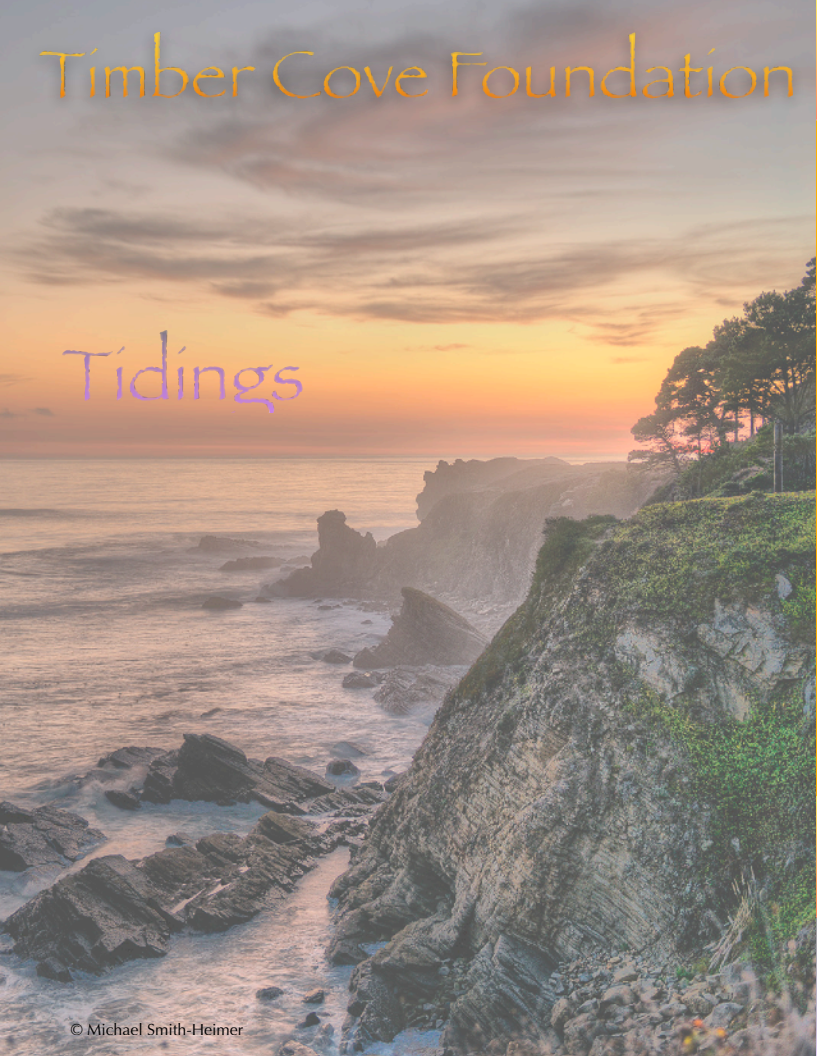


## Tidings



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**John Howland**  
**Hannah Clayborn**  
**Kris Kilgore**  
**Susan Moulton**  
**Lorra Stone**  
**Susan Williamsen**

**Legal Counsel**  
**Trail Chairman**

**Ray Seto**  
**George Melo**

Every property owner in Timber Cove can help protect and improve our community assets by donating money, materials, time, or talent. There's no limit to what we can do together. Since 2017 we have not publicly thanked all of our generous donors. As we move forward we give these neighbors the credit they deserve. See page 3 in this issue. We ask for your help now to continue our work in making Timber Cove a better place to live, work, and play. Please make a tax deductible donation or contact us to help in other ways.

[DONATE](#)

## NEW RUST CREEK TRAIL

Many thanks to our volunteers and hired workers who restored a lovely destination trail that connects Umland Circle with Rust and Hudson Drives. The focus and highlight of this trail is the creek that parallels Rust Drive, a classic babbling brook at the bottom of a canyon where you can forest bathe with birdsong.

After finishing the trail the crew was also able to clear almost all of the considerable storm debris that fell on the two-mile Umland-Smith Court Trail over the winter.

