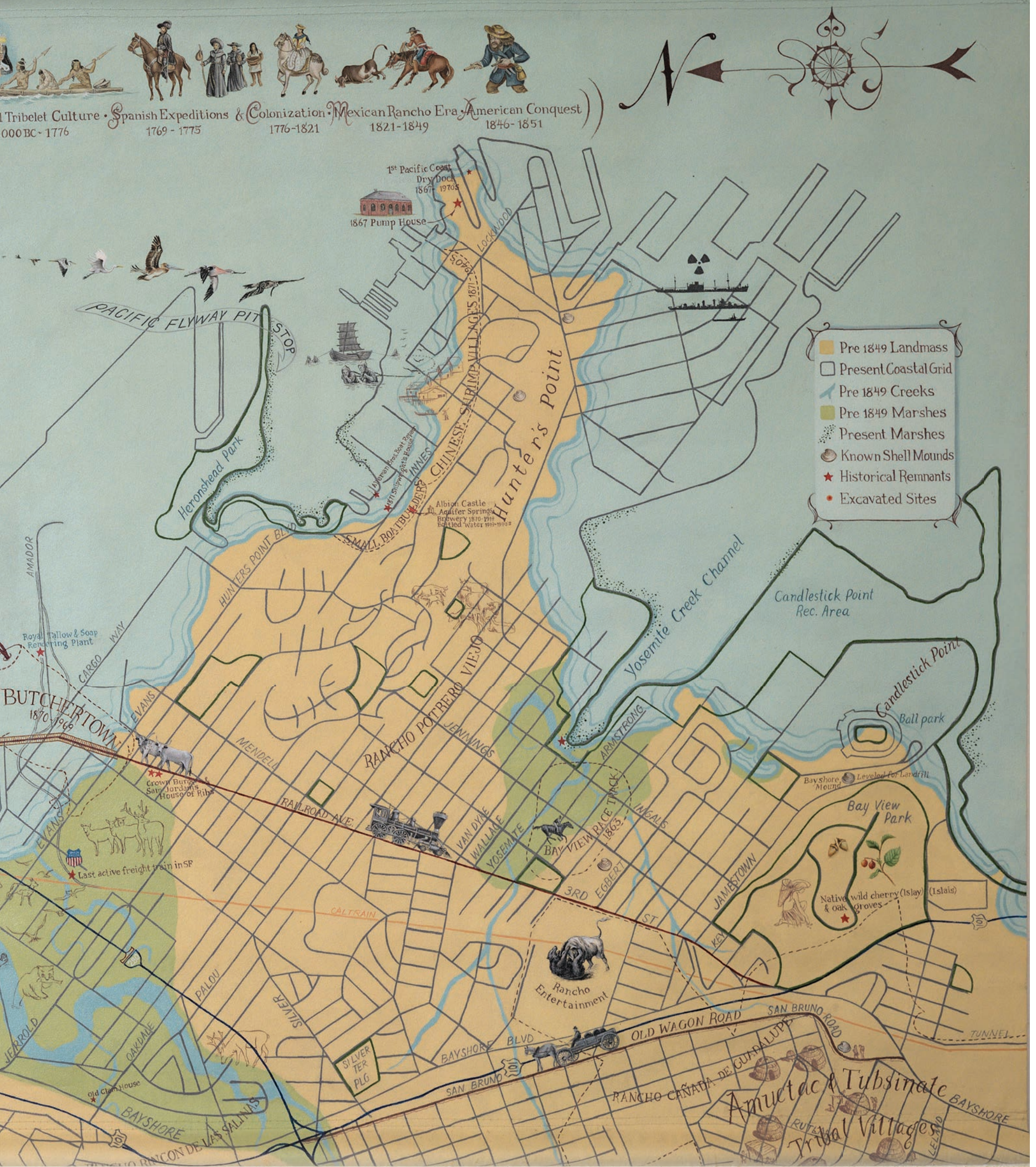


THE POTRERO VIEW

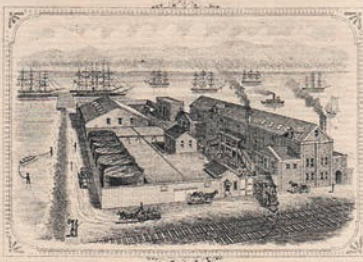
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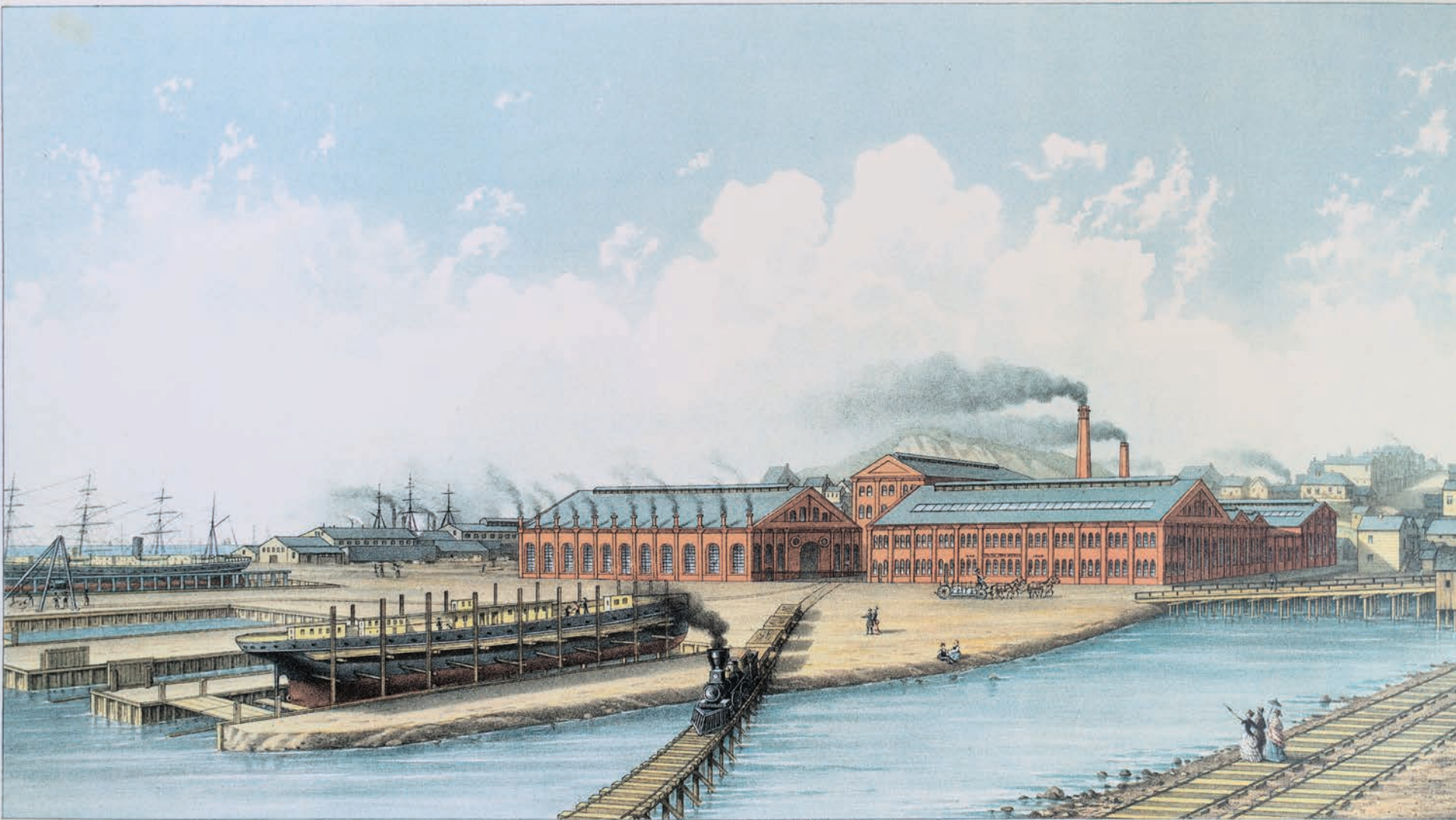
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▲ The Arctic Oil Works was established on Illinois Street between 16th and 17th streets in 1883, producing refined seal and whale oil. San Francisco was the West Coast's largest whaling port in the 1880s until petroleum replaced whale oil in the 1890s. The Arctic Oil Works pier, storage tanks, and railroad links made production and distribution highly efficient. IMAGES: Courtesy Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

▼ This 1880s print shows the impressive brick Union Iron Works buildings on Potrero Point. Behind looms the 250 foot high Irish Hill, where rooming houses and hotels were home to hundreds of shipyard workers. A 50-foot-high fragment visible from Illinois Street between 20th and 22nd streets is all that remains today. The two buildings in the foreground on either side of the rails are the just completed Machine Shop, which was joined in 1912. The site is considered the best-preserved 19th century industrial complex west of the Mississippi. IMAGE: Courtesy Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley



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Publisher's View: History

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

Each of us, if we live long enough, is a part of history. Between the time I was born in 1960 and now, terrorist planes crashed into and toppled Manhattan's Twin Towers. America landed on the moon and the world grappled with pandemics, one of which, HIV/AIDS, killed upwards of 20,000 San Franciscans. One U.S. President was assassinated, another shot and wounded, and a third arguably committed treason, but still may be reelected. The iPhone was released. Three television stations and the one that was never quite clear fractured into millions of YouTube and TikTok channels.

