

The Waldo Grade: Highway Through the Hills

Presentation Slides

The slides that follow were those I used during my presentation at the Sausalito Library on January 25, 2019, sponsored by the Library and the Sausalito Historical Society. They are numbered in the lower right hand corner. I have prepared a separate Commentary about the contents of the slides that is keyed to those slide numbers. In addition, I have prepared a separate collection of “then and now” comparison photos related to my presentation. All of those documents will be available from the Sausalito Historical Society (<http://www.sausalitohistoricalsociety.com/>).

The presentation is organized as follows:

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Many people assisted with this project. I would like to thank at least a few of them, including Abbot Chambers, Sausalito’s City Librarian, without whose help and encouragement I would have never finished the project, Helen Blackmore, Shubhangi Kelekar, Michael Meloy and Kendra Stoll from the California Department of Transportation, Paul Penna, Parker Pringle, Dewey Livingston and all of the other avid local historicans from the Lost Marin Facebook group, Laurie Thompson and Lissa McKee of the Anne T. Kent California Room, and finally Michelle Kaufman and Marcie Miller of the Marin History Museum.

Mike Moyle

Sausalito - February 2019

THE WALDO GRADE

Highway Through the Hills

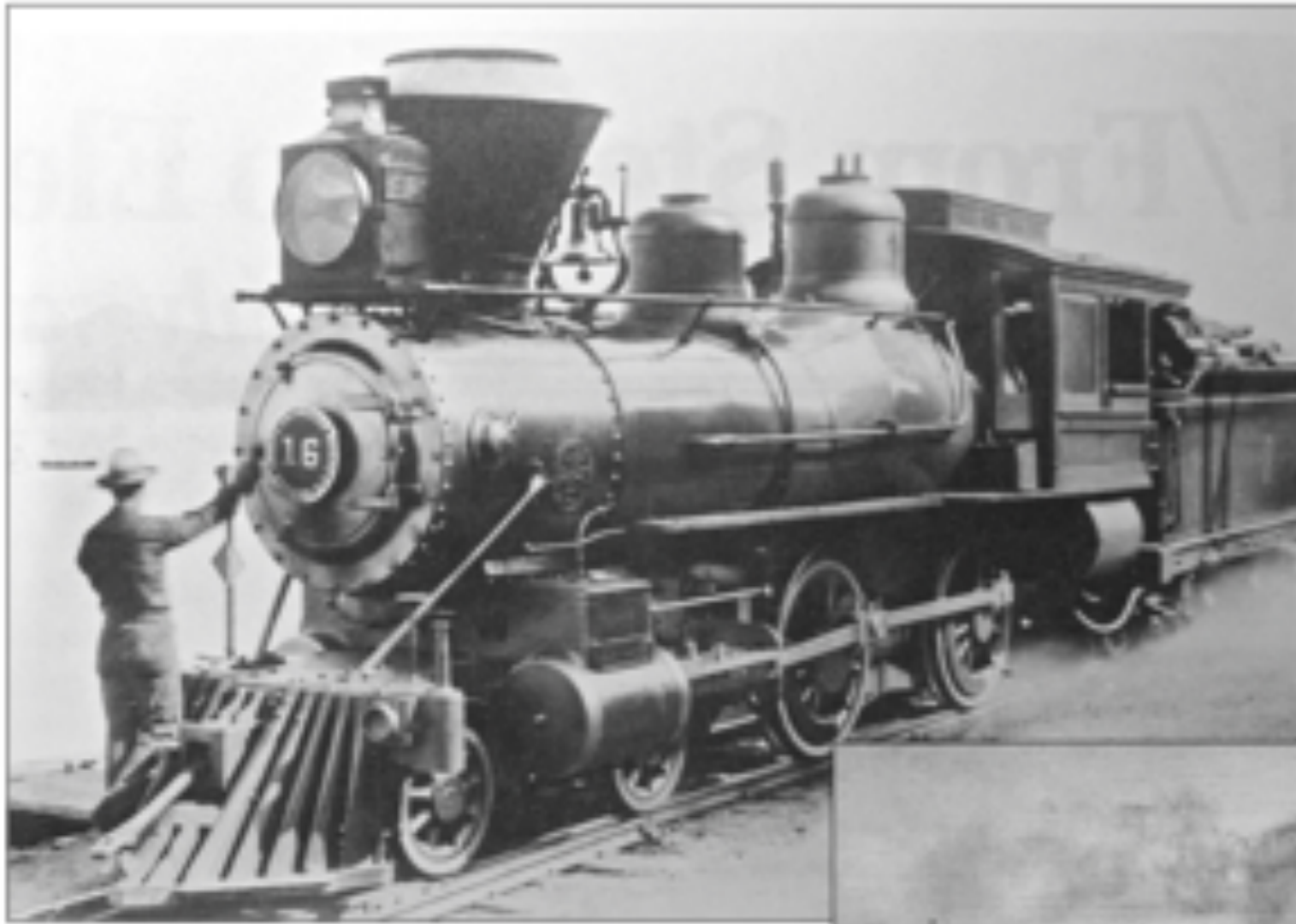
Mike Moyle
January 25, 2019



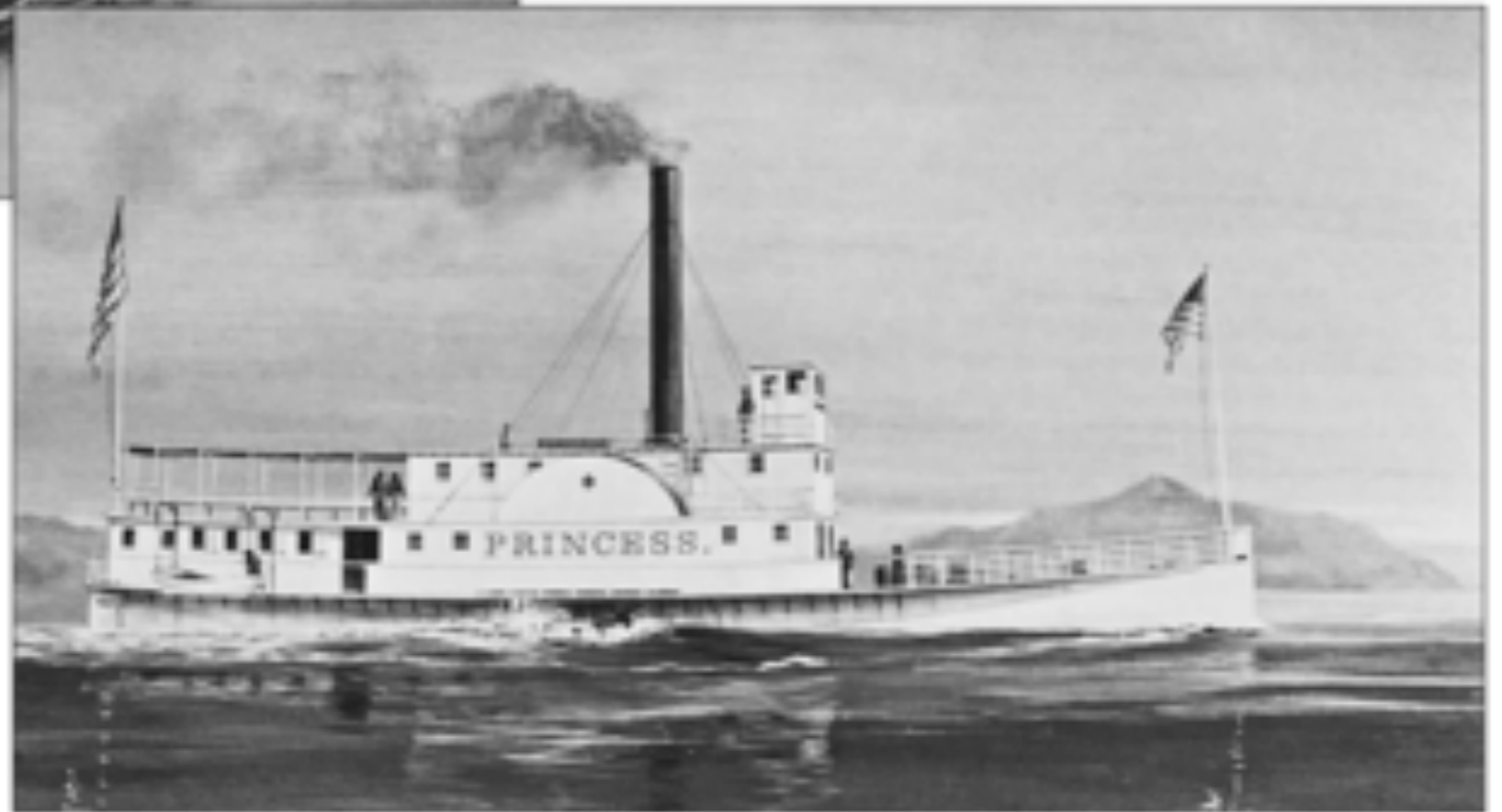
A lecture sponsored by the Sausalito Library and the Sausalito Historical Society



A Few Landmarks



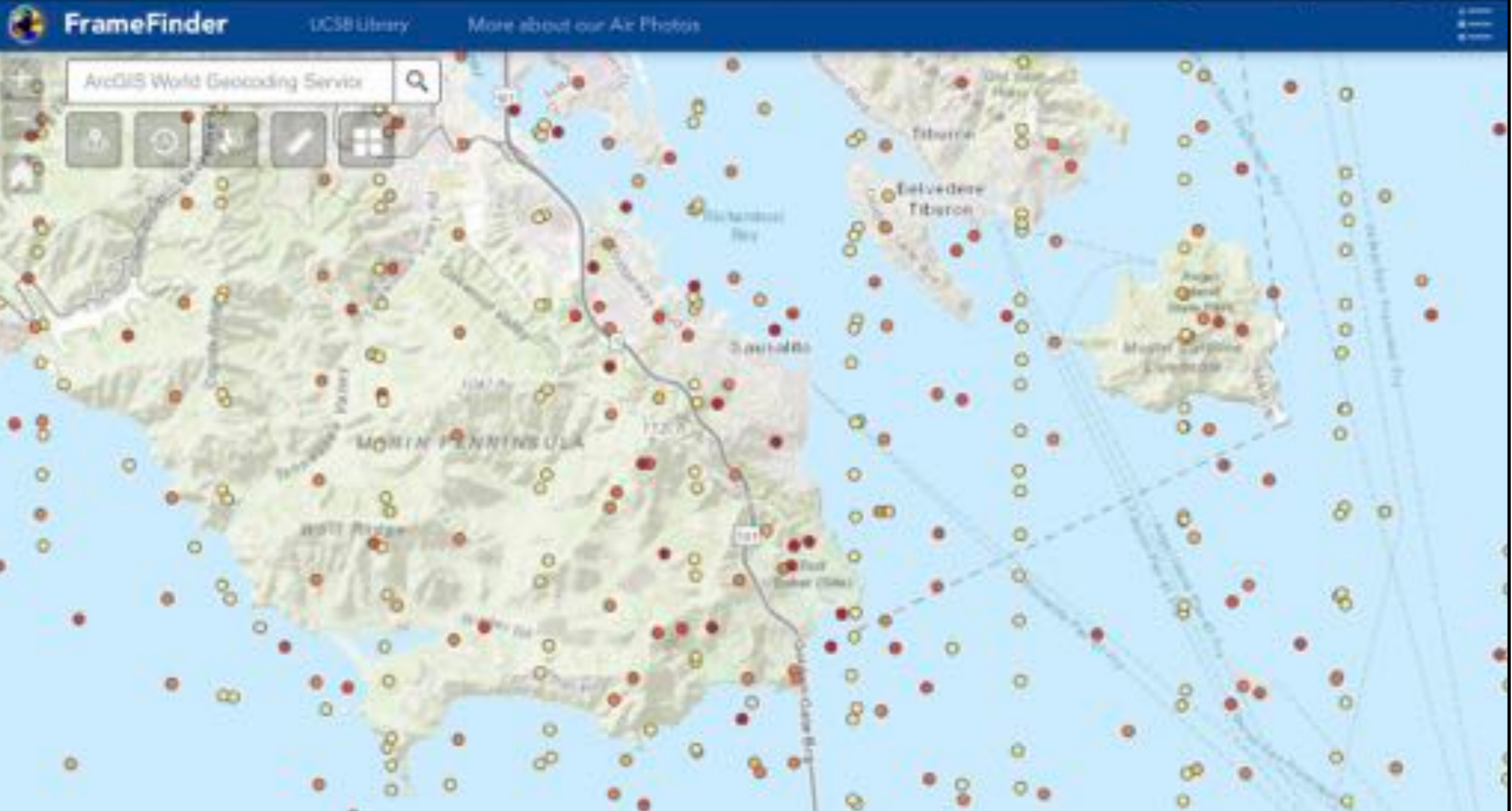
1868 – Ferry Service
1875 – Rail Service



Sausalito - Connecting Marin to San Francisco ₃

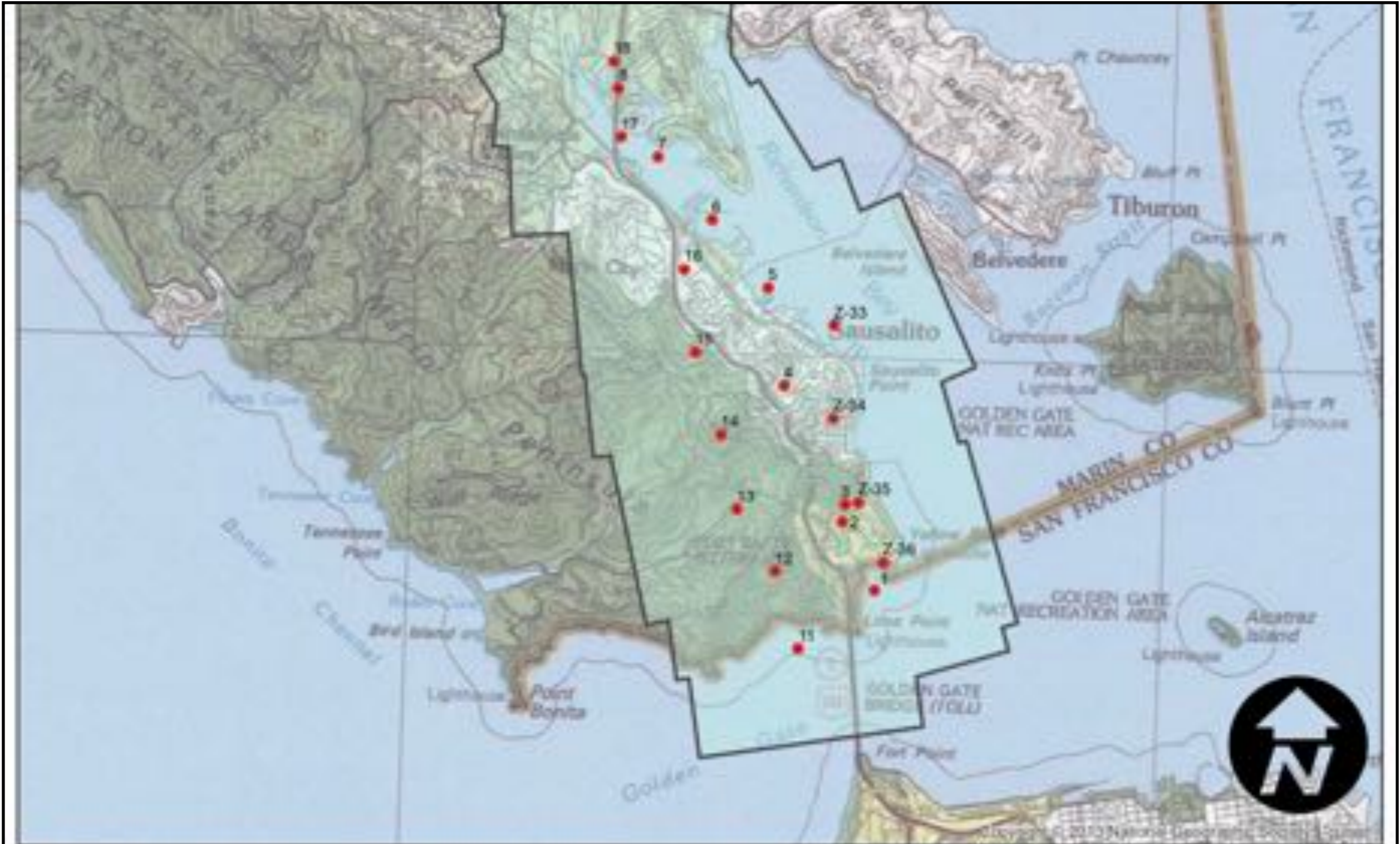
**A drive from
the ferry to
Waldo - 1931**

Collections: Aerial Photography



A great resource!

