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The San Francisco News

THIRD SECTION

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ABOUT PEOPLE

(at Lands End)

By Dick Chase

Slides and Termites Wreck Home of Late 'Mayor' Harris

The 35-year-reign of the Harrises has ended at Land's End.

Mrs. Charles L. Harris, widow of the man who was known to thousands of hikers and sightseers as "the mayor of Land's End," has moved to Oakland to live with her son, Russell.

Mrs. Harris finally had to give up the long fight to save her home on the cliff below the Palace of the Legion of Honor from termites, floods and slides.

Large sections of the old trail that once was the route of the scenic carline to the Cliff House, were washed out by the heavy rains of last winter and the winter before.

One of the gullies undermined the little brown cottage and its surrounding cypress trees. The cottage slipped further down the cliff and buckled despite the heavy timbers with which its foundations had been painstakingly bolstered by the Harrises against previous slides.

Wrecked and untenable, the cottage now is 30 feet below its original site alongside the Land's End refreshment stand. There it appears to be poised for a final plunge hundreds of feet straight down into the ocean to join the fast disappearing wrecks of the freighters Frank H. Buck, Lyman K. Stewart and Ohioan.

Since the widow moved away, vandals have helped nature with destruction, until now there is little left but the four walls of the cottage and the picturesque stand where the lemonade bowl, wire-backed chairs and dusty carved piano made a delightful half-way house for Sunday outing parties.

The slides have made this part of Land's End practically inaccessible and given it all the appearances of a ghost town of the Mother Lode. Only a few of the hardest of hikers go there now. Veteran of these is H. W. Harnish, the 72-year-old retired soldier of 6513 California-st.

With his cattle dog, "Bud," Mr. Harnish makes the four-mile hike from the Cliff House around to Sea-cliff three times a week.

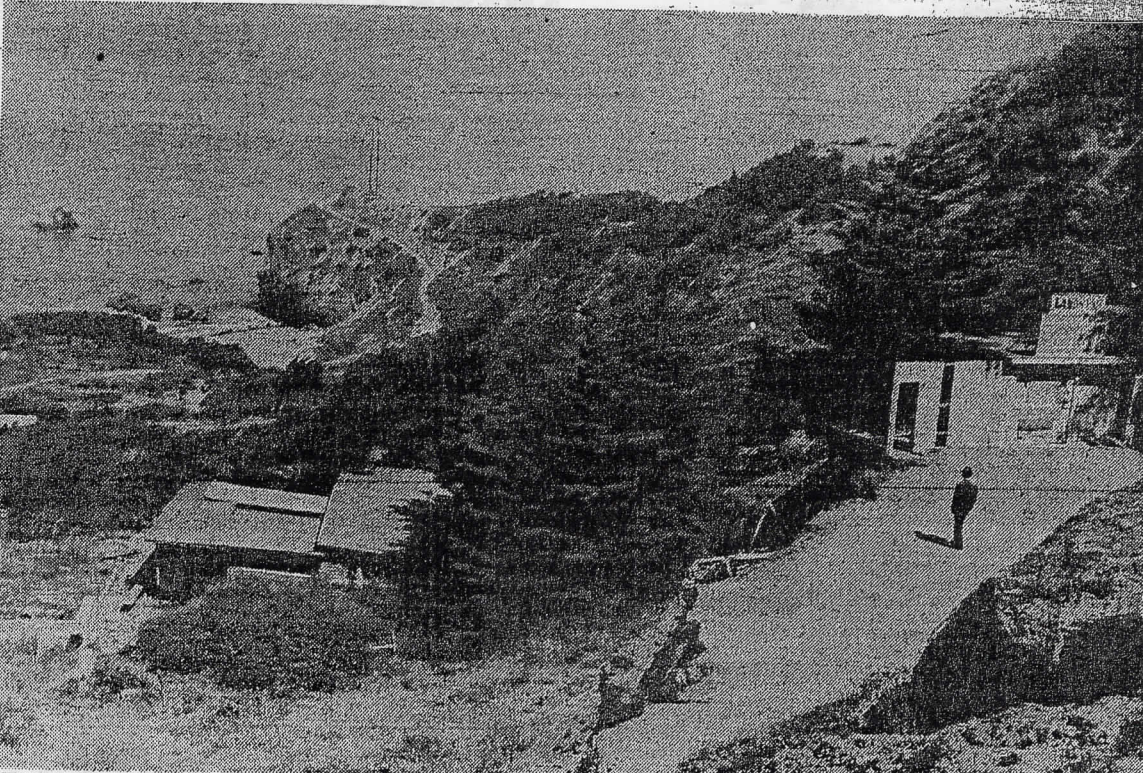
Bravely, Mrs. Harris had announced she would continue to live in the lonely spot after her husband died last November. She had grand plans for a little park with tables and benches, shrubs and flowers for those who frequently went to marvel at one of the world's most magnificent views.

Mrs. and Mr. Harris went to Land's End in flight from the fire of 1906, which destroyed their home down town. There they lived the first few years in an ancient trolley car around which they later built their cottage. The framework of the old car is still distinguishable in the wreckage.

At first they dispensed soda pop and sandwiches in the small octagonal station that had been abandoned with the carline. But the station was first to give in to the termites and slides and its services were assumed by the converted double garage still standing there with its sign:

"LAND'S END."

