



STATE
PARK

ANGEL ISLAND

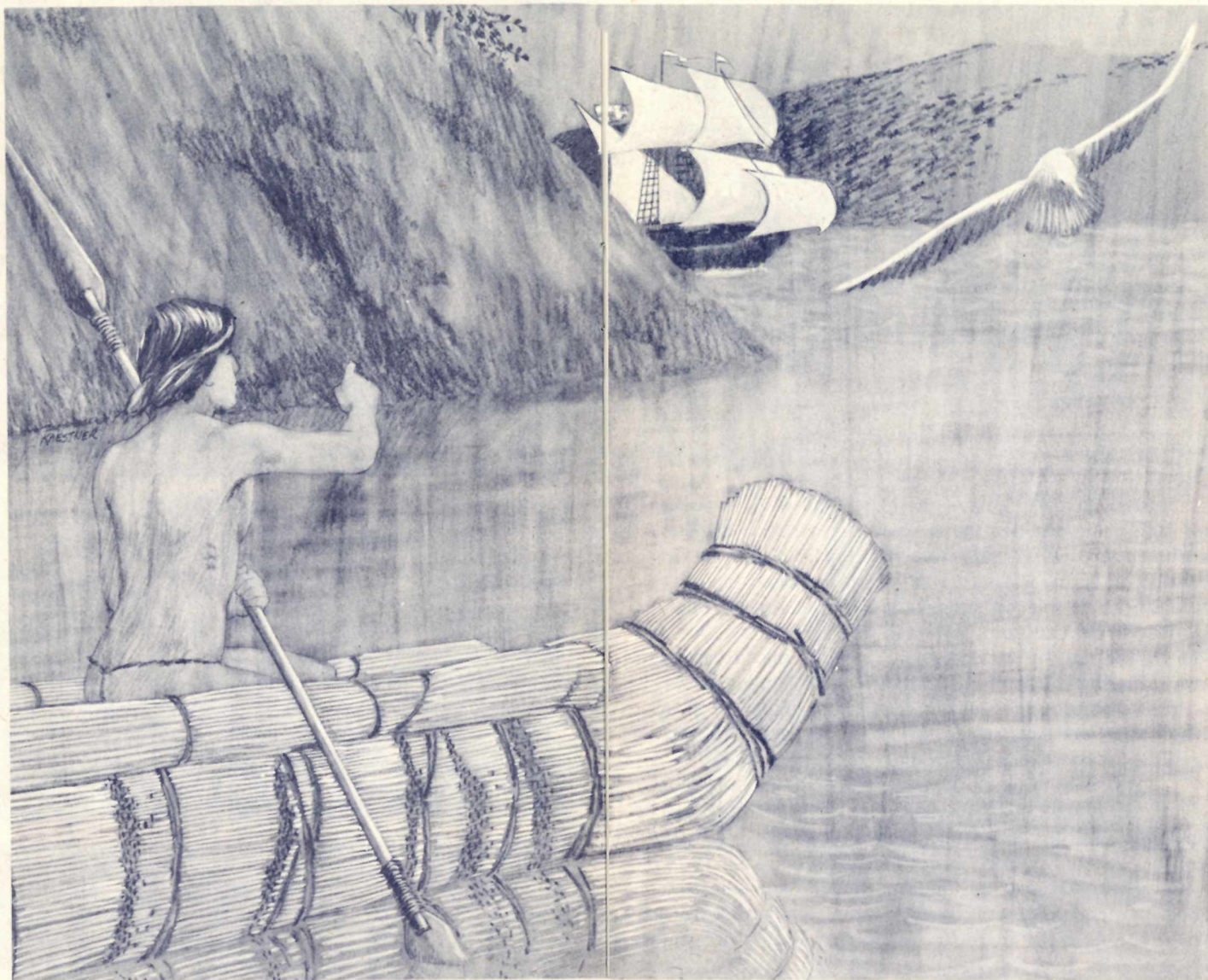
ANGEL ISLAND

Angel Island is a mountainous, grass and forest-covered island in San Francisco Bay that offers spectacular overviews of Marin County, San Francisco and the Golden Gate, as well as more distant views of the whole San Francisco Bay Area. Naturalists enjoy the 740-acre island because a wide variety of land and marine animals, birds, and plant life can be observed. The island also has a varied and fascinating military history stretching back to the American Civil War, and was an Indian fishing, hunting, and residence site for thousands of years. Trails and fire roads circle the island, pass through historical areas, climb to the summit of 781-foot high Mount Caroline Livermore, and provide access to several small, sandy beaches.

Cover: U.S. Army Musician of Artillery in the dress uniform bandmen were permitted to wear between 1902 and 1917.

Below: The Bay Bridge, San Francisco, and Alcatraz Island as seen from Angel Island. Angel Island as seen from Marin County.