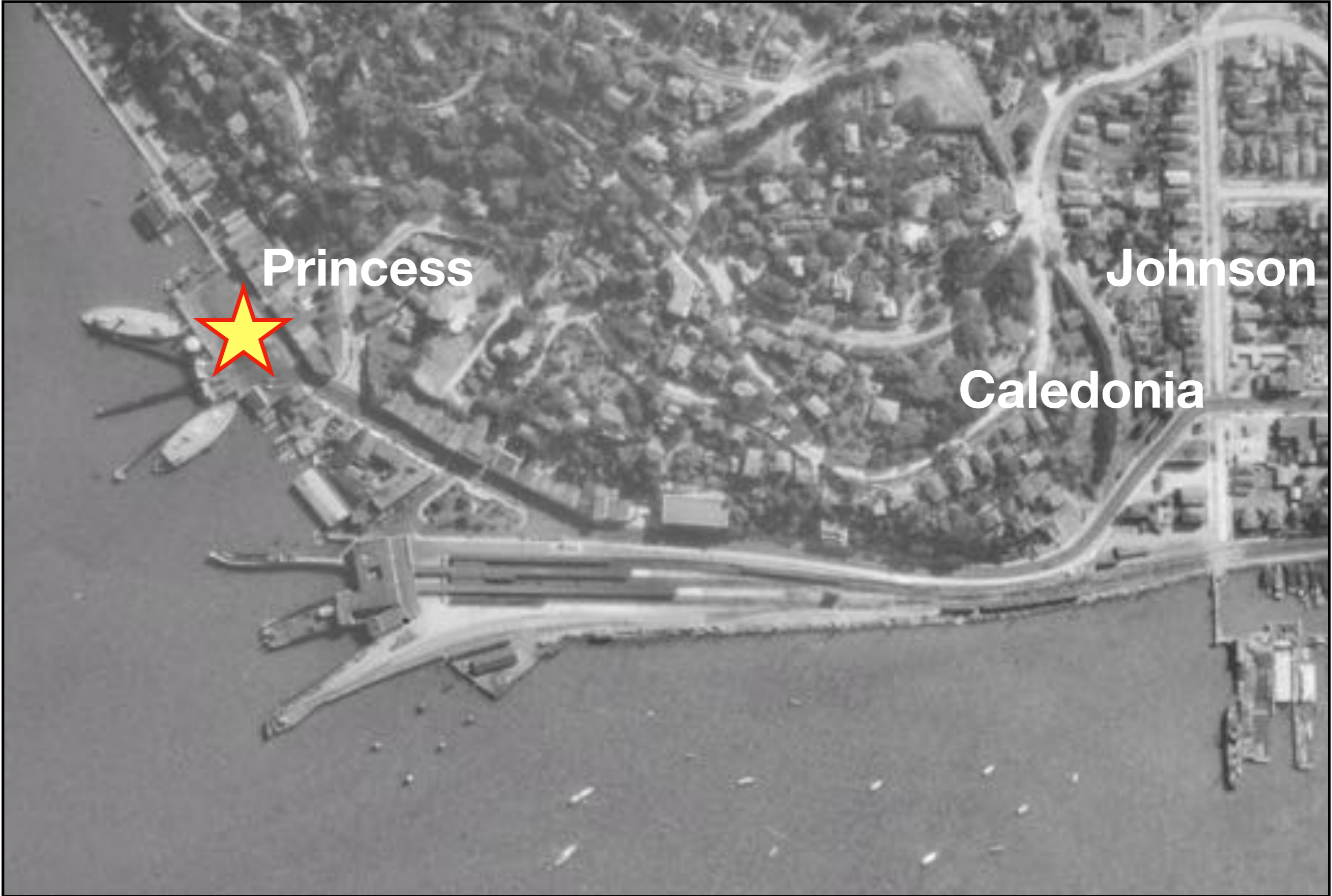
Flight C-1595 - May 19, 1931



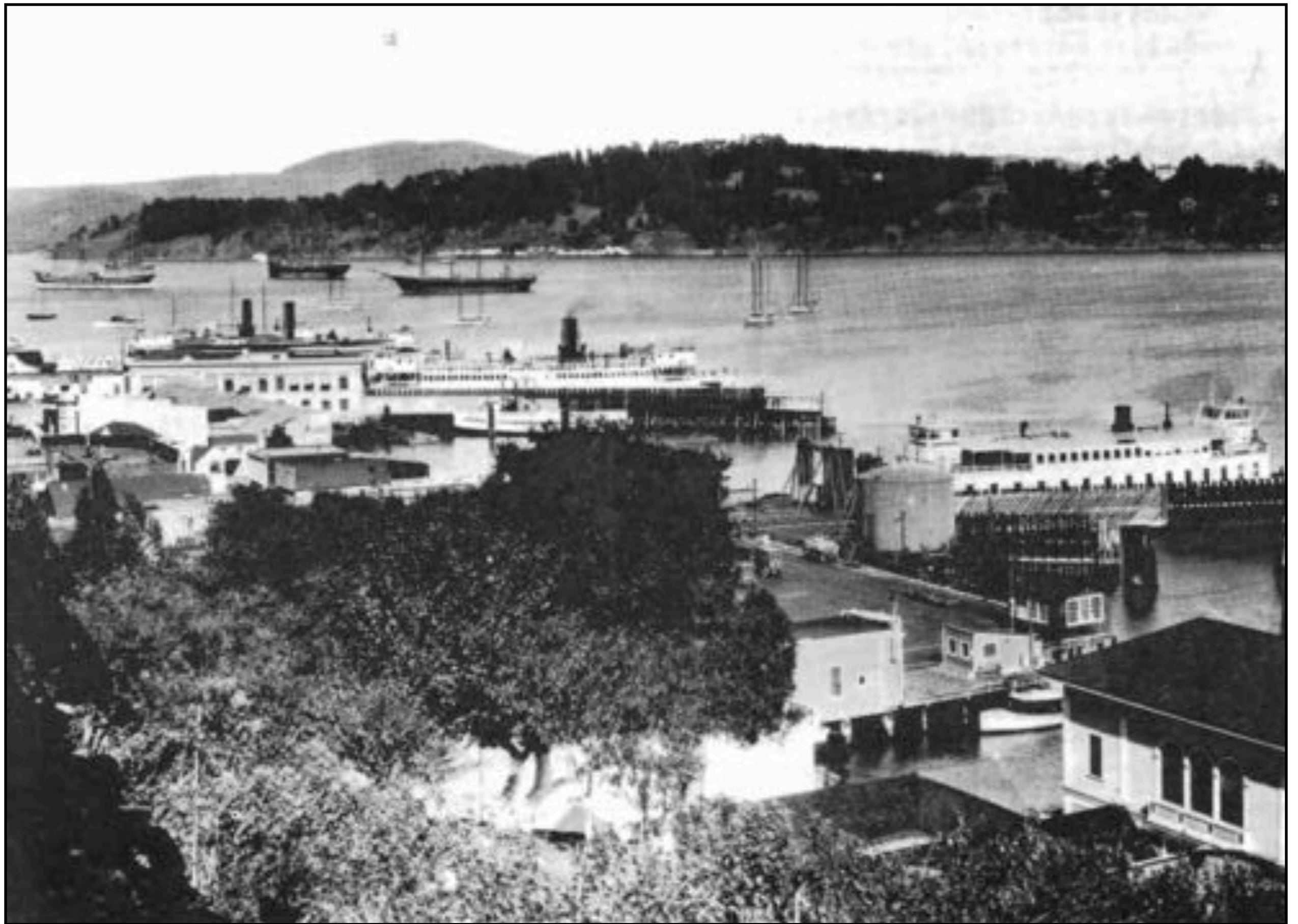
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Index to Aerial Photography
Page 1 of 1

Scale of this index: 1:75,000



Part 1 - From the Princess Street Pier to Caledonia





Disembarking at Sausalito

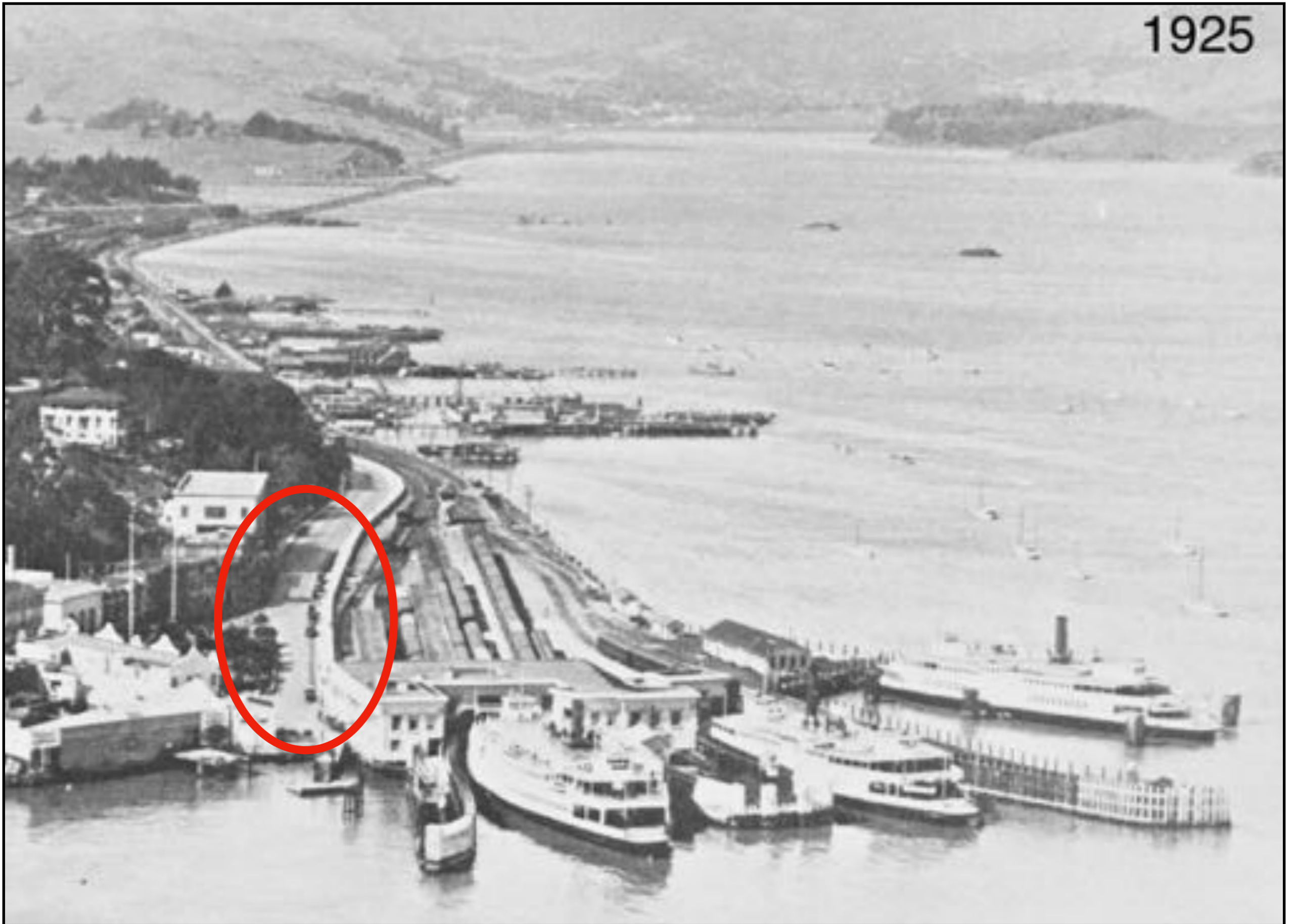


c1926



1931 Cadillac 370-A V12 Convertible Coupe

1925









Part 2 - Down Caledonia Street

1927

Johnson

Litho

Caledonia

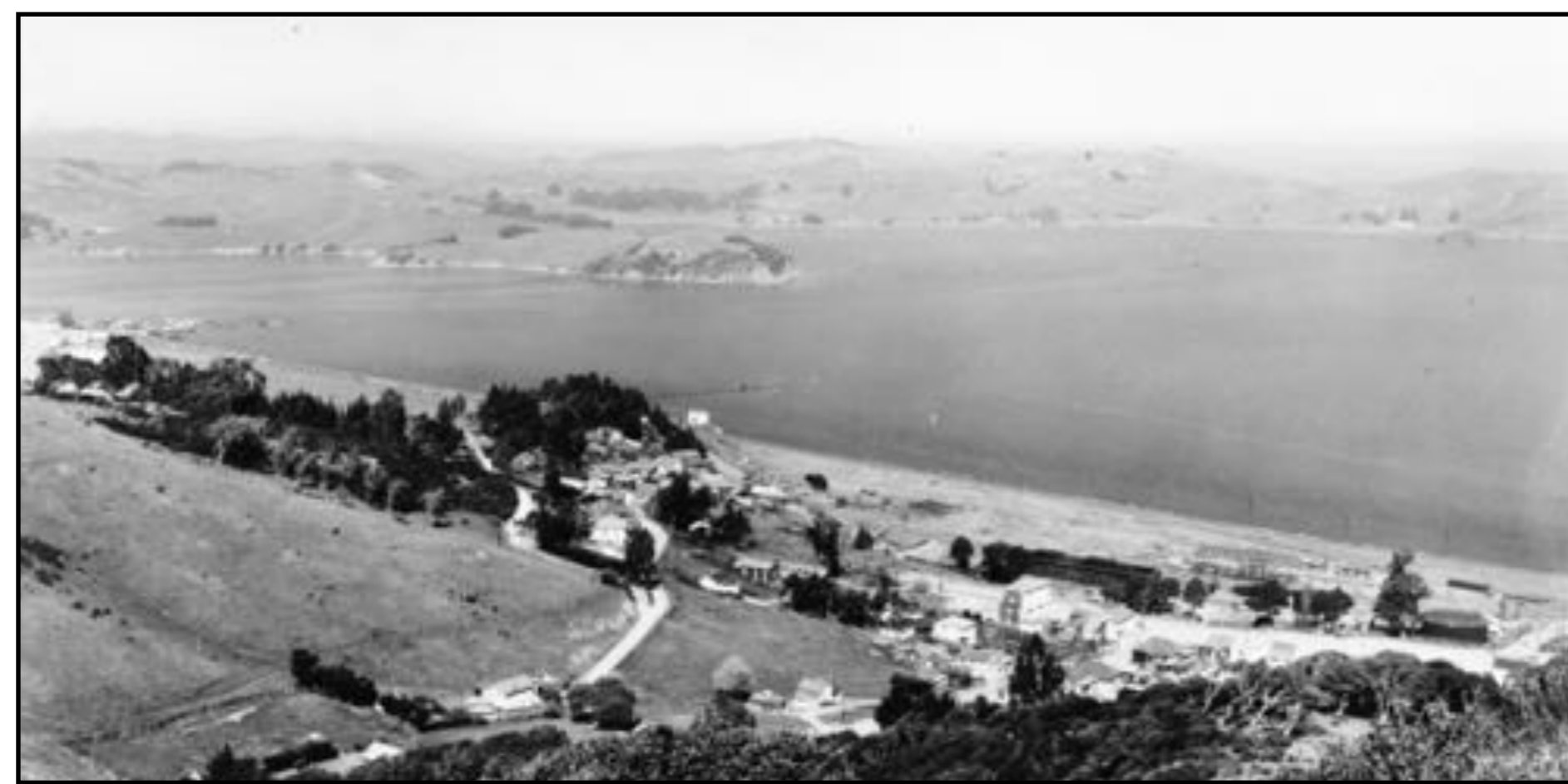




Part 3 - All the way to Waldo



NWPRR Maintenance Yard



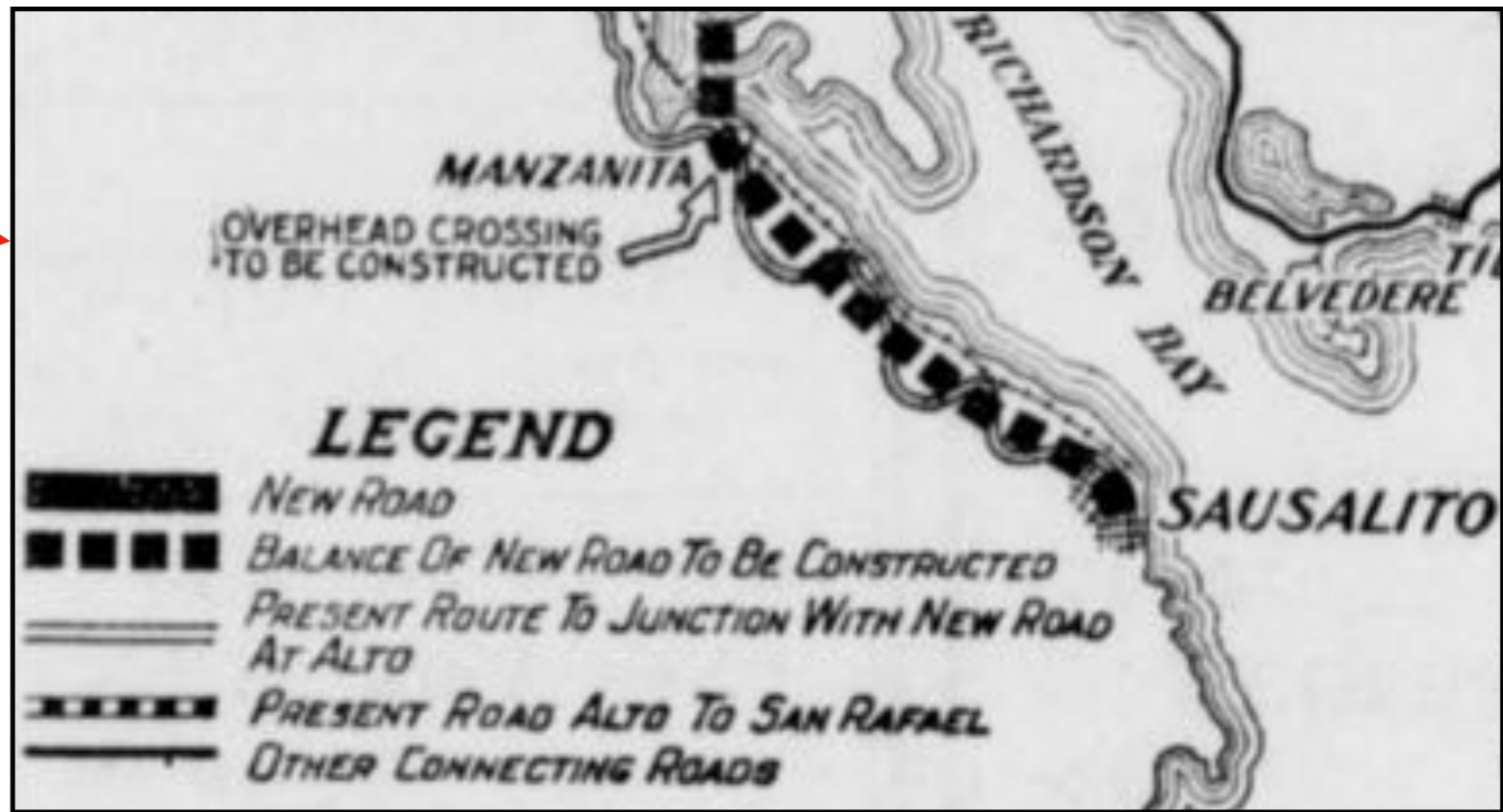
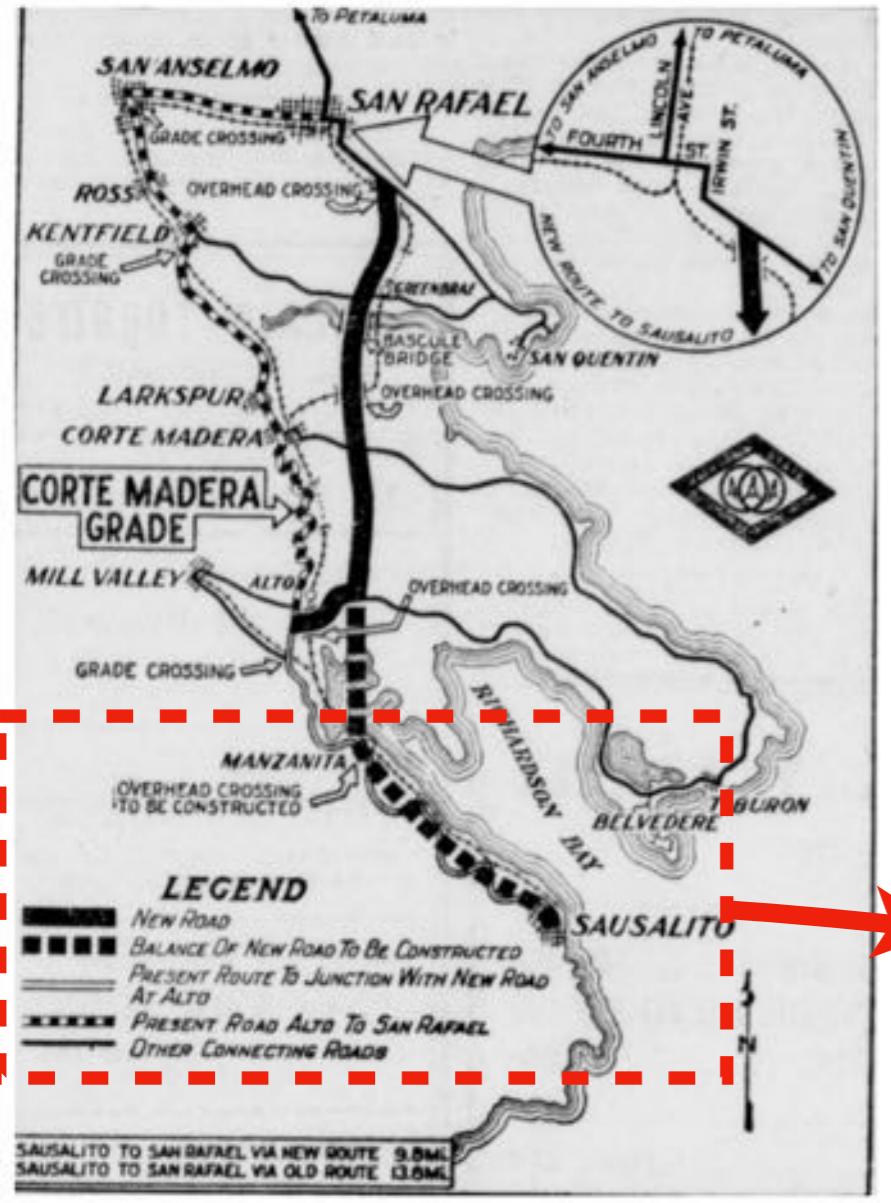
Pine Point



