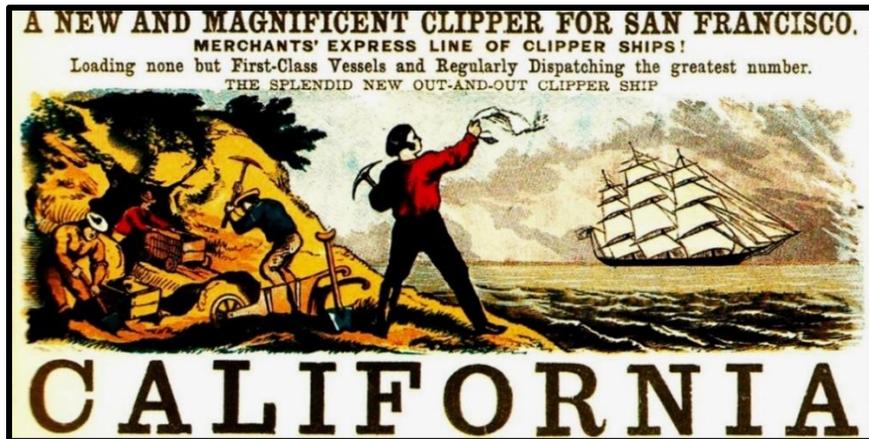


Signals from Telegraph Hill

January 2018

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Number 1

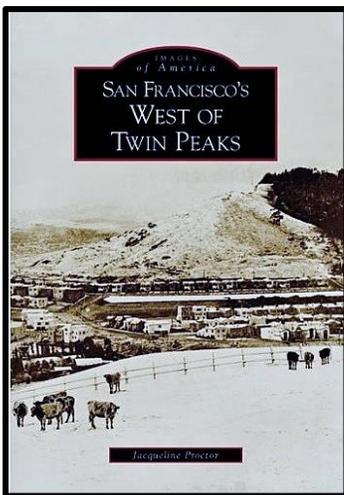


San Francisco Corral – Westerners International

WEBSITE: www.westernerssf.org

EMAIL: westernerssf@gmail.com

Please join us on Tuesday, January 23 at 5:30 p.m. for
San Francisco's West of Twin Peaks!



Originally part of Rancho San Miguel, the West of Twin Peaks District was among the last to be developed in San Francisco. Behrend Joost, using the fortune he made to start dredging the Panama Canal, built a railway in 1892 to bring people out to his “crème de la crème” Sunnyside subdivision next to the forest planted by Comstock Lode millionaire Adolph Sutro. After the streetcar tunnel was bored through Twin Peaks in 1918, A.S. Baldwin found gold in the neighborhoods he planned on Sutro’s estate around the City’s highest hill, Mount Davidson. With noted architects and engineers, he created “residential parks” with detached single-family homes on curvilinear landscaped boulevards. To these “suburbs in the city” in the heart of San Francisco — Sunnyside, Balboa Terrace, Ingleside Terrace, Westwood Park, Westwood Highlands, Monterey Heights, Mount Davidson Manor, Sherwood Forest, and Miraloma Park — came the grandchildren of the Gold Rush in pursuit of the American dream. Local historian Jacqueline Proctor offers a view of San Francisco’s development from its highest point. Home to some of the city’s most beautiful neighborhoods and influential citizens, this story of those who dared to dream is part of the tapestry that makes

San Francisco the city it is today. Books will be available for sale and signing!

