



WINTER 2007

AT THE PRESIDIO

A SEASONAL GUIDE TO THE PARK

FORGOTTEN STORIES

New Main Post Street Signs

By Randolph Delehanty, Ph.D., Presidio Trust Historian

In 1924, Brigadier General William P. Burnham found that the history of the Presidio was “a closed book even to those on duty there.” Working with Captain Nelson Holderman, Lieutenant Colonel John P. Spurr of Fort Winfield Scott, and Colonel Albert E. Truby of Letterman General Hospital, a plan was formed to name Presidio streets after significant people so soldiers and citizens alike could better understand the post’s past.

The names memorialize some of the Spanish (1776-1820), Mexican (1820-1846), and early U.S. Army (1846-1994) commanders of the post. For example, the streets around Letterman Hospital are named for Surgeons General of the Army. The principal scenic drive through the post was named in honor of Abraham Lincoln, president and commander-in-chief during the Civil War. The major

east-west road through the southern Presidio was named for George Washington, the first president and the “Father of the Army.” A few streets were also named for heroic sergeants and enlisted men. By 1954, thirty-four additional streets were named across the post, and in 1961 sixty-one more streets were named. Today, the Presidio has almost 200 named streets.

Updating the Signs

The Presidio Trust is reinvigorating the street sign vision this Fall by updating and enlarging all signs on the historic Main Post, the Presidio’s primary visitor destination. In addition to the street name itself, the new signs will also include a brief explanation of why that figure is important to the Presidio’s history. The effort is another way of “raising up” the Presidio’s history for visitors to understand and enjoy.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

Anza Street

Capt. Juan Bautista de Anza – selected Presidio site March 28, 1776

Graham Street

Lt. Col. William Montrose Graham – post commander 1887-96

Montgomery Street

Capt. John B. Montgomery, USN – seized San Francisco Bay July 9, 1846

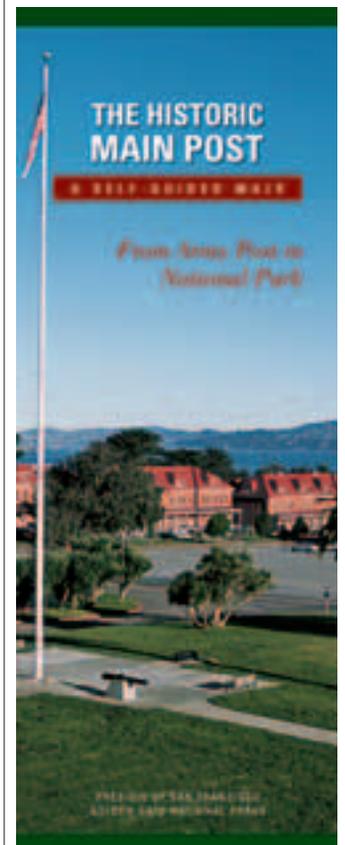
Funston Avenue

Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston – commander Dept. of California 1905-08

Gen. Funston sent troops into the burning city after the Earthquake and Fire of 1906.

Lincoln Boulevard

Abraham Lincoln – Civil War president and commander-in-chief 1861-65



Take a walk through time!
Get a Main Post Self-Guided Walk brochure at the Presidio Visitor Center in the Officers’ Club or by calling the Presidio Trust at **415/ 561 5418**.

WAYBURN REDWOOD GROVE DEDICATION



Dr. Wayburn, his daughter Laurie, and Craig Middleton, Executive Director of the Presidio Trust.



Michael Lamb, landscape architect for the Wayburn Redwood Grove, with Dr. Wayburn.

“

(Peggy and I) have always treasured the Redwoods, and to have this small redwood grove dedicated to us is indeed an honor.

”

Dr. Wayburn at the Grove Dedication

Dr. Edgar Wayburn, with the support of his late wife Peggy, successfully advocated for the preservation of more parkland than any other American in history. His passion and persistence convinced Congress to set aside more than 100 million acres of wilderness, including the vast forests of Alaska and our own Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

In October, the community gathered at the Presidio to celebrate Dr. Wayburn's 100th birthday by dedicating a grove of Redwoods to Ed and Peggy.