Indian Use of the Island

Indian use of the island began some two thousand or more years ago when human beings first began to take up permanent residence in the San Francisco Bay Region. The Coast Miwok Indians who lived in what is now Marin County reached the island by means of boats made out of tule reeds. Some of these boats could accommodate as many as eight or ten people. Though they tended to become water-logged after prolonged use, they were adequate for short trips because their lightness made them relatively fast and maneuverable. Long poles were used to propel the boats in shallow water; double-ended paddles were used in deep water.

Villages or camps were established at Ayala Cove, West, East, and North Garrisons — the very places later chosen by the U.S. Army for development. The Indians who used the island were expert fishermen and also hunted deer, seals, sea lions, and sea otter. Several kinds of fish and shellfish were available the year around, and (then as now) salmon and other highly prized fishery resources were seasonally plentiful since the annual spawning runs were made through Raccoon Straits just offshore from Angel Island. The Indians also hunted quail, ducks and other sea fowl, and gathered acorns, buckeyes, and other native seed crops as well as certain roots and leaves in order to round out their varied diet.



The Spanish Era

In August 1775, Lt. Juan Manuel de Ayala brought his sailing ship, the San Carlos, into San Francisco Bay and anchored it in what is now Ayala Cove. His mission was to develop an accurate description of San Francisco Bay that future Spanish ship captains could rely on. Ayala's pilot, Don Jose de Canizares, explored the bay in the ship's launch and did the necessary map work — the first maps ever made of the magnificent and now world-famous harbor — while the San Carlos remained at anchor beside the little island that Ayala christened Isla de Los Angeles. Alcatraz (Pelican) Island was also named by Ayala at this time.

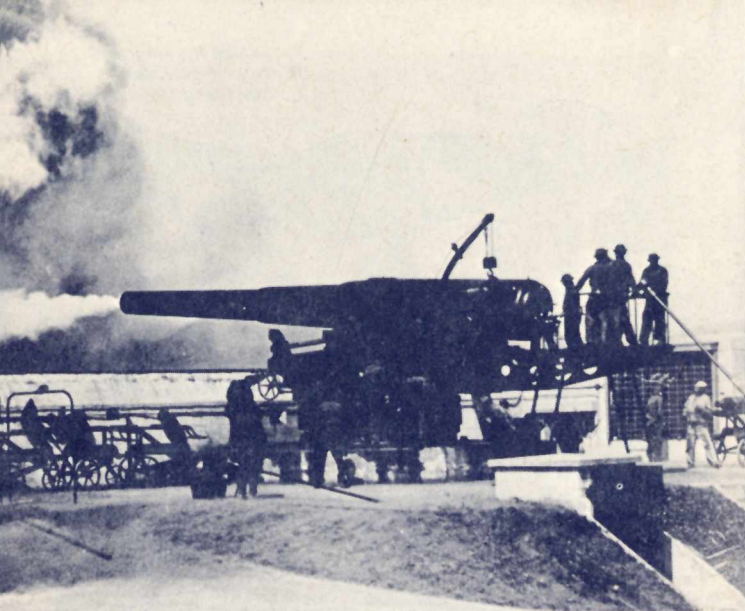
In the early years of the nineteenth century the island was probably uninhabited because the Indians had all been drawn into Mission San Francisco de Asis (Mission Dolores in San Francisco), or driven out of the region. After 1808, however, Russian sea otter hunting expeditions with many Aleut hunters did visit the island and took many otter from the North Bay area. In 1814 the English 16-gun sloop-of-war, Raccoon, was damaged off the coast of northern California, but managed to stay afloat long enough to reach San Francisco Bay. In March and April of that year the ship was careened and repaired on the beach at Ayala Cove. Today the deep water channel between Tiburon and Angel Island is named Raccoon Strait in honor of the old English sailing ship.

In 1837 Antonio Maria Osio asked the governor of California to give Angel Island to him for use as a cattle ranch, and General Vallejo, military commandant of Alta California, endorsed the petition with the proviso that some of the island be reserved for harbor defense purposes. In 1839 Osio's grant was approved and thereafter he kept cattle — up to 500 of them — on the island and had several houses built for use by his herders and other attendants although he, himself, never made his home on the island.

- A. Isla de los Angeles
- B. Isla de Alcatrazes
- C. Isla Plana (Mare Island)



This map recreates the general character of the original Plano del Puerto de San Francisco as drawn by Don Jose de Canizares in 1776.



U.S. Development of the Island

After 1846 and the war between Mexico and the United States, Osio's title was disputed by various parties and a number of squatters took up residence on the island. In the early 1850's a quarry was developed on the east shore of the island and high quality sandstone was carved out of the cliffs above Quarry Point for use at Mare Island, San Francisco (the original Bank of California, for instance), and elsewhere. The quarry continued in operation until the 1920s (finally leveling the present-day site of the parade ground east of the large barracks building).