Past the distillery and marsh

**The State
Highway
Project - 1934**

Progress Made on New Road



The Redwood Highway



The Sausalito Segment - Waldo to Caledonia



Cutting Through Pine Point



Opening the new Caledonia to Napa segment



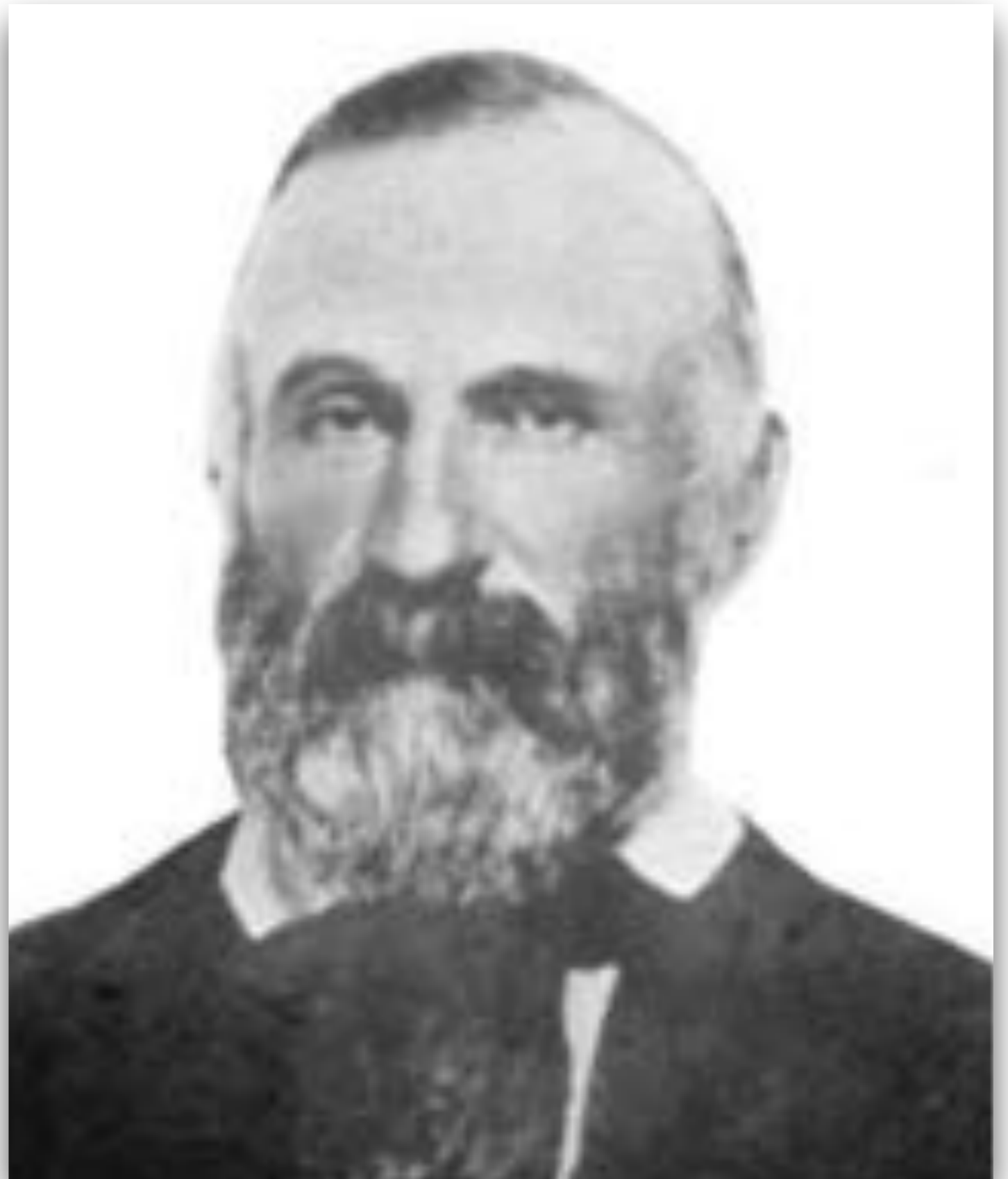
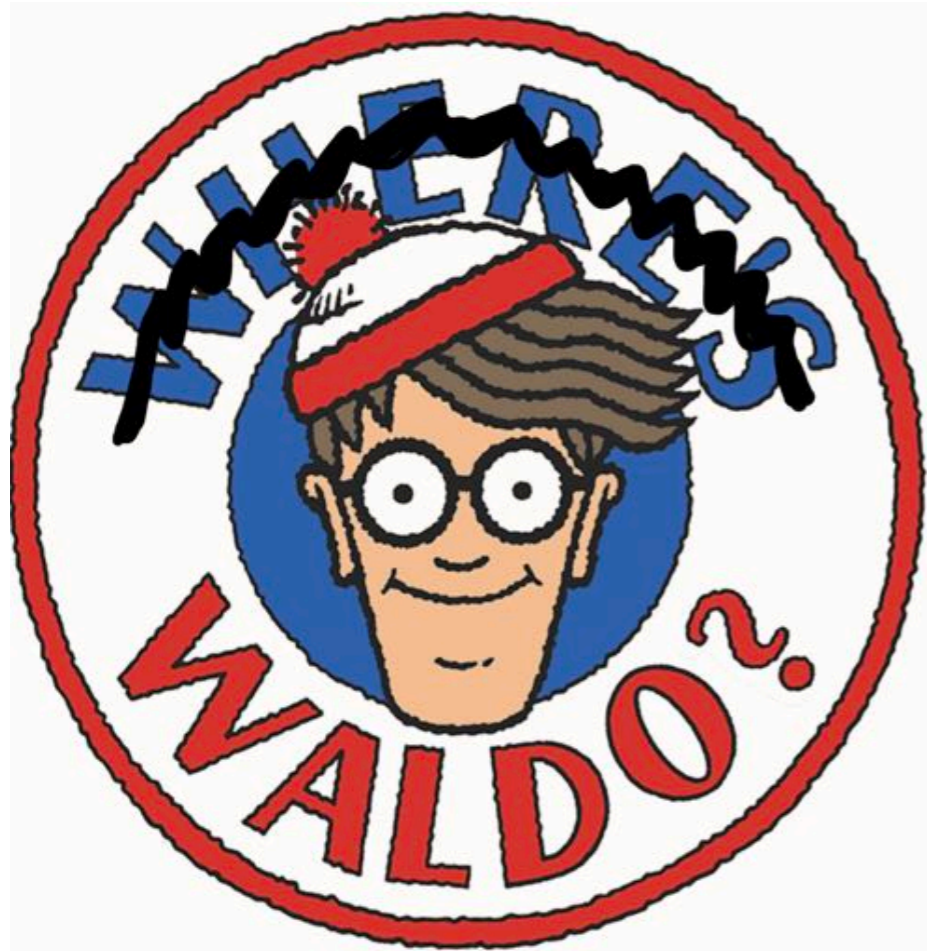
The Waldo

Grade -

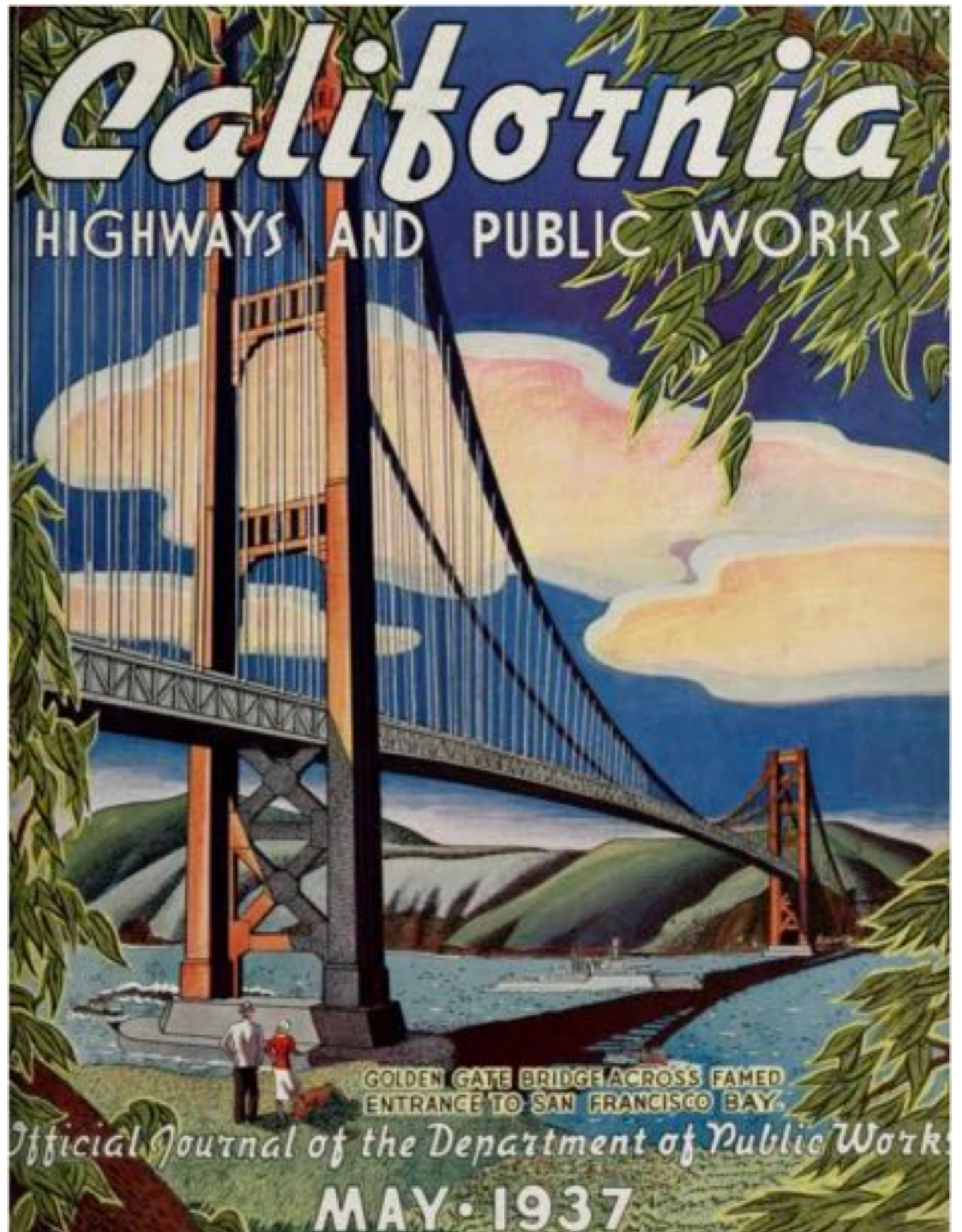
Phase One -

1936-37

WHO'S



Captain William Waldo





California Highways and Public Works online 1924 - 1967

Indexes

PDF: [Click \(or right click\) to download PDF file.](#)

Online viewing:

[Volume I: Index to California Highways and Public Works 1936-1967](#)

Select downloadable individual issues, 1924-1956

[Library Archives sitemap of CHPW pdf files.](#)

January 1924 – April 1924

PDF: [Click \(or right click\) to download PDF file: January 1924 | February 1924 | March 1924 | April 1924](#)

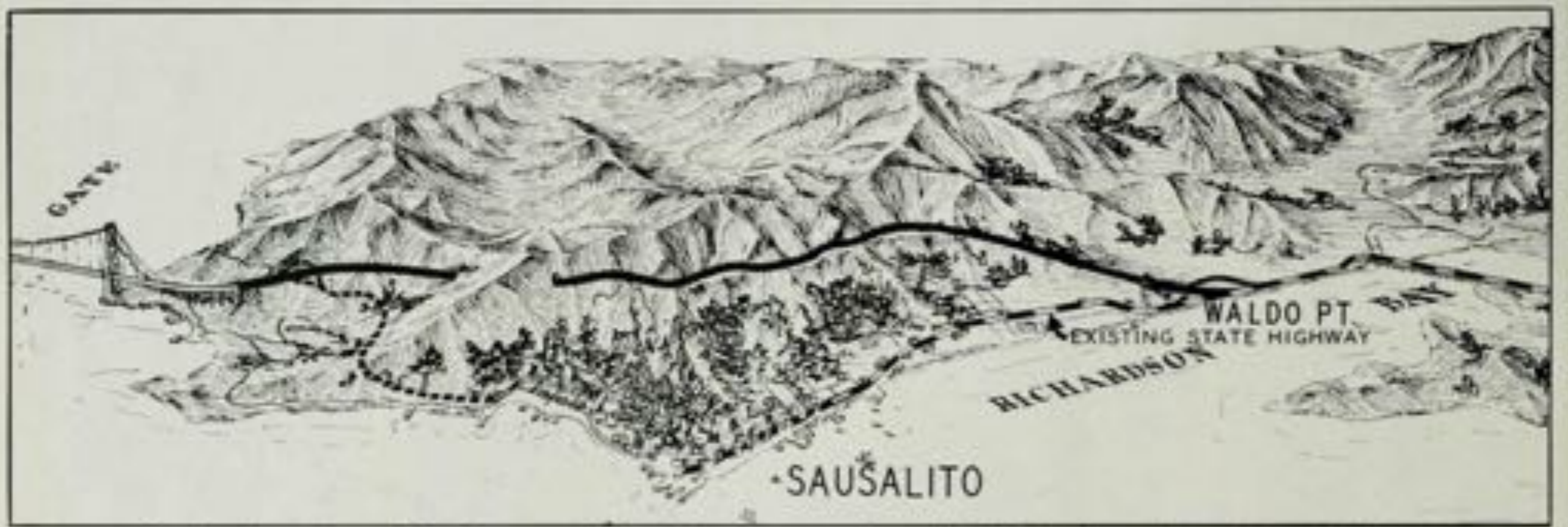
May 1924 – October 1927

PDF: [Click \(or right click\) to download PDF file.; August 1926 issue \(missing in file and below\).](#)

Online viewing:

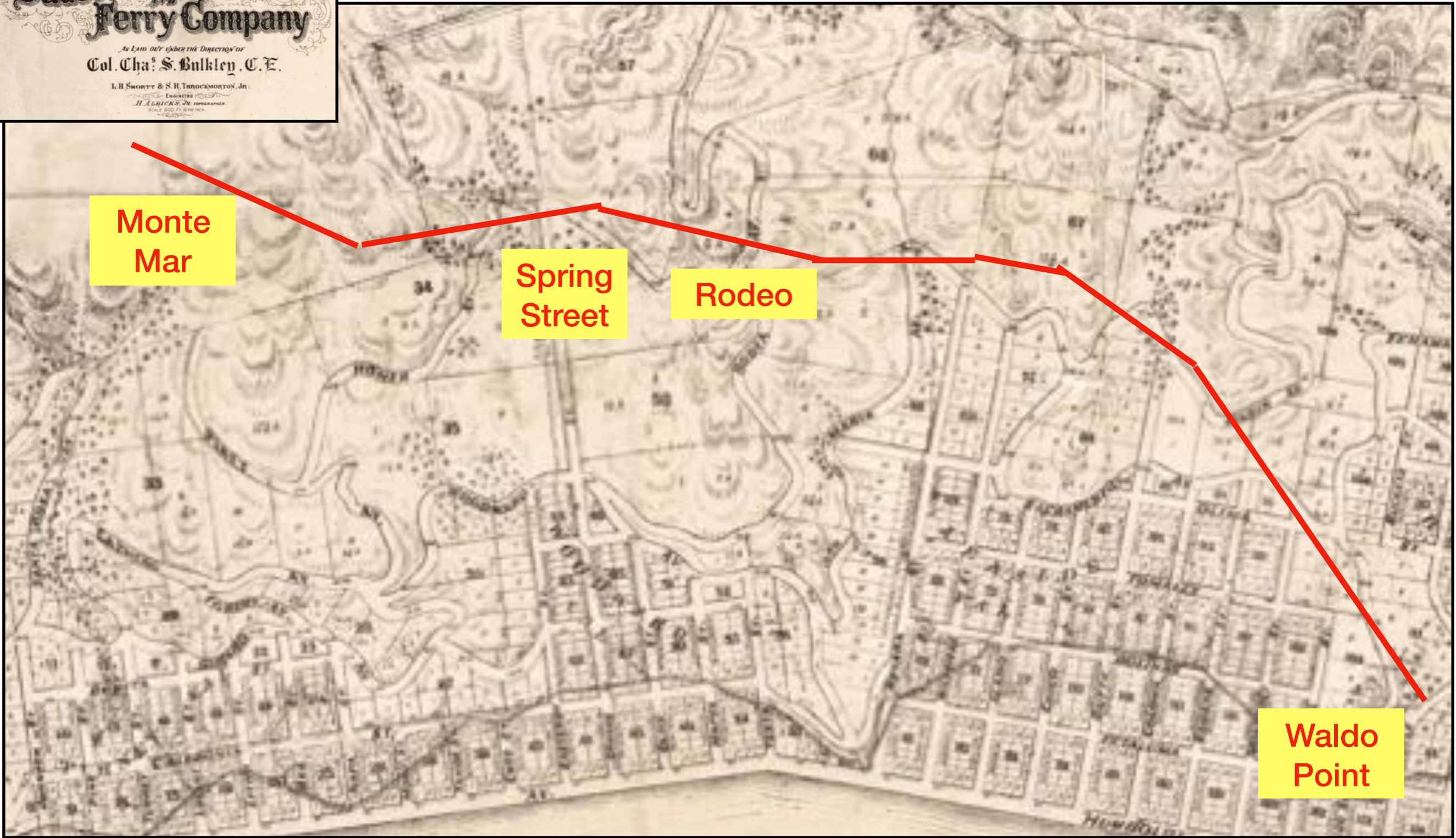
- Volume 1: [May 1924](#) | [June 1924](#)
- Volume 1: [July 1924](#) | [August 1924](#) | [September 1924](#) | [October 1924](#) | [November 1924](#) | [December 1924](#)
- Volume 2: [January 1925](#) | [February 1925](#) | [March 1925](#) | [April 1925](#) | [May 1925](#) | [June 1925](#)
- Volume 2: [July 1925](#) | [August 1925](#) | [September 1925](#) | [October 1925](#) | [November 1925](#) | [December 1925](#)
- Volume 3: [January 1926](#) | [February 1926](#) | [March 1926](#) | [April 1926](#) | [May 1926](#) | [June 1926](#)
- Volume 3: [July 1926](#) | [August 1926](#) | [September 1926](#) | [October 1926](#) | [November 1926](#) | [December 1926](#)
- Volume 4: [January 1927](#) | [February 1927](#) | [March 1927](#) | [April 1927](#) | [May 1927](#) | [June 1927](#)
- Volume 4: [July 1927](#) | [August 1927](#) | [September/October 1927](#)

