Outside Lands

San Francisco History from
Western Neighborhoods Project

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History from the Western Neighborhoods Project
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Cover:
Roosevelt Middle School in 2016, and an early twentieth-century postcard of Richmond School. (Courtesy of John Freeman.)

Right:
Friends and supporters enjoying the opening party at the new WNP home on February 3, 2018.

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The first couple of months at our new Balboa Street address, what I like to call the "home for history," have gone great. Our events fill up; we have some comfortable chairs; the archives and photo collection are being moved over little by little; we even bought a mailbox…

We have also had some great speakers so far, from **Ron Jones** to **Anisha Gupta** to **John Martini**, with more scheduled through the summer. Make sure to make some time to visit us for an event, or at least drop in on a Saturday when we're open to the world.

OpenSFHistory receives the love

Our effort to scan and put online tens of thousands San Francisco historical images (**opensfhistory.org**) has gotten a great boost in recent months.

In January we were granted a two-year extension of a contract from the San Francisco Historic Preservation Fund to process another 30,000 images. In February, we were awarded funding from the **San Francisco Heritage** Alice Ross Carey Preservation Fund.

In March, the membership of **The Victorian Alliance of San Francisco** voted us a total of $10,000 from its Preservation Fund and Micki Ryan Education Fund to catalog, scan, and post online thousands of early 1970s architecture slides taken by **Judith Lynch** (you may know her seminal 1978 book on San Francisco Victorian architecture, *A Gift to the Street*.)

The Lynch slides offer amazing views of city architecture before the "Painted Ladies" became a tourist must-see: days of peeling paint on Queen Anne mansions and flats being trundled out of the way of Western Addition redevelopment plans. For example, take a look at the building at right being settled on the corner of Eddy and Scott Streets.

Our great thanks to these organizations for the support. When we started tackling this OpenSFHistory project we thought perhaps it would take our whole lifespans to finish. Now, we can see a path to 100,000 images online in just a few years.

Happy Birthday to Us

It might be hard to believe we started Western Neighborhoods Project nineteen years ago. It's hard for me at least. Time for a beer…



Come celebrate our birthday with us on Saturday, **May 19, 2018,** 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at one of our favorite Richmond District institutions, The Plough and the Stars. We're taking over Sean's pub at 116 Clement Street and will have a program full of what we love: old images, local stories, some Irish bar history, and a toast or two. Tickets are, appropriately, $19, and we may just have pizza. Go to our events page at outsidelands.org/events.php to reserve your space.

What's on the way

In addition to more events in 2018 than ever before, and lots more images being scanned, we keep plugging away at what we have done for almost twenty years now: this magazine, articles and posts on the websites, sharing the past on social media, member walks, projects with local community and history groups, and our weekly podcast, *Outside Lands San Francisco.* (We're closing in on 275 episodes, which is almost 100 hours of **David Gallagher** and I talking to each other. Perhaps that's too much…)

What we haven't kept up with as much are video projects, such as our old SF West History Minutes. We're trying to change that by at least recording all the great events we're hosting on Balboa Street. We want our friends out of town, out of state, and even out of the country (Copenhagen!) to be part of the excitement. Last month we did a test with Facebook Live for our OpenSFHistory Top Ten show. We plan to do more of those while also bringing our YouTube channel back to life. Get ready for the era of moving pictures.



Relocated Victorian building being placed on northwest corner of Eddy and Scott Streets in early 1970s. Today, this is addressed 1800-1802 Eddy Street and beautifully restored. (Judith Lynch photograph, WNP Collection, wnp25.11764)

Where in West S.F.?

Having a transit vehicle in one of our mystery photos is always a great clue. How many places "almost" on the west side would have a cable car in view? So congratulations to all who identified the 1926 shot of Presidio Avenue and California Street from the last issue. We pushed our west side boundaries a bit, but it's hard to know where to draw the line with so many good stories and images.

The early Standard Oil Company service station in the photo is where the San Francisco Fire Credit Union building stands today.

A number of our guessers pointed out this shot was in Anthony Perles' *The People's Railway,* published in 1981. These were the days when the California Street Cable Railroad ended at the edge of the Laurel Hill Cemetery (on left) and before the Jewish Community Center (JCC) was built on the right corner. Since 1954, the California Street cable car line's western terminus has been Van Ness Avenue.

Alan Thomas: "I took swimming lessons in 1952, and later spent day camps (1953 and 1954) at the old Jewish Community Center which had been built or completed in 1932. The old JCC was replaced by the new one maybe fifteen years ago and is now an imposing building which stands where the old buildings are visible in the photo behind the cable car."



View northwest to California Street from Presidio Avenue, April 24, 1926. (Horace Chaffee photograph, Department of Public Works photograph, Book 48, #10465. WNP Collection, wnp36.04086)

Gardner Haskell noted that the electric streetcar rails seen on Presidio Avenue were for the privately owned Market Street Railway Company's #3 Sutter and Jackson line.

Jim Brady pointed out that the billboard on California Street advertises a series of dates for "Free Lectures. Practical Psychology and Psycho-Analysis" by Henriette Jodar. Jim describes Jodar as "a woman who gave lectures for woman only, on how to deal with woman issues."

Reading titles of some of her lectures—"Psychology of Love," "How to Get Your Prayers Answered," and "Why Some People Make Money, Others Do Not"—one might call Ms. Jodar the Tony Robbins of her day.

Other correct "Where in West S.F.?" guessers were Frank Dunnigan, Harry Henderson, David Hooper, and Karl Young.

All right, time for another round. Take a look at the photo on the left and tell us if you recognize anyone, when and where this ceremony is taking place, and what the occasion *may* be. (There was a hint there.)

Feel free to add a personal memory or anecdote when sending your guess. Email woody@outsidelands.org, or use the Western Neighborhoods Project contact information on the inside cover. Good luck!

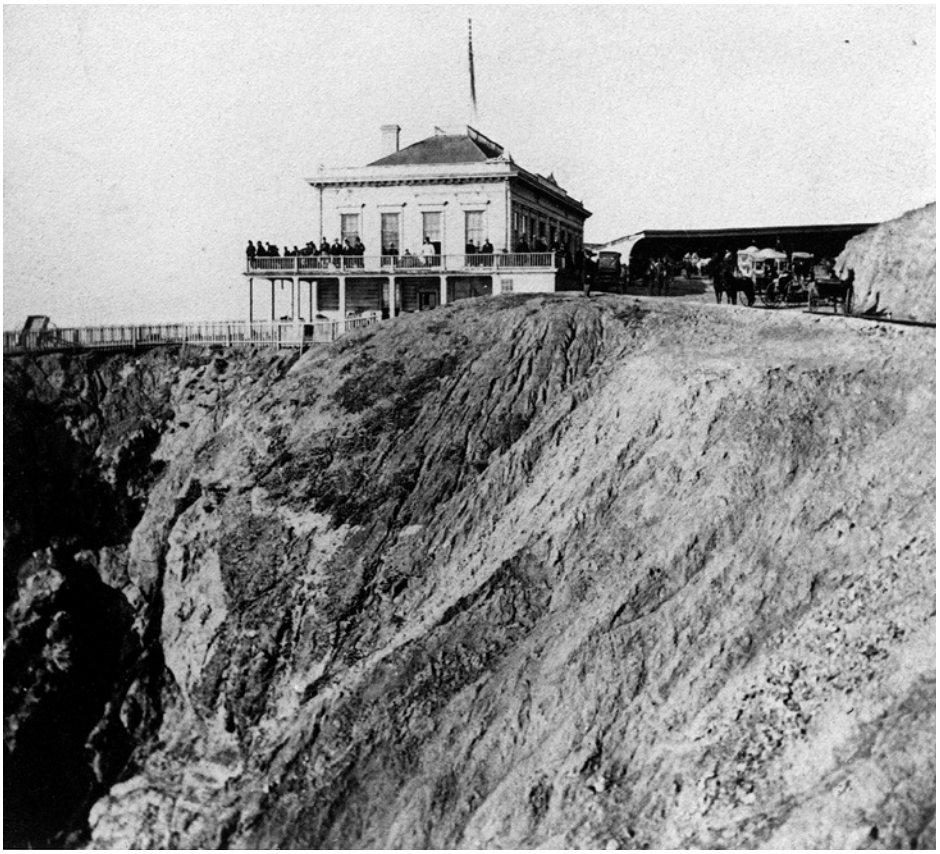


Who is that dignitary at the microphone? Where are we and why does there seem to be royalty visiting the west side? Tell us what you know…or guess!