In 1863 and '64 Camp Reynolds was established at West Garrison and gun batteries were built near the camp, and at Point Stuart, Point Knox, and Point Blunt. A small hospital was built at Ayala Cove and Camp Reynolds was used as a depot for recruits arriving from the east coast for assignment in the West. Apache, Sioux, Modoc, and other Indian "wars" throughout the West were the primary military preoccupations of the 1870s and '80s, but in 1886 the "Endicott Report" focused attention once again on the extreme weakness of Pacific Coast harbor defenses in general, and on the particular value of Angel Island for such purposes. Eventually, (during the Spanish-American War effort, 1898-1900) the report led to the development of new gun batteries on the southwest side of the island facing the Golden Gate. Batteries Ledyard, Wallace, and Drew began to be constructed in 1898. All of them were in operation by 1904 — and were decommissioned as obsolete in 1909.

Meanwhile, a quarantine station was established at Ayala Cove, (then known as Hospital Cove) where ships arriving from foreign ports could be fumigated, and immigrants suspected of carrying contagious diseases could be kept in isolation. In 1899 a detention camp was established



at East Garrison for veterans of the Spanish-American War who had contracted or been exposed to contagious diseases. As U.S. Troops began to return from the Phillipines and elsewhere during 1901, this detention camp became a debarkation and discharge facility where some 87,000 men were returned to civilian status by the end of 1904.

In 1905 an Immigration Station began to be constructed in the area known today as North Garrison. Surrounded by public controversy from its inception, it was finally put into partial operation in 1910. Built on a large scale, it was designed to handle the flood of European immigrants who were then expected to begin arriving in California once the Panama Canal was opened. International events after 1914, including the outbreak of World War I, cancelled the expected rush of European immigrants, but Orientals continued to arrive on the west coast and to go through immigration procedures that — despite Angel Island's relative isolation — were repeatedly haunted by various kinds of graft and corruption.

In 1910 and 1911 East Garrison was expanded into a major facility for receiving recruits and processing military personnel for overseas assignment. Construction included a huge 600-man barracks, a mess hall, and a hospital. During the next few years this new construction made East Garrison — or Fort McDowell as the base on Angel Island was known from 1900 to 1946 — just about the world's largest and most elaborate military induction center.

Opposite Page: Five and eight-inch rifles like this were mounted in Batteries Drew, Ledyard, and Wallace between 1900 and 1909.

Above left: Men of the Sixth Artillery, Battery B, standing inspection on the old parade ground at West Garrison, 1892.

Above right: Immigrants arriving between 1910 and 1940.



World War I

In 1917, following U.S. declaration of war on Germany, the facilities at East Garrison were put to heavy use, and even the Immigration Station at North Garrison was pressed into service as a prison for "enemy aliens" (most of them German citizens) who had been arrested on board ships in west coast harbors. These men were later transferred to permanent detention quarters in North Carolina.

In 1918 Angel Island was used as a debarkation and discharge point for troops returning from the war. Thereafter, throughout the 1920s and '30s, the busy East Garrison area discharged, inducted or handled the transfer of some 40,000 men per year — more than were processed by any other U.S. military post during those years. The reason for much of this activity was that from 1900 to 1941, the only U.S. military bases outside the continental United States were in the Pacific (the Phillipines, Hawaii, the Panama Canal Zone, etc.), and Angel Island — or Fort McDowell — was the nation's only military overseas processing station. Because of this overseas orientation, the ordinary, routine military life of Fort McDowell acquired a unique and distinctly international atmosphere. The planting of exotic flowers, vines, shrubs, and trees collected in foreign lands was one expression of this internationalism.

