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MARINA TIMES

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Celebrating Our 24th Year!

July 2009

Free summer programs at Fort Mason Center

Fort Mason will present two months of free summer programs for the public from July 16 through Sept. 12. "Destination Fort Mason Center: A Waterfront Celebration of Art & Environment" has been designed to promote conversation about environmental issues.

Resident organizations, along with other Bay Area artists and organizations, will bring their work and talents to Fort Mason's conference facilities, theaters, galleries, meeting spaces, and open space for exhibits, performances, classes, and art installations.

"We believe community collaboration is an important aspect of maintaining a suitable environment," said Ann Lazarus, executive director of the Fort Mason Center.

The summer program schedule is not yet complete, so Fort Mason management suggests that anyone interested in participating check the Web site (www.fortmason.org) for the most up-to-date information.

On Saturdays (except Labor Day) from July 18 to Sept. 12, Fort Mason is offering the following free family activities:

- The San Francisco Circus Center's New Pickle Circus presents ensemble circus group Pi at 1:30 p.m. in the new outdoor

band shell between Building C and D.

- The San Francisco Children's Art Center will hold free drop-in classes titled "Fantastic Trash" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- S.C.R.A.P. family art classes will help you create weathervanes and pinwheels, birdhouses, hats, or imaginary gardens from 2 to 4 p.m.

- BATS Improv will bring improvisational theater to the outdoor band shell stage at 12:30 p.m.

- Little Bears Music Program will provide music and movement at 11 a.m.

Other activities presented Tuesday through Saturday, July 21 through Sept. 12 include:

- S F M O M A Artists Gallery will offer "Pipeline: Art Surfing and the

Ocean Environment."

- Fleet Room will host "Green Dimensions," an exhibit celebrating Bay Area artists and reclaimed material.

Free daily events include:

- PARKcycle, an on-site art project consisting of a moveable garden planted by San Francisco Community Gardens, from June 20 through Sept. 19.

- Destination Fort Mason Treasure Hunt, July 18 through Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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Fort Mason Center's summer band shell is made from recycled parts.

PHOTO: REBAR ART & DESIGN

Presidio's front door getting makeover

By the Presidio of San Francisco

By the end of the summer, the restoration of the gates at the Presidio's three historic entrances – the Lombard, Presidio, and Arguello Gates – will be complete. Crews began work on the Lombard Gate, the last of the three to be restored, in June.

Built in the late 1890s, the Presidio's "front door" is getting a substantial makeover. The Lombard Gate's four sandstone piers and adjacent walls are being restored, its cast iron and steel gates

and fences are being repaired, and two new light fixtures are being installed atop the gate's taller piers. The work, which is scheduled to be completed by August, is funded in part

by a grant from the S.H. Cowell Foundation. The Lombard Gate, like its sandstone sibling at the Arguello

entrance, has been battered by more than a century of San Francisco weather and other wear and tear, as well as the occasional wayward vehicle. In 1996, a truck dislodged one of the capstones from the Arguello Gate. Likewise, a concrete scar marks the spot where a car knocked out a section of the Lombard Gate's southern wall. As part of the restoration, that concrete patch will be replaced by sandstone.

For the painstaking task of recreating the intricate carvings on the gate's piers, the

Presidio Trust has again turned to master carver Oleg Lobykin who performed the restoration of the Arguello Gate last year, at one point using the Lombard Gate as a reference.

"The designs are the same," says Christina Wallace, architectural conservator for the Trust. "But the funny thing is the orientation of the stones is different. None of them face the same way – both from pier to pier and from gate to gate. There's not really any rhyme or reason to

how they were positioned and nobody knows exactly why."

However, as at the Arguello Gate, the "winged angel of victory" carved into the side of one of the capstones will have to be left unfinished.

"We still don't know what she's holding in her

hand," explains Wallace. "We never re-created it at the Arguello Gate and we won't re-create it here either, because we don't have any good evidence of what it looked like. If we are able to figure out what it is, then we'll have it resculpted."

Once the sandstone restoration is complete, the iron and steel gates will be reattached and the new light fixtures will be installed. The new fixtures are reproductions of the original globes from the 1930s, which are larger and more ornate than those most recently seen on the piers.