The Wayburn Redwood Grove sits atop the northern reach of Tennessee Hollow, overlooking a

restored creek that flows to Crissy Field. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Representative Lynn Woolsey, former Presidio Trust Board member Amy Meyer, and about 100 friends and family members toasted the amazing legacy of a quiet and graceful man with the vision of a giant.

Learn more about the life and work of Dr. Wayburn in his autobiography *Your Land and Mine*. You can also learn more about the history of the GGNRA in *New Guardians for the Golden Gate* written by Amy Meyer, with Dr. Randolph Delehanty. Both books are available at the Presidio Visitor Center in the Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue.





Great Horned Owl

Nature

Watch: reports from the field

What Birds Have You Seen Lately in the Presidio?

On December 28 the Audubon Society will host its annual "Christmas Bird Count." From Central Park in New York City to the Everglades, from the Rocky Mountains to the Presidio, groups of binoculared bird watchers will rove and record bird diversity. Last year there were 105 species observed in the Presidio alone!

Contact Golden Gate Audubon Society at **510/ 843 2222** or ggas@goldengateaudubon.org.



Burrowing Owl

Photo by Heather Keane

In October a diminutive Burrowing Owl was seen for several days at Crissy Field. Where it came from and where it went are a mystery, but one British birder observed a similar owl on Alcatraz shortly thereafter. Was it the same owl?

Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus

Great Horned Owls are widespread in California and found in a variety of habitats from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the grasslands of the coast. In the Presidio they are more likely to be heard than seen. Listen for their legendary hooting – a soft yet vibrant whoo-hoo-ho-o-o usually heard at night. The most notable physical attributes of this year-round resident are its prominent ear tufts or horns, enormous yellow eyes, and large size (the female being considerably bigger than the male).

At night Great Horned Owls hunt with extraordinary skill for prey such as gophers, mice, hawks, and skunks. Like other owls, the Great Horned Owl can approach its prey in total silence due to its specialized flight feathers. As well as being a silent hunter, this owl is swift, and its talons are effective weapons. Their night vision and acute hearing allows them to locate even the tiniest prey such as insects moving under piles of leaves. As with most owls, the indigestible bones, fur, and feathers of prey are coughed up as pellets. If you find these pellets while on a walk, look up; most likely you are right below its nest or perch. Be

careful, though. Owls are very territorial and will defend their nests aggressively. If their eggs or young are threatened they will dive again and again at a perceived intruder to scare them away.

Mushrooms: The Wildflowers of Winter

It's mushroom season! With the recent rains, all kinds of mushrooms are popping up around the Presidio. Every mushroom needs moisture to develop, and when the time is right millions of reproductive units called spores are dispersed from its gills. Only a small percentage of them land in a favorable environment where they germinate to form new fungi.

Many people are unaware that mushrooms are the actually the "fruit" of organisms called fungi.

Fungi are a vital part of ecosystems. Some are nature's recyclers, replenishing the soil by breaking down organic matter. Others, called mycorrhizal fungi, form mutually beneficial relationships by exchanging nutrients with the roots of plants. They are critical to the health of some forests, as many trees will not grow without them. The mushroom "fruit" of fungi



provide a food source for a variety of animals and insects. Some wild mushrooms are edible and can produce colorful natural dyes, and others have valuable medicinal properties.

Two Coyote Sightings by Presidio Resident Alexander Lazlo

The first took place near Lovers Lane Bridge. A coyote was crouched in what I thought was “hunting” mode. It inched forward silently and in a blink of an eye shot forward and pounced... on another coyote! The two frolicked in the moonlight until all of a sudden they were gone. The second sighting was at night. I was walking back with my daughter, Kahlia, from the Julius Kahn Playground. We passed through the eucalyptus forest, just below Inspiration Point. As we emerged onto the firelane we heard a coyote give a few short yips and a beautiful howl at the moonless night. The sound came from thirty or forty yards up the hill, but the effect on both my daughter and I was very close and present to our hearts – which were beating quite rapidly in response!

Excerpts from a Presidio Wildlife Observer of Yesteryear

Dr. Roger Simpson lived just outside the Presidio, his backyard abutting Lobos Creek. The following are excerpts from a record he kept from 1950 to 1964 noting wildlife seen in his neighborhood and the Presidio.