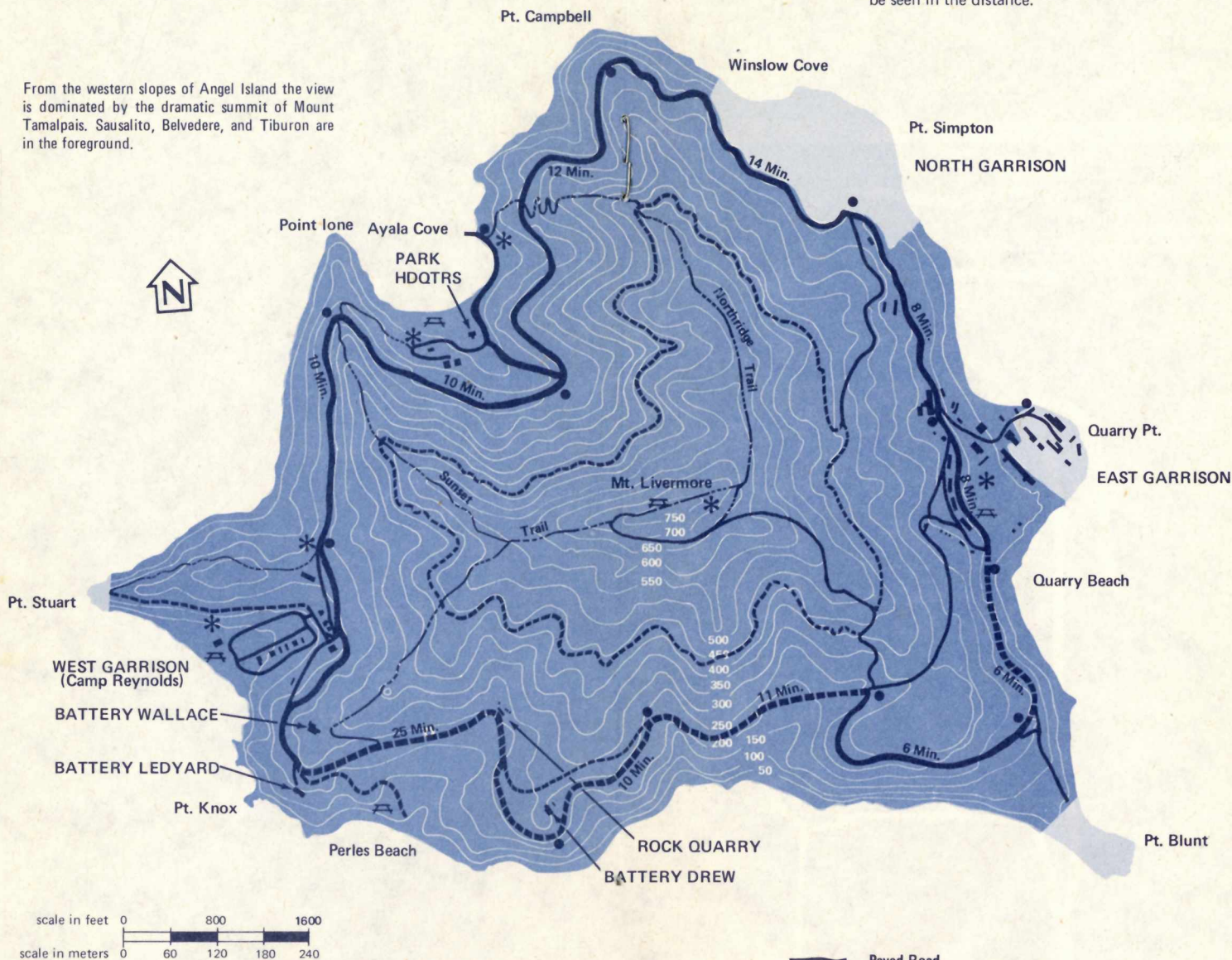
For your convenience the map portion of this brochure can be detached for separate use.



ANGEL ISLAND

From the western slopes of Angel Island the view is dominated by the dramatic summit of Mount Tamalpais. Sausalito, Belvedere, and Tiburon are in the foreground.

To the Northeast the view includes the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge with a glimpse of San Pablo Bay through the narrow strait behind The Brothers Lighthouse. The hills of Sonoma and Napa Counties can be seen in the distance.



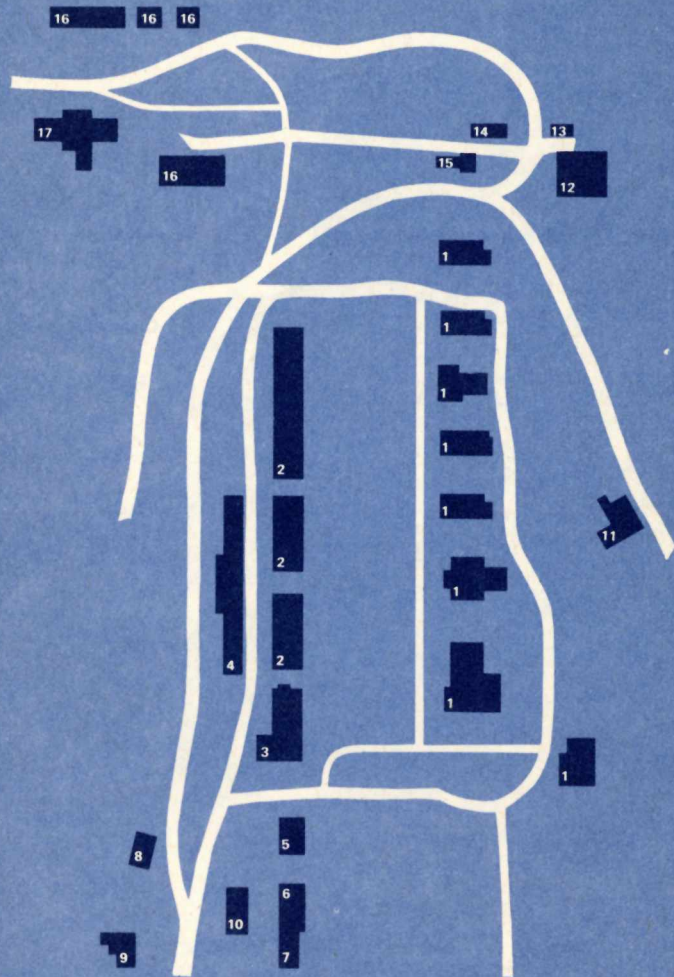
Southwest of Angel Island the view from the summit of Mount Livermore includes the Golden Gate with its famous bridge. From Fort Point at the southern foot of the bridge the view sweeps on around the whole northern waterfront and includes much of San Francisco itself with Alcatraz in the foreground.

