



THE JOURNAL OF LOCAL HISTORY

**VOLUME 3 NO. 3 MEMORIAL DAY ISSUE
WINTER 2011 - CHRISTMAS 2011**

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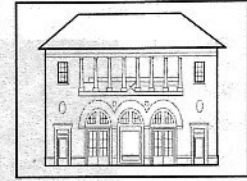
*Archives Committee of the
Redwood City Public Library
1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA 94063*

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CHRISTMAS ISSUE

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Archives Committee of the Redwood City Public Library
1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA 94063

Board Officers:

John Edmonds President
Mike Bursak Treasurer
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The President's Message

This is the Christmas edition of the Journal of Local History and I certainly wish for all of you a wonderful and joyous season. All of us who volunteer in the Local History Room are pleased that we have been able to bring you an interesting product between these pages and we hope to continue these efforts. We want to thank each of you for subscribing to the Redwood City Archives Committee and the Historic Union Cemetery Association.

The two organizations held a joint meeting in September. During that meeting the associations voted to make changes in the Journal, mainly to make mailing more cost effective. If you were unable to make that meeting, we missed you. And those who were present enjoyed the evening. Friends of the Redwood City Library provided wine and cheese and the Archives Board and the Cemetery Board provided coffee and cookies. Mitch Postal of the Historical Association provided a movie, which was a promotional movie for San Mateo county from mid twentieth century.

We do request you do one thing for us: please show this journal to others who might be interested in subscribing and being a member. Their donation will help defray mailing costs. There will be a new book coming out shortly titled, "Vanished Communities of San Mateo County." It contains a plethora of photos and is a fund raiser for the Archives Board. You will hear more about this in future Journal issues.

— John Edmonds

Inside This Issue

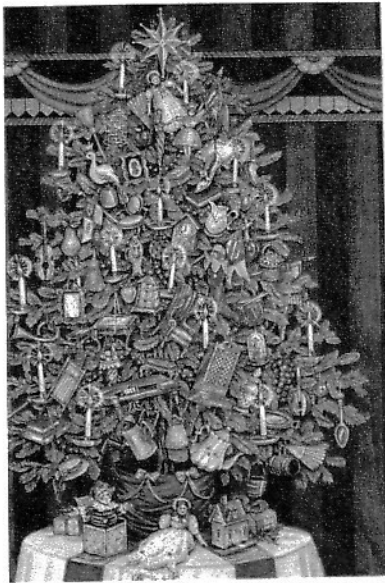
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Victorian and California Christmas: A Comparison

By John Edmonds

The things that societies do during holidays are often surprisingly similar in that if it is good, why not keep it? So I decided to look at what was done during Christmas time during the Victorian period 1837-1901 and what goes on in San Mateo County and the various things we do today in the celebration of Christmas. For example, they cut a tree for the living room just as we do today.

The Christmas tree was probably the most important single thing that was done during Victorian times. It was placed in the living room or in the parlor or on a table on Christmas Eve and taken down on January 6th, the twelfth day of Christmas. We tend to put up the tree a week to a month before Christmas and take the tree down, well, the day after or when the needles start falling off by the car load.



Victorian Christmas Tree

The early Victorian trees were decorated with dried fruit and nuts, pine cones, small sugar cookies and small gifts, small toys for the children. They put candles on the tree limbs and lit them on Christmas Eve, something which is not recommended here by the fire department. Here we put electric lights on the tree and put the presents under the tree or nearby, but the intent is the same, to recognize that the gift of presents began when the three wise men gave their gifts to the Christ child.

In Victorian times people began decorating their homes weeks before Christmas Day. Evergreen branches were bundled and tied to railings and draped over doorways, a wreath made of pine boughs was placed on the door and dried berries and fruit might be added to either or both the evergreen branches or the pine wreath. Here we may do much the same thing, only we would do it with electric lights and/or wreaths of color and a variety of other similar devices but mostly operated by electricity. Inside the house the outside decorations may be duplicated in Victorian times and here we may well place pine or fir boughs on our fireplace mantels and wrap fir boughs around stair case railings. We may wrap colored ribbons around them and place or hang ornaments of relative size within the branches.

Advent wreaths with four candles were placed in the center of the dining room table in Victorian times. That may well be duplicated in California as the candles mean faith, joy, love and peace which are exactly the Christmas wish for our visitors. We might not place it on the dining room table; however, we would be more likely to place it on a shelf with careful consideration of fire safety. One candle was lit each Sunday beginning four Sundays before Christ.

In Victorian times every room was decorated with fir or pine boughs and candles, Christmas stockings were hung from the mantle and were stuffed with candy, cookies and small gifts. Here we don't, as a rule, decorate every room of the house. But we do indeed duplicate the custom of hanging stockings from the mantle and stuffing them with goodies of various kinds.

Nativity scenes were placed on shelves during Victorian times. It is not at all unusual to see a Nativity scene on houses in California. Many times they are lighted and on the front porch or lawn, all depending on how much a statement somebody wants to make, I suppose. Most Christians place some form of a Nativity scene somewhere in their houses.

When people immigrated to California they brought with them the customs of their homeland. One thing they brought was their type of Santa Claus. For example, Pere Noel was the French Father Christmas and Kriss Kringle was the German name for a Santa that looked very much like our Santa.

The British Father Christmas rode in on a goat but dressed very much like our Santa who rides in on a sleigh. In 1823, Clement Moore helped create another look for St. Nick. He described Santa in his poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," which is now called, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Thomas Nast drew illustrations of a round-bellied, jolly old St. Nichols who looked very much like our Santa Claus of today.