February 20, 1952
Western Great Horned Owl heard hooting in cypress forest in Presidio.

February 1, 1958
Varied Thrush. Male in beautiful adult plumage – crisp black on orange (heavy rain storms still in northern California and more coming according to radio).

December 25, 1959
Twenty-six Quail feeding on the lawn at Christmas dinner so all sixteen guests got pleasant surprise.

Thanks to Bruce Lyall and Andrew Rush for sharing this fascinating historical resource.

Please share any Presidio wildlife encounters of interest (or photos) by emailing nature@presidiotrust.gov.



Amanita muscaria

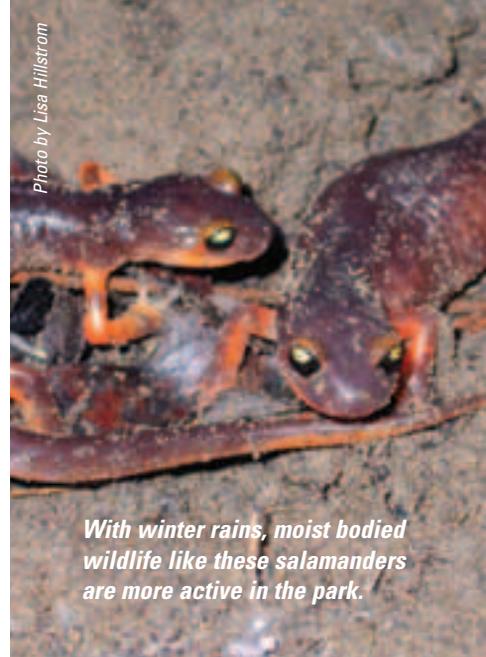


Photo by Lisa Hillstrom

With winter rains, moist bodied wildlife like these salamanders are more active in the park.



Photo by Damien Raffa

Thanks to Patagonia of San Francisco for 320 hours of urban ecological conservation volunteerism.

WINTER

PARK CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Help your local habitat during planting season. With volunteer support we'll be planting dune strawberry, Indian paintbrush and more than 150 other native species.

Habitat Restoration in the Field

Wednesdays & Sundays
9 am to noon

Habitat Restoration at the Nursery

Wednesdays and Saturdays
1 to 4 pm

415/ 561 5333



Restoration Advisory Board Public Meeting

Second Tuesday of the Month
7 pm

Presidio Officers' Club

The Restoration Advisory Board is a citizen's group that works with the Trust's environmental remediation program.

415/ 561 4255

Tours of Arion Press

Thursdays
3 pm

The tour features a gallery display of artist books and prints, and the historic production facilities, including the typefoundry, pressroom and composing room, and bookbindery. Reservations required. \$7.

www.arionpress.com

415/ 668 2548

Presidio RX Running Group

Mondays & Wednesdays
6:30 pm

Runners meet Mondays under the Palace of Fine Arts Dome, and Wednesdays at the Lombard Gate.

www.woohoo.org/presidiorex

DECEMBER

Listen: Making Sense of Sound

Through December 31

This major Exploratorium exhibition features over fifty-five interactive exhibits and related programs.

www.exploratorium.edu/listen

Birds, Birds, Birds from River of Words!

Through January 14

Friday – Sunday

9 am – 5 pm

Crissy Field Center

See children's interpretations of birds from all over the world.

www.crissyfield.org

8

Holiday Lights Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 8

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Presidio Main Post

(see full page spread)

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/ 561 5500



11

Presidio Lodge at the Main Post

Monday, December 11

6:30 pm

Presidio Officers' Club,

50 Moraga Avenue

Join us to learn about initial concepts and to share your own ideas as we prepare a request for proposals. This meeting will also serve as a scoping meeting under the National Environmental Policy Act.

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/ 561 5418

JANUARY

Remembered Light Exhibit

January 24 – April 15

Wednesdays – Sundays

11 am – 5 pm

Presidio Officers' Club

(see full page spread)

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/ 561 5500

4

Revitalizing West Letterman/ Thornburgh District Workshop

Thursday, January 4

6:30 pm

Presidio Officers' Club,

50 Moraga Avenue

The Presidio Trust is now revitalizing the park's Thornburgh area, a small-scale historic industrial streetscape near the Gorgas Gate (west of the Letterman Digital Arts Center) and has released an initial request for expressions of interest. Please join us to discuss early ideas as we move toward developing a request for proposals.