To the East and Southeast are the cities of the East Bay — Richmond, Berkeley, Oakland, San Leandro and all the smaller towns in between. Even Mount Diablo thirty miles away in Contra Costa County can be seen on clear days looming up behind the East Bay Hills.

To the South the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge, Treasure Island, and much of San Francisco Bay are visible.

- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Trails
- Picnic Area
- Comfort Station
- Approx. Walking Time from Point to Point
- Off Limits

Bicycles can be brought to Angel Island on the ferry and used to circle the island on the main road. Most of the other roads on the island are either too rough or too steep for safe and pleasant cycling.



Camp Reynolds (West Garrison) as described in an official U. S. Army report dated January, 1877.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Officers Qtrs. | 7. Ord. Storehouse | 13. Blacksmith Shop |
| 2. Barracks | 8. Post Trader | 14. Carpenter Shop |
| 3. Offices | 9. Com. Sgt. Qtrs. | 15. Bakery |
| 4. Messrooms | 10. Old Schoolhouse | 16. Laundress Qtrs. |
| 5. Band Qtrs. | 11. Chapel | 17. Hospital |
| 6. Guardhouse | 12. QM Stables | |



World War II

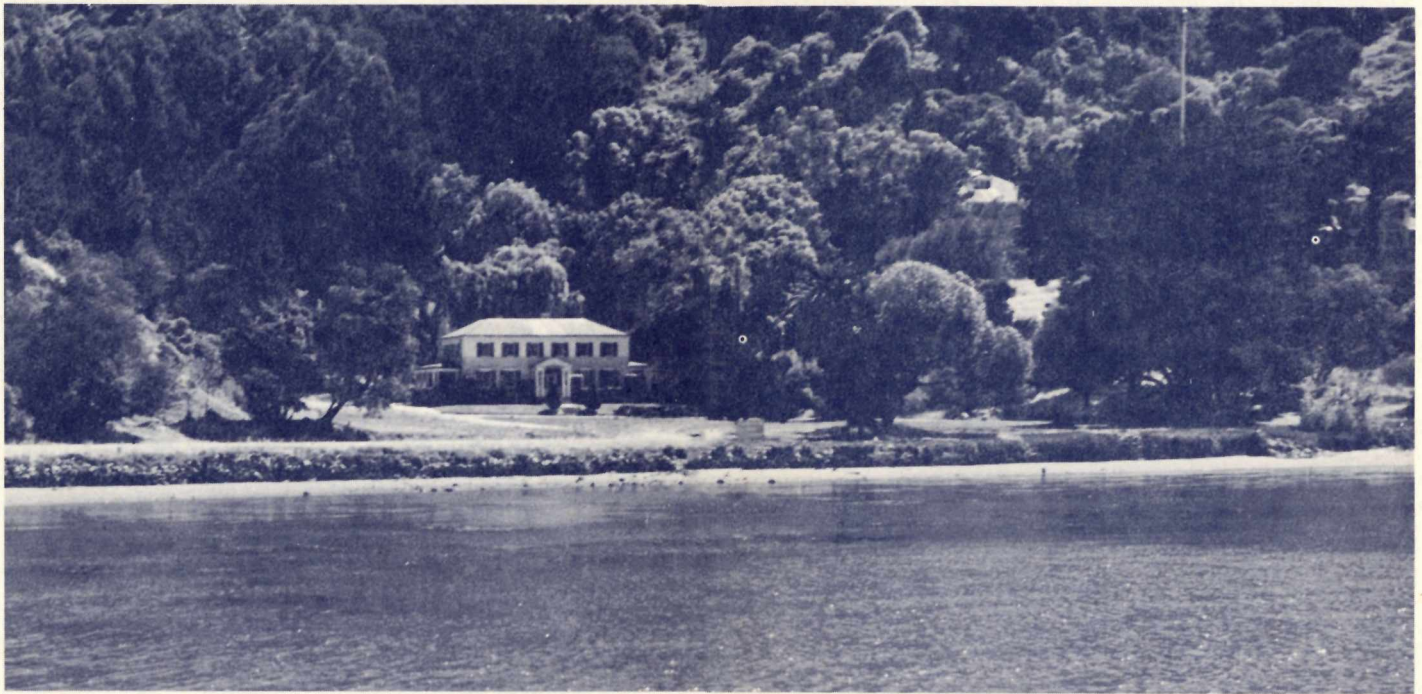
After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and the outbreak of World War II, the Immigration Station at North Garrison was turned into a prisoner of war camp, where, before the war was over, hundreds of Japanese war prisoners were temporarily detained. At the same time, East Garrison began to serve as a major point of embarkation for troops headed toward the Pacific war zone. Temporary barracks and other structures were thrown up at East Garrison, an anti-aircraft artillery and searchlight station was built and manned atop the mountain, a large new mess hall and other facilities were built at North Garrison, and the post entered a tense and extremely busy set of war years. The busiest time of all for Angel Island, however, came in 1945 when the war ended and troops began to return home. A 60-foot high illuminated "welcome" sign was built on the south-facing slope of the island and the work of discharging war veterans was accomplished as rapidly as possible. The rush continued into 1946 and then tapered off rapidly so that in July of that year the army decided to close down East Garrison and declare the entire island surplus property. After August 28, 1946, all west coast overseas processing and discharge operations were removed to Camp Stoneman.