It was during Victorian time that the habit of giving presents to others really took off. While the original intent was to do this as a recognition of the gifts of the three wise men, the retail business people in London and rapidly throughout England



Pelznickel, Victorian German Santa Claus

began selling gifts to parents as necessary for their children. This policy was rapidly duplicated in the United States and quickly newspaper advertisements began to bring people into the stores and today we have all of that in California and radio and television advertisements as well. These things have spread to England as well and Queen Victoria would probably shudder. In the 1800s gifts included handmade toys, hand-sewn clothes and knitted socks, scarves and mittens. Here these things may be present but in most cases they are not hand-made, but store-bought.

On Christmas morning children woke up and found presents on the parlor table and hung on the tree. The most common presents were wind-up toys, board games and dolls. Rocking horses and detailed dollhouses and miniature zoos were also popular gifts. In California these things would also be popular depending upon age but electronic games and toys would probably be more prominent.



A beautiful Victorian Christmas card

Christmas cards did not exist early in the 18th century and there was not a reliable mail service during that period. When the postal service began it was the receiver of a package who paid the postage and people simply did not wish to impose on their friends that way. When the sender became responsible for paying, the use of Christmas cards increased in England to the point that it is presently a well recognized Christmas element, as time went on cards became less expensive. We do Christmas cards here as well, although it is dwindling a bit at present. Fine arts cards are an American and a more modern tradition.

Christmas parties were very common during the Victorian period. They extended from small social gatherings to mammoth lawn parties, weather permitting which was unusual at Christmas. The usual parties were put on by people who wished to display the decorations, and these folks often had a good deal of money, enough to cover the costs of a small band for the affair.

Christmas Eve consisted of church and prayer services and hay rides. Hot apple cider, brandy for the adults, Christmas carol singing and often a bonfire in which people threw sticks to symbolize burning of bad spirits. We might do any of these things but for the most part, we go to Christmas parties that include good food and drink. We do sing Christmas carols and we do go caroling for people who are unable to leave their dwellings because of age or illness, as well as for our neighbors and friends.

Wassailing is an ancient English tradition that was renewed during the Victorian period. Wassailing is wishing others good health by sharing a drink of hot punch or brandy or sherry. Hot apple cider along with roasted apples was also a popular part of Wassailing. Families kept a bowl of these products at the ready to share with carolers.

Angels were a major part of the Christmas celebration in Victorian times. They represent the Angel Gabriel who told Mary she would be giving birth to the Christ Child. They also represent the Angel Raphael who appeared before the shepherds in the fields and announced

the birth of the Christ Child. In Victorian times angel hair was thrown over the boughs of the Christmas tree. The angel hairs looked very much like the tinsel we do the same thing with over our trees. In Victorian times angels were placed on top of the Christmas tree, and we often do this as well. During Victorian times, angels were drawn as chubby blonde haired cherubs often draped in red banners. We often see these today as well.



Wassailing in Victorian England

Mumming is an old Victorian tradition; mummers went from house to house dressed in disguised costumes and speaking in strange languages or voices and asking for food and drink. They performed for these services. This sounds more like Halloween than Christmas in California.

One thing that we do not normally practice is the celebration of the end of the Christmas season which was looked forward to by most of the public, and January 6th. The feast of Epiphany celebrates the day the three wise men arrived at the manger where the Christ Child was laying. The days following Epiphany the people began taking down their decorations and storing them.

A Nice Day That Became a Terrible Day

By John Edmonds

The day, May 10, 1884, began as a beautiful sunshiny day on the Peninsula. It seemed especially nice in Belmont as Annie Sullivan and her mother and cousin set out to the Belmont Picnic Grounds, where Twin Pines stands today. Annie was fifteen years old and a very good student. She enjoyed sports and being outdoors on days like that, and the walk down to El Camino Real was pleasant. The conversation with mom and her cousin was equally pleasant. They arrived at the pavilion at the picnic grounds, where they noticed large beer kegs. They wondered what problems might occur from that source.

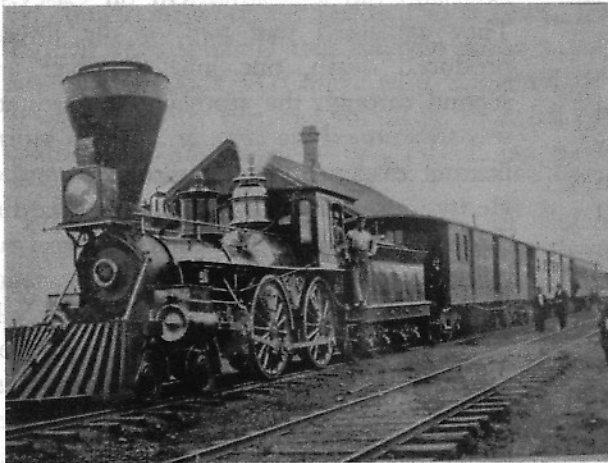
After lunch and about mid-afternoon, the band began playing, and the dancing began. This is what they had come to enjoy, and they were pleased since the music made them feel very happy. After a few tunes, a gentleman named Henry Casey came up to them and asked if Annie would like to dance with him. Annie wanted to dance, but she did not know how, so her mother explained this to Mr. Casey. He said that he was a very good dancer, and that he would show her the steps and escort her around the floor.

The two had a very nice dance, and Annie felt she learned quite well. She was proud of herself, she told her mother. The band played several more songs, and eventually Casey returned to the mother and daughter and asked Annie to dance again. Casey's mother was not feeling positive about that, and she said she didn't want any more dancing for her daughter. Casey then invited Annie to go for a walk, although this was not discussed with Mrs. Sullivan.

At this point Mrs. Sullivan lost sight of the two who left the pavilion and began walking out through the fields. When out of sight of the pavilion, Annie began picking wildflowers in the field to give to her mother. She was quite occupied with her task, when Casey dragged her out into the taller grass and raped her. He pulled her up and took her farther into the field, where he raped her a second time. He then released her to go back to her mother.