Marin Approach to Golden Gate Bridge Involves Tunnel and Record Grading Job



CH&PW - May 1936





Monte Mar

Spring Street

Rodeo

Waldo Point

Sausalito Land & Ferry Co. - 1868



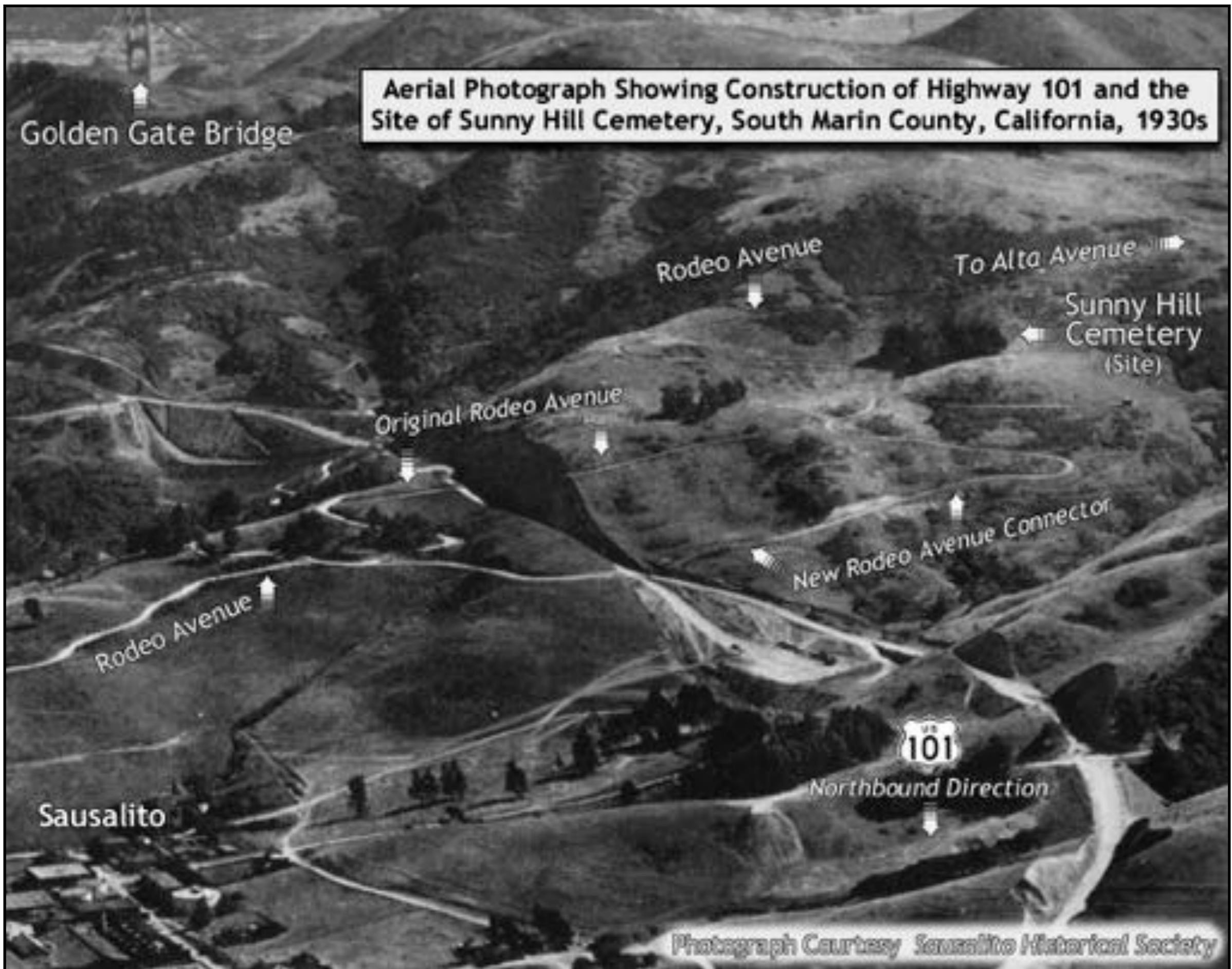
**May 10, 1936
Groundbreaking
at Waldo with
Gov. Merriman**

A Few Statistics

- 3.6 miles of roadway from Waldo Junction to the Golden Gate Bridge
- One 1,000-foot four lane tunnel
- The Sausalito Lateral (Alexander Ave)
- Original estimate of 1,750,000 cubic yards of roadway excavation
- By the end of the project >2,500,000 cubic yards = a football field 1,400 feet high
- Fills up to 200 feet
- Estimated cost: \$1,750,000 (approximately \$500,000/mile). Final cost \$1,856,000 (\$1.23 mil for roadway/ \$630K for tunnel).
- That amount would have built almost 60 miles of average highway (including all of the original Redwood Highway from Sausalito to Healdsburg).



Five months later - October 1, 1936



Aerial Photograph Showing Construction of Highway 101 and the Site of Sunny Hill Cemetery, South Marin County, California, 1930s

Golden Gate Bridge

Rodeo Avenue

To Alta Avenue

Sunny Hill Cemetery (Site)

Original Rodeo Avenue

New Rodeo Avenue Connector

Rodeo Avenue

101

Northbound Direction

Sausalito

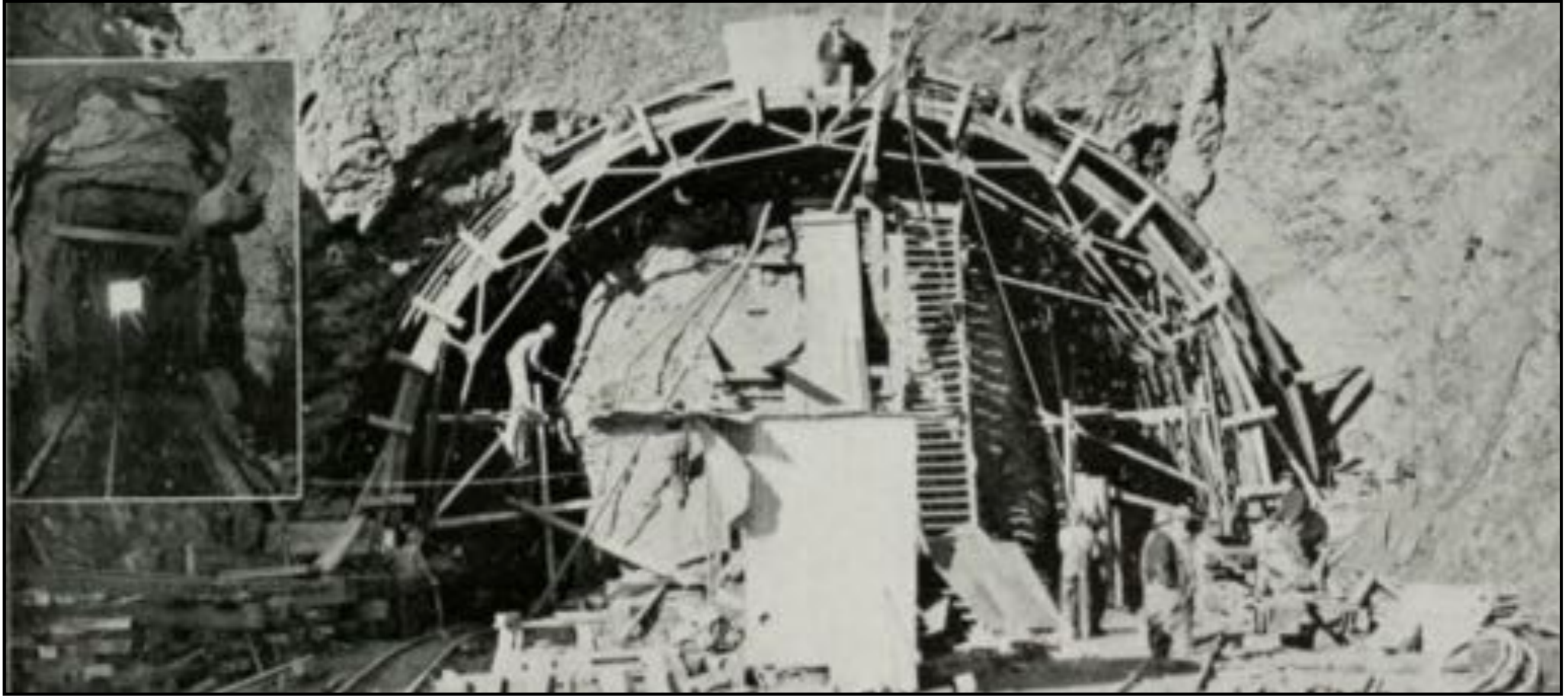
Photograph Courtesy Sausalito Historical Society