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/ 561 5418

13

International Rubik's Cube Competition

Saturday, January 13

10 am – 4:30 pm

Exploratorium

Come watch the world's greatest solvers of the Rubik's Cube compete for the fastest times under improbable circumstances. Entry into the competition is open to all.

www.exploratorium.edu/rubiks



Photo by Amy Snyder

18 & 19

Pacific Union Presents Concerts at the Presidio

Thursday, January 18

Friday, January 19

8 pm

Golden Gate Club

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/ 447 6274

20

Fit Fest

Saturday, January 20

9 am – 2 pm

Sports Basement at Crissy Field

Want to get fit in the new year? This expo will allow you to gather information from local gyms, yoga studios and other exciting health experts.

415/ 437 0100 x7134

27

Worm Wigglers

Saturday, January 27

10 am – 2 pm

Learn the wonders of composting. \$8

www.crissyfield.org

FEBRUARY

3 & 4

The Last Gun

Saturday, February 3

Sunday, February 4

11 am – 3 pm

Battery Chamberlain, near Baker Beach

How can a 50-ton gun "disappear"?

415/ 561 4323

Register Now!

10th Annual US / ICOMOS International Symposium April 18 – 21, 2007

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is the world's premiere non-governmental organization dedicated to preserving the world's cultural heritage.

The Presidio was chosen as the site for this symposium due to the park's collection of architectural and archaeological treasures, its significance as a cultural crossroads, and its modern role as a destination for visitors from around the world. Visit www.presidio.gov/calendar for details.

PULL OUT ►

REMEMBERED LIGHT

Glass Fragments from World War II

The McDonald Memorial Windows

New Exhibit Opens January 24!

This light-filled exhibit at the Presidio Officers' Club Exhibition Hall presents 25 stained-glass art works by 13 contemporary artists.

Destined for the Presidio Interfaith Chapel, these art works incorporate shards of stained glass from battle-torn sanctuaries collected by U.S. Army chaplain Frederick A. McDonald, along with his remembrances of each site. McDonald was General Omar Bradley's Protestant chaplain during the last 18 months of World War II.

Jan 24 – April 15
Wednesdays – Sundays
11 am – 5 pm
415/ 561 5500
[www.presidio.gov/
calendar](http://www.presidio.gov/calendar)



COVENTRY – The shards used in this piece by Armelle Le Roux were collected by U.S. Army Chaplain Frederick McDonald in a cathedral in Coventry, England, bombed by the Germans early in World War II.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Holiday Lights

Friday, December 8

5:30 to 6:30 pm

Meet at the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Funston Avenue on the Main Post, across the street from the YMCA.

Join the Presidio community for our tree-lighting ceremony, a decades-old tradition. Bring your singing voice and come join in the fun. Live music by the Bay School's Jazz Ensemble. Light refreshments will follow at the Presidio Fire Station.

415/ 561 5500

**[www.presidio.gov/
calendar](http://www.presidio.gov/calendar)**



AN OCEAN CLASSROOM

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

{ KIDS IN THE PARK }



On a clear day, cast your eyes westward and you'll see dramatic, craggy slopes breaking through the ocean's surface nearly 30 miles outside the Golden Gate. These waters are known as the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and have been protected as one of our nation's special places since 1981.

The Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center, located in the Old Coast Guard Station at Crissy Field, offers dozens of programs to introduce young people to the whales and white

sharks, seabirds and seals, found just offshore. The Visitor Center is operated by Sanctuary staff in partnership with the non-profit Marine Sanctuary Association.

Marine education programs reach thousands of children, aged kindergarten through high school, each year. Many programs use the Presidio as an outdoor classroom, while others – notably the Sharkmobile – bring the show on the road to Bay Area students.

Workshops also train teachers how to bring the ocean into the classroom.

“

I'm going to promise to tell other people about what I've learned about the ocean and wildlife so they'll want to take care of it, too.