The Belmont Picnic Grounds had been opened for dancing and drinking for several years by that date, and the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad had scheduled a special train to bring the partiers down from San Francisco and return them later in the day. The majority of the returnees were pretty drunk. Since they often broke out windows of the train, the railroad added the cost of replacing broken windows to the cost of the tickets at the beginning of the day. There was always a problem of some sort, and it was not unusual to see the sheriff at the picnic grounds or at the railroad.

When Annie returned to her mother following the rapes, she was sobbing, and she had a terrible time telling her mother what had occurred. Meanwhile, Casey had joined his friends and boarded the train for the return trip.



The California engine and train of the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad. Established in 1864.

With great difficulty, Annie and her mother told this story to the sheriff. They also gave the sheriff a very good description of Casey. Once the train was in motion, the sheriff and Annie went to the forward end of the train. The sheriff also deputized a San Francisco policeman, who came from the rear end of the train, along with Annie's cousin, who knew Casey from earlier introductions.

As the sheriff and Annie moved toward the middle car of the train, Annie saw Casey talking to his friends in the aisle. The San Francisco policeman and Annie's cousin arrived in the middle car almost simultaneously and made the same observation. Casey was arrested. He was taken off the train at Millbrae and transported to the county jail in Redwood City. Throughout the whole ordeal, Casey vehemently denied ever having seen or raping Annie. There was, however, no doubt of the identification by Annie or her mother.



The first separate jail in Redwood City.

During this period, the jail in Redwood City was located on or near the corner of Broadway and Spring Street. Broadway was not cut through until the early 1930s, so before the turn of the century, prisoners had to be walked from the jail to the courthouse. In some cases, that involved passing through buildings, (including saloons), in order to get to Broadway and the courthouse. Located where the old courthouse is today, the second courthouse then was called the "Justice Court," because it had a wooden carving of Lady Justice on the roof above the door, albeit the second floor roof. The prisoners were walked in chains and handcuffs throughout this process.

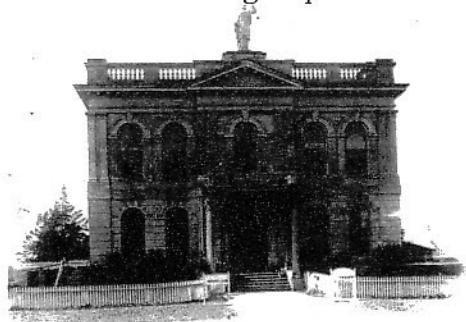
The following week, May 17, 1884, Casey was one of those in chains, as he, along with several other inmates, was escorted by a number of deputy sheriffs to their court appearances. Unknown to Casey, however, it would be his last walk to court.

On May 17, 1884, the San Mateo County Times and Gazette announced: "During the thirty years that Redwood City has been in existence, it was until last Saturday for the first human to lose his life by the hand of another. During the preliminary examination

of Henry Casey in the Superior Court Room of Justice Walsh, for assaulting 15-year-old Annie Sullivan, daughter of Daniel Sullivan at the Belmont Picnic Grounds, on Sunday, May 4th, Daniel Sullivan shot and killed Casey."

The small courtroom that Justice Walsh usually used was much too small for the great number of people who were expected to appear, so the hearing had been moved to the Superior Court room in the main part of the structure. George Buck was the district attorney to handle the prosecution of Casey, and J. N. E. Wilson was the defense attorney. The first witness was Mrs. Sullivan, Daniel's wife and Annie's mother. She testified that she had met Casey at the pavilion and that she had permitted him to dance with Annie, but that when he had requested a second dance, she had refused. She stated that after that discussion, both Annie and Mr. Casey had disappeared for quite a while, and that when Annie returned about five o'clock, she was crying and two buttons on her blouse had been torn off.

The next witness was young Annie, who restated the story: that she had been picking wildflowers for her mother, when Henry Casey forced her down in the tall grass and assaulted her, and that he had dragged her farther away and repeated the assault. Under cross-examination by Wilson, Annie repeated almost verbatim what she had testified to under direct examination. Deputy Sheriff Hatch was called, and he identified Casey as the man he had arrested on the evening in question.



San Mateo County's third courthouse which stood where today's Old Courthouse stands on Broadway

Suddenly, Daniel Sullivan sprang to his feet about six feet behind Henry Casey. He drew a pistol from his coat pocket and fired three rapid shots into Casey.

Casey jumped up and yelled, "My God, I'm shot, I'm killed!" He staggered toward the jury box, straightened up and then fell backwards onto his back and lay mortally wounded. People in the courtroom were darting all over the place. Casey's two sisters, who were in another room, came into the courtroom, screaming and crying. Deputy Bob Wyman drew his gun and told Sullivan to drop his weapon; he complied immediately. Sullivan was handcuffed and removed from the room and out the door to the jail four blocks away.

Meanwhile, Casey lay near the front door to the courtroom. He was examined by a doctor, who stated that he was simply too far gone and that he would pass shortly. Casey passed away about two hours later.

The following day Dr. Ross and Dr. Loveland did a postmortem on Casey's body. They explained that two of the three shots produced death, one into the liver and the second through the stomach. A coroner's jury was summoned the next day. After a morning of hearing evidence, they returned a verdict that Henry Casey came to his death by the firing of three pistol shots at the hands of Daniel Sullivan.

After three days or so, the conversation and opinion of the public turned in Daniel Sullivan's favor, as parents of young daughters recognized the fury that a man might have after such a vicious attack on his own child. In the same newspaper article, the reporter explained that many comments were being forwarded to the paper in support of Sullivan, and indeed, championing his cause. In general, the public was quite sympathetic; many said they would have acted the same if a similar thing had happened to their daughters. Some said they felt they would have gone crazy upon learning of such a depredation on a daughter. Sullivan, although extremely depressed over what happened, stated that "he felt he did nothing wrong and that he would do the same thing if it happened again."