Communities have their own history. The *View's* original publisher, Ruth Passen, passed what's now a 53-year-old newspaper to me, and has since died. The Daily Scoop, on 18th Street, closed, replaced by Chez Papa, which morphed into Chez Maman East. Goat Hill Pizza's all-you-can-eat Mondays stopped, and then restarted. Generations of children had their first day of kindergarten at Daniel Webster Elementary School, and their last day of fifth grade. Dogpatch and Mission Bay, a ragged former industrial belt and wetlands, emerged as amongst the City's hippest, most economically vibrant, neighborhoods.

What came before us influences who we are now. Without Ruth and her earnest colleagues – including Lester Zeidman, who co-created another bit of Potrero Hill history, The Good Life Grocery – the *View* would not exist, and you wouldn't be reading this column. The paper's founders were prompted to launch it by the citizen fervor created by the Civil Rights movement and campaigns against the Vietnam War, bits of the past that continue to reverberate today.

There's irony in celebrating community history using a medium that itself has become a kind of

ancient artifact. We're largely living in a post-print, and possibly post-journalism, moment. Of those of us who care about current affairs, almost half keep track by watching television, a third rely on radio, a fifth – dominated by the next generation – scroll social media. Fewer than one out of six peruse news publications online or on-paper. The *View* is history.

Still, more than ten years ago, the last time we dedicated an issue to color maps and old photographs, people throughout the neighborhood could be seen poring over the images at cafes and eateries. There's something special about the tactile experience of turning a page, hearing the soft rattle of newsprint, lingering over a picture or article that was pressed into a kind of physical form. A newspaper, tucked into a file cabinet or cut and pasted into an album is a talisman distinct from a digital record.

Children are fascinated by the 1930s-era typewriter I keep in my home office, drawn to the mechanical magnificence of its sticky keys and hammered out words. It speaks to a yesteryear when text had to be fairly chiseled into being. The maps in this issue, photographs of past events, articles about old buildings and famous films are tiny windows into what was, people and things that no longer exist.

Except they do. They've just taken a different form, shaped as old-timers' thoughts and new timers' experience of a place that was formed before they arrived, which they, in turn, will reform. They're worth seeing and celebrating, with the knowledge that tomorrow what's in your hand may have turned into air.

Starring Potrero Hill

BY JIM VAN BUSKIRK

Potrero Hill has starred in dozens of feature films, television shows, and commercials over the last fifty plus years, capturing our photogenic corner of the City, as well as inadvertently documenting its many changes.

The intersection of 18th and Missouri streets often gets a casting call. In the remake of *Sweet November* (2001), Sara Deever (Charlize Theron) lives at 298 Missouri Street, though the scenes inside her apartment were actually recorded in a set constructed at a decommissioned Treasure Island aircraft hangar. The garden where Sara appears was filmed behind Bloom's Saloon. Sara and Nelson Moss (Keanu Reeves) dine at Farley's coffee shop. The now long-gone Daily Scoop ice cream parlor was transformed into a produce stand and convenience store.

Bernice "Bernie" Rhodenbarr (Whoopi Goldberg) lived at the same picturesque corner in *Burglar* (1987). Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) resides there in *Ant-Man and the Wasp* (2018). The flat's interior was meticulously recreated on a soundstage in Atlanta, Georgia. Rudd's foot does go through the colorfully painted fence on 18th Street, and he vomits playing cards from the steps at 298 Missouri.

A few blocks away, the Victorian at 1243-19th, at Texas Street, stars in *Pacific Heights* (1990) as "275 Pacific Street," the dream home of Patty Palmer (Melanie Griffith) and Drake Goodman (Matthew Modine), until Carter Hayes (Michael Keaton) becomes their nightmare.

It's widely known that 768 De Haro was the residence of veteran police officer Mike Stone (Karl Malden) in the

STARRING POTRERO continues on page 20



▲ When this circa 1910 store advertisement for Queen Lily Soap appeared, the company, then at 17th and Rhode Island streets, stated that "Ladies will find this soap especially adapted for washing laces, infant's clothing, silk hose, cleaning gloves and all articles of fine texture and delicate color. Guaranteed to wash without rubbing. Has extraordinary merits, and is in good repute with the public, and that is why it is so extensively imitated and counterfeited." The soap was produced on Potrero Hill until the early-1970s. IMAGE: Courtesy Potrero Hill Archives Project. More history on the following pages!

Theater

This year's participants in Potrero Hill-based **PlayGround's** Innovator Incubator include two companies new to the Incubator – **The American Jewish Theatre** and **House Theater**, both Los Angeles-based – and six returning troupes: **Analog Theatre**, **The Chikahan Company**, **Latinx Mafia**, **Network Effects Theater**, **Oakland Public Theater**, and **Poltergeist Theatre Project**. The Incubator was launched in 2019 to foster innovative theatre companies committed to historically marginalized or excluded communities. The multi-year program provides financial support, fiscal sponsorship, space and mentorship. Last year's initiative offered nine production companies more than \$50,000 in resources. An Innovators Showcase will be held in November.

Radio Silent

Mutiny Radio, a clubhouse for comedians, storytellers, poets, musicians, and artists, shuttered its 21st and Florida streets storefront earlier this year. "It was my entire life that I sacrificed everything for, for 10 years," Pam Benjamin, 49, Mutiny Radio's owner, told *Mission Local*. "It was my business. It was my income. It was my struggle." Mutiny Radio started as Pirate Cat Radio in 2006. In 2011, founder Daniel Roberts, also known

SHORT CUTS

as "Monkey Man," was fined \$10,000 for broadcasting without a license and disappeared, prompting DJs and volunteers to organize into a collective rebranded as Mutiny Radio. At its peak, all 50 people involved had a vote in decisions. Benjamin took over the space in 2013. The main operational cost was a \$2,300-a-month lease, which Benjamin covered through fundraisers and hosted shows at other venues. "I'm tired of the GoFundMes every year. I'm tired of begging people for money," said Benjamin. GoFundMes in 2017, 2018 and 2020 raised \$10, \$2,545 and \$8,650, respectively. In 2023, the San Francisco Arts Commission awarded Benjamin \$20,000 and Mutiny Radio \$50,000 for rent and overhead expenses. It's unclear if most of that money went toward back rent, but by the end Benjamin said she was on food stamps and out of money.

Carpool

An oft-gridlocked, mile-long segment of northbound Interstate 280 may become San Francisco's first freeway carpool lane. Severe congestion has long plagued I-280 from 18th Street to the King Street off-ramp, which takes motorists to Oracle Park and the Embarcadero, a bottleneck that's

mostly returned to pre-pandemic levels. Transportation officials are exploring adding a dedicated lane for Muni, SamTrans express buses and vehicles carrying three or more people. One option would be to re-stripe the left shoulder to turn the section from four lanes to five, with

the leftmost one reserved for carpools and transit. Under that approach I-280's King Street off-ramp, through the Fifth Street intersection, would become three lanes with an added lane. Analysts are gathering public feedback before making a recommendation, which requires **California Department of Transportation** and **San Francisco Board of Supervisors** approval. Construction could begin in 2026.