How Many Cliff Houses?

by John Martini

WNP member John Martini is a retired National Park Service ranger helping us process our OpenSFHistory collection of historical San Francisco images. Visit opensfhistory.org to learn more and see thousands more photos.



First Cliff House, circa 1865. (Thomas Houseworth & Company stereoview. WNP Collection, wnp4.0414)

A never-ending argument among local historians and San Francisco history buffs concerns the number of Cliff Houses that have stood overlooking Seal Rocks. Some say three, others five, some as many as six. It all comes down to how one defines a structure, and at what point does it change so completely that it becomes a totally different building.

The history of the Cliff House is pretty straightforward, and quite melodramatic. Originally built in 1863, it was enlarged in 1868, blown up in 1887, burned down in 1894, rebuilt in 1896, burned again in 1907, and rebuilt one more time in 1908. Seems straightforward enough, but not included in this brief time line are the numerous remodelings the buildings underwent during their precipitous years hanging off the cliff face.

Also muddying the historical waters is the assertion by some folks that the Cliff House actually goes back to 1858—although they admit it was a different building in a different location and had a different name. It didn't help matters that, for literally decades, the Whitney Brothers displayed a large neon sign on the Cliff House reading "SINCE 1858."

Here's a slightly expanded version of the points listed above, along with a little historical context.

1858: A roadhouse calling itself Seal Rock House opens at the north end of Ocean Beach, snuggled against the bluffs of the future Sutro Heights, but nearly a quarter mile from Seal Rocks. It would change names often over the years, sometimes being called Long Branch House, Long Branch Hotel, then Seal Rock Hotel. However, no matter the name, it was not the site of the future Cliff House.

1863: Original Cliff House opens at the furthest west tip of land overlooking a popular destination for San Franciscans: the Seal Rocks. A relatively small structure, it was essentially a hipped-roof building with a rectangular footprint and verandas on three sides, topped by a small "widow's walk" balcony and a towering flagpole. This first incarnation of the Cliff House didn't last long. A victim of its own popularity, it was completely rebuilt and expanded in…

1868: During the 1868 remodeling, the Cliff House owners enlarged it to approximately four times its original size, adding two wings that enveloped the original rectangular structure, and leaving only a portion of the original facade on Cliff Road exposed.

These were odd additions. The north wing was a sort of a "mini-me" version of the original Cliff House, complete with scaled down footprint, hipped roof and widow's walk.



First Cliff House after 1868 remodel. (WNP Collection, wnp37.00508)

The other, larger addition was an L-shaped wing surrounding the entire west and south sides of the building. Its architectural style was totally different from the original 1863 Cliff House and the north wing. Instead, the L-shaped wing had a flat roof with a raised parapet. Its larger size permitted greatly expanded viewing verandas.

With only minor exterior modifications (signage, billboards, outbuildings) the 1868 Cliff House stood relatively unchanged until…

Circa 1883: Adolph Sutro purchased the then-seedy Cliff House in 1883 and installed a new manager to clean up the roadhouse. About this time, a minuscule castle-like addition appears at the southeast corner of the structure. It's assumed Sutro ordered this addition built, but documentation is elusive. With its crenelated parapet and pointed-arch openings, the little addition had a distinctly European feel to it—some have said Norman. It also eerily presaged the much more grandiose "Victorian" Cliff House that Sutro would build in the 1890s.

1894: On Christmas day, the original Cliff House with its various modifications burned to the ground. Adolph Sutro wasted little time before announcing plans for a vast new Cliff House on the same site. Construction on his seven-story "Hotel de Cliff House" takes over a year, and it opens in…

1896: Called the "gingerbread" or "Victorian" Cliff House, Sutro's elaborate structure was the shortest-lived of all the Cliff House buildings. Opening February 1, 1896, the wood frame building remained essentially unchanged during its eleven year existence.

The only modifications that historians have identified involve the continued loss of exterior filigree, some alterations to window openings, and the addition of several chimneys. This structure would also be destroyed by fire in…

1907: On September 7, during interior renovations, Sutro's version of the Cliff House burns to the ground, leaving only a few brick chimneys standing amid the charred rubble. Sutro's daughter and executrix of his estate, Dr. Emma Sutro Merritt, decides to rebuild the Cliff House once again. This time, though, given the flammable history of the site, she elected to construct her Cliff House out of reinforced concrete. It was completed and opened on July 1st…

1909: This is essentially the same structure that exists today, although rebuilt several times. Designed by the Reid Brothers, who had also designed the Fairmont Hotel, this simple neoclassical-inspired structure was more similar in scale to the 1860s Cliff House than its whimsical 1890s predecessor. During the next 28 years, its exterior underwent only minor changes such as the addition of a portico and bar wing, additional outdoor lights, and the appearance and removal of latticework decor. Bigger physical change would occur in…







Right, top to bottom:
1883: Castle addition (wnp4.0435)
1896: Victorian Cliff House seen from roadway (wnp4.0557)
1909: Cliff House designed by the Reid Brothers (wnp4.0714)

1936-1937: The Whitney Brothers, owners of nearby Playland at the Beach, purchased the Cliff House from the Sutro Estate in late 1936 and upgraded and remodeled it as an "upscale roadhouse." The most notable exterior change was the addition of large illuminated letters spelling out CLIFF HOUSE on two sides, facing towards Point Lobos Avenue and Ocean Beach.

By the post-World War II years, though, the entire structure was looking a bit tired, so the Whitneys undertook a major remodeling project during 1949-1950. Clad in a stylish redwood and featuring a new fourth story dining room, the "mid-century" Cliff House opened in…

1950: This is the Cliff House most of us Baby Boomers remember, with its towering (false) chimney, "moderne" detailing, and cozy bar with big windows looking at the ocean and Seal Rocks. The original 1909 building commissioned by Emma Merritt was still there, but buried under the siding, leaving only the west wall exposed. In fact, unless you walked onto the terrace to see the surviving wall, you likely would have thought this was an entirely new building.

Pacific fogs and salt spray take their toll even on redwood and concrete, and by the turn of the twenty-first century it became obvious the Cliff House need a complete reconstruction. Due to decay, the top story dining room, added in 1949-1950, would have to go. There were also accessibility problems that desperately needed to be addressed. During the process of surveying the building, architects realized the core 1909 structure beneath the redwood was still structurally sound and could be upgraded to modern standards. Demolition and reconstruction took more than a year, but the reborn Cliff House opened to visitors in…

2004: Today's Cliff House isn't a restoration of Emma Merritt's, but rather a rehabilitation of that structure. It also includes a new wing to the north of the historic structure called the Sutro Room, which made up in square footage the demolished third story. During the project, many exterior details of the original Cliff House were restored, though, including long-lost cornices, dentils, and window openings. Also, a slightly smaller version of the illuminated 1930s CLIFF HOUSE sign was placed on the building facing Point Lobos Avenue.