Caroline S. Livermore

Opposite: Angel Island was the site of a Nike Missile base from 1955 to 1962.

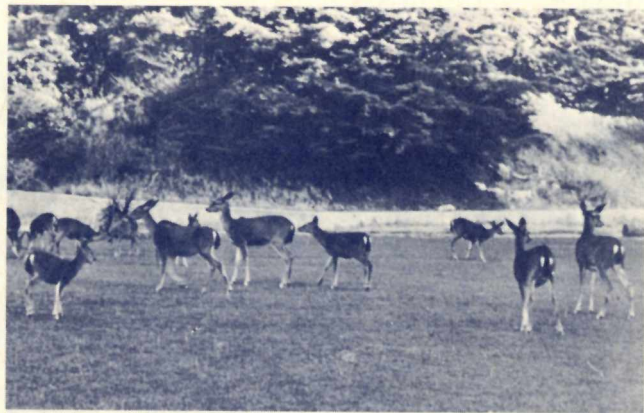
Below: As of 1954 public access to Angel Island was limited to the Ayala Cove area shown here. The building was originally built by the U.S. Public Health Department as part of their quarantine facility.



The Postwar Years

The movement to make the island into a public park got under way in 1947 and '48. A thorough study of the island's historical background was carried out by the National Park Service and in 1954, after various delays, a citizens' group, the Angel Island Foundation, was finally able to persuade the State Park Commission to acquire about 37 acres surrounding Ayala Cove. (The Quarantine Station had been moved to San Francisco.) Meanwhile, however, the U.S. Army had selected the island as a site for a Nike missile launching and radar control station. Additional acreage above the cove was nevertheless acquired by the State Park

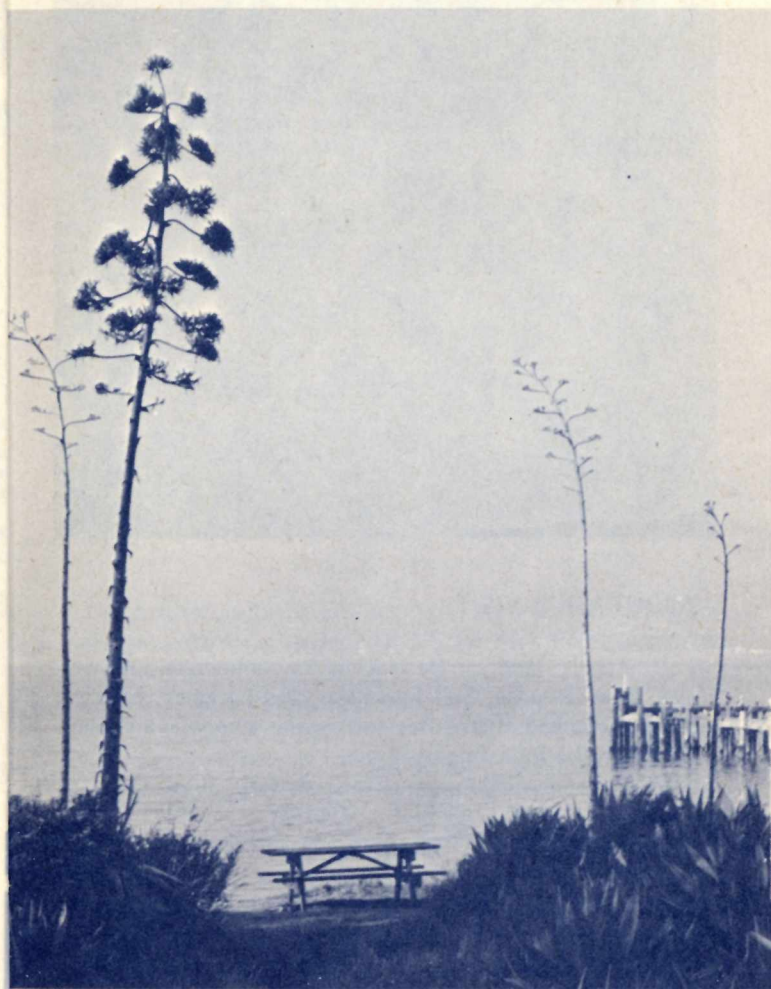
System in 1958 and the mountain top itself was rechristened Mount Caroline Livermore in honor of the dedicated Marin County conservationist who had played a leading role in the creation of Angel Island State Park. In 1962 the Nike missile base on the south side of the island was deactivated and the army once again left the island. In December of that year the entire island was turned over to the State of California for park purposes — with the single exception of the seven-acre Coast Guard Station on Point Blunt which continues in active operation to this day. In 1966 the cove at North Garrison was rechristened Winslow Cove in honor of Charles A. Winslow, another leader in the Angel Island park movement.