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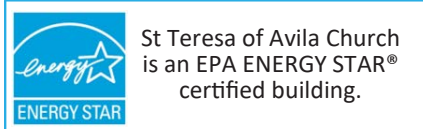
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▲ This year celebrates the 100th anniversary of St. Teresa's Church moving from 19th and Tennessee streets to 19th and Connecticut streets. As its parishioners relocated from the increasingly industrialized neighborhoods of Irish Hill and what's now known as 'Dogpatch' to Potrero Hill, the church followed, signaling the Hill's emergence as a neighborhood. Here, the large congregation poses in front of the church after a procession through the community celebrating the 1932 Feast Day of St. Vincenza. A movie of the march can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qkVNh6kevo>. PHOTO: Courtesy Potrero Hill Archives Project

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GETTING INVOLVED

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 Our **Annual Meeting** will be on April 17 to announce our new board members and see what we're up to. Please visit greenbenefit.org/public-meetings for more details and to register for meeting notifications.

The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association | potreroboosters.org
 The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association informs, empowers and represents the residents of the Potrero on issues impacting our community in order to develop and maintain complete, vibrant neighborhoods. We're continuing to **meet via Zoom** on the last Tuesday of each month. Go to www.potreroboosters.org to learn more about how to join us!

The Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association | potrerodogpatch.com
 The Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association promotes and advocates for independent, locally owned businesses while actively supporting our neighborhood and our wonderful communities.

PREFund | prefund.org
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Starr King Open Space | StarrKingOpenSpace.org
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Potrero Hill Resident Interested in Sounds

BY MARK STEENSLAND

Andrew Roth fell in love with sound more than four decades ago, when he was eight years old. His doctor dad would drive him from their North-of-Market neighborhood to Tower Records, buying him cassette recordings of old radio programs like *Fibber McGee and Molly*, and Beatles LPs. The discovery of a reel-to-reel tape recorder two years later led to his first experiments with creating his own sonic worlds for friends and family within the darkness of blanket fort auditoriums, inspired by *Star Wars* and the Sausalito-based Antenna Theater shows his parents told him about.

Today, at age 51, Roth still plays with sound, albeit with state-of-the-art equipment housed in the studio he built inside the garage of his Connecticut Street home. He's lived in Potrero Hill since shortly after graduating from Oberlin College in 1995, when an

internship at Earwax Productions, an audio production company co-founded by longtime Hill resident Barney Jones, turned into a job, providing enough money to enable him to pay rent. He's proud to carry on the house's creative history. It previously was the location of post-production facility Video Arts. Before that the "Potrero Hill Mob" – Bill and Jodie Dawson, Lenny Anderson, Micky Ostler and Rose Marie Sicoli – launched what would become *The Potrero View*.

The tech surge emanating from Silicon Valley kept Roth busy with Earwax through the late-1990s. He created one of the first audio commercials to appear on the internet, for Sony's Magic Link, and designed the sound for Pixar's *Toy Story* CD Rom. The bursting of the dotcom bubble in the early-2000s shrunk his workload at Earwax to a trickle. Although opportunities emerged at other large companies, the summer he'd spent as

a teenage clerk at the Disney Store on Fisherman's Wharf convinced him he'd rather be his own boss.

In 2003, he formed "Roth Audio Design." He takes on a variety of projects, some less involved than others, such as editing dialogue for the online MasterClass series, work he describes

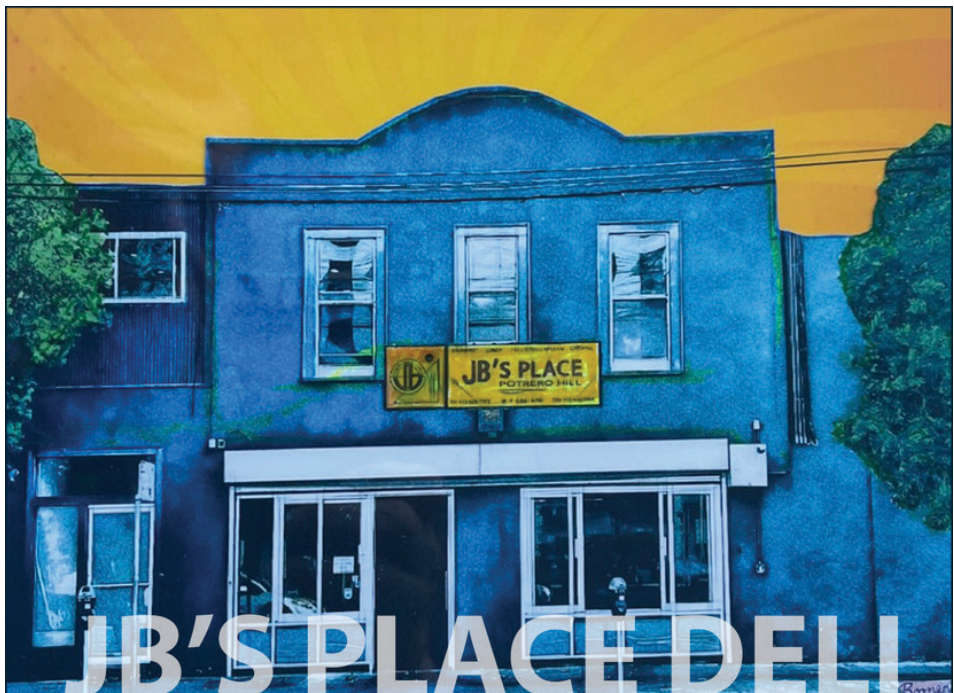
as "kind of like blacksmithing" because the mechanical aspect is more prominent than the artistic. Others, like the installation he created for Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney, Australia, can take more than a year to complete.

SOUNDS continues on page 20

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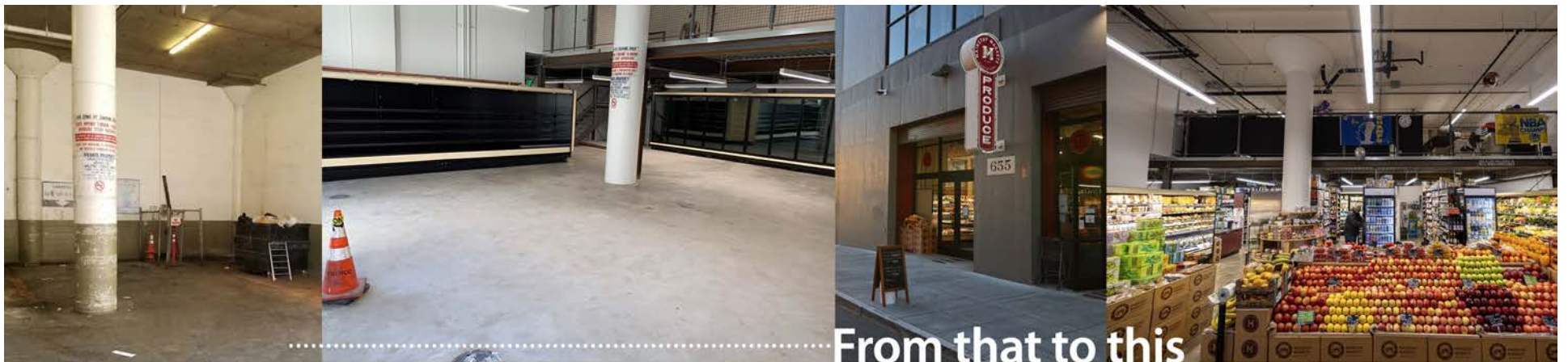
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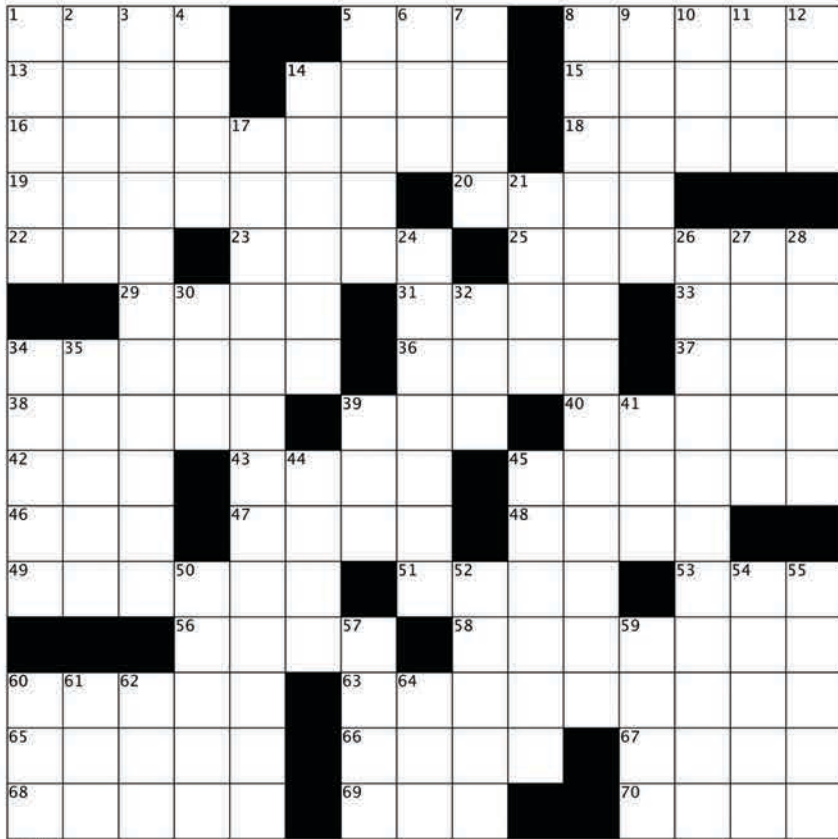
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Crosswords