So, how many Cliff Houses?

This is where I make enemies. I say three Cliff Houses. To clarify, three distinct Cliff House structures, but with numerous exterior facades and alterations over the decades. Here's how I count 'em:

1858: Seal Rock House constructed. Doesn't really count. Despite the Whitneys' prominently-displayed neon sign claiming "Since 1858," the Seal Rock House wasn't a Cliff House.

1863: Cliff House #1 built.

1868: Cliff House #1 expanded with two large additions.

1883c: Cliff House #1 modified with Sutro's mini-castle.

1896: Cliff House #2 built.

1909: Cliff House #3 built.

1937: Cliff House #3 upgraded by Whitney Brothers.

continued on page 16







Top to bottom:
1940c: Whitney Cliff House (wnp4.0720)
1955: Redwood-sided Cliff House (wnp4.0729)
2006: Latest Cliff House (John Martini photo)

ROOSEVELT HISTORY
PART TWO: BATTLING IN THE TRENCHES

by Angus Macfarlane
Roosevelt Junior High School Class of 1962

Part One told the story of Roosevelt's first eleven years. Originally called Lobos Avenue School, based on its location on Point Lobos Avenue and Parker Avenue, it opened in 1877 in a rented four-room building. In 1888—still called Lobos Avenue School—it moved into a new building on First Avenue, today's Arguello Boulevard. This year marks the 130th anniversary of that event.

The students and teachers of the new school on First Avenue enjoyed an additional week of summer vacation in 1888, because their building was not ready for occupancy. Even though a permanent structure now occupied the disputed lot, during the summer break the Academy of Sciences filed one more suit to regain title to the lot. It would prove the last volley of the "Battle of First Avenue" with the long-contested land confirmed as school district property.[1]

For the 1888-1889 school year, Principal Esther Goldsmith received the same $110 monthly salary as she had at the old school. This is what her counterpart at Point Lobos School also received for supervising 200 fewer students. The following year Goldsmith received a $10 per month pay raise, but she wouldn't enjoy it for long. In January 1891, she married banking executive David Henderson. At the time, female teachers who married forfeited their jobs.[2] Thus, for love, a 23-year teaching career was ended.[3] Her replacement was the Point Lobos principal, Mrs. Annie Tiernan, who would guide the First Avenue School for the next 14 years.

In June 1891, the Board of Education renamed schools identified by their street locations. About a dozen schools were affected, including Lobos Avenue School, which became Richmond School, and Point Lobos School now known as Sutro School.[4]

The next year, two classrooms were built in the schoolyard to accommodate the 334 Richmond School students. Now, with eight teachers to supervise, Mrs. Tiernan no longer taught a class, becoming a full-time administrator earning $130 per month.

When school let out for the 1895 summer vacation, 384 students left the building. When school reopened in July, 453 students showed up. Earlier in the year the *San Francisco Call* wrote that a number of schools, including Richmond and Sutro, lacked sewer connections to their outdoor "facilities," creating unsanitary conditions and exposing students to disease.[5] (Schools of the time did not have indoor plumbing. Instead they had outhouses, vaults, trenches, or water closets.)

Just before school opened for the 1895/96 school year, the Point Lobos Improvement Club complained to the Board of Health citing the "fearful sanitary conditions" at the Richmond School.[6] Three weeks later the *Call* heralded "A Menace in the Richmond," describing the school as sitting in a basin 10-12 feet below the street grade, allowing rainfall to form a deep lake during the winter. Large pools of standing water had collected under the basement floors, "scattering disease germs in every direction."[7]

The Board of Health held an emergency meeting on August 27, 1895, urging immediate action to prevent a disease outbreak. The Board of Education was ordered to correct the problem, but it complained that it lacked the money. On Thursday, September 19, 1895, members of the Board of Health visited Richmond School, where they were greeted by a noxious smell testifying that nothing had been done. The unsanitary state of affairs with the trenches still persisted as the stench overwhelmed the play yard and permeated the building. Additionally, mingling with the "stench du trench," the putrefied remains of what had once been a 60-pound dog was found under the planks of the school's play yard.[8]

Seeing that nothing had been done to correct the problem, the school was condemned and ordered closed, and the 453 children sent home until sewer connections were made. This was the first time in San Francisco history that a school had been condemned as a health hazard.[9]

The Board of Education held a special meeting the next day, acknowledging the sewage problem, but blaming the dead dog for most of the offensive odor.

On September 21, 1895, the Board of Health convened. Promising to have the school "in excellent sanitary condition," representatives of the Board of Education asked permission to open the following Monday. Calling the idea criminal, Dr. Henry Hart refused the request and ordered the school to remain closed until put in proper condition. Two remedies were proposed: raising the building to grade level and raising the outhouses to accommodate sewer connections.

An earlier investigation into the state of the public schools revealed that only a dozen of the city's sixty-four schools were "in proper sanitary condition." Richmond was not the only school that was a health hazard; nor was it the worst. Twenty-eight schools were "practically unfit for use as a result of poor sanitary arrangements… It [was] dangerous to the health to go within 80 feet of the outhouses of these twenty-eight."[10] At this time Richmond's trenches were about 60 feet from the rear of the school building.

On September 24, the Boards of Education and Health, with newspaper reporters in tow, toured the city's worst offending school outhouses, prompting the *Chronicle* to headline "Does Epidemic Lurk in Schools?" The tour uncovered outhouses which were "not

only malodorous, but saturated with the germs of all kinds of diseases infesting the tumbling sheds." All but three that were visited "[were] an antique collection of bacteria and decaying ruins". One tourist summarized, "When you see one San Francisco school, you see them all, and when you smell one, that suffices for all."[11]

The condition of Richmond's neighbor, Sutro School, received special notice: "A forlorn structure built 20 years ago [sic] in a hole in a desolate stretch of sand near the ocean. In the winter the building is a leaky ark in the midst of a flood, and in the summer sands beat upon it. Its cellar is dry now, but with the first rain it fills up and remains a pond under the building filled with polliwogs until the summer dries it up again."[12]

It was agreed that Sutro should be condemned and closed. In fact, there had been a plan to move the building to 12th Avenue and enlarge it, but, once again, lack of funds prevented it.

The following week bids were sought to raise Richmond School and to improve the water closets. Additionally plans were drawn up to add a new wing with two classes.

In its October 19, 1895 edition, the *Richmond Banner* editorialized "After four weeks not a stroke of work has been done to repair [Richmond School] and construct the much vaunted sewer. And Sutro School was closed this week. Let us pray."

Indeed. Both Richmond District schools were now closed. Sutro was successfully moved to its new (and current) location and its doors opened on December 12, 1895.

The earlier plan to raise Richmond School was withdrawn, replaced with a proposal for "a new system of water closets, building fences, sheds, and planking a portion of the yard." On the promise of better sanitation facilities, the Board of Health allowed the school to open on November 4, 1895.