”

~ Student on a field trip to the Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center

MARINE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

To register, visit www.farallones.org or call 415/ 561 6625

Group Programs at the Center

Hands-on group programs for grades Pre-K through 12. Hold the baleen of a blue whale, feed a giant green anemone, touch the pelt of a sea otter, or feel the saw-like teeth of a white shark. Programs are available weekdays from 10 am to 4 pm for groups of up to 30 students.

Outdoors at the Presidio

High schoolers can gain in-depth, hands-on research experience studying what goes on beneath the surface through Sandy Beach Monitoring project (focused on sand crabs and shorebirds); or the Rocky

Intertidal Monitoring project, which examines the diverse life of tidepools.

Sharkmobile!

The Sanctuary Sharkmobile brings the sea to the school through a free one-hour classroom program that explores the biology of sharks from around the world. The program is for grades 4-6.

Just for Teachers

Learn about ocean concepts, student monitoring projects, and research related to the Gulf of the Farallones through special workshops.

Drop in for a Day at the Beach

At the Sanctuary Visitor Center, see stunning 15 foot tall ocean murals and get your hands wet in the touch tank. Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm.

The Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center is located in Building 991 at the west end of the Crissy Field Promenade, near the Warming Hut.



Kids learn about sharks and other marine life at the Farallones Marine Sanctuary.

SALVAGING HISTORY

Rare, Wacky and Useful Found Objects

Though Army soldiers marched out of the Presidio in the mid-1990s, the remnants of daily life were often left behind.

Over the years Dave Seabury, Waste Reduction Coordinator at the Presidio Trust, and his team have combed through hundreds of park buildings to collect cast off materials before the structures are reborn as schools, offices, homes, and the like. The goal is to rescue items that have historic interest and remaining useful life, so that as little as possible goes to the landfill.



A former warehouse next to the Presidio Native Plant Nursery at Fort Scott is a refuge for recovered items and is one of the Presidio's best kept secrets. Here one finds an eclectic collection of items representing the last century of the Presidio's history such as mannequins from the now closed Presidio Army Museum and 6th Army HQ signs. The warehouse also houses other oddities: an octopus-like perm machine (see photo), a family

bible circa the 1880s, and a ticket booth once used to collect stubs in the Presidio movie theater.

The Salvage program also recovers hundreds of useful items. The program has helped furnish the offices of park management agencies and park partners. "The stackable bookcases have answered my storage prayers," says Ally Kushin of Marin Headlands Visitor Center.

The Salvage team includes fellow treasure-hunter, Jeremy Kaller, and three furry security guards (aka cats) who keep rodents at bay in the Salvage warehouse. Today Seabury and Kaller are wiping the dust off a stainless steel shelf pulled from the Letterman Hospital maternity ward. It is destined for the Presidio Social Club, a restaurant opening in December in historic Building 563 just inside the Lombard Gate. The restaurant will feature the shelf behind their bar.