Meeting Location: Fior d’Italia, 2237 Mason Street, San Francisco

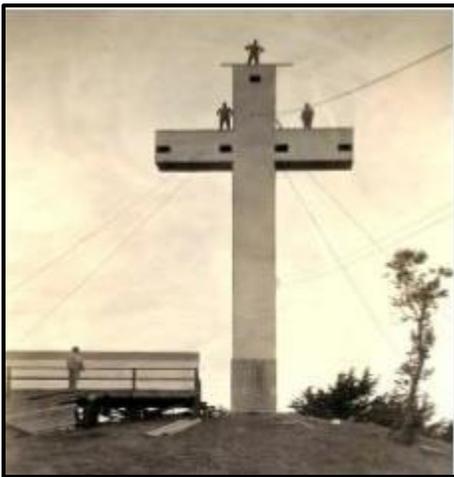
The restaurant provides us with a private room and **valet parking**. We gather at 5:30 and dinner seating begins at 6:15 p.m. A three-course selection is available and costs \$39.00. **RSVP:** Please send checks and dinner reservations by **January 20, 2017** to Judy Van Austen, KOC, 1789 Northwood Court, Oakland, CA 94611; or contact Judy to make arrangements. See final page for contact information.



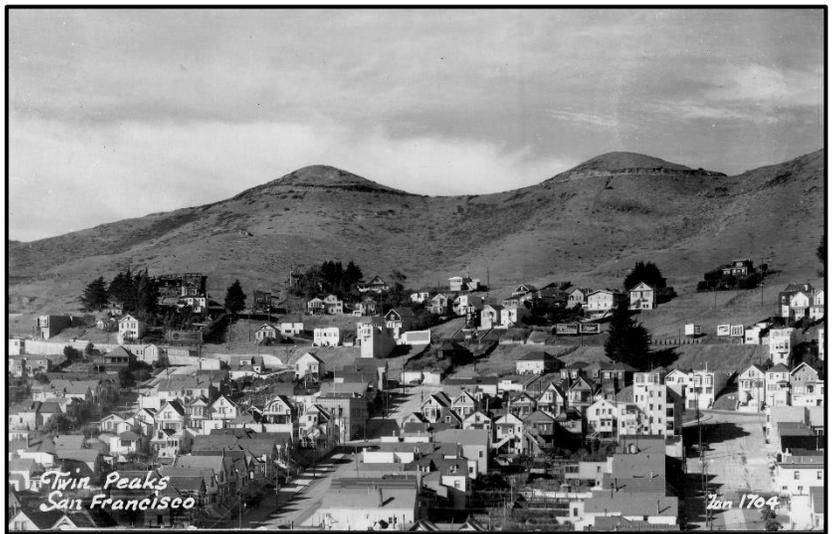
Round-up! Donations of books, ephemera and other Western-themed memorabilia are needed for our monthly raffle! Your donations will be much appreciated!

Mt. Davidson, at 938 feet, is the highest geographic point in San Francisco, and home to the Mt. Davidson Cross and the Annual Easter Sunrise Service. Named to honor George Davidson, noted scientist and incorruptible Chief of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey's Pacific Operations, Mt. Davidson Park provides a peaceful 38-acre oasis of public open space in the middle of the city. At its top, is a time capsule with a transcript of the title signed by the first Mexican Governor of California, Pio Pico, granting over 4000 acres of the city, including its highest hills, to Don Jose de Jesus Noe, the last Mexican Alcalde (mayor) of Yerba Buena. Noe was only the first of many of San Francisco's mayors who have been drawn to its highest point. Adolph Sutro, the 21st Mayor, purchased 1200 acres of Noe's Rancho San Miguel in 1881, and proceeded to plant thousands of trees on the western side of Mt. Davidson in order to create a healthy park environment for city dwellers to relax and rejuvenate in nature. After Sutro's death and the 1906 earthquake, developer A.S. Baldwin managed to get Sutro's will overturned so he could buy the land for housing in what he called the West of Twin Peaks District. Perhaps to