THE HISTORY EDITION BY DENA WITKES



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ACROSS

1. Gulf of California peninsula
5. Bit of ink
8. Window sticker
13. El color del mar
14. 12 inches
15. Cohesion
16. Not in time to be useful
18. 58 ft. pole installed by the Cliff House in 1948, claimed to be to largest in the world at the time
19. Hare ___ (religious sect)
20. James who is credited with bringing Chiradelli to SF in 1848
22. Motorist org. since 1902
23. Mononymous Celtic vocalist
25. Bells of St. Ignatius Church
29. Pie à la ___
31. "Dracula" author Stoker
33. Rapsallion
34. Keyless
36. Covid-19, salingily
37. Poseidon's realm
38. "Is it too risky for me?"
39. First steel shipyard on West Coast org. (circa 1884)
40. Snooped (into)
42. Texter's "No way!"
43. ___ Stanley (Michelin-starred restaurant)
45. Upper level of corporate excess
46. Arthur of "Maude"
47. Yin's counterpart
48. Hendrix hairstyle
49. Diligent
51. ___ Grey tea
53. "The Gray Lady": Abbr.
56. Belly or back follower
58. Australian shrub with a fragrant oil
60. ___ Square named for its lone cottonwood tree (viewpoint for the Painted Ladies)
63. Some fund-raisers
65. Cow Palace event first held in November 1941
66. Culture medium
67. Play parts
68. Apt rhyme of "grasp"
69. "Help!"
70. Seller of MALM and meatballs

DOWN

1. Spongy cake found at Wise Sons
2. Hyundai sedan also known as Grandeur
3. The Nabe (and Hearst Castle) designer
4. Word of woe
5. Tomorrow, tomorrow
6. "You've got mail" co.
7. "Bye 4 now"
8. Dogpatch's original name
9. Mushroom at Moshi Moshi
10. Op. ___
11. Broke bread
12. One of the first Chinese families in Potrero Hill, who lived at 1243-5 Minnesota St. from 1870s-1953
14. Invasive species that grows wildly in SF
17. Ice cream parlor at 1401 18th St. circa 1978
21. Volunteer's offer
24. Make a long story short, say
26. Tiny island in the bay originally developed as a grain terminal
27. "Nice to ___ you" (as heard on a Zoom call)
28. One in a black suit
30. Half and half
32. Pedal alternative at Stowe Lake
34. Brick made by the Ohlone
35. Less risqué
39. Samovar
41. Chapel of ___ Lady (wedding venue in the Presidio)
44. Swear words?
45. Professional pursuit
50. Ray or Charles after whom a chair is named
52. Titan who held up the heavens
54. Broadway role for 46-across
55. Thompson of "Westworld"
57. SFO and OAK data
59. Farmhouse Kitchen cuisine
60. Rainbow shape
61. "u r 2 funny!"
62. Computing pioneer Lovelace
64. It may be inflated

Solution on page 18.



Streetcar tracks being installed at 18th and Connecticut streets on June 27, 1905. Today, Sunflower Vietnamese Restaurant occupies the building to the far left. PHOTO: Courtesy of SFMTA.com/Photos



Looking east over the 18th Street bridge on July 26, 1918. The Kneass Boatworks is straight ahead. The girders over the Bethlehem Shipyards inclined slipway ramp, now Crane Cove Park, are prominent. PHOTO: Courtesy of SFMTA.com/Photo



Looking west on 24th Street from Rhode Island Street on June 15, 1914. Cobble pavements on some roads helped horses gain footing on these steep and occasionally wet inclines. This 24th Street block between DeHaro and Rhode Island is the Hill's last such cobblestone street, on San Francisco's seventh steepest block. PHOTO: Courtesy of SFMTA.com/Photo



Looking northwest from Irish Hill at Illinois and 23rd streets on August 23, 1918. The Potrero Police Station, the 19th Street pedestrian bridge, and St. Teresa's Church, then at 19th and Tennessee streets, can be seen. The name 'Dogpatch' wouldn't be used for this neighborhood until the 1950s at the earliest, and then as a term of derision. The 'L'il Abner' comic strip by Al Capp took place in a rundown neighborhood named 'Dogpatch.' Until the 1950s, Dogpatch was simply part of The Potrero. PHOTO: Courtesy of SFMTA.com/Photo



▲ This 1869 map, hand drawn for San Francisco surveyor and chief civil engineer George F. Allardt, shows the salt marsh and tide lands — “beach and water lots” — auctioned by the Board of Tide Lands Commissioners. The public, developers, squatters — who preferred to be called ‘settlers’ — and railroads had their eyes on these lots, which became increasingly valuable, even underwater, as the city grew. ‘Water lots’, whose boundaries were marked by pilings, were sold before being filled in. Mission Bay ‘water lots’ were filled in overtime with sand and soil from leveled hills, garbage, and unsalvageable building materials and refuse from the 1906 Earthquake. The map shows Mission Creek’s original course, crossed by bridges at Potrero Avenue and Ninth Street, and at 16th and Treat streets. University of California, San Francisco and Kaiser campuses occupy these parcels today. IMAGE: Courtesy Potrero Hill Archives Project

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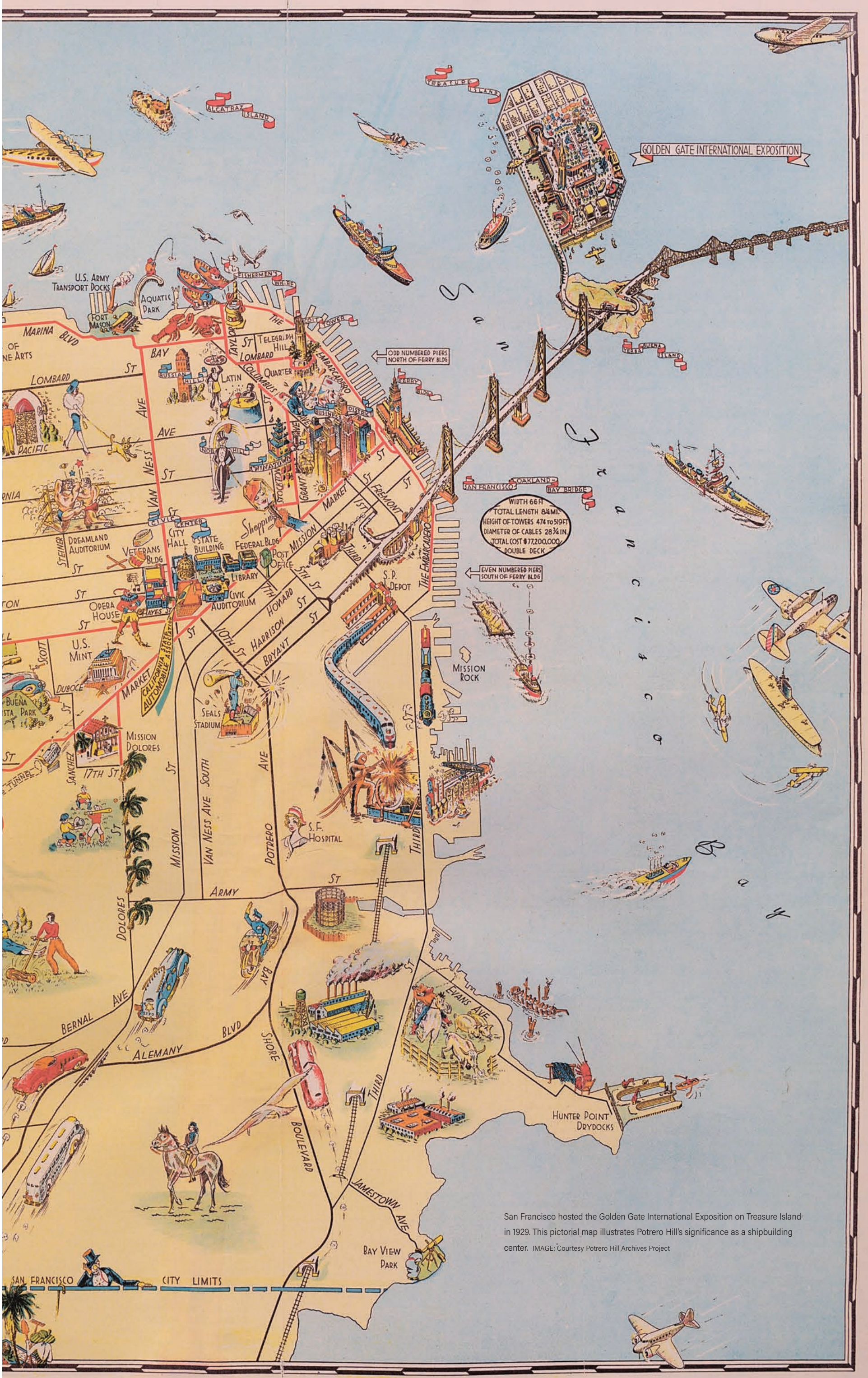
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San Francisco hosted the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island in 1929. This pictorial map illustrates Potrero Hill's significance as a shipbuilding center. IMAGE: Courtesy Potrero Hill Archives Project