NATURAL HISTORY

Prior to the influence of human residence and use, the flora and fauna of Angel Island were very similar to those of nearby mainland areas in Marin County. North and east-facing slopes were covered with oak woodland, while native grasses and north-coastal scrub were predominant on west and south-facing slopes. Indian use of fire almost certainly accounts for the extension of grassland environment and the restriction of forest and brush land that is apparent in early paintings and photographs of the island. In the nineteenth century a number of highly aggressive European grasses (mostly annuals) began to replace the native grasses (mostly perennials), and fire-wood cutters chopped down oaks and other trees on the northeast side of the island. Today, however, native trees and shrubs have recovered to a large extent and can be found prospering along with a wide variety of introduced plants brought to the island by military residents and others during the last century. Oak, bay, and madrone trees, sagebrush, chamise, manzanita, toyon, elderberry and coyote brush are native to the island. Eucalyptus, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, Monterey cypress, black locust, Australian tea trees, Portuguese cork oaks, and other trees and shrubs have been planted on the island. Wildflowers, both native and exotic, have also been planted, some of them in large quantities dispersed from airplanes.

Animal and bird life is wonderfully diverse because both land and seashore species can be seen. Deer are numerous and relatively tame. Seals and sea lions can sometimes be seen or heard, and raccoons also live on the island. Some of the birds that are often seen include robins, scrub jays, sparrows, juncos, hummingbirds, flickers, hawks, owls, sea gulls, ducks, egrets, grebes, scoters, and kingfishers. Blue herons, pelicans — both brown and white — and many other waterfowl can be seen feeding offshore or flying over the island on their way to feeding grounds in other parts of the bay. Salmon, striped bass and other fish migrate between the ocean and the Sacramento River Delta through Raccoon Strait.

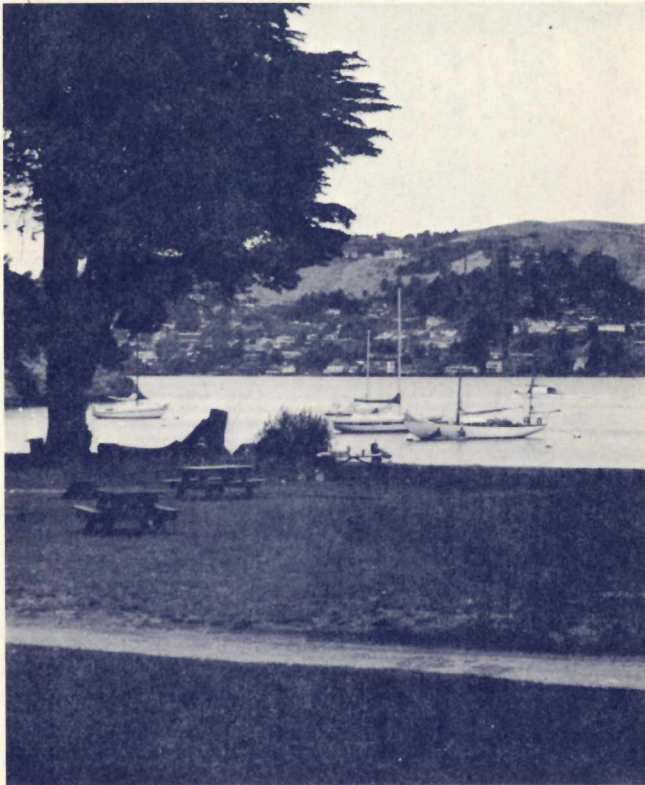


Top: Brown pelicans gather on the remains of the old West Garrison pier.