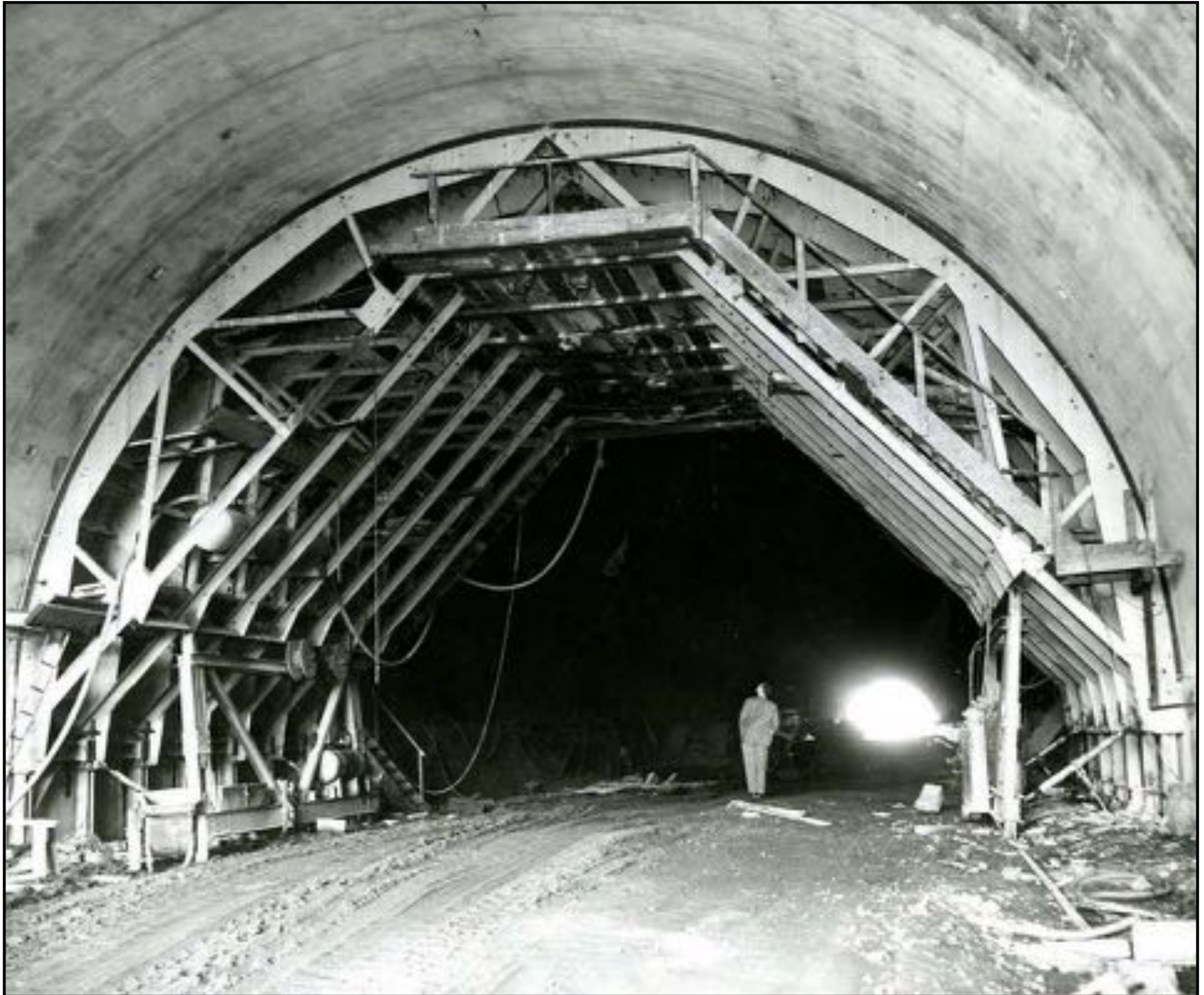




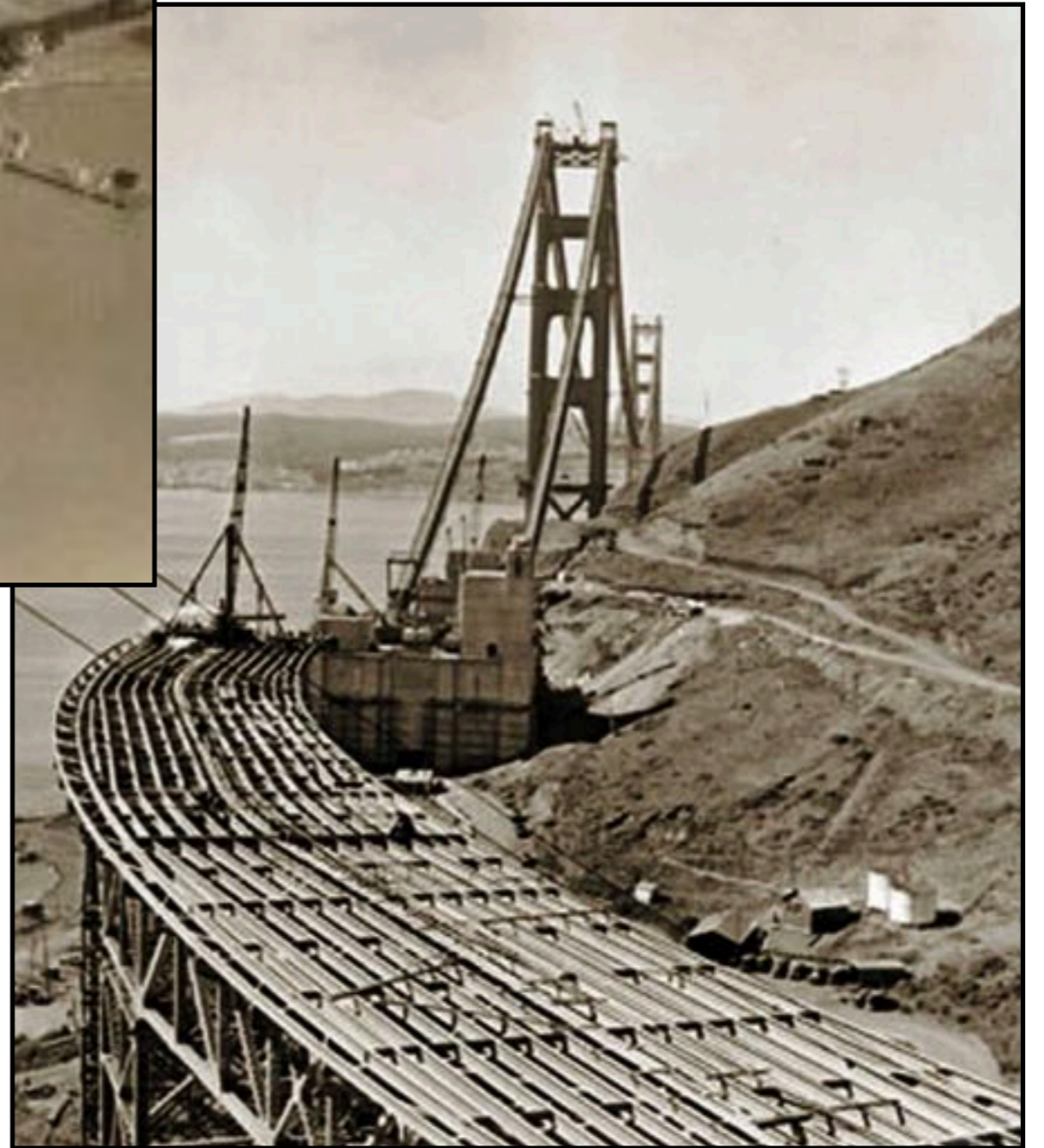
c1936











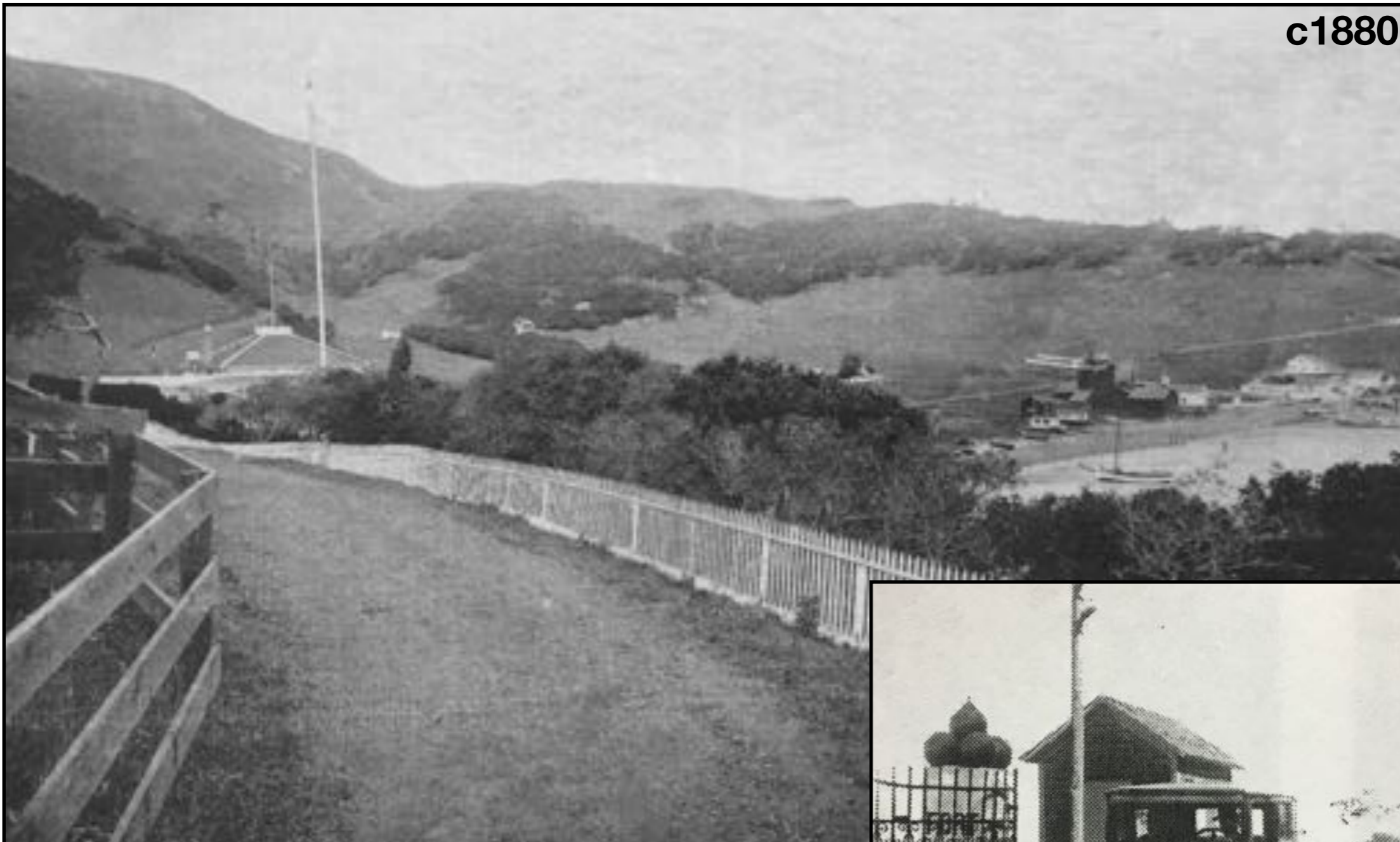


The Sausalito Lateral



Fort Baker - 1925

c1880



c1925

East Road (opened 1902) and the Fort Baker Gate



JULY 1936



Feb 18, 1937



1949







Let there be light!

Dedication!

1937

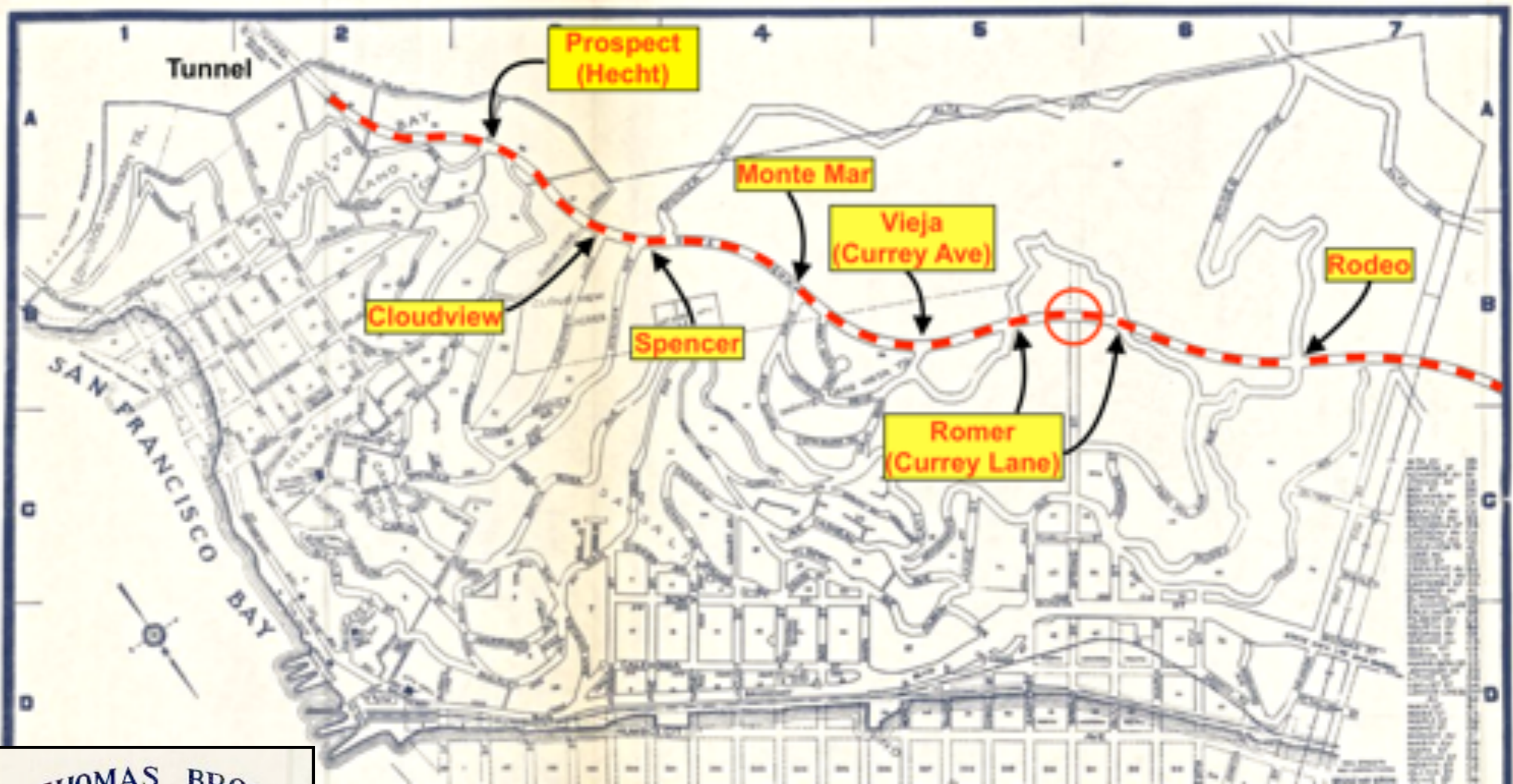
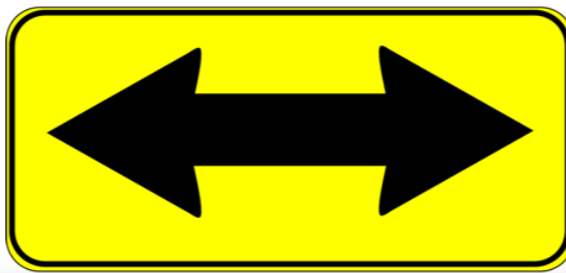


May 27 and 28, 1937



May 28, 1937

Operation: First 20 Years



THOMAS BROS.
MAP OF
SAUSALITO
MARIN COUNTY
CALIF.
SCALE

1938











29 May 1942

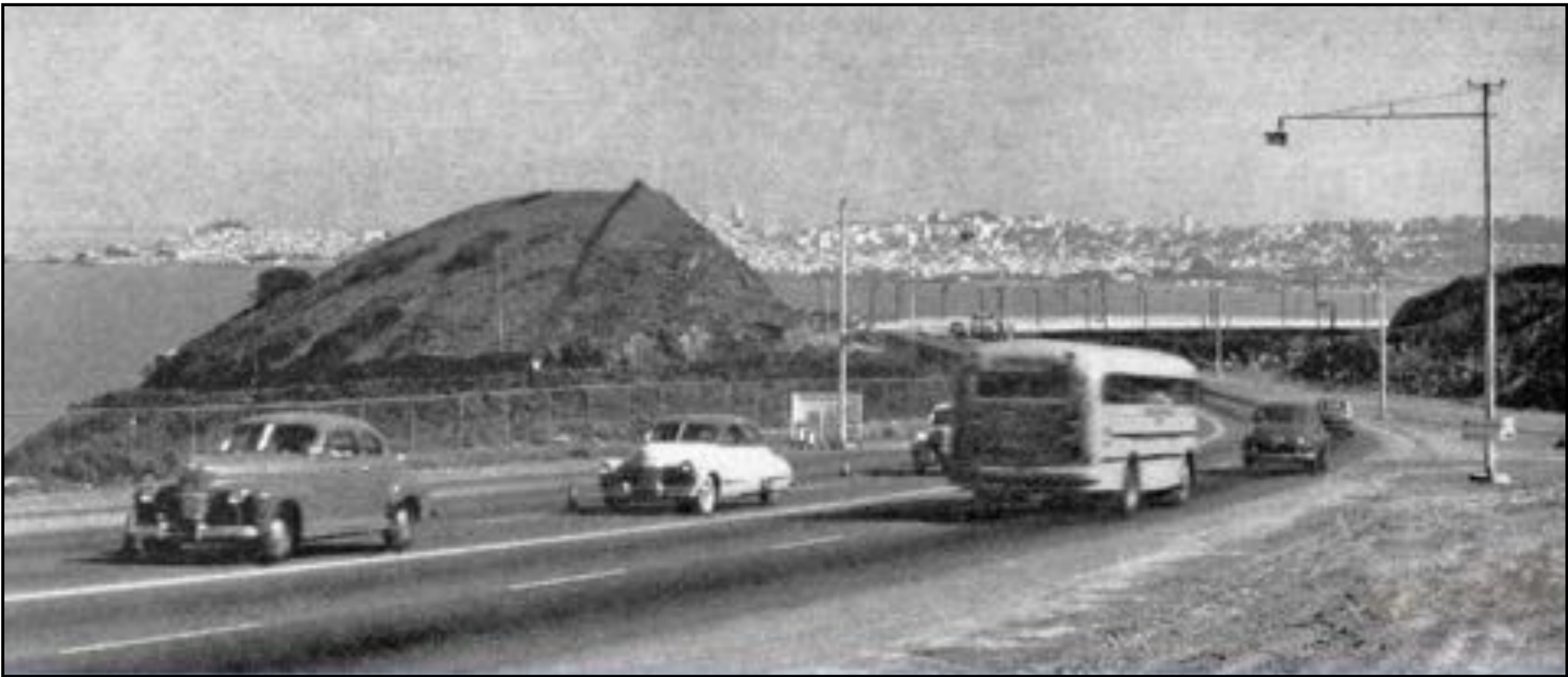












Tuesday, February 27, 1941

Tuesday, March 6, 1941

Sausalito News



NWP Interurban Service Ends Tomorrow, Buses to Take Over Marin Transit

Special Arrangements Made for Transfer of Passengers

Passenger Service Will End at 11:59 P. M. Tomorrow

Yacht Harbor Work Started



Yacht Harbor Work Started

Yacht Harbor Work Started

Yacht Harbor Work Started

Yacht Harbor Work Started

Yacht Harbor Work Started

Yacht Harbor Work Started

Yacht Harbor Work Started

Hubber Eyes New Plans to Advertise Spas

Hubber Eyes New Plans to Advertise Spas

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Fireman Dies From Crash Injuries

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Fireman Dies From Crash Injuries

Fireman Dies From Crash Injuries

Fireman Dies From Crash Injuries

Fireman Dies From Crash Injuries

Sausalito News

Frisk Fails Lifesbelt Souvenir Hunters



City Now in Possession of South School



Last Ferry Trips Bring Tears As Ferry Era Bows to Buses

19th Last Trip Made This Evening



19th Last Trip Made This Evening

19th Last Trip Made This Evening

19th Last Trip Made This Evening

19th Last Trip Made This Evening

19th Last Trip Made This Evening

19th Last Trip Made This Evening

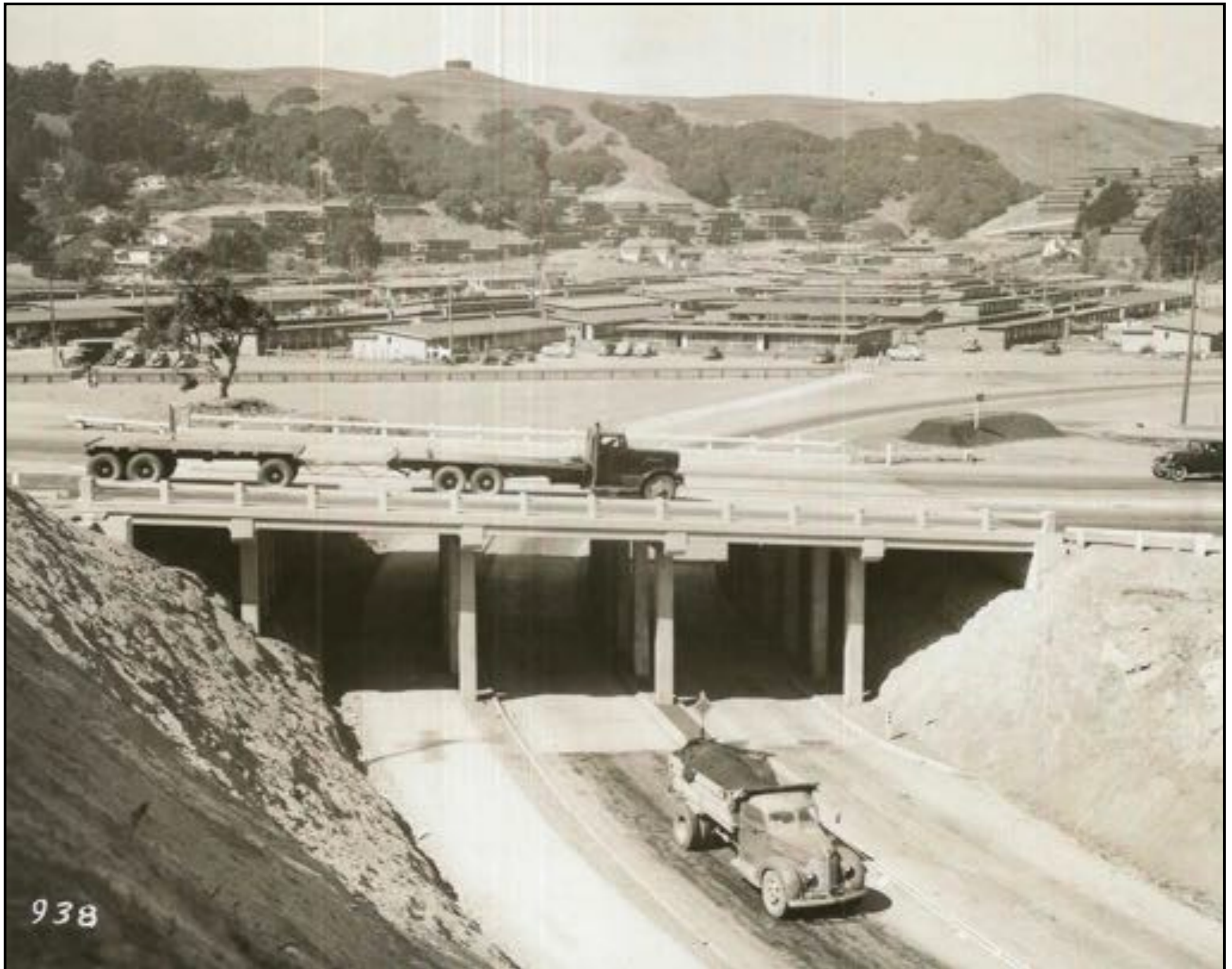
19th Last Trip Made This Evening

19th Last Trip Made This Evening

19th Last Trip Made This Evening

1941 - End of Passenger Rail and Ferry Service

Underpass to Marin City 1943



938



938-2



A Few Bumps in the Road

Dec. 28, 1945





Jan. 17, 1950



1952



Post-WWII Proposals for Alternatives

Growth in auto traffic between SF and Marin:

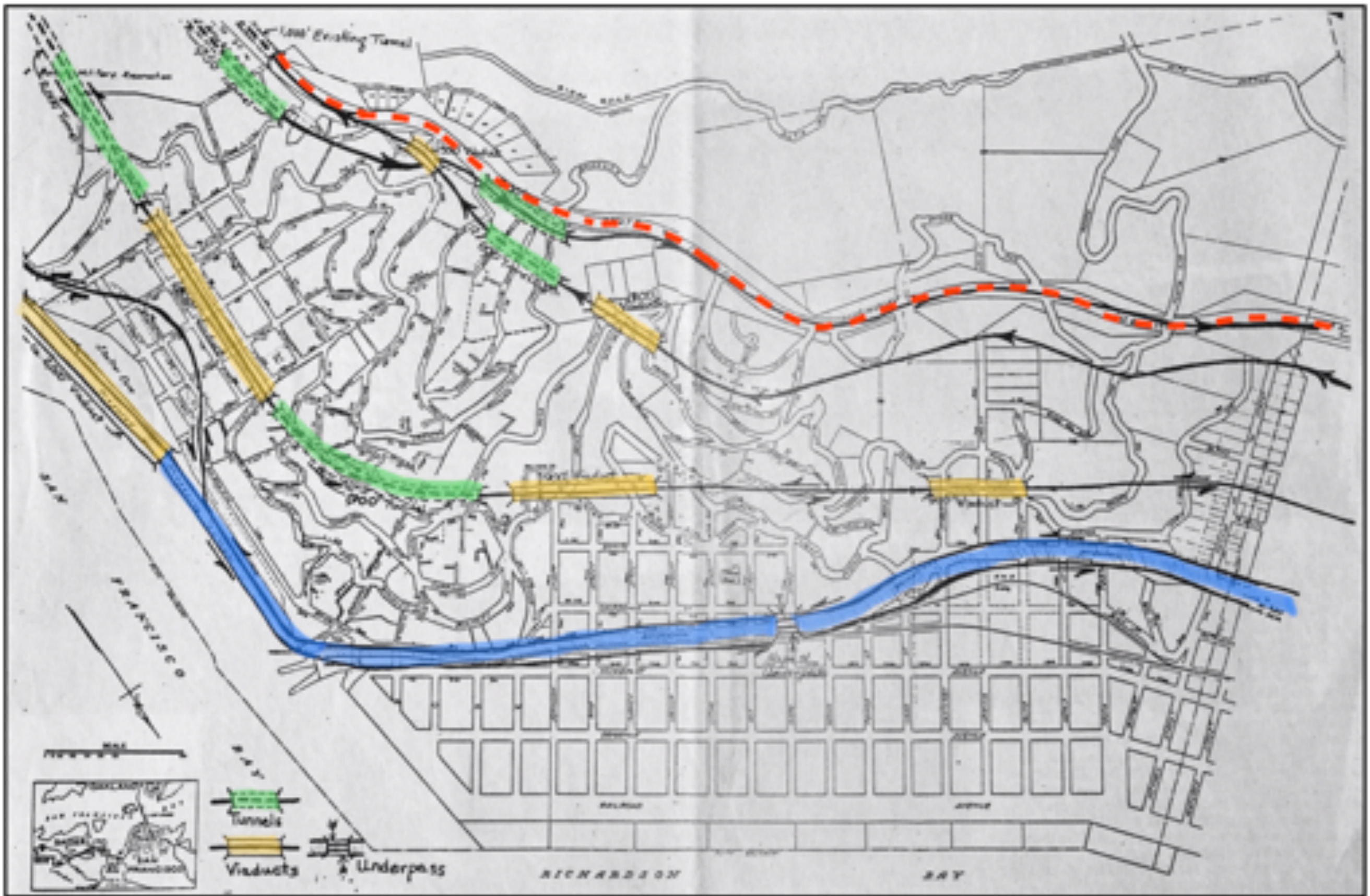
1936: 1,654,741 (ferry) = 4,500/day

1947: 7,816,000 = 21,400/day

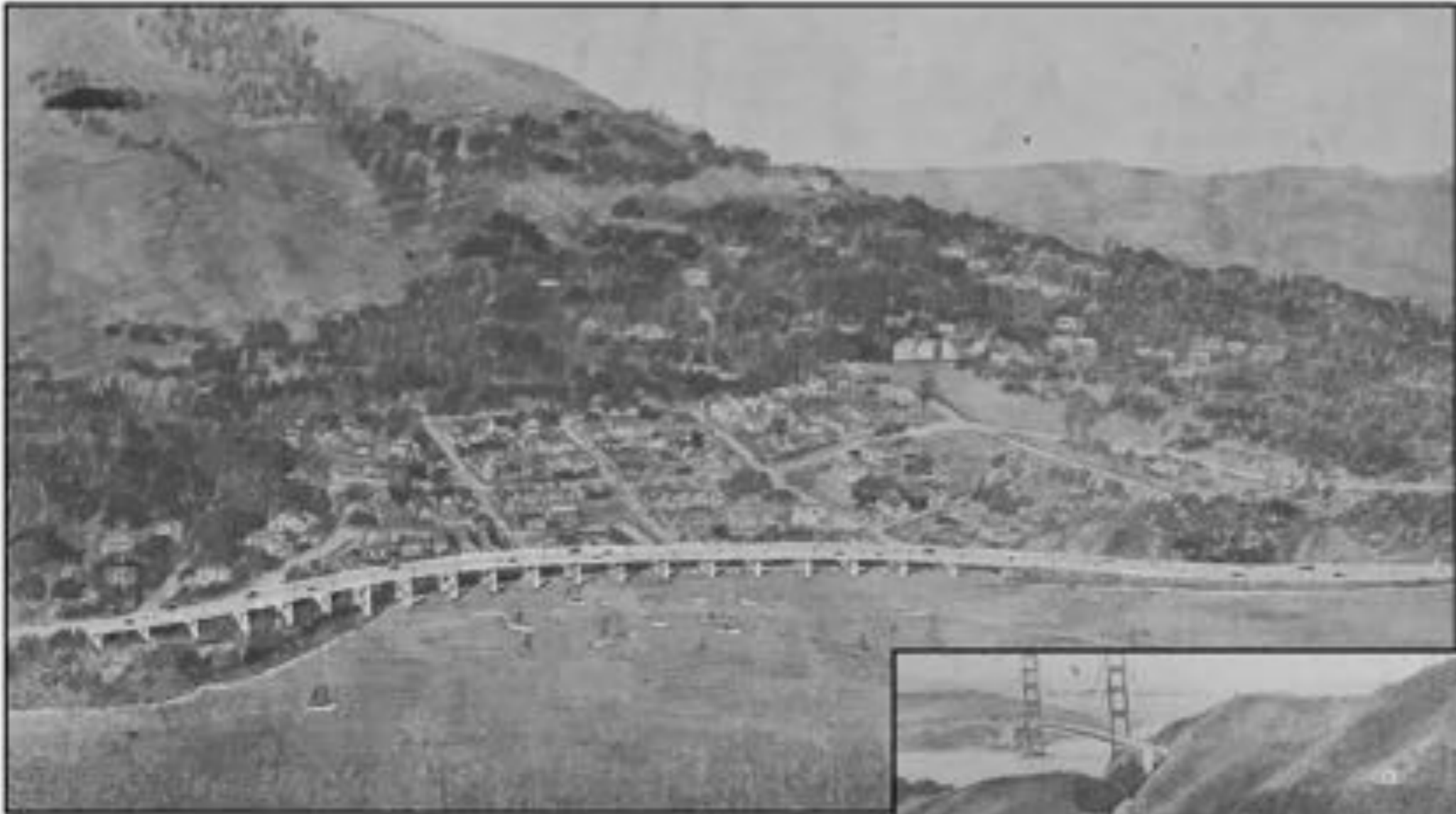
1953: 9,125,000 = 25,000/day

1955: 13,952,000 = 38,225/day

2017: 41,184,000 = 112,800/day



Three Division of Highways Plans - 1946



ROUTE OF PROPOSED GREINER PLAN APPROACH ROAD

1947



NEW APPROACH—This diagram shows the proposed Greiner approach road to the Golden Gate bridge approved last week by the Golden Gate bridge directors. Solid line is the route of the new approach, the dotted line indicating the present Waldo approach, together with the Sausalito interchanges. The plan contemplates closing the present Waldo road upon completion of the new freeway. —Diagram from San Francisco Examiner.

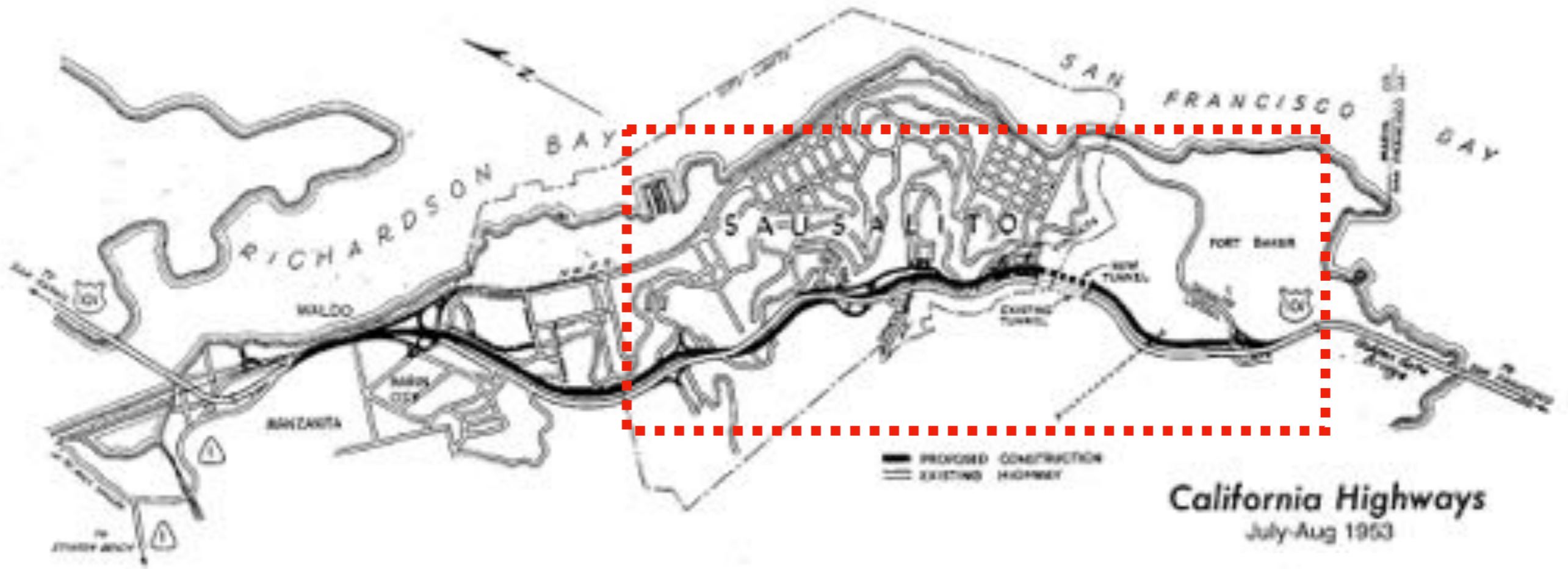


First

Widening

4 → 6 Lanes

1953-56



A Few Statistics

- Two additional lanes
- A curbed median
- A second 1,000-foot tunnel to the east of the original tunnel
- Two sidehill viaducts just north of the new tunnel
- Over crossing at Spencer (Wolfback Ridge), under crossing between Spencer and Monte Mar, and Spencer to Monte Mar access road
- Extension of Marin City under crossing and of Ft. Baker to Ft. Barry tunnel
- Approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of earth used for fills, including excavation from the widened freeway, the tunnel bore and the hill that stood at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge (today the site of Vista Point)
- Project cost >\$6,000,000. Combined cost of the original (1937) and new approaches more than \$8,000,000.



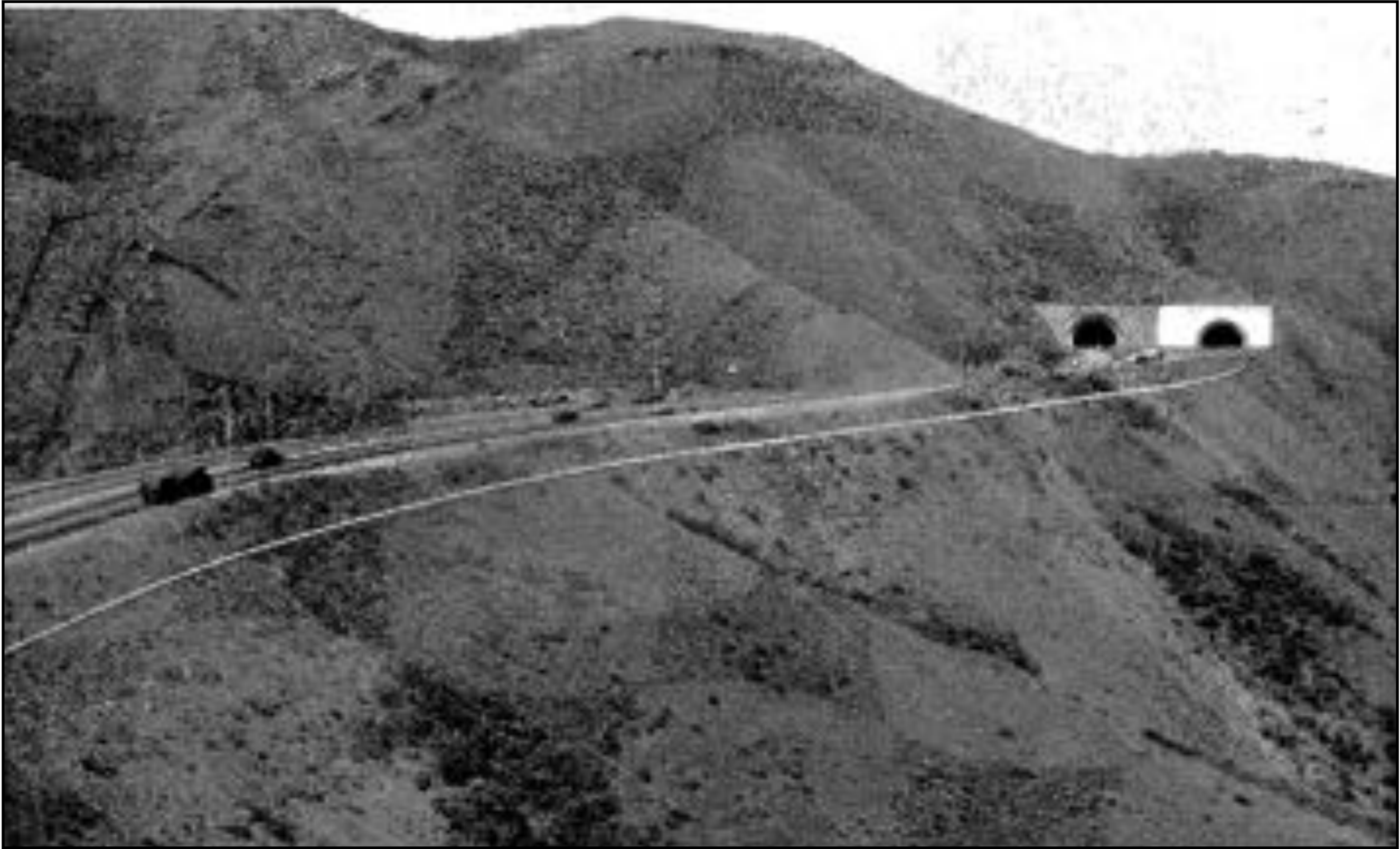
Groundbreaking - 22 Sept 1953















12 SEPT 1954











Dedication!!