Histor

an



▲ **THE RICHARD'S HOUSE, 301 PENNSYLVANIA AND BETHLEHEM SHIPBUILDING CORPORATION. HOSPITAL, 331 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE**

The Italianate Victorian at 301 Pennsylvania, at 18th Street, is one of Potrero Hill's oldest mansions, built in 1865 on a 13-acre tract owned by Captain Charles Adams. Captain Adams arrived at the Hill in the 1850s from the wealthy whaling capital of New Bedford, Massachusetts and built his larger house across the street in 1867. Both homes were among the first to feature what become San Francisco's iconic bay windows.

Clayton French Richards grew up as a Quaker in New Jersey and came to San Francisco with his family after graduating from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1861. He owned two drug stores and produced a line of patent medicines, Dr. Le Richau's Golden Pills, said to treat 'seminal weakness, night emissions, impotency, and all diseases arising from masturbation and excessive abuse.' Men and women were advised to 'avoid all undue excitement and lascivious thoughts. Abstain entirely from the use of stimulants and all richly spiced food; lie upon the right side on going to sleep. In case the parts are inflamed, bathe them in cold water before retiring.' The Pure Food and Drug Law of 1906 and creation of the Food and Drug Administration in 1930 dramatically reduced deceptive advertising used to market patent medicines.

In 1907, the Richards family leased their home for \$125 a month to Union Iron Works for use as a hospital. In 1916, UIW built a larger Renaissance Revival-style infirmary next door at 331 Pennsylvania, later owned by Bethlehem Shipbuilding before becoming Kaiser-Permanente's first full-service San Francisco hospital in 1948. In 2020 Larry and Sergio Nibbi converted this property into seven apartments with spectacular bay views. The brothers' father, Marino Nibbi, started his eponymous company in 1950 out of the basement of his Excelsior house. Under the tutelage of the third generation, Sergio's sons Bob and Michael, Nibbi Bros Associates has grown to more than 300 full-time employees.



▲ **THE POWER STATION A**

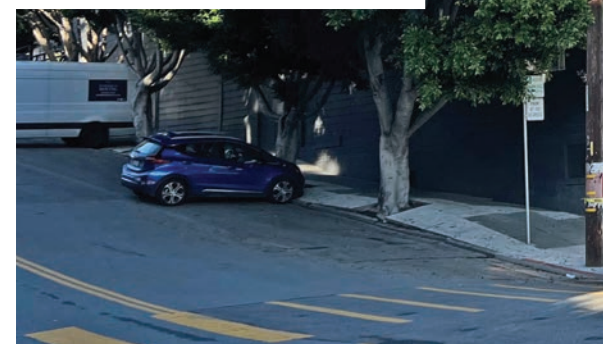
Station A, located at the eastern end of 23rd Street, was a concentration of heavy industrial buildings on Potrero Point which once formed a power plant that generated electricity for the nearby shipbuilding, sugar, rope and steel-making buildings. By 1905 it was part of plant mergers which formed Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Today, only the brick buildings are all that remains of the power station's brick buildings. It'll be repurposed by architecture firm SOM in addition on top, part of a 23-acre development that will include 2,600 housing units.

seven acres of open space to be demolished. Potrero Hill Archives Project



▲ **THE POTRERO NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE**

In the early 20th Century, Potrero Hill was home to immigrants from many different countries, including members of a Russian religious sect, the Molokkans, who escaped persecution in their homeland and settled here. A minister at the Olivet Presbyterian Church, located at 19th and Missouri streets, notified the San Francisco Presbytery of the Molokkans' need for assistance acclimating to life in America. They were offered classes in English and sewing at a small, rented space, which they quickly outgrew. In the early 1920's, the California Synodical Society acquired land on De Haro Street, just north of 22nd Street, to develop a community center. The one-story, Arts-and Crafts style building designed by Julia Morgan was finished in 1922, named the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, or Nabe. In 1924, to allow for construction of diagonal Southern Heights Boulevard, the edifice was moved 90 degrees. In 1930 space for a kindergarten was erected on a lot behind the main structure, at which children learned to cook, amongst other classes. In the early 1950's Rhoda Kellogg established an innovative pre-school at the Nabe, based on her research showing that kids from all cultures progress through the same developmental stages in their drawing, from scribbles to representational pictures. The school offered an abundant and varied supply of art materials for its students. In 1977, the Neighborhood House was granted 'Historic Landmark' status; the same year it hosted a performance by Stevie Wonder.



▲ **PIONEER SQUARE, 555 DE HARO STREET**

This imposing four-story wooden building with a courtyard and patios, was once a soap factory. James P. Dyer arrived in San Francisco with his family in 1850. He founded the New England Soap Company on Mason Street in 1855, which in the 19th Century was made from tallow salvaged from the city's slaughterhouses. In 1924 that huge building was moved two blocks to what is now Pioneer Square. Mr. Dyer was active in the Black community and represented the City at California's first Black community meeting.

Historic Buildings

and THEIR STORIES



was built between 1902 and 1905, and remodeled in 1930. It was part of the West Coast's most important industrial zone. Station A's turbines produced electricity for local businesses. Sugar baron Klaus Spreckels built Station A for his factory, but later sold it to the city, supplying most of San Francisco's power from 1902 to 1915. Station A was designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron as an office building with a sleek eight-story facade. It contains 1.6 million square feet of office, laboratory and retail space, and almost 1 million square feet of open space. All the historic brick buildings on the site were originally slated for demolition; Station A was saved in large measure due to the efforts of the Potrero Hill Preservation Society.



THE ROCK HOUSE Situated at the southeast corner of Utah and Mariposa streets, a few hundred feet from the 101 Freeway, perched high atop a 30-foot outcropping of serpentine rock, the 'Rock House,' built in 1911, is a three-story edifice at 2265 Mariposa Street with an unusual history. The 1921 San Francisco City Directories listed it as 'The Rock Club for Boys.' Mid-century last the building was acquired by San Francisco State College, today's San Francisco State University, whose campus at the time consisted of a collection of structures at Haight and Buchanan streets. It served for a decade as a men's dormitory. Known as "The Rock," it was the only campus-run residence for non-veterans, housing 25 to 30 men and a student supervisor. In 1960, the property was purchased by the Rudolph Schaeffer School of Design, originally named the Rudolph Schaeffer School of Rhythmo-Chromatic Design when it was founded in 1924. After losing the lease on the school's North Beach building, a medium told Schaeffer to locate on a hill with windows facing west. The Rock House fit the bill, but had been derelict for several years, with boarded up windows, and significant delayed maintenance. Schaeffer was an innovative gardener and flower arranger, often mixing flora and vegetables, both of which he grew on the huge sunny lot, into the same arrangement. His school occupied the site until it went out of business in 1984. The structure underwent 'live-work space' remodeling in 1987. In 2014, the property's 12,500 square feet lot with two buildings totaling 6,645 square feet sold for \$3.9 million. The main residence boasts a living room with 30-foot ceilings and panoramic city views.