Although we celebrate the skill and hard work that accomplished so much with so little money on April 20 and 21, there is still much to do. Maintenance and a bridge are needed on the John Sperry Trail

(restored by the TCHA in 2016-17) and we have three to four more miles of trail that have not been restored.

Thank you supervisor/contractor John Howland, Trail Chairman George Melo, Susan Williamsen, Tom Sgrenci, Kris Kilgore, Lorra Stone, Richard Murphy, and Lisa Melo. And thank you donors who helped pay for this lovely trail.

[Rust Creek Sights and Sounds 2024.04.21 #1](#)

[Rust Creek sounds 2024.04.21 #2](#)

To see photos of the new Rust Creek Trail go to:

[See Our Timber Cove Trails](#)



**Sonoma County Chipper Program**

Free chipping is one of the most important fire abatement programs in our County.

In the event of a wildfire, having 100 feet or more of defensible space has been clearly demonstrated to help save homes. Likewise, thinning vegetation on access roads can make it safer for residents and firefighters. Free chipper services help residents dispose of woody debris and assist them to create beautiful and “firewise” landscapes around homes and on roadsides.

Permit Sonoma Fire Prevention Division provides free chipper services to residents and targets properties located in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County like Timber Cove. On

unimproved properties, woody debris cleared from areas within 30 feet of a structure or 20 feet from a roadway also qualifies for the program. Unfortunately, services such as fuel breaks, fuel management, and defensible space greater than 100 feet from structures and 20 feet from edges of access roads to those structures fall outside the scope of the program. So first make your pile by a roadway, then [Apply Now!](#)

**Resilient Landscapes Coalition**

The Resilient Landscapes Coalition is mainly funded by Sonoma County’s Vegetation Management Program grants, and is readily available to all of Sonoma County. This educational and

advisory organization is dedicated to:

- Encouraging fire-wise landscape design and management
- Enhancing biodiversity and wildlife habitat
- Conserving resources

The group’s website provides up-to-date technical information about how to be a good land steward and notifies the community of trainings such as : *Within and Beyond Defensible Space* and *Gardening In the Defensible Space Zone*.

Online classes and training can be viewed on the the group’s Youtube channel below.

[Resilient Landscapes Coalition - YouTube](#)

For information about resilience, call Kris Kilgore 847-7431



**The Gold Standard**

Judicious clearing is called for on some coastal bluffs where there are few redwoods and many dead or dying non-native pines (at left and right). But clearcutting over 95 trees in the middle of a healthy redwood and fir forest (below) is unnecessary and devastating to our ecosystem.



**T**imber Cove property owner Phillip Trowbridge grew up in Sonoma County, graduated from Santa Rosa High School, and earned a law degree at USF. Prior to his career in banking and building, he worked with his father, W.C. "Bob" Trowbridge, who in 1953 founded a popular canoe business on the Russian River, at one time operated Rio Nido and Monte Rio Beaches, and owned the Rio Nido Resort. Bob Trowbridge was instrumental in establishing Californians' right to river access. Phil describes how he met Richard Clements, the developer of Timber Cove subdivision, in the late 1950s. Phil is now 91 years old.

At that time I was working for Santa Rosa Savings and Loan [which] was doing all the real estate loans. They made a loan to Dick Clements. And in the short time that I worked there, I ran onto Dick and went up the Coast to see what property he had, and I really kind of fell into it, because he was an interesting guy and I was ready to go on to do other things. My dad at the time owned Rio Nido Resort, and I would go up and bar tend... [And] because of my interest in the River, I learned they were going to build an Inn there and [I wanted] to see it.

I was always available for lunch when Dick would come to Santa Rosa and he questioned me about things, but I didn't really help him at all....We had a good relationship. I put up with his drinking and he would come and stay at my house when he was doing some work on getting his loan squared away. I helped him on a couple of loans for his spec [model] home, but not much. [The original Model Home is now owned by the Michael Beardsley family at 22137 Highway 1]..I visited him down at his home in San Francisco. He was just an interesting guy. It was his way or no way.

And I did end up working for a builder as his right hand man for loans, [using] the experience from the Savings and Loan and law degree to keep everything in good shape. So it all kind of fit together and I [worked] with Condiotti Enterprises for 42 years.