1956



20 March 1956

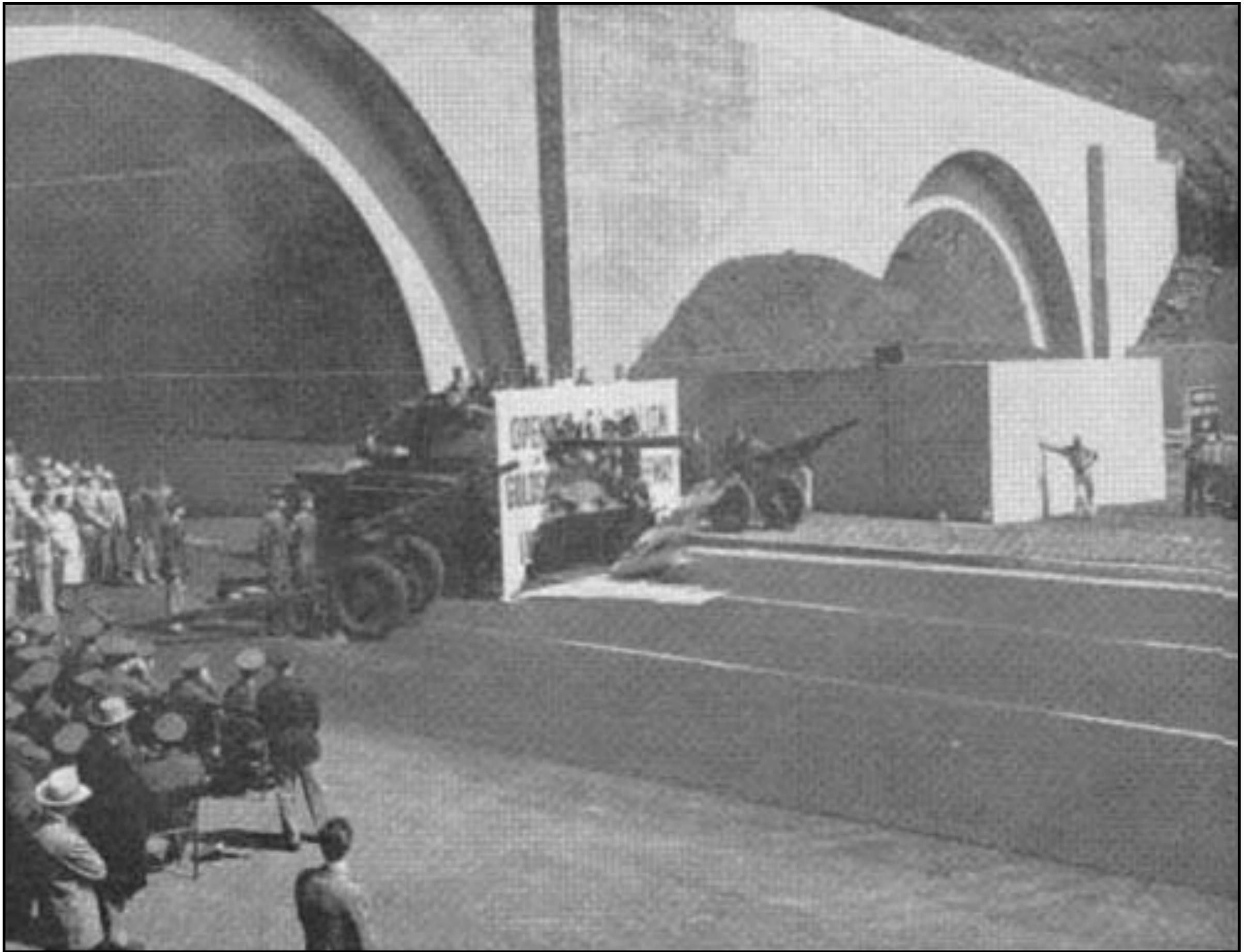
1956

OPENING \$5¼ MILLION
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE FREEWAY
IN REDWOOD EMPIRE



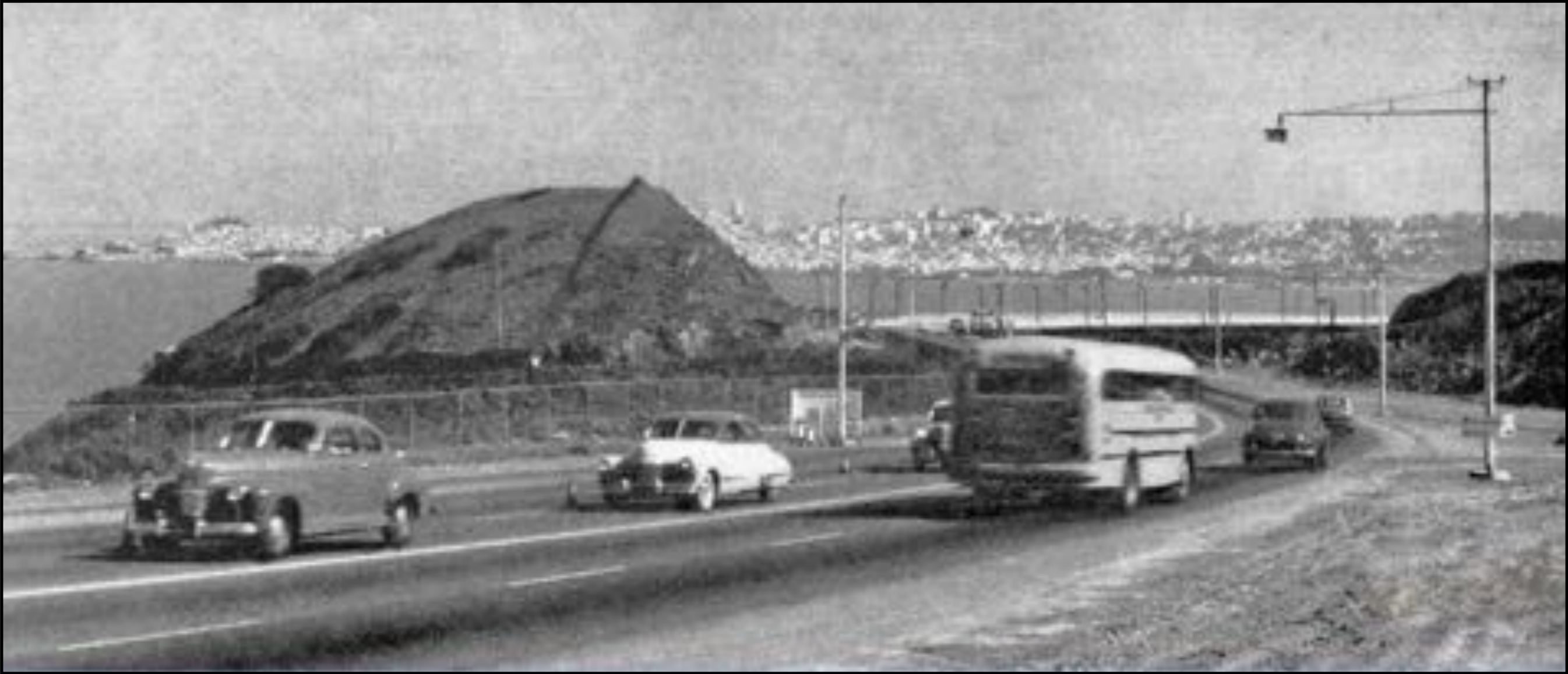


M47 Patton



Vista Point

“1963”

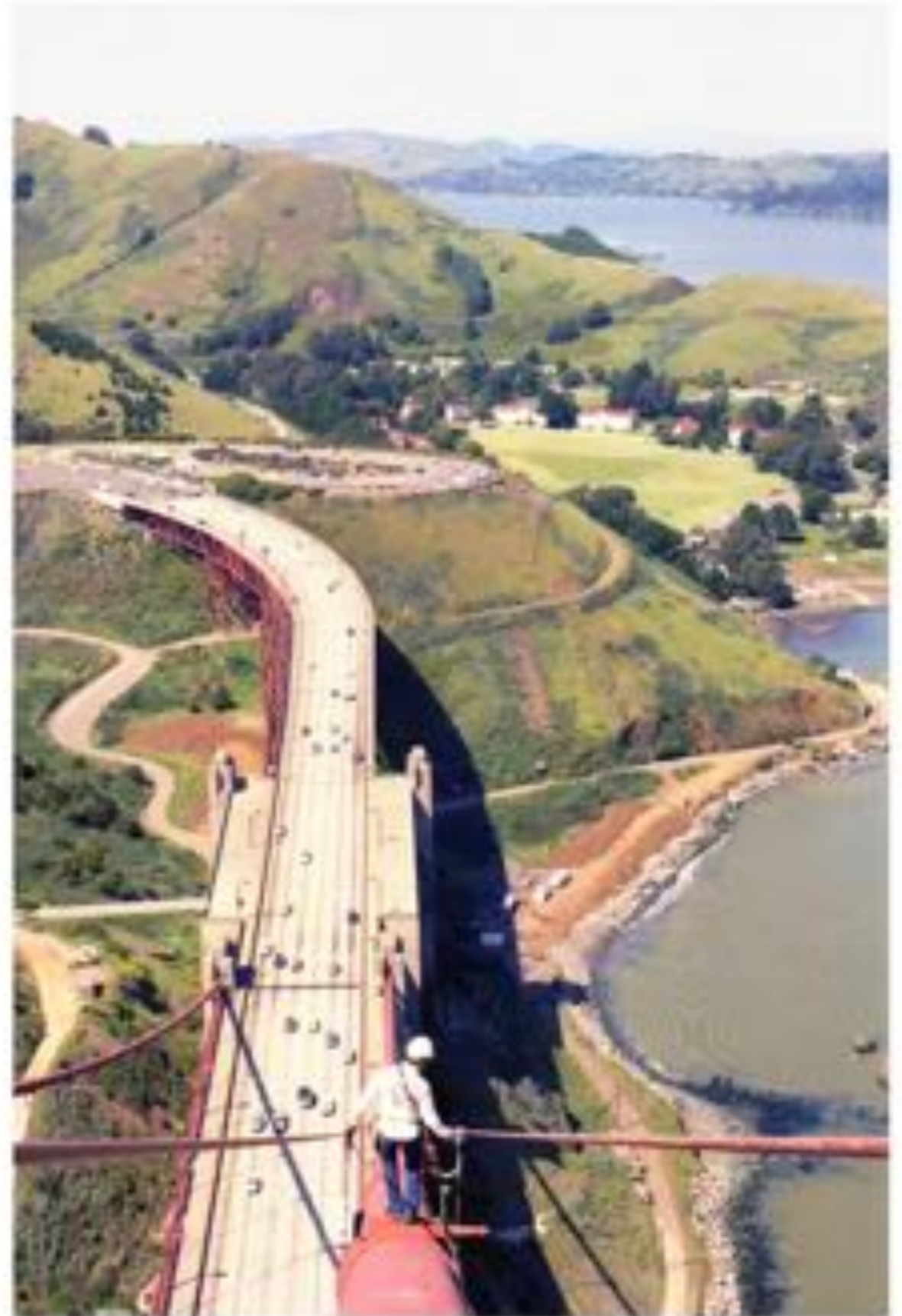


1956









**Second
Widening
6 → 8 Lanes
1963-68**

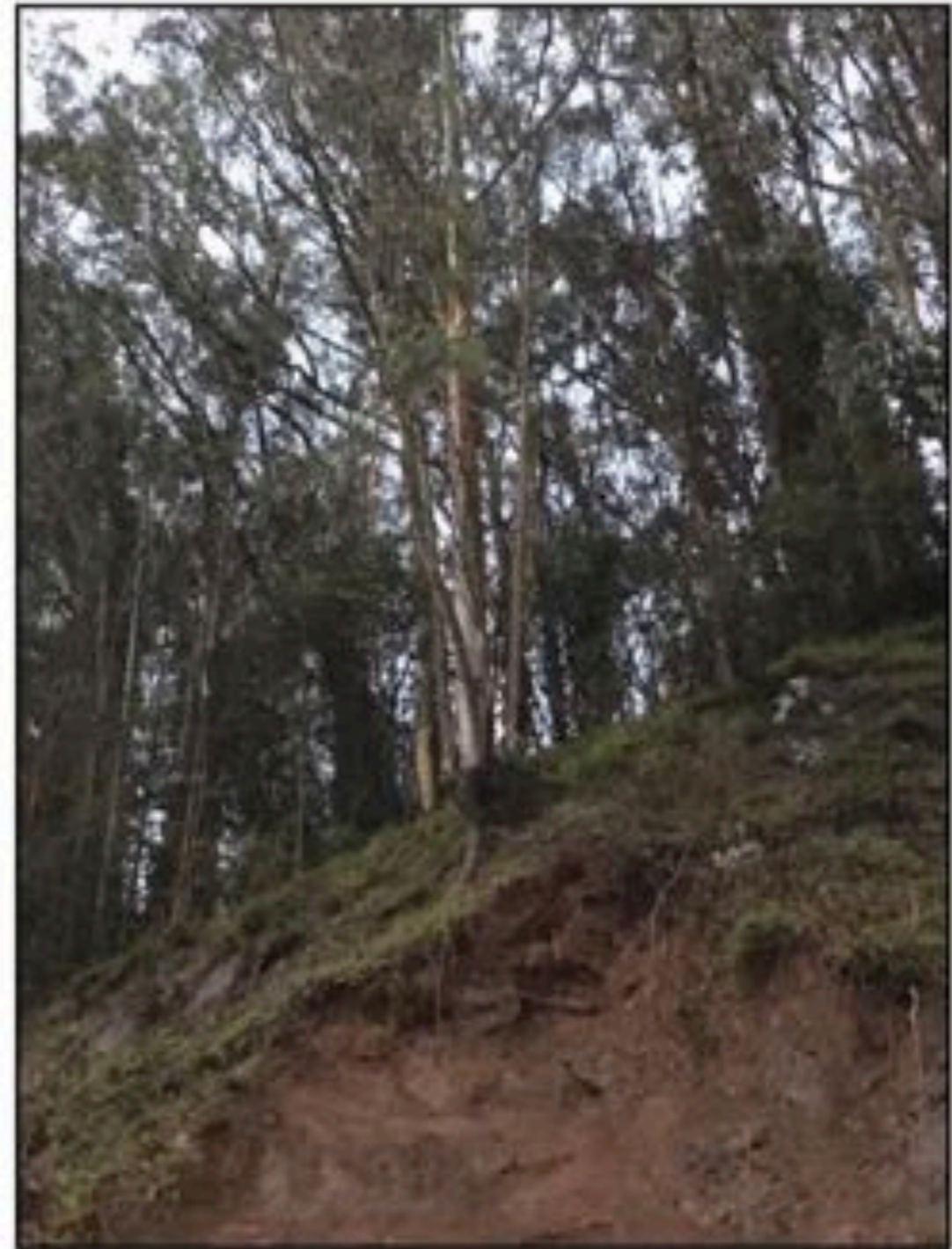
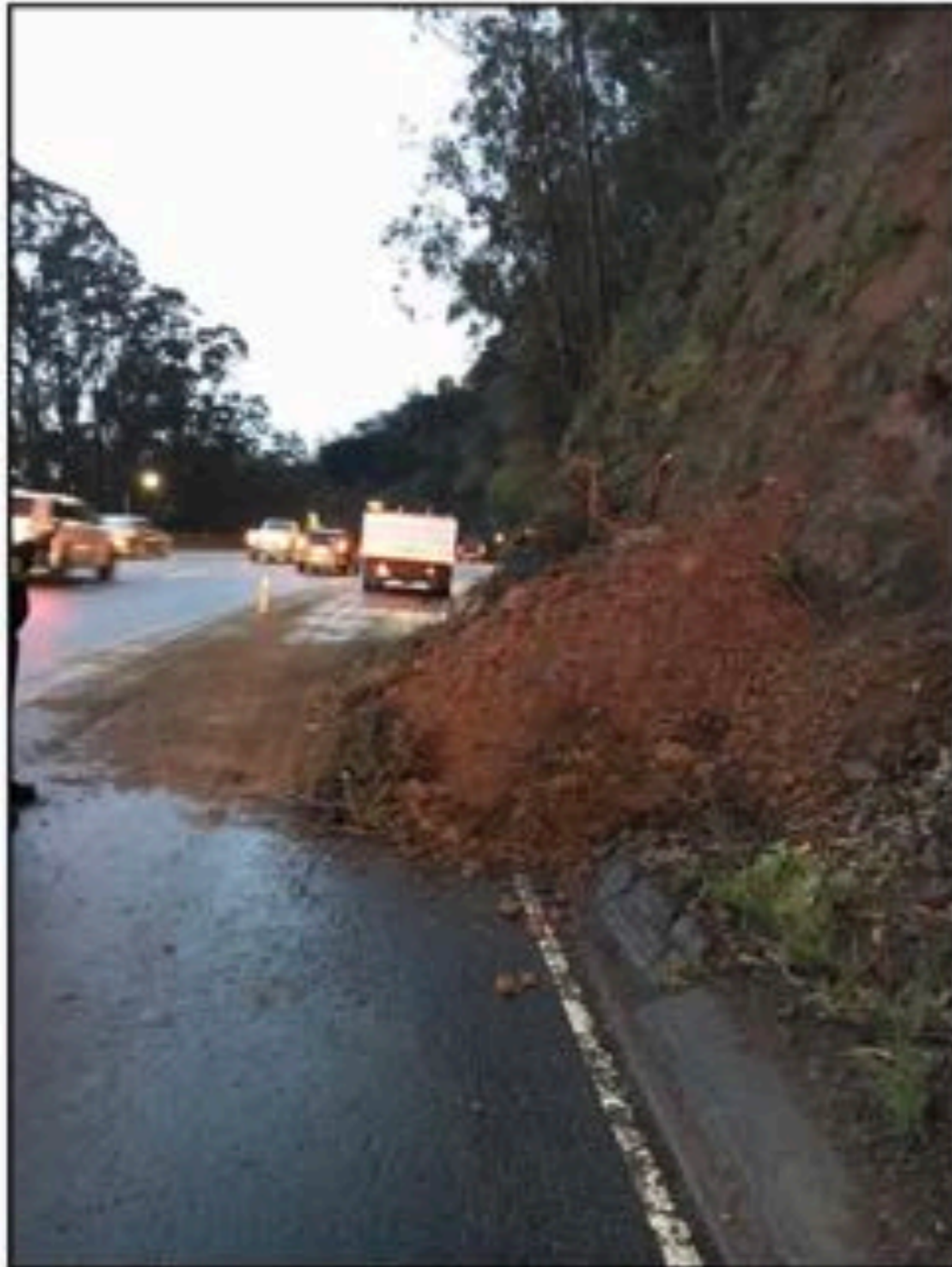
1964



A Few Final Tidbits



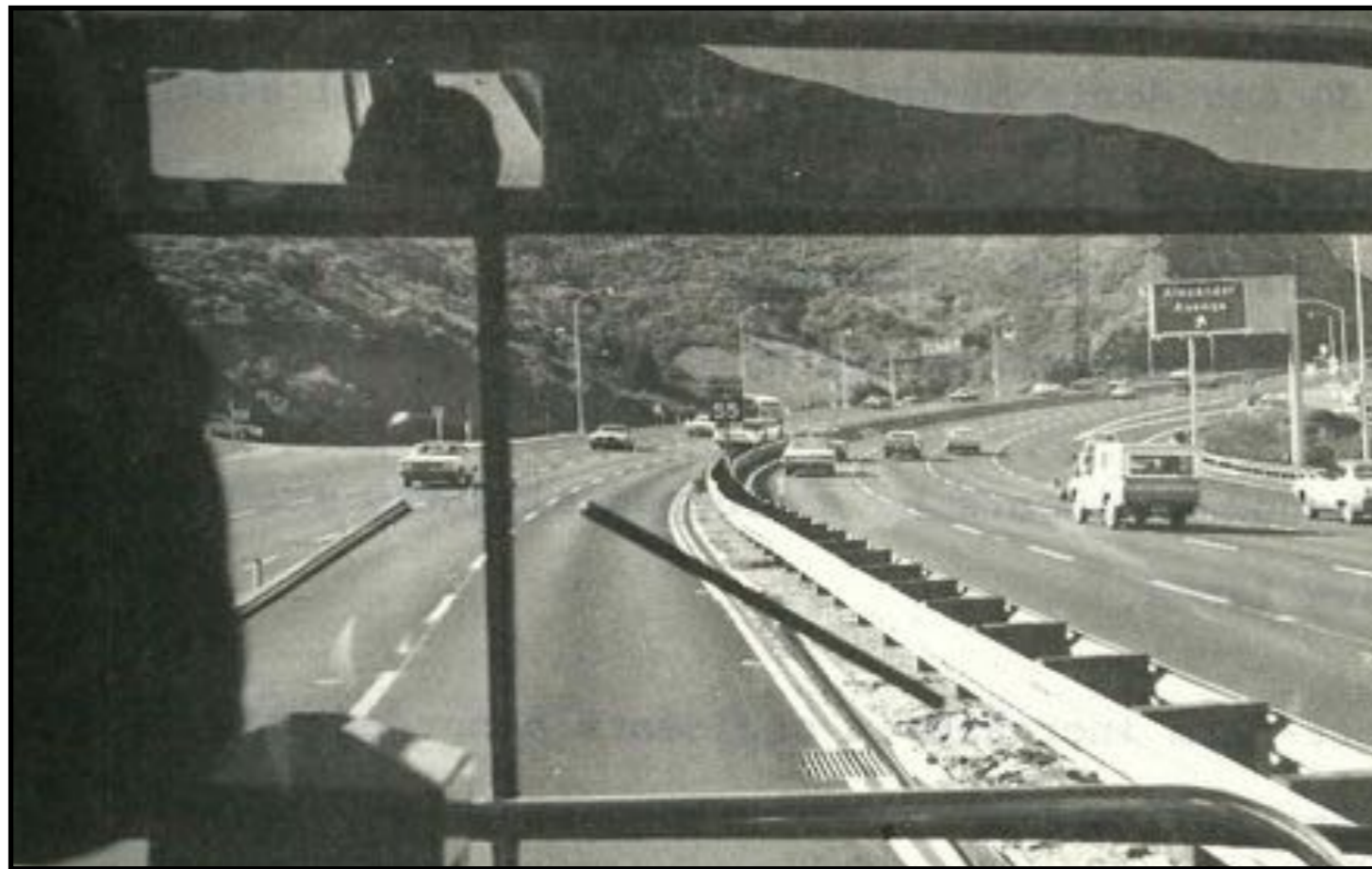
**The hills are still on the move!
January 1982 landslide and 12-day closure of 101** *114*