In the beginning, for unknown reasons, only 160 feet of the school lot's 240-foot depth (the width of the block) was utilized in the placement of the trenches, leaving 80 feet between the outhouses and the eastern property line unused. At the end of January 1896, at a cost of $2,866, a large outhouse "on the most approved sanitary system" with a sewer connection was opened for business at the eastern end of the school lot, a healthy 135 feet from the building. The *Chronicle* hailed the improvement, "There is no longer any stench and the atmosphere is as pure as it can be."[13]

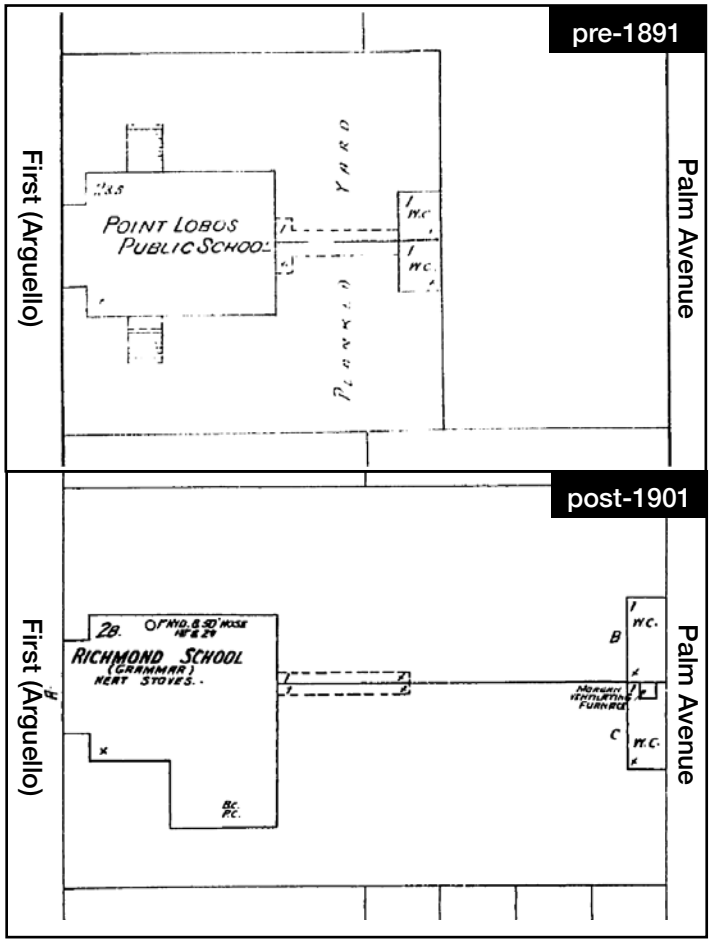
A bonus was that the school's yard was enlarged. But it would be a decade before the school building would be raised to street level.

1896-1921: GROWING PAINS

In its inaugural edition of 1896, the *Richmond Banner* boasted that nearly 300 new residences had been built in the district in 1895 and projected even greater growth in 1896. This had dire implications for school enrollment. For a quarter of a century, one, then two schools served the families of the Richmond. From the original 37 children at Point Lobos School in 1871, the two schools served over 500 students by 1896.

Reinforcements came later that year when two one-room schools were opened in the city's northwest quadrant. Park School on 6th Avenue between B & C Streets (Balboa and Cabrillo today) was built by volunteer labor for the cost of materials. It opened on September 14, 1896 with 36 students under the supervision of Sarah Jenkins. Thirty miles to the west, Daisy Dowd was at the helm of a one-room school on the Farallon Islands.[14] The next year the Farallon Island School closed and Dowd was reassigned to shore duty, but Park School remained in operation.[15] In 1897/98, Richmond School's burden was lightened when Barrington School opened on the northwest corner of Point Lobos (Geary today) and 25th Avenue, with three classes in a rented building.[16]

In late 1904, Mary E. Keating became Richmond School's third principal. At the start of the 1904/05 school year, city schools were so overcrowded that some resorted to split sessions. That year the Richmond District's four schools had 30 inadequate, bulging classrooms. When Richmond School students returned from their six-week summer vacation on July 25, 1904, they found themselves



Top: Lobos Avenue School footprint pre-1891, mislabeled as Point Lobos School. Toilet facilities about 60 feet from building at mid-block. **Bottom:** Richmond School post-1901. Toilets moved to end of block, 135 feet from building. Note new wing on southern side of building. (Sanborn map details.)



Roosevelt School from Arguello Boulevard, September 17, 1917. (Department of Public Works photograph, Book 21, #4836. WNP Collection, wnp36.01755)

in rented quarters while major work was being done on their school. The sunken lot was finally being filled in and the building was raised not only to street level, but high enough to allow the addition of a new first floor with five additional rooms. The enlarged school now warranted a vice principal, Mary T. Shea.

Thirty schools were destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire, but the four Richmond District schools were unaffected. When instruction resumed on July 23, attendance figures (excluding Bergerot School) totaled 1,643 students.[17]

In 1908 Mary Keating was transferred to Spring Valley School. Taking her place was 59-year-old, Albert Lyser, who had been in the profession since 1868.[18]

For the 1910/1911 school year, the four district schools had 2,366 students in 51 rooms. Richmond, with 17 rooms for 763 students, was doing the heavy lifting.[19] The continued growth of the Richmond District was answered with two new schools, 14-room Peabody on 6th Avenue and California Street, and one-room Lafayette on 37th and Point Lobos Avenues.

On February 9, 1910, the Board of Education renamed Richmond School for former president Theodore Roosevelt. Board president Thomas Bannerman objected, saying that the former president, Spanish-American War hero, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and American icon was still alive, implying that "T. R." might do something in his remaining years to tarnish his name and thus dishonor the school bearing his name.[20]

The next year the newly renamed Roosevelt School was now the oldest of the six Richmond District school buildings. McCoppin, Sutro, and Bergerot schools had been rebuilt and enlarged. In fact, both McCoppin and Sutro each had 18 rooms, one more than Roosevelt. Nonetheless, Roosevelt continued to pull more than its weight, attendance-wise, educating over 100 students more than either of the larger schools.

In July 1914, Roosevelt swapped 46-year-veteran Albert Lyser for a veritable rookie from Irving T. Scott School, Anna T. Croughwell, who had half of Albert's experience—23 years. Croughwell, Roosevelt's third principal in ten years, led the school until about 1925. Albert would retire from Scott School in 1923, ending a 55-year career.[21]

1921-1930: BECOMING A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Roosevelt Junior High School did not just leap off the drawing board. Rather, it was a response to a changing society and changing educational priorities. Since the 1860s San Francisco schools were organized on the 8-4 Plan: eight grades in the elementary level, and four grades in high school. There were three types of elementary schools: *primary, grammar,* and *cosmopolitan.* The majority of *primary* schools were grades 1-6, but some had seventh and eighth grade classes. All *grammar* schools, by definition, were grades 1-8. The difference between the primary and the grammar schools was that the grammar schools had more seventh and eighth graders. *Cosmopolitan* schools were either primary or grammar schools,

but included a language component in the curriculum—German, French, Spanish, or Latin.

The junior high concept began to circulate in San Francisco in 1921 as a response to overcrowding. That year a needs assessment identified 21 buildings that should be replaced, including Roosevelt, of which was noted "The present building is old and unsuitable for modern use… A final solution will call for a new building, the nature of which will depend upon the determination of the junior high policy."[22]

Adoption of the junior high concept would change the grade distribution from the 8-4 plan to a new 6-3-3 structure with grades 1-6 in elementary schools, 7-9 in junior high schools, and 10-12 in the high schools. As well as relieving overcrowding, another selling point for junior highs was providing better social and educational transitions from the lower grades to high school. At the time, junior high schools were in operation in many surrounding school districts.

