



CELEBRATING *The Charles Van Damme*

The story of a much loved ferryboat.



Dear Juanita,

Thankyou for all your support  
in keeping the memory of  
*The Charles Van Damme* alive.



With love from 'The Girls'  
Judyth, Dona & Callie.



# LIFE AS A FERRY BOAT



*Charlie Van Damm looks over the construction of the ferry named after him with James Robertson, builder - circa 1915.*



*Circa 1920's*



*Circa 1920's*



*Circa 1920's*

*The success of the Richmond Ferry Boat Line & Transportation Company made it possible for the company to build a ferry boat named after the U.S. Navy, the USS Richmond (LST-1131), which was launched in 1945.*



ALL ABOARD!



# LIFE AS A FERRY BOAT



Raymond H. Clarke at the wheel of the Charles Van Damme - Ray Clarke's personal collection

**IT ALL STARTED WITH A DREAM:** Ever since he was a boy, fishing in the Richardson Bay, Raymond H. Clarke envisioned a bay route for cars from Richmond to San Rafael.

**1914: RAYMOND H. CLARKE** convinces his wife's uncle, Mr. Charles Van Damme, to invest in creating a car ferry line between Point Richmond and Marin.

Mr. Van Damme and his partners, Oliver J. Olson and Andrew F. Mahoney (of The Olson & Mahoney Lumber Co.), send Clarke in search of an appropriate boat. The Richmond-San Rafael Ferry & Transportation Company is born.

**1915: CLARKE LEASES FERRYBOAT, *Ellen*,** but after a short time, she fails inspection. The partners decide it is better to build a vessel tailor made for the job.

**1916: MR. VAN DAMME COMMISSIONS** James Robertson, a boat builder in Benicia, to build a side-wheel wooden vehicular ferry. It was to be 152 feet long, 789 gross tons with an engine built by CH Evans, of 300 indicated horsepower. When launched, she is named "*The Charles Van Damme*"

**1916: JULY 23RD, *The Charles Van Damme* FERRY PASSES A TRIAL RUN** at Pier 44 With Captain Thomas Newsome of Northwest Pacific Ferry as Master.

**SHE IS A SUCCESS,** becoming the backbone of the Richmond-San Rafael Ferry & Transportation Co. She could carry 45 automobiles. Crossing took half an hour (instead of the previous 7 hour round trip without her...)

**1917: THE FERRY WAS BUILT FOR CARS,** but pedestrians (including convicts), and cattle from Marin dairy ranches use it too.

"We never hired a deckhand who couldn't punch cows," declared Ray Clarke.

**1920/21: AFTER WORKING UP FROM BEING A DECKHAND,** Raymond H. Clarke receives his master's license and becomes the Captain of the *Charles Van Damme*. The Captain of his dream



# LIFE AS A FERRY BOAT



**BECAUSE OLSON AND MAHONEY COULDN'T AGREE ON THE COLOR,** their ferry is painted barn red every other year, and white every other year.

**1921: CHRISTMAS DAY:** One of her red years, the *Charles Van Damme* survives a gale and strong seas that breaks the rudder and blows a lifeboat out of the davit, smashing the prison warden's limousine. Everyone wears their life preservers, including one farmer's prized automobile. Captain Clarke works hard to save their sole vessel and safely beaches the *Charles Van Damme* at Winehaven near Richmond terminal.

The *Charles Van Damme* is the Olson & Mahoney Lumber Co.'s, first and only ferry. Her success in launching the Richmond -San Rafael Ferry & Transportation Co. proves there is a demand for car ferries and the partners consider expanding the fleet.

**1921: ONCE AGAIN,** James Robertson is the builder, and the side-wheel ferry, the *City of Richmond*, is launched in May. She is the second boat for the Co.

**1924: ROBERTSON BUILDS** the third side-wheel ferry for the 'Great Red Fleet'. The *City of San Rafael* becomes the company's third boat.

**1927: The Sonoma Valley** (nee *San Jose*) is bought, added to the fleet and the *Charles Van Damme* becomes the extra boat.

**1930's: R.S.R.F. & T. Co. FERRIES CHANGE COLOR** from red with white letters, to white with black letters for good, to conform to the usual standards on San Francisco Bay.

**1938: MORE NEW BOATS ARE PURCHASED.** The *Charles Van Damme* becomes the standby boat. Out of sentiment she is retained for a few more years to transport yard workers from Mare Island to Vallejo.

**1943: EVENTUALLY,** the *Charles Van Damme* IS SOLD to the city of Martinez for the Martinez-Benicia ferry run.

**1956: THE CITY OF MARTINEZ GOES OUT OF THE FERRY BUSINESS.** The route is takenover by the State of California who is already planning a bridge to be incorporated into the state Highway system. The *Charles Van Damme* runs a few more months before being withdrawn from service for failing the annual Coast Guard inspection.





# LIFE AS A RESTAURANT



The Charles Van Damme  
before and after Juanita filled in the Bay



Sally Stanford in milk and Juanita in museum, with Wattle, 1960.



"Tax Shot Across Bow of Galley"  
"The Big Auction at Juanita's - No Sale"  
"Juanita Sued Over As Brawl"  
"Feds Padlock Juanita's Boat Bistro"  
- San Francisco Chronicle

"A Juanita-Sized Brawl,"

seagoing Wattles on board the Charles Van Damme, 1960.