THE SLOVENIAN HALL It's impossible to miss Slovenian Hall if you're driving on 101-North toward Downtown San Francisco; large black block letters across its upper edge boldly announce its presence. Established in 1927, originally known as 'the Slovenian Progressive Home,' it's supposed to create 'benefits and promote the education, culture, community, and welfare of the Slovenian people.' The Slovenes, a Southern Slavik people with a unique language, formed a small settlement near Vermont, Rhode Island and Kansas streets at the turn-of-the-last-century. After their Fell Street church was destroyed in the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, the community consolidated on Potrero Hill, affectionately calling it 'Carniolan Hill,' a reference to a historic region of Slovenia dating back to the Eighth Century. They purchased the hall, then a Pacific Gas and Electric Company substation, in 1924 for \$10,000, money raised by selling shares, undertaking the extensive remodeling themselves. Slovenian Hall served as a dance venue, library, cardroom, performance space, and dining place for grand Lenten meals featuring homemade blood sausage. Music is a significant part of Slovenian culture, viewed as a means of refinement of the human soul and has echoed through Slovenian Hall's plaster walls for decades; as part of wedding receptions, live concerts, children's plays, memorial celebrations, and art auctions. The Hall, a non-assuming two story building with hardwood floors and period details, consists of a large foyer, an even bigger kitchen, a bar room with original wooden features and mirrors, and a substantial area with a stage. Upon entering the building, one senses the thousands of others that have been there before, their laughter, conversations, and tears.



When building, presently named "Pioneer Square," an office complex with two stories. It was built by his family from New Bedford, Massachusetts during the height of the Gold Rush, but was forced to move to the Potrero, then the outskirts of town, because of the smell from butchering and cooking grease, smelt awful. His 17th Street plant looked like the one it stands today. Queen Lily Soap was produced there until the 1960s. It was the site of the California State Conventions of Colored Citizens, advocating for equal rights.

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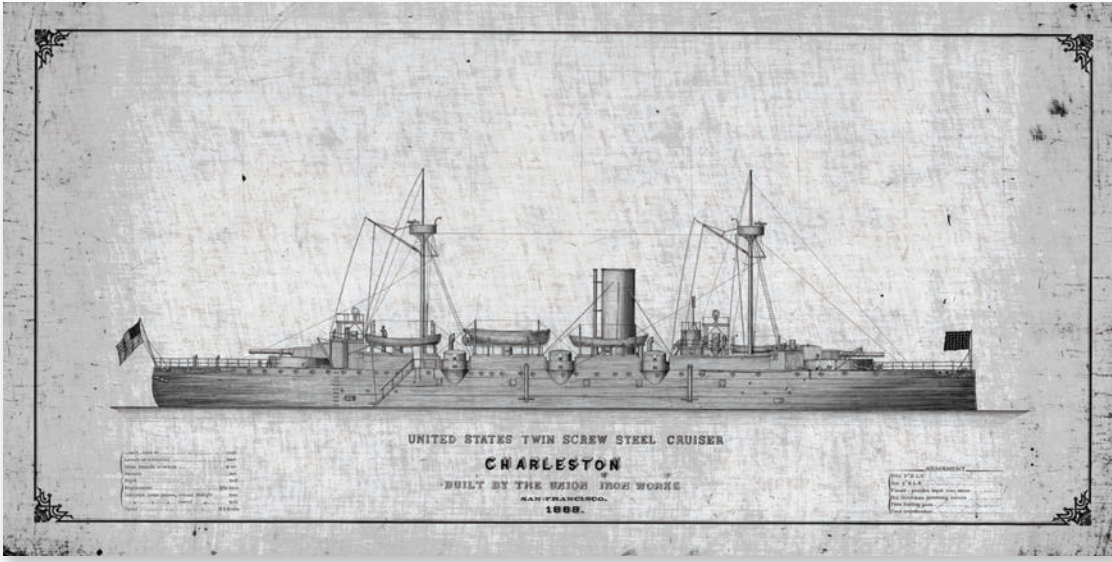
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◀ In 1886, the government awarded Union Iron Works the contract to build the armored cruiser Charleston, putting the West Coast in competition with East Coast shipbuilders. United Industrial Workers promised its members that government contracts would “distribute again in the channels of trade what the government has gathered from you in the shape of revenue and taxes.”

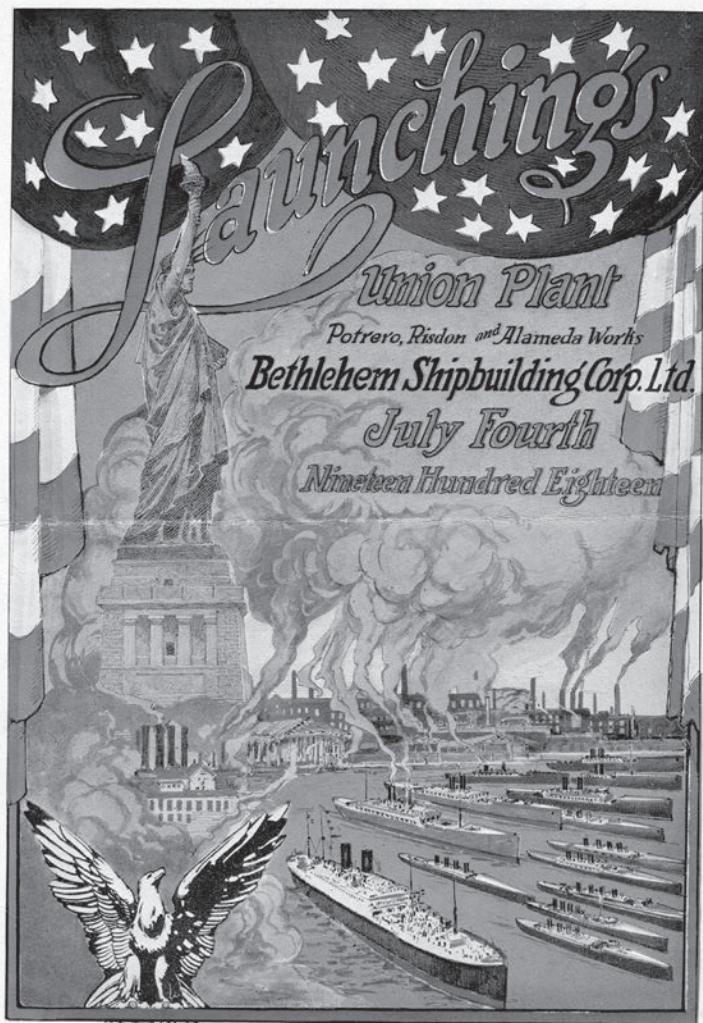
IMAGE: Courtesy Potrero Hill Archives Project



SHOPS AND SHIP YARD OF THE UNION IRON WORKS, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

▲ This illustration from an 1892 issue of *Scientific American* was captioned “This extensive iron and steel working establishment with its great facilities for the building of high-powered war ships covers an area of twenty-three acres in South San Francisco and on San Francisco Bay... It is believed the plant is fully equal to that of any other establishment in the United States.” The brick Union Iron Works building incorporated huge cranes, a European industrial innovation which streamlined production. Rail tracks were laid down 20th Street and into the machine shop, better facilitating movement of raw materials. The design was state-of-the-art, with beautiful arched windows atypical of manufacturing buildings of its day. Presently, residential and commercial redevelopment projects are underway at Pier 70 and the Power Station, which'll add open space and thousands of new residents to the area. IMAGE: Courtesy Potrero Hill Archives Project

COMMUNITY | APRIL



▲ On July 4, 1918 the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp. celebrated "the largest one-day launching and keel-laying program in the history of shipbuilding". Eight destroyers were launched from the bay shore of Potrero Hill. The Allies were about to lead an offensive against Germany which would lead to the end of WWI with the signing of an armistice in November. PHOTO: Courtesy Potrero Hill Archives Project