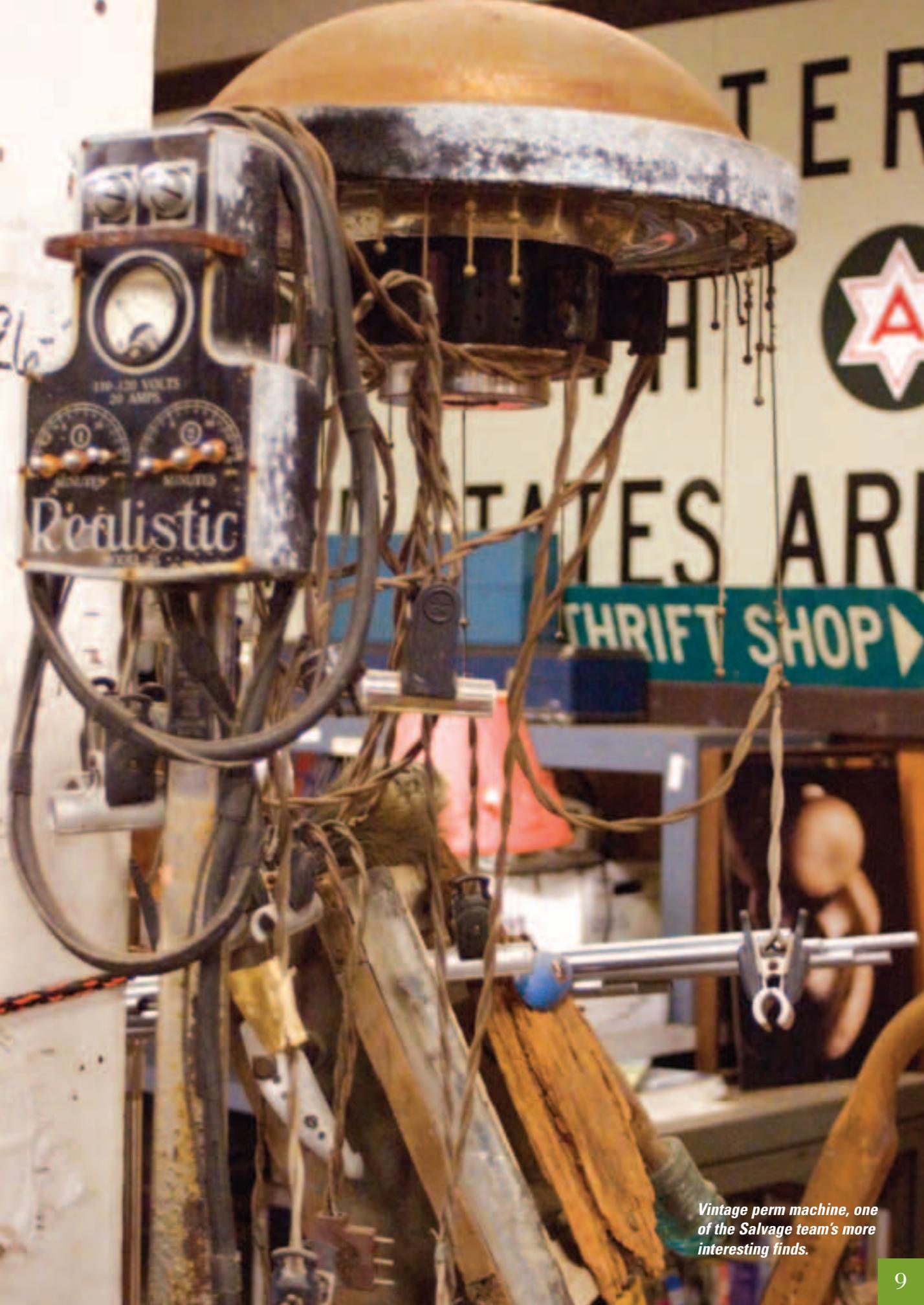
"One thing that makes our program so unique," says Seabury, "is that we monitor all refuse leaving the park." The Salvage team works closely with the San Francisco Conservation Corps and Golden Gate Disposal & Recycling to keep down waste. Over 65 percent of the Presidio's waste is recycled. "We are the 'go-to' guys," says Kaller. "We are available to answer any recycling questions and provide residents and employees with proper disposal methods."



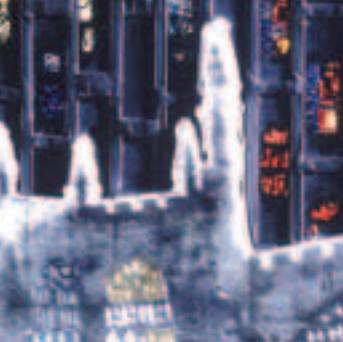
Inside the Salvage warehouse.

“Some officers left their desks as if they were leaving for the weekend, mugs of coffee included.”

Dave Seabury, Presidio Trust Salvage Department



Vintage perm machine, one of the Salvage team's more interesting finds.



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In October, the Presidio Trust was awarded the 2006 Global Award for Excellence by the Urban Land Institute for implementation of the Presidio Trust Management Plan.

AT THE PRESIDIO is published by the Presidio Trust. Your questions and comments are welcome. Please call 415/ 561 5418.

{Cover}
Amy Wolff
Mushroom shaded by Grivillea "Coastal Gem," 2006

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{DID YOU KNOW?}

The mushroom featured on the cover of this issue is one of 200 species of Little Brown Mushrooms that grow in the Presidio.