[Clements] worked his tail off. He had an ability to make friends with the people that worked with him, but he also made some people not-so-happy too. And if he didn't like somebody, he really didn't like 'em. He was a character. He built the Inn first and then worked on the subdivision itself in sections and made I don't know how many maps. But he had a way with people to get things done that he needed....The people I talked to always liked him. It was hard to keep up with him. [When I first] ran into him...it was like he was an opportunist. Always doing something with his hands. [Richard Clements got an undergraduate degree in journalism and philosophy from UC Berkeley, but was interested in environmental design.]

But he was a dreamer that way [about architecture], and the people I saw around him all appreciated his ability to discuss it, you know, pump it up, and make it sound reasonable. But it always needed money. It was interesting times because I was trying to make out what I'm supposed to do...after law school and working my first two or three jobs. It was just fun to communicate with him and visit with him up there... He had some very good ideas...[and] he was "Out There" with his ideas. If they could have been built, it would have been really something. But there was a limit to how much he could involve people to get the funds to do that, [and] for his background, it was way too much for him to accomplish.

But he designed the Glass House?

Yeah. I think he got a lender to help him build it. Because that's where he had his office. Then he had [an apartment] in the City....I got to know him after he was married to Ninive. She seemed to go along with him. She wasn't that schooled or anything about what he did or why he did it. She was a very pleasant little lady.

It was interesting how he was able to put [the subdivision] together and map it. I don't even know if there's another subdivision [like it].... I've looked at the trails on the map a couple of times and they seemed to be in a pretty good

The following generous people have supported the Timber Cove Foundation with monetary donations, often repeatedly, since 2017. Please add your name to the list.

**Lloma Alameda**

Kirsten Anderson and Kathleen Marsh  
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**Roger and Claire Simpson**

**Janet Smith-Heimer**

**Joeldene Sperry**

**Eric Tamm**

**Brian and Sylvia Todd**

**Lorrie Uribe**

**Gail and Stephen Wight**

**John and Susan Williamsen**

Rod and Barbara Wong

Continued on page 5

We may imagine that Timber Cove was more serene and pristine when Euro-American settlers arrived about 170 years ago. It may have been; but not for long. The new industrial port of Timber Cove in Salt Point Township with its (not yet documented) beginning in the mid 1850s, is said to have had the first doghole lumber chute in the area. Documentation does show that it entertained regular schooner traffic and became something of a Barbary Coast North by 1861.

At the time of the July 1860 census there was already a crowd here, the most populated area north of Duncans Mills. Because the census included all of Salt Point Township it is difficult to get exact numbers, but inferences indicate that there were dozens of dwellings in and around Timber Cove with families headed by millers, lumbermen, day laborers, herders, farmers, stock raisers, and even an engineer and lawyer or two. The census evidently missed quite a few residents, like the wife of A. Lambarth, who had the second recorded baby in Timber Cove on Valentine's Day 1860, as reported in a Sacramento newspaper.

The census was too late to count the unfortunate Fred Hegler, who accidentally killed himself on May 18 while in the act of striking a dog with his rifle. The dog escaped, but the ball went through Mr. Hegler's left hand and ripped into his heart. The census also missed Mr. Fleeman, a 33 year-old, six-foot high stock raiser who on June 7 grabbed his rifle, left his business partner's house, and was never seen again. Conjecture ran to hostile Indians or a fatal accident. I would have interrogated the business partner, a Mr. Irving.

The Settlement Sixties started with encouraging reports of industrial progress. In June a ten-ton "steam wagon" with two engines and a 7-foot diameter driving wheel was described as if it was an alien creature. Its "ship's wheel" was for "steering like a boy's velocipede". It was a "critter...intended to convey lumber from the mills at or near Timber Cove" to the doghole port. Note the plural, "mills", for there were more than one. This critter was designed at Vulcan Foundry for Messrs. Ogden & Wright, who proposed to haul lumber over dirt roads without rails! No sooner had locals recovered from the wonderment of the steam wagon than

major newspapers reported on an extensive deposit of good quality coal discovered at Timber Cove.