The Board of Education was so anxious to implement the junior high plan that in May 1921 it proposed building a junior high on an unspecified site on Clement Street to be named Richmond Junior High. By April 1922 it had a price tag: $400,000. At a mass meeting on April 20, neighborhood property owners rejected the idea, insisting that the money be spent on improving the district's existing schools.[23] In the meantime, the Board of Education designated Crocker, Hamilton, and Horace Mann Schools as junior highs in December 1921.[24]

The first mention of a *Roosevelt* Junior High was a February 1924 proposal to erect a new junior high north of the standing school on 82,000 square feet of land.[25] This idea never got off the ground, but at the end of 1925 another proposal was broached to *convert* the school into a junior high by repairing the structure and adding new buildings and manual training [shop] classes.[26]

While these plans were being debated, Roosevelt Principal Anna Croughwell was transferred to Commodore Stockton School in Chinatown. She would remain there until her retirement in 1940. During that time she was hailed by the community as "one of the most respected Occidentals in Chinatown."[27]

Jane Hinds, a long-time Roosevelt teacher, was named the school's acting principal. On August 16, 1926, Hinds was transferred to Sutro School to make room for Roosevelt's seventh and last principal, Robert R. Chase. Forty-two-year old Chase was unlike any other Roosevelt principal in that he did not spend decades toiling in the schools before arriving at Roosevelt, but only five years. A Vermont native, Chase attended elite New England prep schools before entering Yale in 1902. He was on the varsity crew in 1905 and 1906, and graduated with a history degree in 1906. In 1910, he was a lumberman in Washington. In 1920, he taught at a San Francisco private school before becoming a public school teacher in 1921. Prior to his appointment as Roosevelt's principal, Chase had been a teacher and baseball coach at Mission High School.[28]



Robert R. Chase

Up to now it had been all talk and no action on the new Roosevelt Junior High. A fire needed to be lit under the Board of Education. That occurred on May 16, 1927, when chimney sparks from a wood burning stove in a classroom set the roof ablaze, forcing the evacuation of more than 500 students. For the second time in its history Roosevelt was condemned, this time as a fire hazard.

A month later, Roosevelt was abandoned and Chase was transferred to Mission Grammar School. When the fall semester began there was not enough room in the neighboring schools for all of Roosevelt's orphans. Through the fire marshal's leniency, about 180 first-through-sixth-graders, for whom there was no room elsewhere, were temporarily allowed to use six of the twenty classrooms.[29]

Where once there had been a vague plan, now there were *two* plans: one to build a replacement for the elementary school students from Roosevelt School and another to build a new Roosevelt Junior High School.

On December 13, 1927, architects Miller & Pflueger were chosen to design the new building. Two days later, brick workers, complaining that they hadn't been receiving a fair share of city contracts, asked that the school's design emphasize brick.[30]

The current site didn't have enough room for playground space, so plans were briefly tabled as the Odd Fellows Cemetery across Geary from Roosevelt was assessed as a possibility. The prospect of years of litigation over the removal of the bodies quickly eliminated that prospect and the focus returned to the original plan. Construction was authorized on March 23, 1928. The new school was to be almost 400 feet long north-to-south. The original school lot was 157 feet north-to-south by 240 feet east-to-west, the width of the block, so before construction could begin, additional land had to be obtained. Now Roosevelt became the condemner and not the condemned. On May 15, 1928, the city began condemnation suits against twelve property owners to the north along Arguello Boulevard for the necessary additional 240 feet.

As a replacement for the condemned old Roosevelt School, construction began in 1928 for a new $128,000, ten-room John W. Geary School six blocks east on Cook Street. The school opened for grades 1-6 on March 31, 1930, and undoubtedly

many of the students were Roosevelt School refugees.

Meanwhile, the green light was given on March 3, 1929, for work to begin on the $720,000, 1,000-student capacity junior high on the Roosevelt site. The 42-year-old wooden building that was Crocker Junior High on Page Street near Baker and Hamilton Junior High on Scott and Divisadero would be closed, with students being assigned to the new Roosevelt Junior High School.

The 7th, 8th, and 9th graders making up the student body of the new junior high traveled different roads to reach Arguello Boulevard on the historic opening day in August 1930. They came from the abandoned Crocker and Hamilton Junior Highs. They came from temporary shacks erected in Frank McCoppin School's yard. They came from the first graduating class at Geary School. Some of those Geary grads may have completed a unique three-year odyssey, beginning as Roosevelt School third graders in 1927 who fled their burning school building; who then attended "school" in temporary shacks; who briefly paused at Geary School long enough to enjoy a real classroom in a fire-safe building; and who finally returned "home" to Roosevelt.

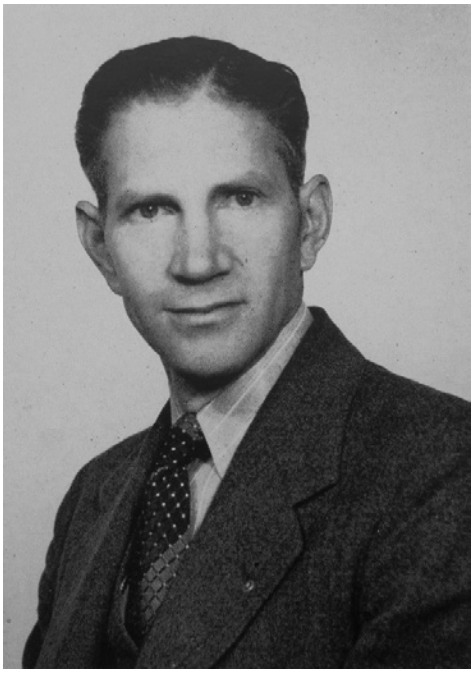
Roosevelt Junior High School's first principal was Ralph H. Lehman, a 37-year old Spokane, Washington native. Like his Ivy League-educated predecessor, Robert Chase, Lehman was also an Ivy Leaguer and a new breed of educator/administrator who did not suffer decades of trial by ordeal in the classroom—only four years. Interestingly, the career trajectories of Chase and Lehman intersected several times.

After flying in the Army Air Corps in World War I, Lehman entered Columbia University, earning a master's degree in school administration in 1925. He came to San Francisco in 1926, where he taught at Mission High School, arriving as Robert Chase was leaving Mission for Roosevelt.[31]

The school board action of August 16, 1927, which sent Chase from the abandoned Roosevelt School to Mission Grammar School, also assigned Lehman to be vice principal at Horace Mann Junior High. He subsequently became principal at Crocker Junior High until it closed and its students, faculty, and administrative staff were transferred to the new junior high with the mysterious 112-foot tall brick tower.[32]



Roosevelt Middle School, 2017.



Ralph H. Lehman

Almost immediately, the perpetual problem that had plagued Lobos Avenue, Richmond, and Roosevelt Schools attacked the junior high: overcrowding. It became so acute that the auditorium was used for classrooms. In 1937, the building at 171-173 Palm Avenue was removed to make room for portable classes to relieve the overcrowding.[33]

Lehman piloted Roosevelt for a decade before becoming principal of Commerce High.[34] He ended his career as principal of Balboa High School in 1957, replacing Robert Chase, who had retired from Balboa in 1951 after guiding the school since its opening in 1928.

The final element in completing the mosaic that is the Roosevelt Junior High School campus was the removal of eight more buildings along Palm Avenue that encroached on the school's yard. That process was begun in the summer of 1957.[35] When it was completed, 30,000 square feet were added to the yard. Now the campus occupied the entire 240-foot width of the block from Arguello Boulevard to Palm Avenue and 400 feet north-to-south.

There were two superficial changes to Roosevelt over the years. Through the 1930s and 1940s, the school mascot was the Rough Rider, a tribute to Teddy. By 1959, the school had adopted the Trojan as its mascot. In the 1980s, San Francisco switched to the Middle School concept. Thus Roosevelt Junior High became Roosevelt Middle School.

(Footnote sources for this article can be found on page 16.)

Unanswered Questions Surround 19th Century Girl's Remains

How was Edith Cook left behind?

by Alex Snyder

Her identity is no longer a mystery, but the story of Edith Cook is still shrouded in unanswered questions.