The newspaper reported: "M. C. Hammett of San Francisco has taken over the case of Sullivan's defense. Edwin Fitzpatrick and George W. Fox have been engaged as co-counsel.

"Sullivan is a foreman and a carpenter with the Mahoney Brothers of San Francisco, and he is highly spoken of by all who know him, ever quiet and peaceful; he is a man who made many friends, who are all ready to stand with him during his time in need.

"Investigation showed that "Casey was 'one of the boys' and a bad character, especially among the female sex. He considered himself a 'man of the world,' and when he forced himself upon this young girl, causing her everlasting disgrace, the fact that he lost his life, speaking from a moral standpoint, is not an unsatisfactory outcome." said the San Mateo County Times and Gazette in the same original article on May 17, 1884.

In an article titled, "The Casey Homicide" on June 7, 1884, the Times and Gazette wrote that "District Attorney George Buck went through several prosecution witnesses who were present in the courtroom when the incident took place. They testified very similarly that Sullivan stood up and put three rounds in Casey, who staggered over between the jury box and the door, then fell onto his back, and after a period of several hours, passed away."

On the other hand, the team of defense attorneys, C. M. Hassett, John M. Dolan of San Francisco, and George W. Fox and Edward F. Fitzpatrick of Redwood City, took a different view and that was a picture of mental illness. Michael Flannery of the San Francisco Police Department testified that "Casey was very much under the influence of alcohol at the picnic; he was very loud and boisterous." He also said that he missed Casey from the picnic grounds from about 2:30 to 5 p.m. He also testified about the process of the search for Casey on the train.

John Conlon, a longtime friend of Sullivan's, said that Sullivan was a very peaceful man and a loving person until his outrage of his daughter's rape, and then he had become sullen and incoherent. Thomas O'Reilly, a carpenter, said "Sullivan's mind on Thursday night following the assault, while they were walking together, showed obvious evidence of mental illness, as he was babbling incoherently for more than an hour.

The Times wrote: "At the hour of going to press last week, the evidence in the Sullivan case had been closed and the matter taken under advisement. On Saturday, Justice Walsh rendered a decision discharging Sullivan on the ground of insanity."

It surprises me that a justice of the peace could try a murder case in the Superior Court. I assume that the justices of the peace became municipal court judges at some point in history, but even in the days when I was in the sheriff's office, municipal court judges did not try murder cases. They may well have done preliminary hearings on such cases, but when the defendant was held to answer in Superior Court, the Superior Court judges always conducted the trial, especially in what could be a capital case such as this one.

While I recognize the dramatic support Daniel Sullivan had from the public, and I am certain, from within the criminal justice system, the decision to have a court trial in front of a justice of the peace seems hard to imagine.

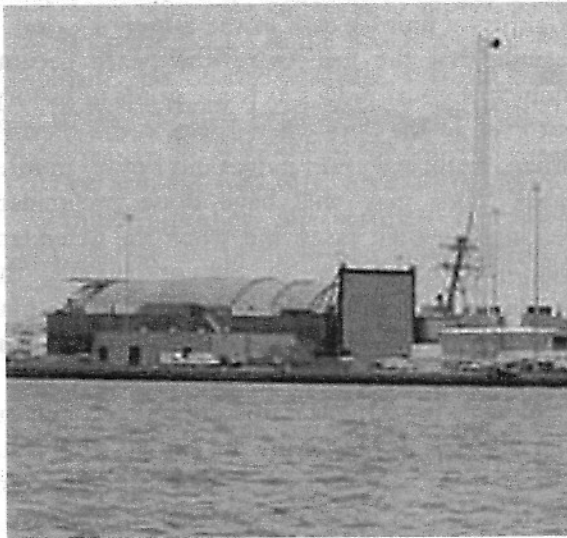
Want to help out in a big way?

It has been over a year since the Committee completely took over operations of the Local History Room. We discovered several projects that should have been undertaken long ago in order to insure preservation of the collection. Digitalization of all the documents is one. The microfilm reader mostly functions but is, for the most part, no longer repairable if it has a critical failure. And the film itself is probably well beyond its life anticipated expectancy. These projects will be very costly to undertake.

So, anyone out there with grant application skills who can advise us or, even better, pitch in? Please give a call if you can help in any way. Mike Bursak
bursaklaw@astound.net

End Near for Redwood City's "Secret Ships"

By James O. Clifford, Sr.

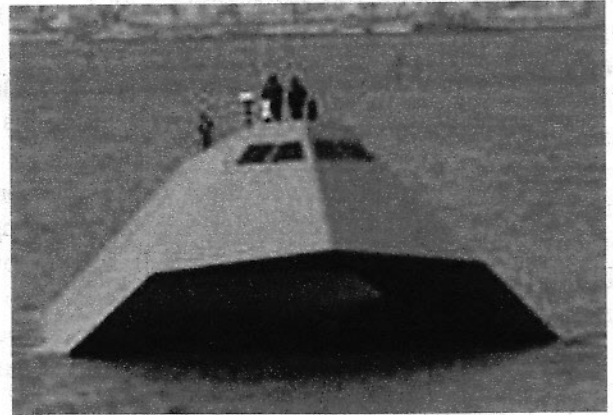


The Barge

Nearly 1,000 people were jammed aboard the Liberty ship SS Jeremiah O'Brien for a voyage that may have been their last chance to glimpse relics of Redwood City's best kept secret – its key role in the Cold War.