Haig Patigian's heroic statue of William C. Ralston, the pioneer banker and promoter, will be dedicated Sunday at 2 in Marine Park.



Floods, slides and termites finally have wrecked the home of the late "Mayor" Charles L. Harris of Land's End and forced the widow to abandon the little cottage and refreshment resort where thousands

of hikers and sightseers were entertained for 35 years on the cliff overlooking the Golden Gate, vantage point for one of the world's most magnificent views.

more of our city's picturesque charm, the cable cars? We most certainly will not, without a fight. We have got to make them realize the necessity of our cable cars if we wish to attract tourists to our traditional and beautiful city. The old traditions have really made San Francisco. I wish my great grandfather were here today.

God be with the ones who love San Francisco and help them preserve our friendly city from all who do not understand its greatness through the old treasures.

DORIS DONOVAN,
3639 25th-st.

Batch Hallinan of the San Mateo Hallinans, who also include Kate, Touney and Dynamite, all famous for spending most of their days romping in the nude in accordance with their dad's health theories, put on long pants and parted his hair this week to start his education. . . . Charles E. Moore, president of the Moore Machinery Co. and the Joshua Hendy Iron Works, took a United plane en route to Moscow as one of a mission to coordinate the machine tool buying of England, Russia and the United States.

The story of a modern Noah's Ark that sailed from Liverpool to Canada with a cargo of the finest breeds of English dogs and cats during the height of the bombing of London was told here today.

The account of the selection of pure-bred hunting dogs and Persian and Maltese cats and how they were loaded, two by two aboard the 20th Century ark, was given by Frank Featherstone, one of a British crew sent to man the liner H. M. Alexander, which is being outfit-fitted for British transport service.

Special to About-People.

SAN DIEGO, Sept. 5.—John Francis Stahl, 59-year-old, retired San Francisco postman, hiked into this border town today, completing in exactly 2 months, his walk from mission to mission along the route of the Spanish Padres from Sonoma south — 21 missions.

Mr. Stahl had lost a little weight and added length to his beard, but assured that he had worked out the kinks from the walk he made last year from Panama to Texas to cure a stomach.

San Francisco vacationers to Russian River resorts will want to take a closer look from now on at that plot of dahlias on the left side of the road just past the Japanese Temple and just before entering Sebastopol.

That is the dahlia ranch of Mortimer G. Thompson of Rural Route 3, Box 35, who has just captured the most coveted and profitable honors of the annual San Francisco Flower Show.

Mr. Thompson used to operate a tractor and do regular ranching, but action in the World War shattered his hearing and he needed to find a new occupation.

How far he has gone in the horticultural world was sharply revealed at the flower show the other day in the rotunda of City Hall.

Mr. Thompson put several of his dahlia blooms, about the size of banquet-plates, in vases, set them up in the back of his car and drove to

Sebastopol man had carried away.

Sunset Magazine Award for the finest dahlia to be released to the public in 1941, awarded to "Pride of the Redwood Empire," a flame red-gold-tipped dahlia of eight to 12-inch diameter.

American Home Achievement Medal for the most worthy undisseminated dahlia—won by "Treasure Island Sunset," a salmon pink, yellow shaded giant growing more than a foot in diameter.

First Prize for the most outstanding 1941 seedling dahlia, an orange-flame informal decorative, blooming 12 inches across and eight inches in depth.

First Prize for the finest 1940 seedling, a rose-pink informal decorative dahlia.

"I always loved dahlias back from the years when my mother grew them," Mr. Thompson relates. "So when I had to find a new occupation, I started growing them about five years ago.

About People: I wish to thank you for the publicity you gave my new Tidy Diddy Service lately—and for your poignant recollections of the times when I made such a fine showing with the Dy Dee Wash in San Francisco by securing new business in the old folks' home, which anyone would have thought would have been a barren field—also for recalling the time in which I topped all the other didee wagon drivers for the month by supplying a new customer at my own house.

BERNARD D. (BARNEY) FREEMAN, Oakland.

Having gotten a fair start on their first million in two newspaper enterprises, Keith Topping, the former Stanford football player, and Stan

By telling her that her pet had gone away for a vacation, the mother today checked the hysterical sobbing of 4-year-old Cecilie Jean Scott, of 1801 20th-av.

That was a lie, but one as white as Cecilie Jean's Collie that has been lost for a week.

The dog is pure white except for one ear and the hair surrounding one eye which are brown. He is watch-eyed (one blue and one brown).

Cecilie Jean's mother works day-times so if any one has any clue to the whereabouts of the collie, she should be telephoned in the evening at Evergreen 9050.

The movement for a Central Information Bureau to be erected in Union Square for tourists when the little downtown park has been restored after construction of the underground garage is being revived by Clyde Edmondson, secretary-manager of the Redwood Empire Association through the Western States Promotion Council.

The mayor and the park commission will be urged to consider the benefits to the city if the stopovers of visitors were extended through the conveniences of such a bureau.

About People:

Last spring you wrote of a nursery school in the Parkside District at 24th-av and Ulloa-st. I believe, and gave the name of the person



HIKER STAHL



CECILIE JEAN