▲ Tubbs Cordage Manufactory was established in 1856 on land roughly bounded by Iowa, Kentucky (Third), 22nd, and 23rd streets. In its 1,000-foot-long building, the ropewalk, Tubbs produced the first cord manufactured west of New England, a product vital to shipbuilding. Tubbs manufactured rope well into the 20th Century, making the net hung under workers who built the Golden Gate Bridge. The ropewalk site is a narrow park today commemorating Tubbs' history. PHOTO: Courtesy Potrero Hill Archives Project

Now through 4/7 Sunday
Art: The 63rd Annual Potrero Hill Art Exhibition

Open to anyone who lives, learns, works, and/or worships in Potrero Hill or Dogpatch. The first 50 artists to submit are guaranteed a spot in the show. Entry form is available at the Potrero Library, 1616 20th Street, by emailing potmgr@sfppl.org, or at <https://bit.ly/3TJUK5U>



Now through 4/20 Saturday
Community: "Heart Your Parks"

An annual spring campaign that showcases San Francisco's parks and public spaces through art giveaways. Each Saturday will feature a screen-printed design by local artist Orlie Kapitulinik specific to the park where the event takes place, which attendees can receive for free, though a donation is appreciated. Live jazz music and free beverages provided by Guayaki. Crane Cove Park is 4/20. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3TlwCoC>

Now through 9/1 Sunday
Art: Group Exhibitions *Unruly Navigations*

The Museum of African Diaspora presents 22 works from ten international artists that trace historical, familial, and/or individual migrations, capturing trajectories across time and geographies. "*Unruly Navigations*" testifies to the urgent, disorderly, rebellious, and nonlinear movements of people, cultures, ideas, religions, and aesthetics that define diaspora..." according to Key Jo Lee, MoAD's Chief of Curatorial Affairs and Public Programs. Tickets: \$6 to \$15. The Museum of African Diaspora, 685 Mission Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4cqsgoM>

6 sat

Horticulture: Introduction to Organic Vegetable Gardening

Learn how to cultivate your garden, including ideal planting times, sowing techniques, soil preparation, irrigation, and challenges. The workshop will feature lectures, discussion, and hands on learning. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$30. Alemany Farm, 700 Alemany Boulevard. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3PuMwfm>

4/6 Saturday and 4/13 Saturday
Printing: Introduction to Photopolymer Plates

This two-day workshop will review a variety of relief and intaglio prints created with photopolymer plates, ideation for your project, demonstration of the double exposure technique utilizing an aquatint screen, exposing and printing. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuition: \$225. Materials: \$55. Graphic Arts Workshop, 2565 Third Street, #305. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3IJcLL7> To register,

please email instructor Mark Brodie at msbrodie@aol.com

4/12 Friday through 4/14 Sunday
Art: Open Studios

More than 100 artists will open their studios: painters, sculptures, photographers, fashion designers, and jewelers. Opening reception 4/12, 7 to 10 p.m. Open studios 4/13 Saturday and 4/14 Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. Free. Art Explosion Studios, 744 Alabama Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3x1Bpnl>

4/12 Friday through 5/4 Saturday
Theater: *Returning to Haifa*

Golden Thread Productions, the first American theatre company devoted to the Middle East, presents the West Coast premiere of *Returning to Haifa* by Ghassan Kanafani. Two families, one Palestinian, one Jewish, forced by history into an intimacy they didn't choose. In the wake of the 1967 Six-Day War, with the borders finally open after two decades, Said and Safiyya, a Palestinian couple, return to Haifa in search of a home they were forced to abandon during the *Nakba* in 1948. Are they ready for the encounter that awaits them upon their return? Tickets: \$30 to \$100; no one turned away for lack of funds. Golden Thread Productions, 1695 18th Street, #C101. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4927tF6>

14 sun

Film: Bay Area Indies Film Festival

New, progressive, short movies, written, directed and produced by independent San Francisco Bay Area filmmakers. Each flick will be followed by questions and answers with the filmmakers. 1 to 6 p.m. \$20. Delancey Street Foundation Theater, 600 Embarcadero. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3x2d15j>

21 sun

Art: Watercolor and Monoprint Workshop

This class explores watercolor and water-soluble drawing material techniques for printmaking. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuition: \$150. Materials fee: \$10. Prerequisite: basic knowledge of printmaking. Graphic Arts Workshop, 2565 Third Street, #305. For more information, contact Fran Valesco at fvalesco@gmail.com or visit <https://bit.ly/3PwbYks>

4/21 Sunday
Environment: San Francisco Earth Day Festival

Participate in hands-on activities and workshops on reducing waste, creating organic gardens, eating clean, and more. Enjoy multi-cultural music performances with a line-up of Psychedelic, Zydeco, Rock, and Global beats. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free. The New Farm, 10 Cargo Way. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3VuL7cm>



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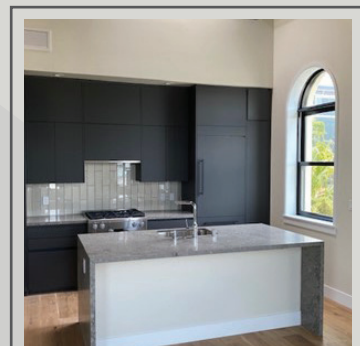
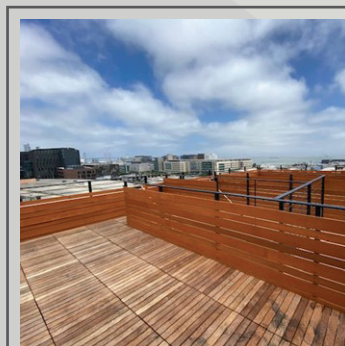
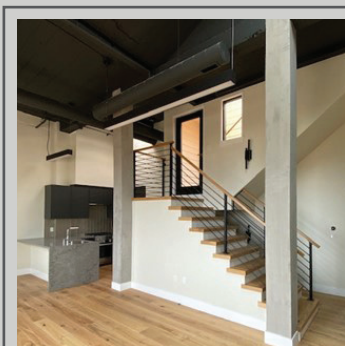


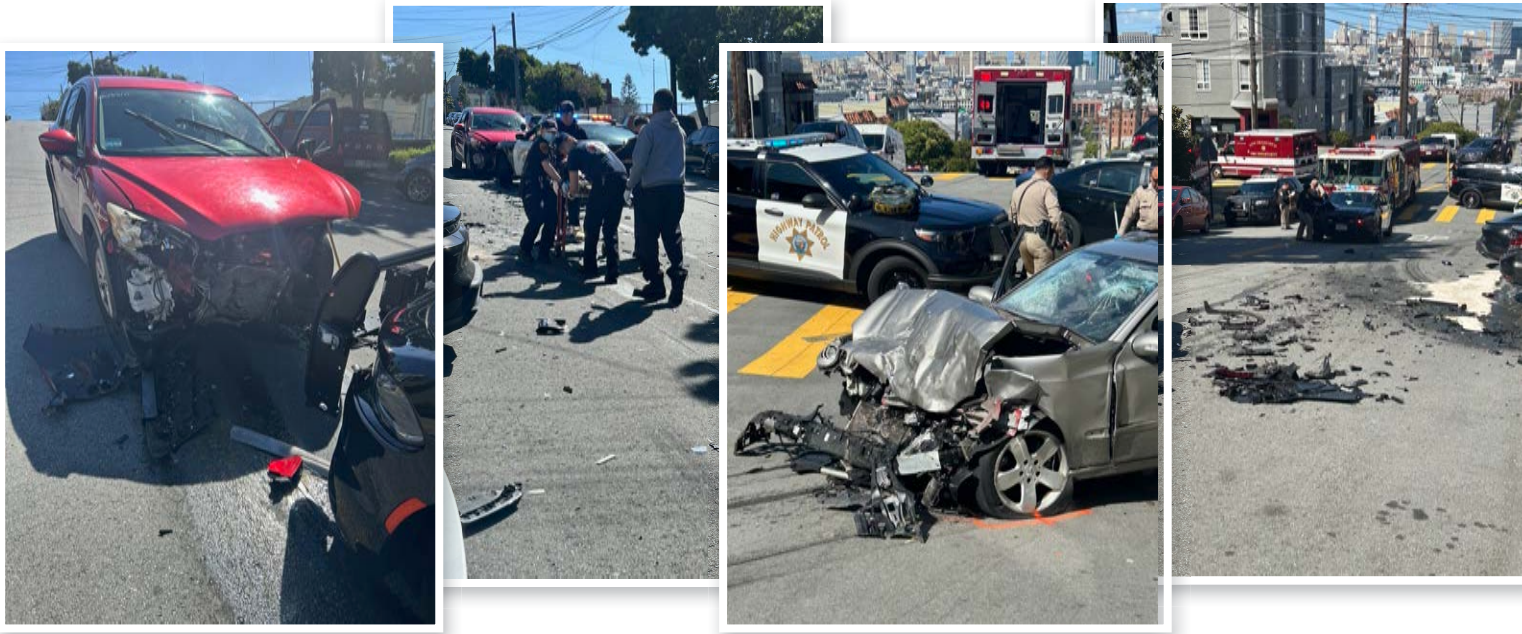
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A car chase ended badly last month on the 600 block of Kansas. A gray Mercedes was chased off the freeway at the Vermont Street exit by California Highway Patrol. The vehicle drove up Kansas, where it smashed into a red car, pushing it up the street. The Mercedes had weapons inside. The occupants crawled out but were immediately apprehended by CHP with guns drawn and placed on stretchers. The driver of the red car was placed in an ambulance and appeared coherent.
PHOTOS: Keith Goldstein