One stormy day in 1860 illustrates just how heavy schooner traffic was at Timber Cove. Capt. Tufts, who had inaugurated the first passenger service to Timber Cove two years previously, had the sad duty to report that his schooner *Josephine Wilcut* wrecked at Timber Cove on October 11. She was loaded down with lumber when heavy swells hit her hard

and set her adrift. Then she dove upon a ledge of rocks and was finally knocked to pieces. Both captain and crew were saved with difficulty, but Capt. Tufts noted that the captain of another schooner lying in port, the *Mansfield*, apparently watched this emergency without trying to lend assistance. Two "lighters" (flat-bottomed barges) were also beat to pieces by the waves at Timber Cove that day, but others were lucky to be saved by the efforts of Capt. Williams of Bolinas. A report two days later corrected the total number of

schooners driven ashore at Timber Cove on October 11, 1860, at four, with two estimated to be total losses.

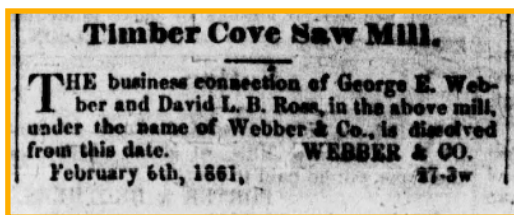
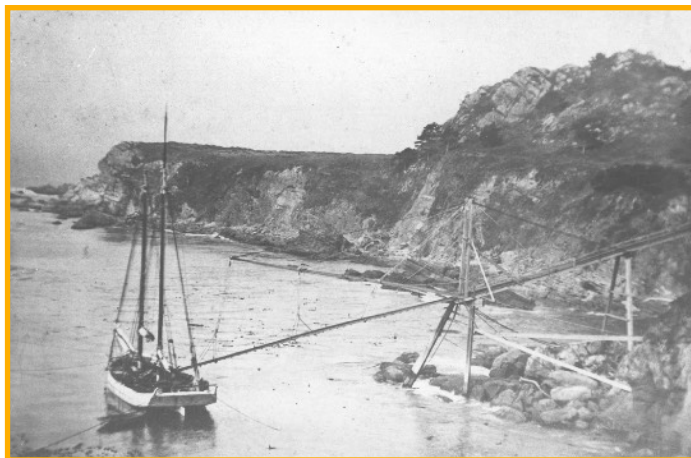
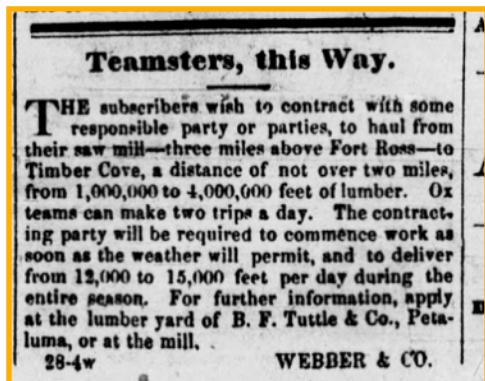
The following July saw a series of traffic accidents involving vessels plying our coastal waters. On the 12th the schooner *Shooting Star*, loaded down with Timber Cove lumber, capsized 15 miles northwest of Bodega, and was abandoned, with all hands saved. She was valued at \$5,000. Just a few days later the schooner *Morning Light* out of Timber Cove collided with the schooner *Susan*

*Farnum* bound for Bolinas. The *Morning Light* survived to pluck the crew off the other ship, which quickly filled with water, and tow the stricken *Farnum* to port. All of this would pale in comparison to the drama that followed.

**Next time** Part 2 of *Our Wild, Wild Coast*: Murder at Stewart's Point and Armed Rebellion at Timber Cove.

[**Note:** These articles are a voyage of discovery collecting primary sources documenting Timber Cove's history. The information here may corroborate or contradict other secondary sources or articles that have been published previously. If you have primary sources of information to share, send them to us at

[timbercovefoundation2017@gmail.com](mailto:timbercovefoundation2017@gmail.com)]



Top: *Petaluma Weekly Argus*, 24 February 1860 (2-6)  
Center: Schooner and lumber chute at Timber Cove, c. 1900 (Monterey Historical Society)  
Bottom: *Sacramento Daily Union* 28 October 1861 (3-6)



Richard and Ninive Castro Clements, Jr. c. 1965

relation to the lots. That was Clement's idea. The agent was Hattie Beardsley, and there was... Stan [Hansen] the real estate agent. After that the market kind of went away. [Interviewer mentions role of Coastal Commission and Sonoma County Planning] Yeah he was lucky to be there then. But I'm not sure it did all that well for him. Oh, he made some money. In the first few years he sold quite a few lots. But there was always a long process to get them sold.