Paying \$100 each, history buffs on the July journey to the past lined the railings as the San Francisco-based O'Brien sailed by the mothball fleet in Suisun Bay, which contains scores of aging, rusting ships. Most of the "wows" went to the battleship USS Iowa, its sleek outlines anchoring one end of a long line of vessels. At the other end sat the Hughes Mining Barge. Inside the barge's massive bulk was the Sea Shadow stealth ship. Both the barge and the Sea Shadow once called Redwood City home.

There was little reaction when the O'Brien approached the barge, which resembled a floating airplane hangar that collided with a drive-in movie screen. The lack of interest was appropriate considering how hard the nation's intelligence community once tried to keep the ships top secret.



Stealth Ship

A few weeks before what was billed as the O'Brien's "Ghost Fleet" voyage, Fox News reported that the stealth ship, which had been designed to thwart radar probes, would be scrapped. What flew under the major league news media's radar was the fact the barge would also be destroyed, bringing an end to one of America's most intriguing espionage stories. The lack of coverage was puzzling when one recalls that the mining barge was big news in the 1970s when it was part of a CIA operation to recover a sunken Soviet submarine.

From 2006 to 2011 the Navy offered both the barge and stealth ship to any interested maritime museum, but there were no takers, according to Navy spokesman Chris Johnson. The Naval Sea Systems Command official said several letters of interest were received, but only "one organization submitted an application which was determined to be non-viable." No date has been set for the "dismantling and recycling."

The 164-foot long Sea Shadow, the inspiration for the bad guy's seagoing lair in the James Bond movie "Tomorrow Never Dies," was built by Lockheed Martin inside the barge after the clandestine operation that reportedly recovered at least part of a sunken Russian submarine off Hawaii.

The twin-hulled Sea Shadow, which looks like an A-frame houseboat, was under wraps until 1993 when it was unveiled to wide press coverage. The ship became so "unsecret" there is now a plastic model kit available of the Sea Shadow, which had a speed of 10 knots and a crew of 10.

Sea Shadow Did not Cast a Shadow

The name Sea Shadow was a misnomer. It was painted black and did not cast a shadow because it moved at night, stowed inside the barge and launched into darkness.

"We operated during the night with impunity," crewmember S.K. Gupta told the Wall Street Journal in an interview after Navy war games off San Diego. "We could disappear and sneak up on whomever we wanted. Nobody thought we could do that." He also recalled watching a glass of soda on the bridge barely ripple in 12-foot waves.

Long before it became a warehouse for Sea Shadow, the barge was involved in what President Gerald Ford called "one of the greatest exploits in the history of espionage."

The barge was a familiar sight on the Redwood City waterfront and was easy to see from Highway 101. Some thought the letters HMB-1 on the craft had something to do with Half Moon Bay.

In comments made recently to Redwood City Patch, an online news site, Lou Covey recalled "seeing the massive thing" while fishing in the harbor.

Some men stood on the port side of the barge so Covey asked them "what is that?" The answer was "what is what?"

"That ship," Covey answered.

"I don't see any ship."

"It's right behind you."

"It's not. Time for you to move on."

So Covey did just that.

Spotting the barge was easy but learning exactly what was going inside was another matter.

The news media was fooled by a cover story that claimed billionaire industrialist Howard Hughes was going to use the barge as part of a plan to salvage minerals from the bottom of the ocean.

The cover was not far fetched. According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, during the late 1960s both industry and government began to seriously look into the possibility of ocean-based sources of strategic minerals. Scientists knew that the seafloor contained potentially recoverable deposits of minerals such as nickel, cobalt, copper, manganese, gold, tin, platinum, iron and titanium.

The Department of Interior's Bureau of Mines had so much faith in increased ocean mineral development that it established the Marine Minerals Technology center at a one-time Navy coaling station in Tiburon.

In February 1974 the influential magazine Science published an article on the "Prospects for Deep Sea Mining" in which it reported that "development of what may prove to be a major new marine mining technology appears well under way." The piece noted that Hughes was just one of many corporations involved in such ventures.

In fact, the CIA was behind the operation in the summer of 1974 that was supposed to bring the Soviet submarine K-129 up 16,500 feet from the bottom of the ocean about 1,000 miles northwest of Hawaii.

No Nukes is Good News

The aim, according to later reports, was to recover a codebook along with an intact nuclear missile. Soon after the salvage operation ended, the Los Angeles Times reported that a two-inch thick journal was recovered that provided details of the sub's nuclear potential.

The HMB-1 was not just any barge – it was a submersible one that had a giant claw dubbed "Clementine" inside. It was built to be submerged under the Glomar Explorer, the mother ship for the operation. In hindsight, the barge was the real mother ship: it served as the womb for both the claw and, later, the Sea Shadow. At last report, The Glomar Explorer, also built for Hughes, was owned by the Global Santa Fe Corporation. A group of companies that wants to drill for oil off Indonesia leased the ship until March of next year.

It wasn't until 1975 that Redwood City officials got a chance to inspect the interior of the barge. Fire Chief John Keller and Fire Marshal George Avos were the first outsiders known to have seen the inside. Avos told a United Press International reporter earlier that he agreed to avoid surprise inspections of the barge in exchange for assurances the barge had its own fire-fighting capabilities.

"It's kosher," Keller said, according to the account in the Redwood City Tribune.

The chief said he saw “a big hunk of machinery” inside the 30,000-square-foot, 100-foot tall vessel. He said the machinery was as tall as the barge itself.

“I couldn’t tell what it was or how it was used,” Keller said of the machinery. “It just looked like machinery.”

The Tribune asked an unnamed fire official about Avos’ earlier statement that officials of Lockheed, which built the gear, had been cooperative. “The truth is that they treated us like lepers right from the start,” the unidentified source said.

The inspection of the barge at the heavily guarded Lockheed compound near the Leslie salt pile on Redwood Creek came the same day the Washington Post reported “sources” as saying the recovery of nuclear-tipped torpedoes represented a major victory for U.S. intelligence.