Edith first captured the world's attention nearly two years ago, when a backyard landscaping project at a home near Rossi Park turned up a small metal casket with two viewing windows. Inside, a young girl lay suspended in an exceptional state of preservation.

Early research revealed she had been buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, a burial ground that accepted the city's dead from 1865 until 1902, and eventually held the remains of at least 25,000 people. Despite its size, the cemetery proved to be merely a temporary part of San Francisco's landscape. The city banned new burials within the city limits in 1901, and similarly banned cremations in 1910. Then, in the 1920s, it ordered that nearly all cemeteries be removed from the city limits entirely.

At Odd Fellows Cemetery, some bodies were privately removed by family members. Most, however, were exhumed by the cemetery in the 1930s and relocated to a general burial plot in the town of Colma in San Mateo County.

Of course, not *every* burial was removed. Somehow the girl in the casket had been missed. With no grave marker, no casket nameplate, and few clues about her identity, the mystery girl was nicknamed "Miranda Eve" and reburied at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Colma.

But a year after her discovery, a small team of researchers announced that they had uncovered her identity: she was Edith Howard Cook who died on October, 13, 1876, just shy of her third birthday. Although Edith's name has been restored, her discovery seems to have unearthed more questions than answers.



Edith Howard Cook's small casket was found during a backyard landscaping project near Rossi Park in May 2016.

How was she missed?

Poor record keeping might be partly explain why Edith was left behind. Surviving records suggest that cemetery officials often failed to record where caskets were buried within family lots.

In the case of the Cook family, the cemetery's lot drawing depicted just three caskets where at least eleven were present. Edith's casket was among those whose location was not recorded.

The ravages of time, neglect, and vandalism may also have been factors. When San Francisco banned burials Odd Fellows Cemetery lost a major source of revenue. The city's ban on cremations a decade later would have similarly undercut the cemetery's bottom line. Keeping up the cemetery grounds would have been increasingly difficult.

Indeed, only a decade after the passage of that law, one observer wrote that some parts of Odd Fellows Cemetery were marked by "open graves and ruin everywhere."[1] It is a situation that would have only worsened by the 1930s.

It is not known whether Edith ever had her own gravestone, but if she did, it might have been damaged or missing by the time removal workers went looking for her.

But poor record keeping and neglect offer only partial explanations. In a series of records submitted to the city health department, cemetery officials claimed that Edith Cook's remains had been privately moved to Cypress Lawn Cemetery on October 2, 1931—just days after the cemetery began the general removal process.

Had a member of Edith's family arranged for her to be moved, and had this arrangement fallen through? Possibly. But removing Edith to Cypress Lawn would have been a deviation from what happened to the rest of the Cook family, the vast majority of whom went to the general plot in Colma.

Some researchers have speculated that perhaps the cemetery *had* searched for Edith, but failing to locate her little casket, marked her as "removed" to account for her whereabouts—at least on paper, that is.

Found Twice?

Edith's casket was found just inches from a sewer pipe laid when that part of the cemetery was built over with

row houses. Her casket's close proximity to this pipe has prompted speculation among some researchers that she might actually have been discovered by workers in the 1930s.

It certainly would not be the first time a blind eye was turned to the dead. Perhaps the most noteworthy case in San Francisco was when the Palace of the Legion of Honor was seismically retrofitted in the 1990s. In the process, the graves of more than 700 people were found resting beneath the building's foundation. Buried in what had been Golden Gate Cemetery, these graves had been left untouched when the cemetery was allegedly vacated in the early 1900s. The most startling part of all? In some instances, plumbing had been run straight through the coffins of the dead.

Missing Casket Handles

The mortuary record for Edith Cook indicates her casket was outfitted with silver handles and an engraved casket plate. But when her casket was pulled from the ground in 2016, none of these items were present.

Where had they gone? While it is possible that a thin metal name plate could have corroded away after so many years in the ground, the total absence of casket handles is much harder to explain. Where these should have been, only four vacant lugs remained. If Edith *had* been discovered during construction activity in the 1930s, it is possible the handles were swiped then—either as simple souvenirs or for their perceived value.

It is also possible that they were removed before Edith was even buried. In the late 1880s, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that employees of Odd Fellows Cemetery had been selling the wire frames from floral arrangements left graveside—and very often the unwilted floral arrangements themselves—back to florists, who then resold these items to other bereaved families.

"Yes, I know all about that business," a local florist told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 1888. "That's being going on out at Odd Fellows Cemetery for years, and at some other cemeteries I know of."[2]

Representatives of Odd Fellows Cemetery denied these accusations. But if this trade *had* been occurring, might a similar market for used coffin hardware also have existed? For now, one can only speculate.

How Many More?

Edith Cook was not the first burial to turn up on former Odd Fellows Cemetery property.

In 2000, a child burial was discovered during construction activity on Columbarium property. The child went unidentified. Partial skeletons and empty coffins have also been found. In 2008, the incomplete remains of an older man and older woman were discovered on what is now the Institute on Aging campus.

Because only a few bones were found, archaeologists concluded these remains were the leftover remnants of two people that were hastily exhumed by removal workers in the 1930s. Such finds may be just the tip of the iceberg.



Circa 1900 postcard image of the Odd Fellows Cemetery, its crematorium building, and the section close to where Edith Cook was interred. The cemetery extended from today's Arguello Boulevard to Parker Avenue, Geary Boulevard to Turk Street.

Surviving cemetery ledgers, now housed at the California Genealogical Society, indicate that cemetery officials routinely lost track of the dead entrusted to their custody.

These records are riddled with notes, likely written in the 1930s, indicating that cemetery officials were struggling to explain why some burials were not where they should have been or why some graves held more coffins than they should have.

"This grave was opened and nothing found in it," a note next to the name of a man buried in 1869 reads, "but evidence of having been removed."

Another note indicates a certain grave should have had only two burials but actually held three. Who was this mystery person? If the cemetery learned the answer, there is no indication. Other notes read: "Investigate. Opened. No one in it." "Must have been removed." "Said to be removed."

The list could go on.

How many more burials still lie on former cemetery property? It is hard to say, but one thing is almost certain: Edith Cook will not be the last.

Notes

1. "Bodies Exposed, Cemeteries Grim, Asher Declares," *San Francisco Call,* February 27, 1913, pg. 4.
2. "Cemetery Commerce, *San Francisco Chronicle,* August 9, 1888, pg. 6.

About the Author

Alex Snyder is a San Francisco-based historian whose passion is unearthing untold stories and solving historical mysteries. He holds an M.S. in Urban Studies and B.A. in Public History. One of his current projects is to map the old Odd Fellows Cemetery to assist future burial identification efforts. If you have information or source material that might be helpful, he encourages you to get in touch. You can connect with him via www.pasttense.co.

Gravestones Unearthed In Parking Lot







Unearthing cemetery stones at the City Center parking lot, March 8, 2017. (Photographs courtesy of Chris Carlsson.)

In early March 2018, excavation work in a parking lot of the City Center shopping complex on Geary Boulevard, between Masonic Avenue and Lyon Street, unearthed dozens of grave markers and cut stone. Workers carefully stacked the headstones and granite curbs in piles while an onsite archaeologist noted what was found.

The land the shopping center and the Anza Vista neighborhood to the south stand on had once been part of the Roman Catholic Calvary Cemetery. The archdiocese purchased the land on August 16, 1860, when Divisadero Street represented the western edge of the city. Calvary was one of four major cemeteries established in the 1850s and 1860s around Lone Mountain—to the north of Calvary was Laurel Hill Cemetery, while on the west were the Odd Fellows Cemetery and Masonic Cemetery (origin for the name Masonic Avenue).