Were you involved in naming the streets? We know Ninive was his wife. And there's Trowbridge, that's you.

Benny [Bufano, the sculptor who built the obelisk at the Timber Cove Inn] was a jewel. I don't know how he could do what he did. He was this little guy and he just did what he wanted to do. I don't know how Clements paid him, if he did. I don't know how Clements ever got him to do that.

Did you know Ansel Adams?

Well all you do is meet Ansel. You don't have much conversation with him. He was doing his thing and so he didn't really talk to us peons.

Who was Signaigo?

I don't remember his first name but he did quite a bit of the improvements, like the roads and things.

You got a road named after you.

It's wasn't a road; it's a cul de sac; a turn-around.

There was Smith who was his attorney at the time. [Smith Court is named for Timber Cove Properties, Inc. secretary, attorney, C.R.E. Smith,]

So Frost was the surveyor?

He was an engineer too. [Kenneth Frost Assoc., Civil Engineers, Surveyors]

Do you know who Rust was?

He was an attorney. I'm not sure if I ever met him. I know he was somebody that Dick worked with.

And Umland?

Umland was in charge of loans at Santa Rosa Savings and Loan. He was the one that helped Clements get the loans. I never really talked with him much about Timber Cove, because I don't think he wanted to claim it as his approval. [Robert J. Umland, Asst. V.P. Santa Rosa Savings and Loan Assoc.]

But naming a street after him kind of gave that away?

Yeah, but I don't think [Umland] would have approved of it. I think Clements slipped it in. He never asked me about the [Trowbridge] cul de sac.

But you were pleased about that?

Yeah, I enjoyed the thought.

It was a study all its own, and my involvement with it was only observing. Clements used me a little bit to get information because I worked at the Savings and Loan, but other than that I thought it was a wonderful deal. It was a good study in business, the work that he did. I had a few pieces of property, and built a house on Koftinow. I still have a piece of property.

Timber Cove created an interest with me. I didn't have a true legal background in the County [issues] or a professional design background. But I enjoyed working with the personalities.

My good story is that ...I asked my first wife to get married and I said I can get Clements to let us use the Model Home up there and we can get married in Fort Ross. So she didn't really understand..but she O.K.'d it and she

was a Martinelli, and her father and mother had vineyards...But then we had to get a priest to go up there and make it real.... And we actually had the wedding in the Fort Ross Chapel. And then Clements put on the reception in the Timber Cove Model Home...the first home built. It didn't cost me for the reception. Clements did that. But it was really a good experience. I really had a great time. We invited my friends up there, and we tried to keep the number down, but they enjoyed it. I felt very fortunate. [Joyce Martinelli and Phillip A Trowbridge were married Oct. 9, 1965.]

Is it true that there was supposed to be a Unit 3 on the south side of Timber Cove Creek?

Yeah, I think I heard something about that. I think [he] wanted to do that...I think Clement's favor had kind of waned and he kind of got kicked out. And so they knew he couldn't afford it, so I don't think he ever made a deal. I don't know for sure.

Was he an operator?

He was an artist. Artists want to be operators, they want to be on top of the flag pole. But he carried it out very well.

Was he happy with Timber Cove? Because then he went away to Nepal.

Yeah, but I think that's the artist's approach, because as far as he was concerned he'd done what he could do, and he sold it and then got it into Nepal, his next idea.

Read more about Richard Clement's life: [Richard Clements, Jr. Obituary](#)



The residence on Lot 12--the right side of State Highway No. 1 going north. The first house built in the project, it is temporarily serving as the location site office.