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We met a couple years ago at the Dogpatch Music festival. You told me about the Brazilian composer the band was playing, Nascimento. Your name might be Michael. I'd like to hear more. Please contact me. 415-648-1926. Thank you.

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STARRING POTRERO from front page

popular television series *The Streets of San Francisco* (1972-1977) which used Hill locations extensively throughout its duration. A few blocks — and decades — away, the home of Lena St. Clair (Lauren Tom) unhappily married to architect Harold (Michael Paul Chan) is at 610 Rhode Island, near 18th Street, in *The Joy Luck Club* (1993), Wayne Wang's film adaptation of Amy Tan's best-selling novel.

When the action in *Godzilla* (2014) shifts from Asia to San Francisco, Lieutenant Ford Brody (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) lives with his wife, Elle (Elizabeth Olsen), and their son on the 700 block of San Bruno Avenue. The apartment's interior is distinctly un-San Franciscan. That exterior shot is apparently the only actual City location presented in the film. Discrepancies like inauthentic BART signs, an "MTA" bus, and "Oakland Bay Area Park" corroborate the rumor that the San Francisco scenes were shot in Vancouver.

In Steven Soderbergh's prescient science fiction film *Contagion* (2011) conspiracy theorist Alan Krumwiede (Jude Law) wearing a hazmat suit wanders around the Hill and North Beach surveying steaming piles of trash, discarded clothing and recycle bins, scattered there by production designer Howard Cummings.

After mobster Johnny Ross (Pat Renella) and police officer Carl Stanton (Carl Reindel) are shot in *Bullitt* (1968), they're taken to San Francisco General Hospital, where actual doctors and nurses were used for verisimilitude. Many other films include scenes shot there, including *Fearless* (1993), *Time After Time* (1979) and *Nine Months* (1995).

In Don Siegel's *Dirty Harry* (1971), the Black doctor treating maverick police inspector Harry Callahan (Clint Eastwood) — who grew up on the Hill — reassures him, "It's okay. We Potrero

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Hill boys, we got to stick together." The second victim of Harry's nemesis Scorpio is discovered on a hillside lot at Texas and Sierra streets, where the Sierra Heights condominium complex is now. A motorcycle cop assassinates four municipal officials at the 18th Street offramp from Highway 280 in *Magnum Force* (1973), the second in the Dirty Harry series. And an extended remote-controlled car chase in *The Dead Pool* (1988), the fifth and final film in the sequence, features Harry and his partner Inspector Al Quan (Evan C. Kim) dangerously careening up and down our steep hills.

Anchor Brewing Company, 1705 Mariposa Street, stood in for a police station in *Venom: Let There Be Carnage* (2021). It wasn't the first time the late, lamented brewery was taken over by a production crew; in 1977 Arnold Schwarzenegger guest-starred there in an episode of *The Streets of San Francisco*.

Phil Kaufman's 1978 remake of Don Siegel's original 1956 *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* moves the action to San Francisco. One scene toward the end finds Matthew Bennell (Donald Sutherland) and Elizabeth Driscoll (Brooke Adams) realizing that an industrial warehouse is being used as a pod incubator. These scenes were filmed in Building 6 at the Pier 70 Historic Shipyard at the eastern end of 20th Street. Another industrial site: in Francis Ford Coppola's *The Conversation* (1974) surveillance expert Harry Caul's (Gene Hackman's) workshop was Suite 36 in the American Roofing Co. Building, 1616 - 16th Street.

A 2014 French commercial for Citroën C4 filmed on the Hill pays homage to *Bullitt* (1968) whose classic car chase was shot here, as well as in Russian Hill, North Beach, Bernal Heights, Daly City and McLaren Park. Other films with scenes shot on the Hill include *Freebie and the Bean* (1974), *Foul Play* (1978), *Chu Chu and the Philly Flash* (1981) *When a Man Loves*

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a Woman (1994), and Edtv (1999).

Peter Linenthal and Berry Minott's 23-minute compilation "*Potrero Hill & Dogpatch in the Movies, 1898 - 2000*" including four short films by Thomas Edison (1898) was first shown at the Potrero Hill Archives Project's Potrero Hill History Night in 2003, digitized by Mr. Wa: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXBGwYbjlBg>. And Mr. Wa has edited 52 minutes of Potrero Hill and Dogpatch scenes from 1972-1974 *The Streets of San Francisco*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYG1ThMHJ-w>.

SOUNDS from page 4

For these, Roth becomes an "audio archeologist," creating immersive environments built from sounds that're as historically accurate as possible, often recording antiques from the era, such as the horse-drawn streetcar he found in San Jose for a program on turn-of-the-century San Francisco.

The Hyde Park project included an audio program for the "hammock room," where patrons are transported 200 years back in time to experience what it was like to be a prisoner newly arrived from England. Roth finds these types of schemes especially satisfying because, unlike film and television work, he gets to see his audience respond in real time to what he's done.

"Except when it gets too convincing," he confessed, explaining that an earthquake re-creation he installed at the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park sent some patrons fleeing in fear that the

building really was collapsing around them. "They told me not to produce something like that again."

He hasn't, but the earthquake sounds found their way into a presentation he gave at Marin Country Day School for his daughter Samara's class; the younger audience enjoyed it immensely.

While much of his work is supposed to be invisible — well-edited dialogue shouldn't call attention to itself — some is intended to be more obvious, such as the sound design he did for the recently-closed Urban Putt, San Francisco's first indoor miniature golf facility, which reopened in San Jose, and the two CDs he's produced featuring natural noises from Costa Rica and Japan, both available in digital format on iTunes. The sounds in these collections often end up in the mixes of programs he's not working on because other designers license them from him.

Attending a party recently a guest told Roth that he'd had what seems like an interesting career.

"And that surprised me," he added, "because I've never thought of it that way. But after 20 years in business for myself, I guess it really is."

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Looking south in the early 1900s from Mission Bay towards Potrero Point where major manufacturing industries played significant roles in the national economy, as well as labor and military history. The Pacific Rolling Mills, founded in 1866 as the West's first iron and steel foundry, belches smoke at left. Cheap land, isolation from the populated, growing city to the north, and deep-water access made the site ideal for shipbuilding and other heavy industries: sugar refining, barrel making, and an electrical power station. U.I.W. battleships are on display here. Today, new neighborhoods are being developed at Pier 70 and the Potrero Power Station. IMAGE: Courtesy Potrero Hill Archives Project



Looking west on 17th Street at Carolina Street on October 11, 1909. Jackson Park's site to the left awaits development. The Queen Lily Soap factory building is prominent. The huge wooden industrial building was moved to 18th and Carolina streets in 1928, known today as Pioneer Square. PHOTO: Courtesy of SFMTA.com/Photo

THIRD STREET Phantom Coast

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▲ Alison Pebworth's map of the Phantom Coast was created in 2008 for *Groundscores* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and included in Rebecca Solnit's *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas*. Ms. Pebworth's original chart painted on canvas hangs in the Potrero Branch Library at 1616 20th Street. The map layers many histories, illustrating the pre-European shoreline, where it was filled in, the site of an ancient Native American village, Irish Hill, Tubbs Cordage, and more. IMAGE: Copyright Alison Pebworth, Used with Permission