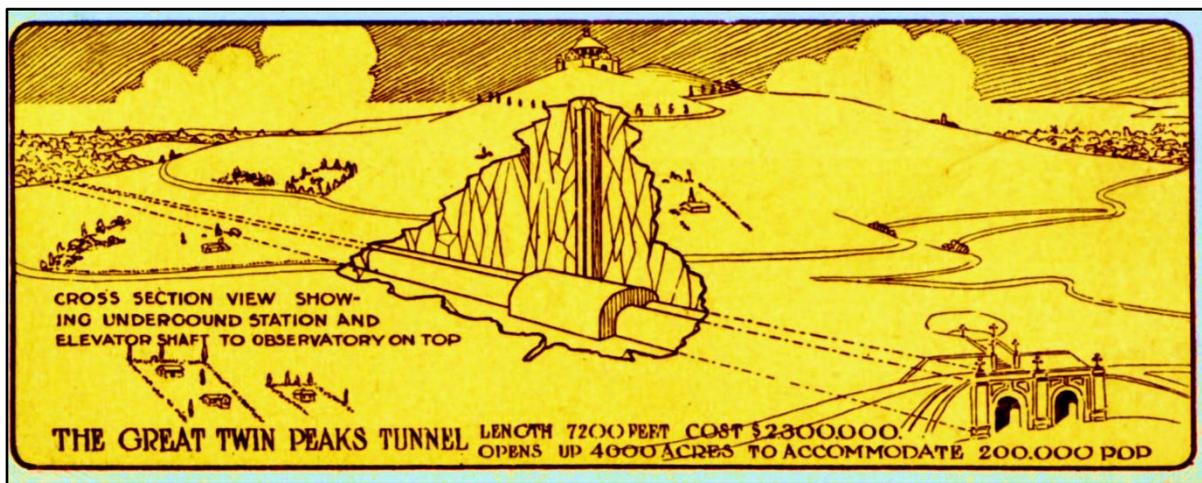
encourage home buyers out to the foggy windswept outside lands of western San Francisco, he invited the public to hike a trail he built to the top of Mt. Davidson. One of those hikers, YMCA Director George Decatur, was so inspired by the experience that he led an effort to organize an Easter sunrise event on Baldwin's land in 1923. With 5000 potential homebuyers and voters finding their way there before dawn, it became an annual event led by the local politicians. As hundreds of houses were being built up its slopes, a campaign was started in 1926 to preserve 20 acres of Sutro's forest at the summit as a city park. A permanent concrete cross was subsequently built in 1934 with fundraising by the area's homebuilders and first lit by President Franklin Roosevelt before a crowd of 50,000. Despite the continuing obscurity of this quiet and generally unknown part of San Francisco, the Depression-era cross starred in the first Dirty Harry movie, was subject to a second lawsuit before the California Supreme Court over public/private ownership in 1991, and on the local ballot in 1997. Learn what happened after and more in **Jacquie Proctor's** presentation on Twin Peaks on January 23rd.



Mt. Davidson cross under construction.
Jacqueline Proctor collection.



Postcard of Twin Peaks in the 1930s by "Zan"
(Alexander Stark of San Francisco)



Enlarged detail of postcard from the early 1910s showing plans for the Twin Peaks Tunnel, complete with an observatory on top.

Noteworthy Events

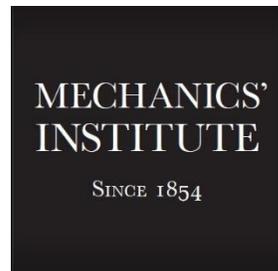


The San Francisco History Association – Tuesday, January 30. The History of the Anchor Brewing Company. Dave Burkhart tells the fascinating survival story of San Francisco's singular, iconic brew through compelling images of the brewers, brewing methods, beers, and neighborhoods that combine to make Anchor San Francisco's—and America's—first craft brewery. ***Note new location:* Newman Hall, Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California (at Webster).** Doors open at 7:00; program begins at 7:45. \$5.00 for non-members. www.sanfranciscohistory.org.