Keller said he saw no sign of any “submarines, missiles, torpedoes, rockets, giant claws or dredges.”

Interest in CIA operation has never slackened. Books have been written about the daring operation that came at a time when America could go to the moon and the bottom of the ocean. The Internet is loaded with information for those with the time to pursue the matter.

Journal Finds Local First-hand Sources

All sites tend to agree that the submarine was to be hoisted by the claw, but other than that there is a lot of speculation.

Wikipedia reports that a mechanical failure caused two-thirds of the recovered section to break off during recovery. The lost section “is said to have held many of the most sought items, including the code book and nuclear missiles. It was subsequently reported that two nuclear-tipped torpedoes and some cryptographic machines were recovered, along with the bodies of six Soviet submariners, who were given a formal, filmed burial at sea.”

In pursuing the recovery angle, The Journal of Local History found two local sources. One was a former worker on the barge who came aboard after HMB-1 returned to Redwood City from Hawaii. The other was a bonanza of information: a senior staff engineer with Lockheed Missiles and Space Company.

“We were shown a movie that showed only part of the submarine was recovered,” said Dan Hack, who worked on the barge’s rigging. Hack was told “modifications” would have to be made in order to bring up the rest of the vessel. He did not know, however, if that attempt was made.

Former senior staff engineer Ray Feldman of Palo Alto says a second attempt was planned but was called off, mainly because of a leak to the press. The second recovery effort was scrapped a month after Jack Anderson provided details of the project in a broadcast on March 18, 1975, Feldman said. The New York Times followed with “a very detailed lead article.”

Feldman, the engineer responsible for the digital data link that provided commands to the claw, was a member of the crew that “maintained the link during the entire operation.”

“As a result of my direct experience with the mission, I have some valid observations to make,” he said.

According to Feldman, the 100-foot center section of the submarine was lost during the recovery operation and the claw was damaged. The claw was transferred back to the barge which returned to Redwood City. An underwater survey showed the center section of the sub, including the conning tower, was intact enough to warrant a second attempt at gaining important intelligence, including code keys and books.

Making the needed changes to the claw was “well under way when the story broke,” Feldman said.

Feldman cleared up some things in a brief summation of the operation.

Despite reports to the contrary, he said no cryptographic machines were recovered.

He also said the barge “never left California coastal waters and was not used to hold the recovered portion of the sub.”

The purpose of the barge was to provide the facility to build the claw that was transferred to the Glomar Explorer off Santa Catalina Island.

"The remains of the sub was removed directly from the ship and the damaged claw was transferred back to HMB-1 off Santa Catalina and returned to Redwood City to be refitted for the second attempt."

The barge was not sea worthy enough for the open ocean and did not have propulsion, but it was submersible, a capability needed to get the claw aboard the Glomar Explorer.

The HMB-1 was towed to Santa Catalina where it was submerged and "came to rest on a shallow sandy bottom," Feldman said. The Glomar Explorer then moved directly over the barge which opened its roof. The claw was then brought aboard the Glomar Explorer through its "moonpool," which was a large open area in the middle. Feldman described the moonpool as being "like a huge swimming pool whose bottom could be opened to the sea."

Last year the CIA finally admitted there was a salvage attempt, but it didn't release much more than that. The Associated Press said the agency released the information to researchers using the Freedom of Information Act. The \$1.5 billion (in today's money) operation called Project Azorian, also known as Project Jennifer, was described in a 50-page CIA report written in 1985 but intended only for internal viewing.

The document, however, left out the best parts, which are still buried in CIA files: What equipment was brought up from the submarine and what intelligence was learned? According to the researchers, the CIA article was mainly a chronological account that featured feats of engineering.

Secret Training in RWC

The original salvage crew went through secret training classes in Redwood City, according to a Los Angeles Times article published in April of 1975. The Times said the men learned the Russian alphabet and were instructed what to do if the Glomar Explorer was boarded by Soviet forces. The 140-member crew attended classes in small groups, often wearing special suits to ward off radiation.

The men were warned that the lifting process could result in the death of all those aboard the Glomar Explorer.



Ghost Fleet: barge at the end of the line

The main feature of the training course was a misshapen mass of steel that looked like an "old diving bell that had collapsed," the Times said. The device served as a mockup of the doomed submarine. This way, the crew learned how to move about and what to do if they came in contact with dangerous nuclear material.

The detailed account in the Times said special gear included hoods that enabled the wearer to talk to Russian-speaking CIA agents who would translate Russian lettering.

"When they saw some Russian words that had been put on the sub," a source told the newspaper, "they would spell them out and the linguists would tell them what they meant."

Less Speculation about Sea Shadow

There has been less need for speculation about the Sea Shadow, which was a combined effort of the Navy and Lockheed Martin.

The Navy public affairs people have been very forthcoming with information about the vessel that was built under tight secrecy inside the barge in the early 1980s. In 2003 a Navy news release said that during tests the barge would leave Redwood City and go "out to sea in the dead of night and halfway submerged, to

let Sea Shadow out to be tested without being overly exposed to public observation.”

Sea Shadow “was never intended to be mission-capable,” said Paul Chatterton, the program manager for the Naval Sea Systems Command. He said the Sea Shadow was used to test advanced hull forms and automation. The Navy billed the vessel as “the premier test platform for ship stealth and experimental technologies.”

For one thing, the Sea Shadow doesn’t have traditional rudders to steer with. Instead it uses “stabilizers and canards” on the side of its submerged twin hulls to control steering. Combined with the angled sides, this also helps the ship to remain stable even in seas up to 18-foot high, according to Chatterton.

The sleek, sloped sides of the Sea Shadow are seen in similar superstructures of many of today’s Navy ships. Old salts that sailed when “bulkheads” were at right angles can testify to the changes.