As development stretched west, Richmond District improvement groups, developers, and leaders in city government agitated for the cemeteries to be removed from the city of altogether. Masonic and Odd Fellows cemeteries were the first to go in the 1930s. After a long fight, Laurel Hill and Calvary succumbed at the dawn of World War II. Those from Calvary were re-interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, California.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Calvary Cemetery land was redeveloped as the Anza Vista neighborhood with a large Sears department store complex. Today, the old Sears is “City Center,” with a Target, Ulta Beauty store, Starbucks, and a couple of small quick-food restaurants.

Holy Cross Cemetery shared our Facebook post on the recent excavation, and has apparently agreed to take the stones: “We received these remnants from the contractor […] and are busy researching what names we can decipher.”

Preliminary research indicates that the people were indeed relocated to Colma, even if some of their memorials were not.

Memories: Sunset Gliders

by Normand Black



McGill glider #813N of the Pacific Glider School being launched from Sunset District sand dunes around 33rd Avenue and Kirkham Street, May 24, 1930. (WNP Collection, wnp15.878)

My father, Burt Wesley Black, was born in the early 1900s in San Francisco and lived on 3rd Avenue in the Richmond District. He volunteered for the U.S. Army in World War I, lying about his age, as he was just fifteen years old. He served in France, and was touched by mustard gas, with the effects lingering after the war.

Following his discharge from the Army, he went to Yosemite for some clean air and to rehabilitate his lungs working as a lumberjack. Then he went to Hollywood to be a stunt man. He did wing-walking, race car driving, jumping off piers, etc. One of his stunts was underwater with the shot calling for a shark to attack a swimmer. My father held a piece of fish in his mouth to attract a seal substituting for the shark. The sequence was most effective.

My dad was an excellent swimmer, and often swam around the rocks at Ocean Beach just below the old Sutro Baths, swimming among the seals, diving and barking with them.

After becoming a family man, he settled down and went to work for my grandfather at Owl Transfer, Storage, and Hauling at 941 Geary Street. Later he worked for Bekins as an interstate driver of double-headed vans.

Going from swimming to soaring, with the one thing in common being Ocean Beach…

In the early 1930s, my dad took up gliding with a monoplane launched by means of massive rubber bands that lifted the glider towards the ocean across the sand a few miles south of the Cliff House in today's Sunset District. The glider was controlled with a stick held between the legs of the pilot and pedals at the feet. Pulling the stick back to the body brought one up, and pushing forward gained level flight or descended the craft. The pedals banked the flying machine right or left to make a circle or a turn. A single hardwood gear guided the glider when making a landing.

Getting the gliders to the take-off site was accomplished by a horse dragging the glider through the sand. The horse was my favorite part of the

program or operation because I got to ride on its back. I was nine years old and often accompanied my dad on these adventures.

Like my dad, many of these glider flyers were veterans of World War I. These efforts to fly may have been inspired by some of the group remembering when they served in the trenches dug into sand and mud in France, watching Spads, Fokkers, Sopwith Camels, and De Havillands soaring over their trenches, piloted by legendary flyers like Eddie Rickenbacker, Captain Roy A. Brown, and Baron Manfred von Richthofen (the "Red Baron").

Our Sunset District fly boys were brought down not by combat, but by nature in the form of wind and waves.

Many crashed or landed in the Pacific Ocean, so the decline of the glider squadron was probably due to multiple injuries and the high cost of replacement parts.

But I remember way back on those windswept sandy shores of San Francisco's Ocean Beach that the eagles once gathered.

About the Author

Normand Burt Black (1923–2016) grew up in the Richmond District. In 1930, he met his two life-long friends, Ken Ross and Carl Swendsen, when they were all six-year-olds entering Star of the Sea primary school. On that first day, Ken didn't have a pencil, so Normand broke his in two, gave Ken the sharpened half, and chewed the remaining stub to give himself a point.

The three friends served in World War II, and in 2005, published their memories of the war, *We Didn't Know We Were Heroes.*



Pulling the McGill glider #813N from the Pacific Glider School back up the dunes, May 24, 1930. (WNP Collection, wnp15.877)

Cliff Houses:

1950: Cliff House #3 remodeled again by Whitney Brothers, with third floor added and a "mid-century moderne" facade.

2004: Cliff House #3 rehabilitated and exterior restored by National Park Service to approximate 1909 appearance.

I realize there are some folks who will argue passionately that the 1868 and 1950 remodelings were so drastic that the end product in each case was a new structure. My response to this is two-fold:

First, I checked with some architect friends. They agreed with my contention that additions and facade changes tacked onto a core structure do not turn it into a new building. Structures evolve over time as tenants continually adapt and remodel them, but unless completely torn down and replaced, it remains the same building.

(You can test this theory yourself. Remodel your home, add an addition or two, slap on a new facade, and then have it reassessed by the county. The tax assessor will not consider this a "new" structure, but will continue to use its original construction date—albeit with a hefty increase in assessed value for your improvements.)

Second, there's a logical conundrum here. If, as some claim, the 1909 structure was Cliff House #4, and the 1950 rebuild resulted in Cliff House #5, then what do we call the 2004 remodel that returned it to the 1909 appearance? Cliff House #6? Cliff House #4, Part II? Back to the Future?

This is the type of debate that history nerds love to thrash out, preferably over a Steam Beer or an Irish Coffee at the Cliff House's still cozy bistro bar.

But in the end, it's a kerfuffle in a teapot.

Architectural definitions and remodelings aside, for 155 years the Cliff House has served tourists and locals with a timeless view of an apparently endless ocean. See you there.

Roosevelt Notes:

1. *Daily Alta California,* June 23, 1889, pg. 1. This was the last recorded volley in the Battle of First Avenue.
2. This "Obnoxious Rule" was rescinded 1891, but reinstated in 1905. *San Francisco Call,* October 24, 1891, pg. 11; August 15, 1905, pg. 14.
3. Esther Goldsmith's four sisters devoted a total of 189 years to the education of San Francisco's children, a forgotten family legacy: Mary, 56 years; Rose, 50; Ada, 47; Bertha, 36.
4. *San Francisco Call,* June 25, 1891, pg. 1.
5. *San Francisco Call,* March 16, 1895, pg. 6.
6. *San Francisco Call,* July 18, 1895, pg. 9.
7. *San Francisco Call,* August 7, 1895, pg. 8; *San Francisco Bulletin,* September 20, 1895, pg. 5; *San Francisco Examiner,* September 21, 1895, pg. 10.
8. *San Francisco Call,* September 21, 1895 pg. 8; *San Francisco Chronicle,* February 22, 1896, pg. 8.
9. *San Francisco Call,* September 20, 1895, pg. 5.
10. *San Francisco Examiner,* September 22, 1895, pg. 16.
11. *San Francisco Chronicle,* September 25, 1895, pg. 7.
12. *Richmond Banner,* September 28, 1895, pg. 1; *San Francisco Call,* September 25, 1895, pg. 14.
13. *San Francisco Chronicle,* January 29, 1896, pg. 8.
14. *San Francisco Call,* May 4, 1897, pg. 7; May 10, 1897, pg. 5; November 25, 1897, pg. 9.
15. Park School was later renamed Frank McCoppin. It would remain on its original site.
16. Barrington School would be renamed Bergerot School and move to 25th Avenue and California Street. Later named Rochambeau School, it would subsequently be incorporated into Alamo School in 1926.
17. *San Francisco Call,* July 21, 1906, pg. 4; *San Francisco Call,* July 24, 1906, pg. 5.
18. *San Francisco Chronicle,* February 11, 1923, pg. F3.
19. *San Francisco Municipal Reports 1909/1910,* and *1910/1911.*
20. *San Francisco Call,* February 10, 1910, pg. 5.
21. *San Francisco Chronicle,* February 11, 1923 pg. F3.
22. *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 18, 1921, pg. 6.
23. *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 18, 1921, pg. 6; December 20, 1921, pg. 13; April 19, 1922, pg. 14; April 21, 1922, pg. 13.
24. *San Francisco Chronicle,* December 10, 1921, pg. 13.
25. *San Francisco Chronicle,* February 9, 1924, pg. 13.
26. *San Francisco Chronicle,* December 3, 1925, pg. 14.
27. *San Francisco Chronicle,* September 3, 1940, pg. 9.
28. *San Francisco Chronicle,* June 3, 1926, pg. 8; United States Censuses, 1910 and 1920; *Who's Who in American Sports,* (Washington, D.C.: National Biographical Society, 1928), pg. 140. Accessed at Internet Archive: https://archive.org/stream/whoswhoinamerica00unse#page/140/mode/2up
29. *San Francisco Chronicle,* September 9, 1927, pg. 15; September 11, 1927 pg. 16.
30. *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 14, 1927, pg. 16; December 16, 1927, pg. 14.
31. *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 11, 1965, pg. 25.
32. *Sanborn Map,* San Francisco 1913-Dec. 1950, Vol. 3 1913–Oct. 1950, Sheet 323.
33. *Roosevelt Highlights,* February 17, 1939, pg. 1.
34. *San Francisco Chronicle,* May 15, 1940 pg. 12; *Roosevelt Highlights,* June 10, 1940, pg. 1. When Mr. Lehman left Roosevelt, he was earning $375/month, compared with Esther Goldsmith, Roosevelt's first principal, whose starting pay was $100/month, later lowered to $90/month.
35. *San Francisco Examiner,* July 30, 1957, pg. 8; December 10, 1957, pg. 21.