California Historical Society – Thursday, February 1, 6:00 p.m. Will the Real Emperor Norton Please Stand Up? Wine-and-beer reception at 6:00 p.m.; until 7:00 p.m., the California Historical Society will exhibit, in its North Baker Research Library, the Society's collection of rarely displayed Emperor Norton artifacts and ephemera, including one of the Emperor's walking sticks; a number of his imperial promissory notes; several of his telegrams; and many photographs and postcards of the Emperor. At 7:00 p.m., John Lumea, the founder and president of The Emperor's Bridge Campaign, will offer a lecture entitled, *Will the Real Emperor Norton Please Stand Up?* **678 Mission Street, San Francisco.** \$10.00 general admission; Members of the California Historical Society and the

Emperor's Bridge Campaign may enter free. Reservations strongly suggested. More information at californiahistoricalsociety.org.



The Mechanics' Institute – Wednesday, February 7 at 6:00 p.m. Emperor Norton's 200th Birthday Bash. Party like it's 1859! Grab some cake and a glass of bubbly to celebrate the 200th birthday of Joshua Abraham Norton, the San Francisco businessman who proclaimed himself Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico. The Mechanics' Institute was one of the Emperor's regular afternoon haunts: A place where he wrote many of his Proclamations — on Institute stationery — and where he is reputed to have played a mean game of chess. Attendees are encouraged to dress according to the San Francisco style during the period of the Emperor's reign: 1860s and 1870s. **Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post Street, San Francisco. Register at www.milibrary.org or by calling 415-393-0101.**



San Francisco Civil War Round Table – Thursday, January 18 at 6:00 p.m. Meg Groeling will talk about her new book, *Aftermath of Battle: Burying the Dead*, which focuses on clearing the battlefields after the destruction wrought by the Civil War. Submit menu choice by January 16th to Treasurer Norm Ishimoto, 1906 18th Ave, SF, 94116. Roast cross ribs of beef bordelaise, \$38; breast of chicken Marsala, \$35; vegetarian cheese ravioli with marinara sauce, \$32. **United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue (near Sloat).** More information at <https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoCivilWar>

RoundTable/. (You do not have to be a Facebook member to view the page.)



S. F. Westerners Posse: 2017

Sheriff:

Tom McLaughlin
McLaughlinThomas@msn.com

Trail Boss:

Ask how you can assist us here!

Registrar of Marks & Brands:

We also need help here!

Keeper of the Chips:

Judy Van Austen, (510) 339-1298
vanausten@att.net

International Rep.:

Gerhard Brostrom, (510) 524-5984
brost@earthlink.net

Marshal:

Bob Lawhon, (415) 519-3972
westernerssf@gmail.com

Inkslinger:

Kathryn Ayres (415) 583-9916
piscopunch@hotmail.com

Inkslingers Emeritus:

Tom McLaughlin; Richard F. Olson; Mary Lou Lyon, HM

Mark your calendar for the S.F. Corral of Westerners' meeting dates for 2018: January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, May outing (destination and date yet to be determined), June 26, September 25, October 23 and December 4. And a reminder that 2018 dues are due – \$35 for one person or \$40 for two people at the same address. A form was included in the December 2016 mailing. Send dues to: Judy Van Austen, KOC, 1789 Northwood Court, Oakland, CA 94611.



In order for you and your friends and organizations to continue to receive this publication, send us your email address.

Email: westernerssf@gmail.com



Bunny Gillespie

Born on the Fourth of July! And in Daly City! Bunny Gillespie (1926-2017), she of the perky disposition, has departed for the Golden Hills. Long time Westerners, she and husband Ken were Mr. and Mrs. Daly City. In 1987, the City Council appointed the pair City Historians, and they took that mandate to establish the Daly City History Museum. How did Daly City feel about this notable couple? With the Gillespies, we do not talk about single years, we talk in tens. On December 6, 2004, Mayor Sal Torres named them the "Mayor's Citizens of the Decade." We will miss Bunny, but the Gillespie spirit lives on through Westerners members daughter Perky Ramroth and husband Bill.