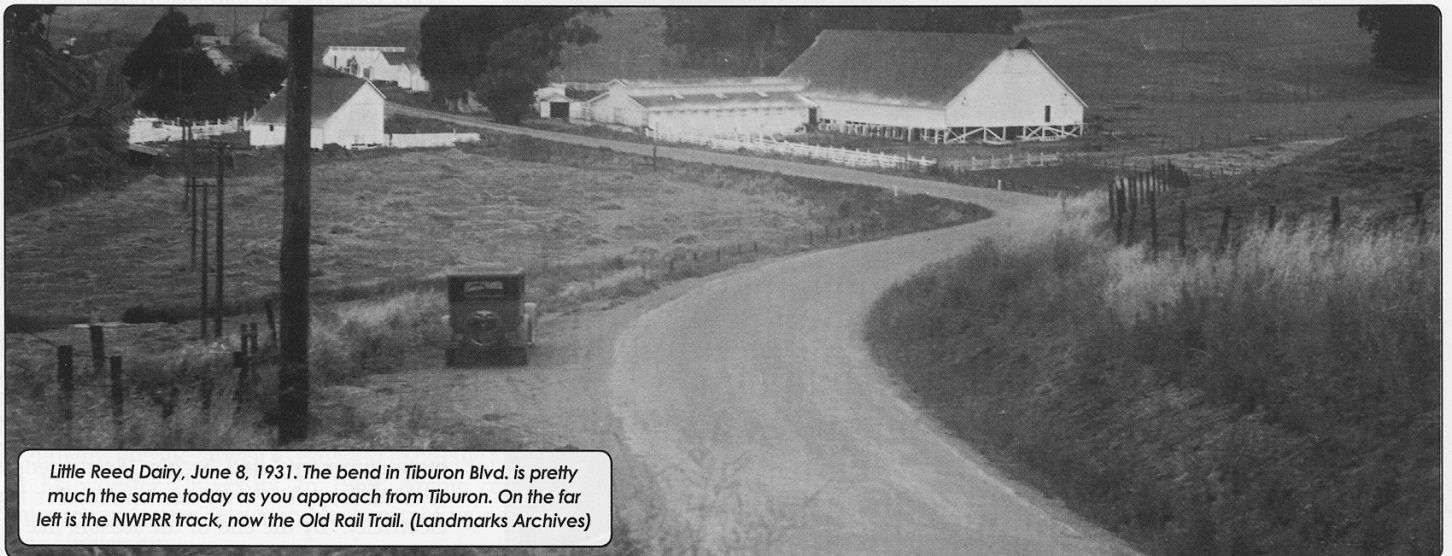
In the November issue of 94920 we outlined how the three public schools on the Tiburon peninsula are located on former dairy ranches. We are now taking a closer look at each property.

The land deeded to Clotilde Reed by her father John Joseph ran from shore to shore of the Tiburon peninsula from about where Trestle Glen Blvd. is now in the west, to a line running from Paradise Drive to San Rafael Avenue (or "the spit" as it was called by the locals) in the east. Called the Little Reed Dairy it was leased from the Reeds, probably around 1888, to Manuel T. Borges, in partnership with three other dairymen who ran the ranch. Like many of the dairy ranchers in southern Marin, Borges and his partners were Portuguese immigrants from the Azores Islands.