Even as they rust away, the vessels are a lure for adventurers who can be described as “Ghost Fleet Junkies.” Some buy rafts and, like Sea Shadow, move in the night. They sneak on board in the darkness, acting like members of the elite SEALs, making one wonder why they don’t enlist.

Decades ago, the author walked the decks of some of the ships in the fleet. No daring was needed. He just picked up the phone and made a call. He didn’t even have to provide his own boat.

The Finger Family: A Union Cemetery Story

By John Edmonds

Simon Theodore Finger was born Sept. 5, 1813, in Frankfurt, Germany, and was educated to some degree in the schools in that city. He married Wilhelmina (Mina) in 1827 (or thereabouts).

In January 1855, Theodore and Mina, along with his brothers Otto and August, all natives of Frankfurt, departed Germany for New Orleans, arriving at about February 1855 in the ship, *Olympia*. The Finger family then traveled overland from Louisiana to California and finally settled in Redwood City, where they built a substantial cottage

on the south side of Cordilleras Creek. Theodore planted a large vineyard on his property and became San Mateo County’s first pioneer vintner. During some of the dry years especially, he produced some 1,400 gallons of fine wine. One of his most famous years was 1877, when he was at the peak of production. He used the wine at weddings and other celebratory occasions.

The children of Theodore and Mina Finger were Henry James, Frederick (Gussie), Emma G., August F., Lawrence F.

Theodore built a picnic ground area on Cordilleras Creek, where he entertained many organizations. The Odd Fellows and other men’s organizations were often guests, however, organizations from as far away as San Francisco often made their way to the Finger Picnic Grounds.

The Finger cottage was somewhat more than a half mile from the small town of Redwood City. The road he established for getting to town, especially in a wagon, is now called “Finger Avenue”—at the north city limits of Redwood City.

The San Francisco and San Jose Railroad was established in a later year of the Civil War, 1864. This was an exciting time for the people of Southern San Mateo County, especially in Redwood City, where the railroad would be used to ship lumber between there and San Francisco and San Jose to help supply the perpetual need lumber and for housing.

The San Mateo County Times and Gazette on August 6, 1887, announced Simon Theodore Finger’s death. He was seventy-two years old, near-sighted, and possibly a little deaf. However, the next week, the newspaper stated that Theodore was not deaf and had normal vision. He was crossing the railroad tracks near his house, as he had been doing for years. He apparently did not hear or see the approaching train and lost his life in that moment.

Theodore and Mina raised a large family in their cottage in Redwood City. They had three sons and a daughter of their own, but they also believed in adopting children and making them part of the family. Some five additional children grew up in the beautiful surroundings and the loving care that was the environment on Finger

Avenue at Cordilleras Creek. The Fingers' personal generosity became very well recognized throughout Redwood City. Miss Josie Finger became her foster mother's closest companion. The hospitality that gave the home of the Fingers its charm was an indescribable blending of old-world courtesy and new-world informality. Their home was known as "Liberty Hall." The property was also known as "Finger Grove."

Mina Finger died at her son's house in Santa Barbara in December 1913. Her body was transported back to Redwood City, where she had spent the great majority of her life.

On December 14, 1913, a large number of friends and family gathered in the Congregational Church to celebrate and perform the last rites for Wilhelmina Koch (Mina Finger). The touching and emotional eulogy given by the Reverend Stevens talked about her "many ostentatious charitable actions." Both Theodore and Mina were buried in plot 117 in Union Cemetery.

At the services, the list of pallbearers was a list of who's-who in Redwood City: P. P. Chamberlain, Charles Littlejohn, Dr. J. S. Ross, S. P. Behren, Robert Brown and J. F. Utter. Listing them, the newspaper states: "They were all personal friends." The pallbearers could have been any of hundreds of people, for as many as thirty tramps a day, during some periods, came to the Finger residence for aid. Nobody ever walked away hungry from their house.



Herman Finger

Mrs. Finger often talked about her experiences in Redwood City. She told one newspaper that she participated in the first Fourth of July parade in Redwood City and the last one (at the time the newspaper article was written) in 1909, exactly fifty years later, and just before she left for Santa Barbara. The newspaper said, "The hospitality which gave the home of the Fingers its charm was an indescribable blending of old-world and new-world informality."

The first person to be buried in this plot in Union Cemetery was Lawrence Finger (Friedzie), age twenty-one months in 1882; he was followed by Herman several years later when he died, on April 7, 1882, after a piece of heavy machinery fell on him while he was loading a truck at work in San Francisco. Herman had joined the International Order of Odd Fellows, and the burial services in Union Cemetery were performed by that organization. Herman married Augustina (Reboul) Bray on August 1, 1872.

Augustina became a member of the Templar Rebekah II, No. 19, I.O.O.F., Association of Pioneer Women of California and Veterans' Rebekah of I.O.O.F.



Augustina Reboul Finger

Frederick Finger (Gussie) accidentally shot himself while hunting on a day off school at age seventeen years.

Emma G. Finger was born about 1856. She was married to Fremont Older in in the Congregational Church in Redwood City, California, on June 2, 1881, by the Reverend H. E. Jewett. Fremont Older became very famous as the dynamic editor of San Francisco Bulletin. The couple later divorced, but not until they produced two children. Their daughter, Wilhemina Ethelwyn Older, was born in Redwood City in 1882 and died in San Francisco on October 26, 1931.

Lawrence F. Finger (Friedzie) was born in February 1860 and died November 22, 1861, and was buried in plot 117 in Union Cemetery.

Another person buried in this plot is Rudolph Grund, who was brought over from Germany. He was a native of Hamburg whom the Finger family took under their wings. He was an experienced cartographer and draftsman who became very well known in Redwood City and throughout San Mateo County. Grund drew the greatest map of San Mateo County still in existence.