51st Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment marching through the Lombard gate on their way to Manila during the Spanish-American War, 1898.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE PRESIDIO TRUST ARCHIVES

Edward Bertaud 'Ned' Jones, a Marina original, dies at 94

By Louise Bea

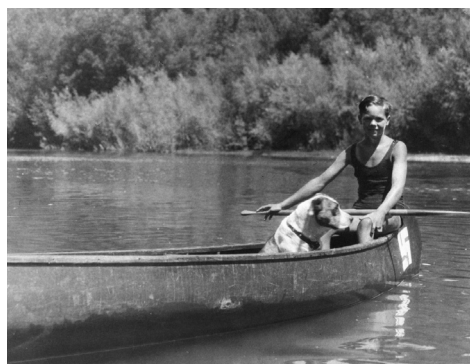
Edward Bertaud Jones died peacefully in his sleep on May 21, 2009 at the age of 94. The cause of death was old age.

Ned was born on Pierce Street at Green on March 15, 1915, the son of Leon Barrett Jones, originally from the midwestern United States, and Marie "Fifi" Bertaud de Crosset of Lyon, France. Ned was a graduate of Stanford University in engineering.

Ned grew up in the Marina District and lived here his entire life. As a youth, he would often go hunting for rabbits in the Presidio. He would walk up and down Chestnut Street with a friend, rifles slung over their backs. The merchants would ask, "What are you shooting today, boys?"

Shortly before his death, Ned disposed of his extensive collection of vintage guns. He picked up one of the guns, very small and decorative, and said, "This was my mother's gun for her purse." He also was in possession of two swords from the Civil War that had been passed down in his family.

In his early days, there was one police officer in the neighborhood who knew all the boys by name. Evidently, that wasn't enough to keep them out of mischief. The boys from the neighborhood all had very elaborate tree



Ned Jones as a young rower.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE JONES FAMILY

houses in the Presidio with roofs, windows, provisions for cooking, and supplies. One night, Ned's friends snuck into another tree house. By mistake, they turned over a kerosene lantern and burned down the tree house. They almost burned down the whole Presidio as well. After making a hasty retreat, they watched the conflagration from a neighboring hill and saw fire engines coming from every direction to put out the fire. From that time on, the Army prohibited tree houses.

Ned's comment about life back in the day was, "The Marina was wide open." He meant it in all senses of the word, but it was also true

literally. There were plenty of empty lots, and the boys often camped out instead of sleeping in their own beds at home.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church was around the corner from Ned's house. The church was surrounded by fields, since the houses had yet to be built. The priest, Father Martin Ryan, didn't want the boys to play there. If he saw them, he would gather up the skirts of his cassock and run after them, throwing rocks. If he caught them, he would lock them in the basement of the church and tell them he would call their parents. But after about an hour, he would let them go home.

Father Ryan was also concerned about the Sunday collection. He once installed a coin machine at the entrance of the church. If a child came in and dropped a penny, it would make the wrong sound. He would come running out from behind a pew where he was hiding and say, "Ned, I know your mother gave you a nickel, but you just put in a penny!"

Occasionally, pigeons would take roost in the spire of the church, which at that time was open to the church below. During mass, birds would fly around inside the sanctuary. Later, the priest would call the police officer to come with his shotgun. The priest would grab his

own shotgun, and the two would take their places, one on Green Street and the other on Steiner Street. First the priest would shoot and the pigeons would fly toward the officer. Then the officer would shoot and the pigeons would fly back toward Father Ryan. After a few more shots, the pigeons would get the picture. They would decamp and return another day.

Ned's love of engineering and the physical world did not start in Stanford's engineering department. It started in his workshop in the basement of his house. Here, Ned made model rockets, shortwave radios, tube radios, model steam engines, chemistry experiments, and other elaborate creations. He also made wine and spirits with his father during Prohibition. According to Ned, everybody did it. Sometimes the cask would blow up, but generally, decent wine and spirits resulted.

Occasionally, the radio reception would be interrupted in Ned's neighborhood. The neighbors inevitably would call Ned's mother and ask, "Fifi, is Ned doing something funny to the radio waves again?" Fifi would reply that she would have a word with Ned.

One day, Ned had a chemistry experiment blow off the back door of the house. Ned's

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