Historical Happenings

outsidelands.org/events.php

WNP 19th Birthday Party

May 19, 2018 (Saturday) 2:00 PM–5:00 PM
The Plough and the Stars, 116 Clement St., (near 2nd Ave.)

Help us celebrate 19 years of preserving and sharing history—and support your favorite nonprofit neighborhood history group. Western Neighborhoods Project will take over venerable Richmond District institution The Plough and the Stars for an afternoon of toasts, historical images, and stories. Come hear about earthquake refugee shacks, Irish pub histories, and how Outside Lands once more became a familiar phrase to San Franciscans.

We have to keep it 21+, but perhaps we'll have a kid-friendly event soon with more birthday cake. Tickets are a mere $19. If we have space we will take admission at the door, but you know how quickly we sell our events out, so better reserve your spot now at outsidelands.org/events.php

Washington High School Member Tour

May 23, 2018 (Wednesday) 2:00 PM–3:30 PM
George Washington High School, 600 32nd Ave. (at Anza)

Richard Rothman will lead a Western Neighborhoods Project member tour of George Washington High School. Highlights will including a mural by Victor Arnautoff, the football field frieze by Sargent Johnson, and other important artwork incorporated into the school. Learn about the Timothy Pfleuger-designed campus and its importance to the architectural history of San Francisco.

The tour is free, but limited to 20 WNP members. RSVP by emailing woody@outsidelands.org or leave a message with your name at 415-661-1000.

Lone Mountain Cemeteries and Discovering Edith Cook

May 24, 2018 (Thursday) 7:00 PM–8:30 PM
1617 Balboa Street (between 17th and 18th Avenues)

From the 1850s until the 1930s, San Francisco's dead rested in four large cemeteries around Lone Mountain. Why were they removed, and what is still left of them—above and below ground—in the city? Join us for an illustrated presentation on the cemeteries and a conversation with L. J. Moore and Alex Snyder, who were part of the investigative team that discovered the identity of the little girl found 140 years after being laid to her "final" rest. (Read more on page 11.)

Admission is only $10. Reserve your seat online at outsidelands.org/events.php

We add events frequently and sometimes things fall together quickly, so not every listing finds its way into the Outside Lands magazine schedule. For the most accurate and complete events calendar, visit outsidelands.org/events.php.

More good ideas for staying up to date: follow our social media channels (listed on inside front cover) and be sure you are on our email news list by entering your address in the box at the bottom of the front page of outsidelands.org

Golden Gate Heights Member Walk

June 16, 2018 (Saturday) 11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Woody LaBounty will lead a walking tour of the western slope of Golden Gate Heights for Western Neighborhoods Project members and their guests. The walk will feature amazing views, natural curiosities, surprising architecture, odd tales, and some overlooked public art. There will be some inclines (although we will avoid the worst) and heavy rain will cancel.

The walk is free for WNP members and their guests, but it is limited to 30 people. Reserve your spot by emailing Woody at woody@outsidelands.org, or by calling 415-661-1000. Please tell us your name and how many will be attending! We will reply with a confirmation and the walk starting point.

Where the Streetcars Used to Go

June 21, 2018 (Thursday) 7:00 PM–8:30 PM
1617 Balboa Street (between 17th and 18th Avenues)

Drawing on OpenSFHistory images, designer Chris Arvin has created an interactive historic streetcar map that allows users to explore the routes San Francisco streetcars once took, as well as those that remain today. WNP board member Anisha Gupta will lead a conversation with Chris about the making of his map and the history he discovered in the process.

Admission is only $10. Reserve your seat online at outsidelands.org/events.php

The Last Word



View southeast from Bekins building on Geary Boulevard and Masonic Avenue in 1948. (WNP Collection, wnp26.1407)

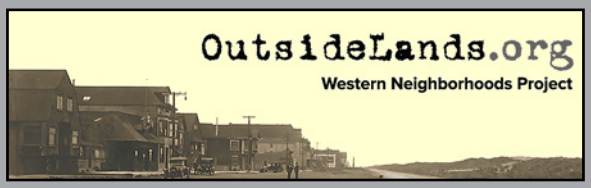
The above photograph must have been taken from the Bekins building on the northwest corner of Geary Boulevard and Masonic Avenue. The storage facility was built in 1923 and today has a wine bar in the former office on the ground floor.

On the left, just past Presidio Avenue, a Geary streetcar begins heading down the hill past the future site of the Kaiser Permanente hospital (built in 1952) and into the Western Addition. The many tracks on the street are explained by the San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI) building out of the shot to the left.

At the top of the ridge line on the right are homes under construction on Encanto Avenue in the new Anza Vista neighborhood. The former Roman Catholic Calvary Cemetery has been cleared off the scrubby, sandy hill (see page 13 for what wasn't removed), and a billboard at lower right tells the passing cars what's on the way: "Location for Sears 2nd Store. Just about everything for the family. Home, Car, Garden. Present Sears, Army [Cesar Chavez today] and Mission Street. Sears Roebuck and Co."

Today a shopping center anchored by a Target store, the Sears, Roebuck & Company complex opened with Mayor Elmer Robinson on hand November 1, 1951. The three-story building and surrounding parking lots (six, on multiple levels, with 1,000 spaces) cost four million dollars to construct and had more than 1,500 employees on the five acres of sales floor when it opened. (When it closed in 1990, just 235 employees were on the books.) Architect W. D. Peugh was praised by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for designing a "modern, windowless building."

Many may remember the main floor's walls were covered with murals by artist Eugene A. Montgomery depicting San Francisco history. Does anyone know what happened to these when Sears departed?



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. If you like what you've read, please join hundreds of other west side fans as a member. Visit our website at **outsidelands.org,** and click on the "Become a Member" link at the top of any page.