Bottom: Century Plant, a native of the arid southwestern U.S. and Mexico, towers over a picnic table at West Garrison

Opposite page: East Garrison's hauntingly quiet military buildings are eloquent mementoes of another time.

Below: The calm waters and scenic qualities of Ayala Cove are popular with boating enthusiasts from all parts of the Bay Area.



ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Angel Island can be reached by commercial ferry service from Tiburon, San Francisco, and Berkeley. Charters can be arranged at any time and regular schedules are maintained on the following basis:

	San Francisco	Tiburon	Berkeley
Summer Schedule (June to early September)	daily	daily	Weekends (April through October)
September to May	weekends and holidays	weekends and holidays	charter only

For further information on ferry service from Tiburon, please contact the Angel Island State Park Ferry Company in Tiburon, 415-435-2131.

For further information on ferry service from San Francisco or Berkeley, please contact Harbor Carriers, Inc., San Francisco, 94133, or telephone 415-398-1141.

Individual park visitors or families are welcome to land at Ayala Cove. Organized groups are welcome to use the playing field and other facilities at East Garrison. Reservations for group use of these facilities can be made up to 90 days in advance by contacting the Angel Island park headquarters.

Private boats can use the boat slips or mooring buoys at Ayala Cove. Mooring buoys can be used overnight, but the boat slips — and the island itself — are for day use only. Dogs are not allowed on the island at any time.

Trails

Foot trails and fire roads circle the entire island and climb to the 781-foot high summit of Mount Caroline Livermore. Only Point Blunt and the North Garrison area are not open to public use. Special caution should be used around the unmaintained historic buildings, and in the vicinity of the bluffs which tend to erode easily and provide unreliable footing. The main trails are well marked and are designed to avoid most hazards including the poison oak that is native to this region.

Bicycles can be used on the island-circling system of fire roads, and can be brought to the island on the ferry boats. A concessionaire operates a snack bar, and trackless-train which makes narrated tours of the island. All of these services are available during the summer and by special arrangement throughout the balance of the year.

Beaches

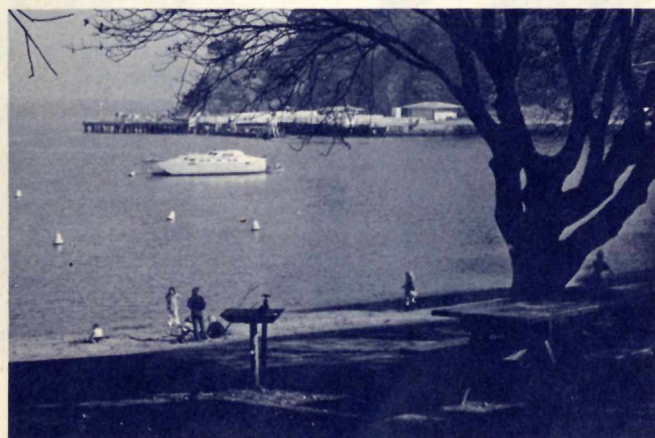
The beaches at Quarry Point and Ayala Cove are both sandy and protected from the afternoon breezes that so often blow in from the ocean through the Golden Gate. The Quarry Point Beach is especially pleasant for sunbathing or playing in the water. There are no lifeguards, however, and swimming can be hazardous because of the very strong currents that run past the island with each change of tide. The water at Perle's Beach is considerably rougher, and the beach itself more exposed to the wind and weather. The area does have a spectacular view, however, and the beach is a delightful place to walk and otherwise indulge in general beachcombing.

Picnicking

Facilities for family picnicking in the Ayala Cove area include tables, charcoal stoves, piped drinking water, and restrooms. Group facilities at East Garrison include tables, barbeque pits, piped drinking water, and restrooms. A volley ball court, and a softball diamond complete with backstop are also available at East Garrison. The number of people that can use the area is limited and a reservation for use is required. For further information and reservation arrangements, please contact the Angel Island State Park headquarters.

Informal picnicking is permitted throughout the island for individuals and families although fires are permitted only in designated areas at Ayala Cove and East Garrison. Charcoal can be purchased on the island, but you must supply your own starter fluid.

There is a fishing pier at Ayala Cove, and with a fishing license one can also fish from a number of other places on the island. Rock fish are relatively abundant, and striped bass or salmon may be caught.



Top: A trackless-train takes people around the island on weekends and during the summer.

Middle: Quarry Beach is a popular spot on warm sunny days.

Bottom: Picnic facilities at Ayala Cove include tables and cook stoves.



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