The map is known as the "Easton Map." Easton was the San Mateo County recorder, and Grund worked for him. Easton took the credit, but Grund drew the map, did the ground work and produced the great map with Easton's name on it.

According to the 1860 and 1870 San Mateo County census, Herman Beyer, who was born October 7, 1822, in Prussia and died January 20, 1905, was a veterinary surgeon who resided on the Finger property. He was buried near the Finger family plot. A farm laborer named John Blay also resided on the Finger property.

The Finger property is making news today. A developer wants to build a number of homes in the area along Cordilleras Creek where the cottage used to stand. The cottage apparently is no longer present.

I must state my appreciation for the hard work of two people who provided me with information on which to base this essay.

Mrs. Jean Cloud wrote the obituary, and Barbara Tarkington did the very thorough research on the Finger family that is placed in a very special box in the Local History Room of the Redwood City Public Library. Barbara Tarkington is related to Theodore and Mina Finger.



The historic Finger cottage at 90 Finger Ave. as it appeared in 2003.

Please help support the Archives Committee of the Redwood City Public Library and the Historic Union Cemetery Association. Mail your much appreciated contribution to:

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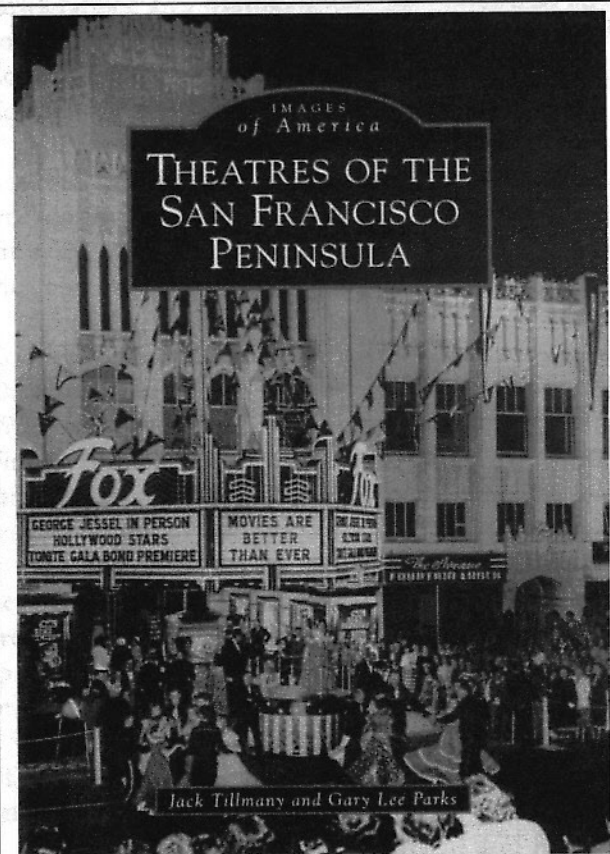
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Editor's Note

Thank you to the Redwood City Civic and Cultural Commission for their monetary and vocal support for this journal.

Hope you enjoyed the new and improved Journal of Local History. Please send us a line at gsuarez@redwoodcity.org or call me, Gene Suarez, at 650-780-7098.

We welcome any comments or constructive criticism. Our next issue will appear in the Spring 2012. We all wish you a pleasant Winter.



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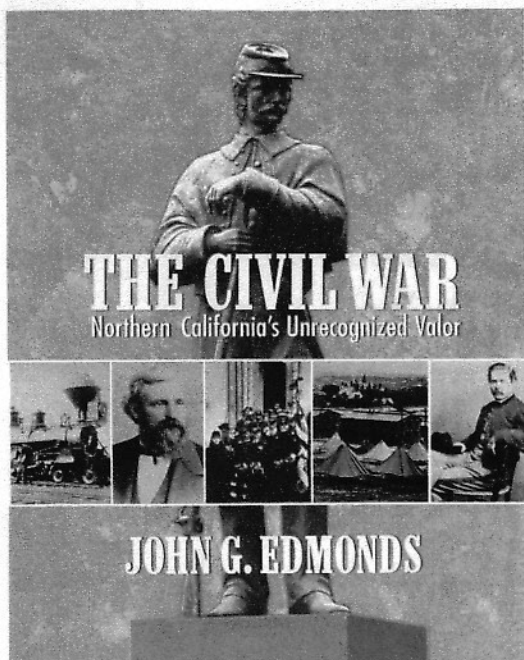
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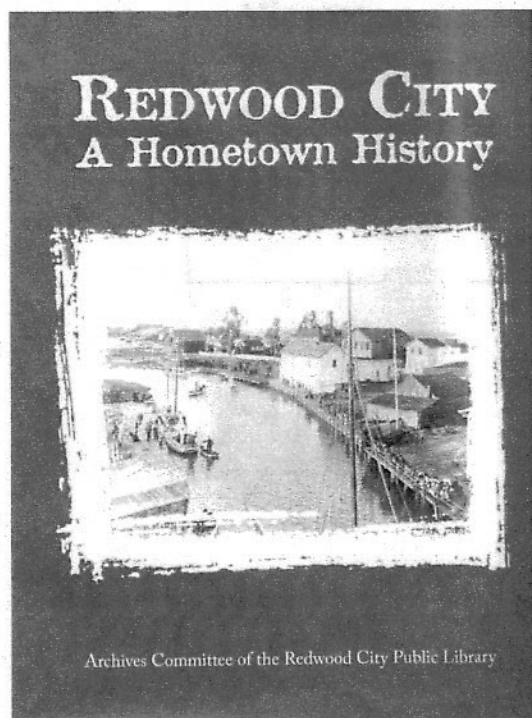
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