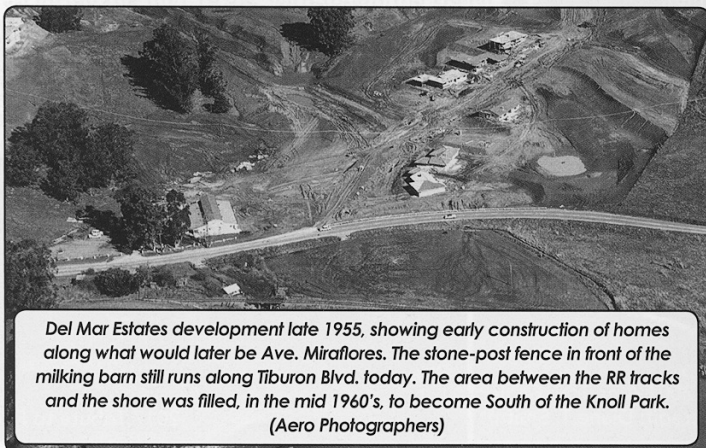
The dairy buildings and bunk houses were located on the flat area along Ranch Road, at the present location of the Del Mar School playing fields and tennis courts. Ranch Road was the connection between the Reed ranches, which is now more or less Tiburon Blvd. On the other side of the road, in the space between the railroad tracks and the road (now the Pine Terrace area), there was a small pasture, additional buildings and a loading platform at the tracks which allowed the dairy products to be taken by rail to the Tiburon wharf for transport to San Francisco.

The the dairy was taken over in 1926 by another Azorean, Mary Brazil, who was a close friend and confidant of Clotilde Reed. At the time of her death on December 12, 1940, Clotilde owned Big Reed Ranch, inherited from her brother John Paul, as well as Strawberry Point, which she inherited from her aunt Hilarita Lyford. Mary Brazil contested the initial finding that Clotilde had no will. She argued that there was a will from 1938 that gave her Little Reed Ranch, but it was stolen and destroyed by someone while Clotilde lay dying in the hospital. The Marin jury in February 1942 found in her favor and she was awarded the Little Reed. The rest of the estate was divided among the Deffebachs and Boyles, the other direct descendants of the Reed family.

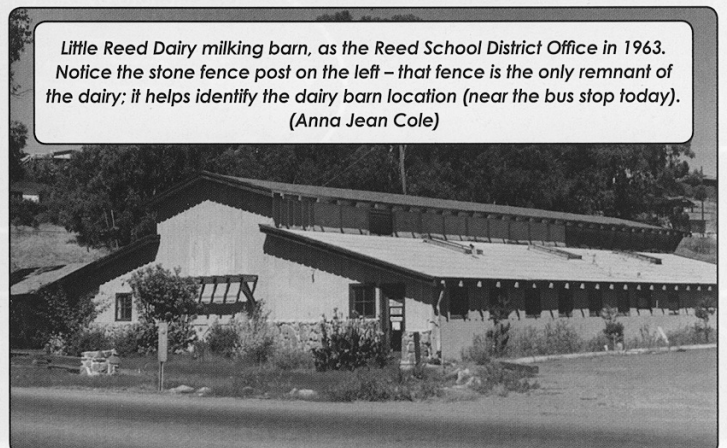
In 1944, Mary Brazil quit the dairy business, selling her property to Benton and Warren Bostick. The Bosticks may have continued the dairy for a short time, but their interest was real estate development. By 1955 the large hay barn and the bunkhouses were removed; only the milking barn remained and was remodeled to be the sales office for Del Mar Estates. The following year Reed Union School District acquired the property and converted the milking barn into the District Office. The first phase of Del Mar School construction was completed on the old dairy site in 1962, and in 1964 the milking barn was razed to finish the final phase of Del Mar.



*Little Reed Dairy, June 8, 1931. The bend in Tiburon Blvd. is pretty much the same today as you approach from Tiburon. On the far left is the NWPRR track, now the Old Rail Trail. (Landmarks Archives)*



*Del Mar Estates development late 1955, showing early construction of homes along what would later be Ave. Miraflores. The stone-post fence in front of the milking barn still runs along Tiburon Blvd. today. The area between the RR tracks and the shore was filled, in the mid 1960's, to become South of the Knoll Park. (Aero Photographers)*



*Little Reed Dairy milking barn, as the Reed School District Office in 1963. Notice the stone fence post on the left – that fence is the only remnant of the dairy; it helps identify the dairy barn location (near the bus stop today). (Anna Jean Cole)*