January 16, 2019

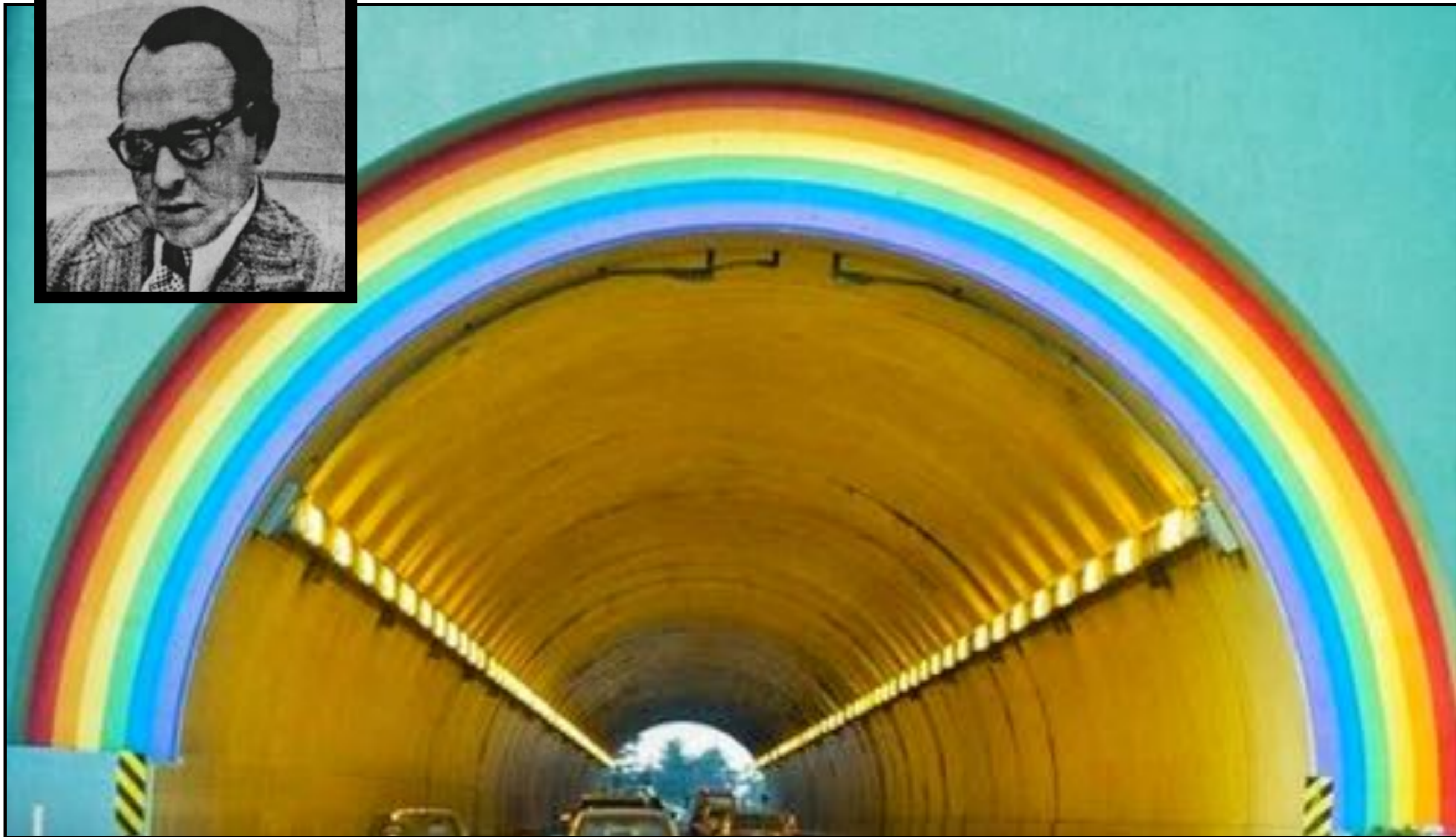
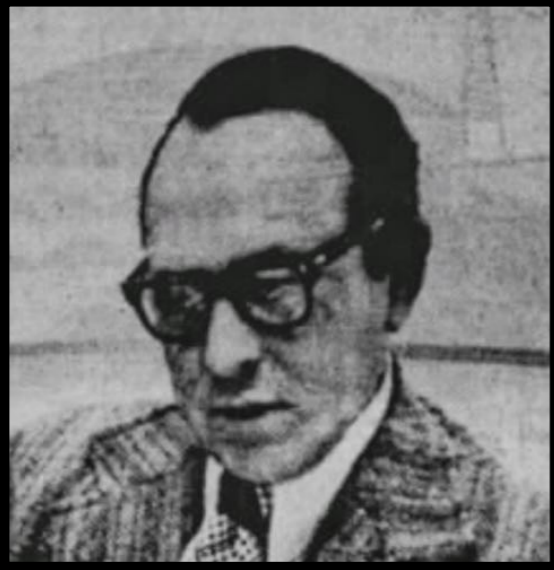


The Avoid-the-Right-Lane Club



The Contra-Flow Bus Lanes - 1972-1986

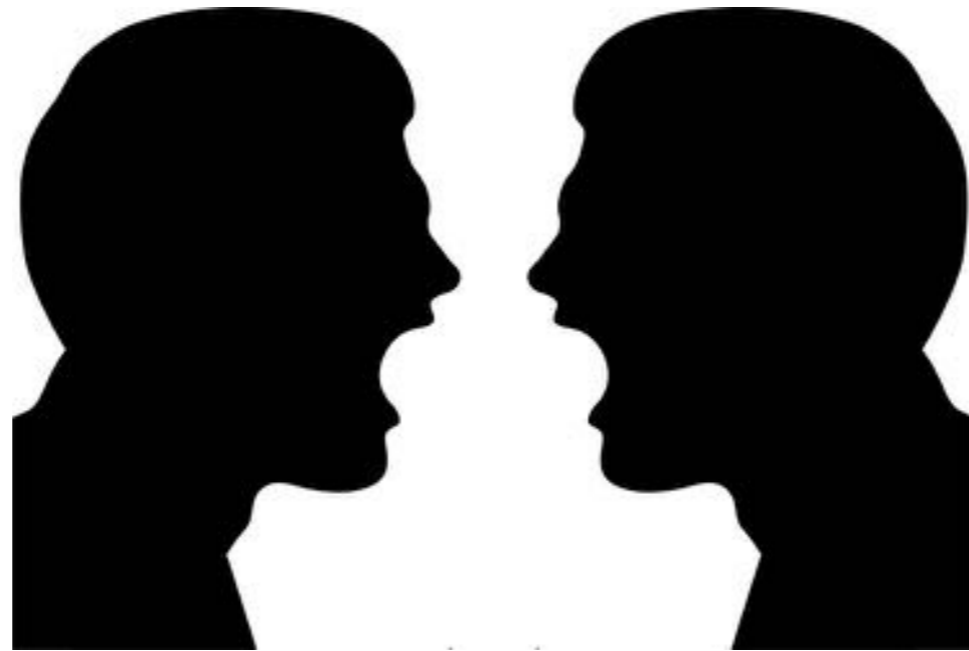




1970 - Thanks Robert Halligan, Jr.

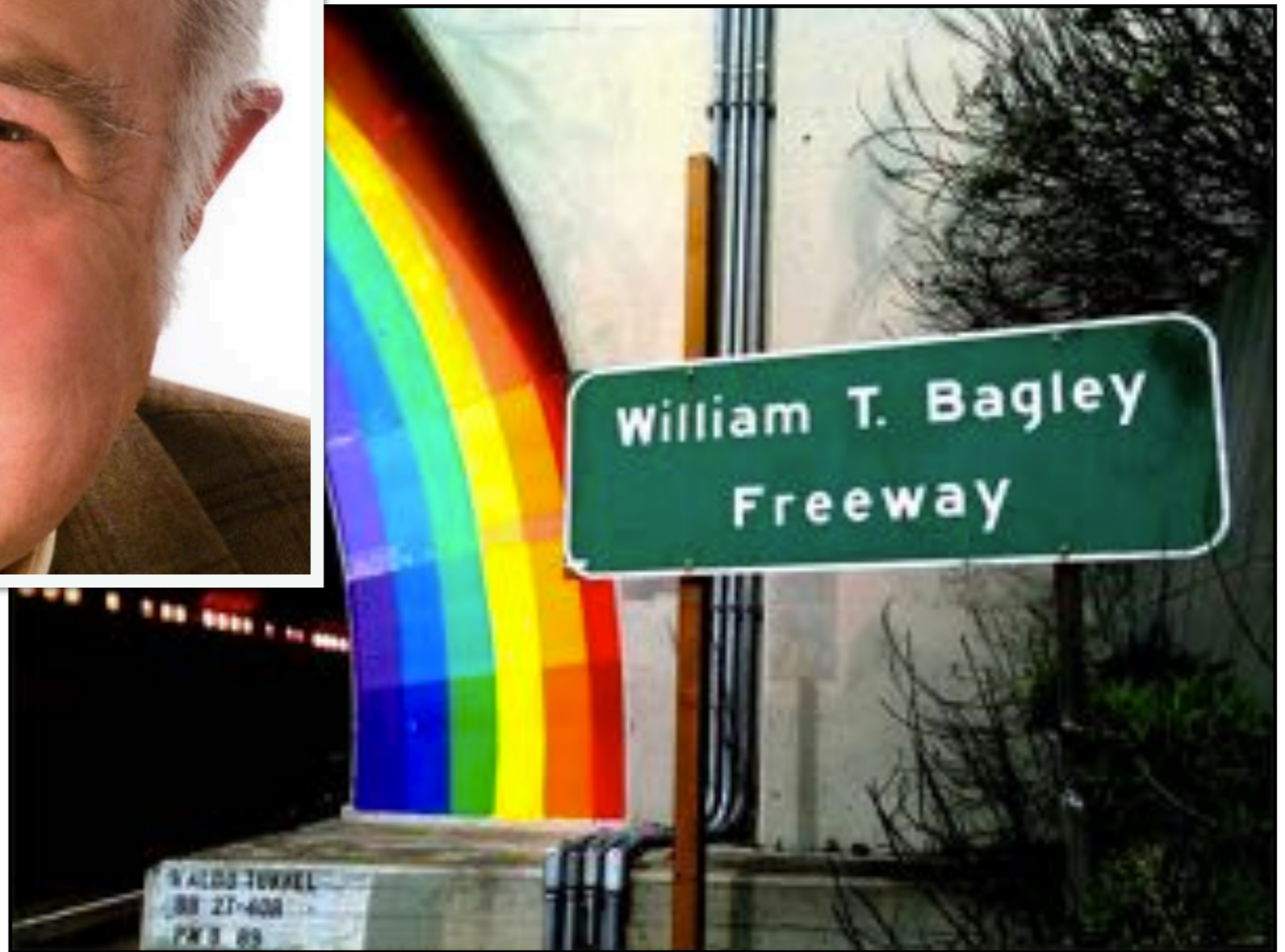
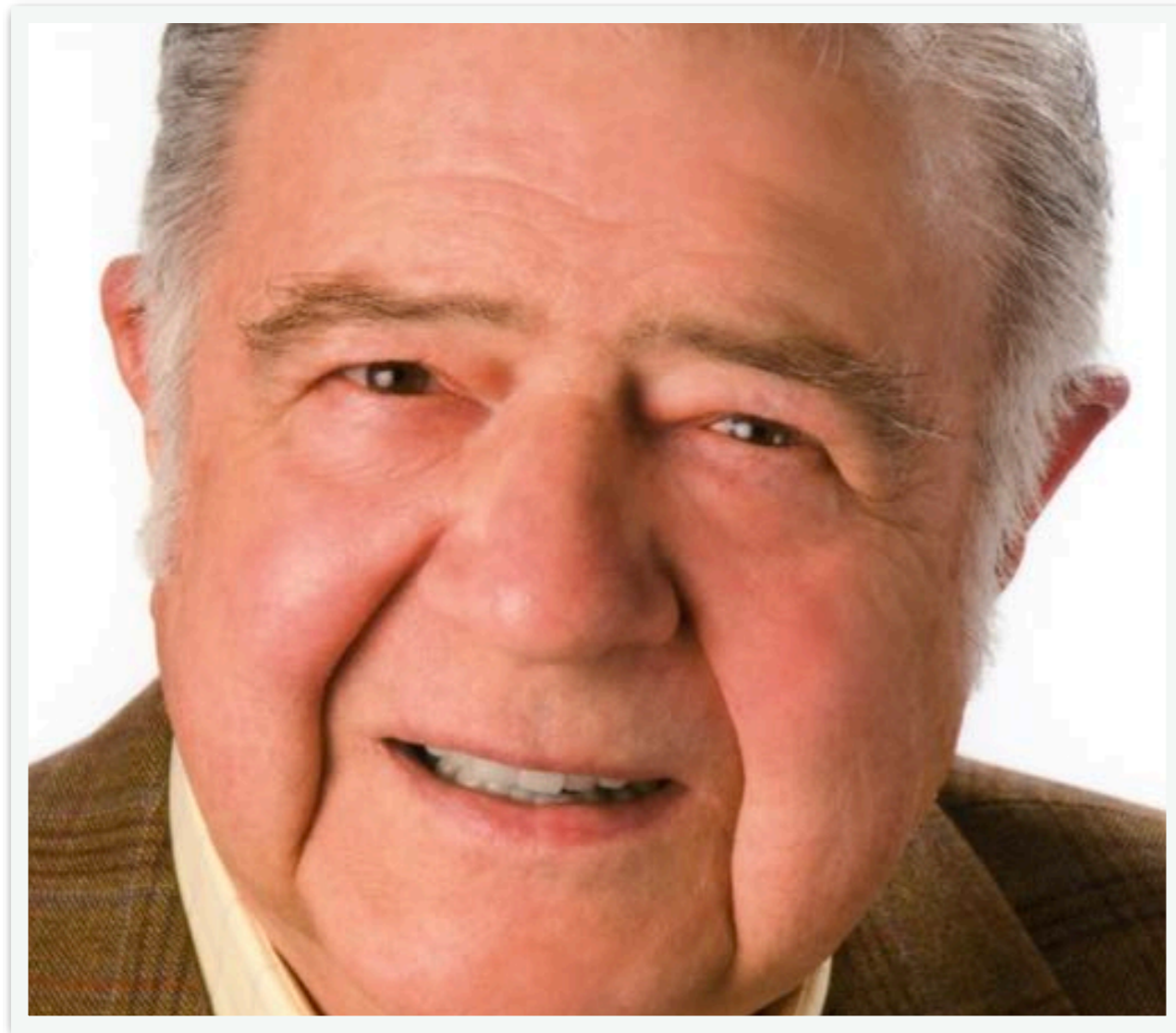
“Those entering Marin will find a rainbow in their path and those leaving the county will find the rainbow behind them”

“This is a disfiguration of the landscape and an insult to the quiet beauty of this entire county. The pastels of Cartoonland should be confined to the Sunday funnies.”



“Did a muse, en route to an appointment with Andy Warhol, veer off course and land in the Division of Highways? Let us be grateful for an inspired treatment of dull, gray concrete!”

Opposing Views on the Rainbows



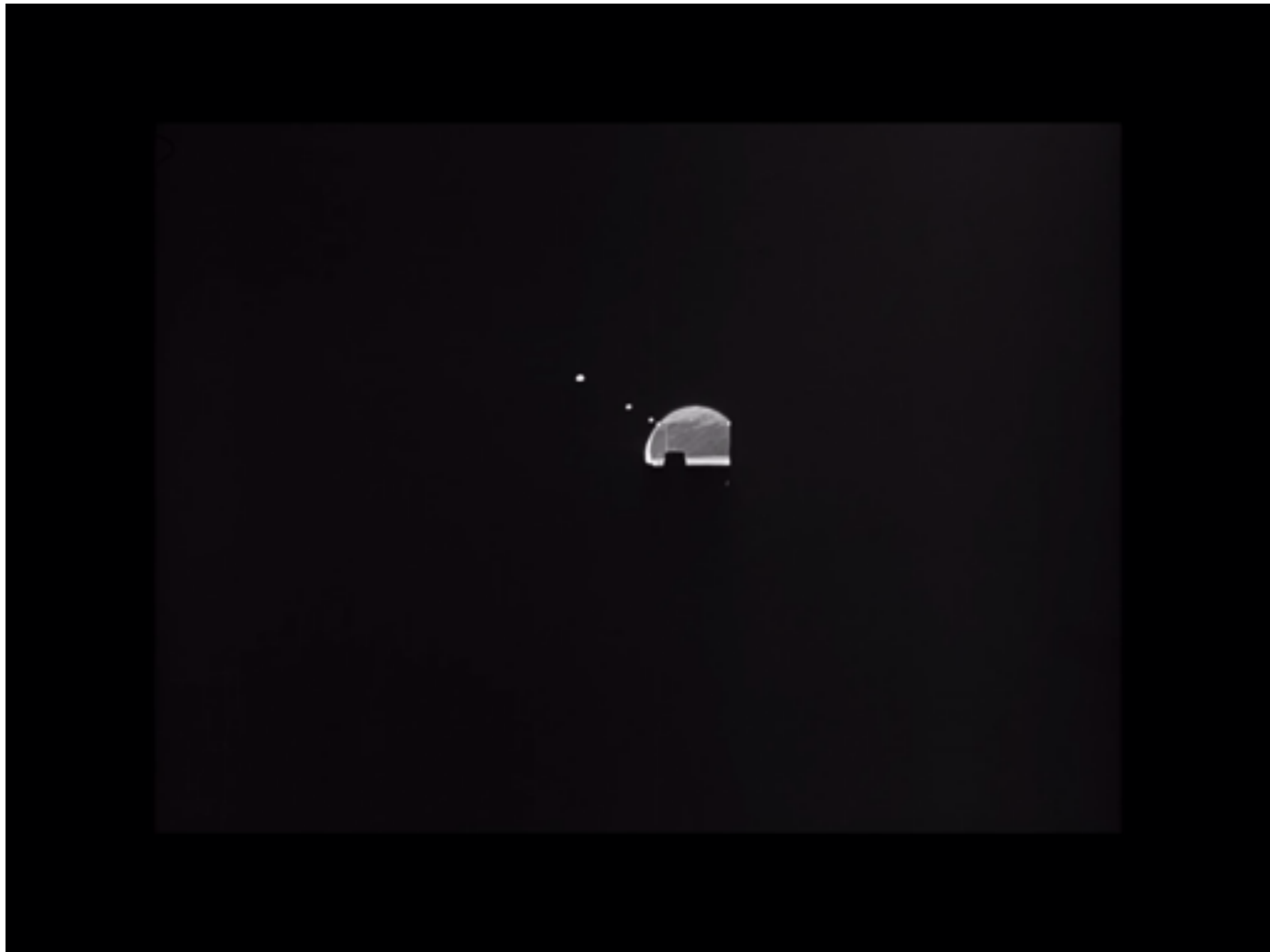
1987 - The William T. Bagley Freeway
California Assembly 1960-1974



2016 - Honoring a Marin Icon



“Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.”



One more Hollywood connection - 1947



**Please come to
the reception**



Thanks Abbot!!



**Thank You
Drive Safely**