# LIFE AS A RESTAURANT



Photograph courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard

**1957: SAUSALITO SALVAGERS.** Lindsey Cage and Jerry Kalfos, bring the *Charles Van Damme* to the Richardson Bay. She is stripped of brass, engines, and fittings.

**1958: The *Charles Van Damme* IS LEASED OUT AS A RESTAURANT** called the 'Canton Ferry', and docked at Jack London Square in Alameda.

**1959: AN OPTIMISTIC QUOTE FROM AN ARTICLE AT THAT TIME:**

*"...the paddlewheel boxes have been cut out for a view of the wheels ...*

*the center island was cut down to form a bar ...*

*the old automobile deck is the main restaurant and dance floor".*

*"Though retired from navigation, the stoutly built*

*Charles Van Damme is sound as a dollar.*

*She will dry dock once a year - marine pests dine at the 'Canton Ferry'*

*too - and will doubtless endure for years to come as a monument*

*to San Francisco's beloved ferryboats."*

The 'Canton Ferry' goes bankrupt.

The enterprising Sausalito salvagers Cage and Kalfos (just a few of the many claiming liens against the boat), voyage to Jack London Square in the middle of the night and tow the boat back to Richardson Bay, complete with uncleared meals sitting on the table, a cargo of wines and liquors still aboard.

Mr. Donlon Arques buys the *Charles Van Damme* at auction, bulldozes a channel, and tows her into what will become her final resting place at Gate Six. She still floats when high tides flood the mudflats.





Artwork by Dona Schweiger



# LIFE AS A RESTAURANT



Juanita stands on the Charles Van Damme by Jonathan Stone. With kind permission from the Sonoma Historical Society.

**1960: JUANITA MUSSON**, the outspoken owner of the legendary "Juanita's Galley" takes over the ferry.

Don Arques gives the *Charles Van Damme* to Juanita, rent-free for one year. She finds the craftsman who put the original canvas on the ferry and he gladly helps with the renovation.

Juanita also adds a periscope to keep an eye on the kitchen from her bedroom upstairs.

The Sea Scouts hose and clean the mud and muck off the ferry for an hourly rate of 3 enchiladas and unlimited Cokes. They play tic tac toe on the mud covering their backs.

One day, Juanita discovers trucks loaded with dirt outside the ferry. The drivers want to get rid of it and she happily has them dump the dirt loads next to the boat. Juanita claims she has a permit from the county Supervisors to fill up the area around the ferry to create an area for cars to park.

Everyone from the community is happy to help restore the *Charles Van Damme*. Even the girls from an exclusive Marin County school scrape the chewing gum off the undersides of tables. Juanita proudly displays the fruits of their labors in antique apothecary jars alongside their autographed casts from when they break their legs on skiing trips.

Juanita's place is chaotic affair, with live animals running amok, her pet turkey, Wattles, is continuously jumping overboard.

The ferry is a gathering place for the waterfront. People flock there, from the rich and famous, the up and coming, the down and out, for the experience of Juanita's large personality and servings.

**1963: JUANITA'S GENEROSITY** over business sense, plus an unruly gang fight finally put her out of business.





Artwork by Dona Schweiger



## LIFE IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**NOW  
OPEN**  
*an elegant*  
**JOINT**  
*Something New*  
*on the*  
*Sausalito*



**CAVALRY**



# LIFE IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Reproduced from the San Francisco Collection

**1966: MARTI MARTINEZ** who runs Ondine restaurant in Sausalito, takes over the *Charles Van Damme*.

She is rewired, re-plumbed, and outfitted with red carpets and a luxurious decor for a restaurant and nightclub called "The Ark."

"The Ark" becomes the spill over venue for bands playing at the Avalon in San Francisco, and serves as a sort of 'after-hours' club for many musicians. Many known bands perform, the Record Plant recording studio is nearby.

"The Ark" is run on a somewhat ad-hoc basis, scheduling shows between 8 or 9pm to 2am and then from 2am to 6am (when breakfast was served), and occasionally, weekend matinee shows from 2pm to 6pm.

The groups playing were rarely paid. They were, however, fed a breakfast of huevos rancheros in the morning in exchange for financial compensation.

Carlos Santana plays on the weekends. Moby Grape uses the "Ark" as a practice venue during the latter part of 1966 and makes their live debut.

**1968: THE "ARK" CLOSES DOWN.** The owner says later, *"It was a bad spot to try to make a fancy place. You'd look outside and see all that mud..."*



Reproduced from the San Francisco Collection





**Can You Come Out and Play With Us ?**  
**WE GOT SOME FUN STUFF**

**THE QUICK SILVER MESSENGER SERVICE**

- THE ACE OF CUPS • THE FREEDOM HIGHWAY • THE PHOENIX
- THE BOOGIE • THE PACIFIC FLASH • THE MORNING GLORY
- THE SMOKE • DINO VALENTI • THE CLOVER • ALONG WITH

**GAIL GARNETT AND GENTLE RAIN**  
 AND MANY MORE

April 6th and 7th • 10 AM to 8 PM • Outside The Ark in Sausalito, Gate 6  
 DONATION 1.00 ... TO BE GIVEN TO SOME BROTHERS & SISTERS OF THE FAITH IN THEIR WARD  
 WITH THE LAW

**NOW OPEN**  
*an elegant JOINT*  
*Something New on the Sausalito Waterfront*  
 Lunches daily  
 Dinners Fri., Sat. & Holidays  
 Sunday Brunch  
 Bar  
 Dancing to George Duke  
 Concert

**CHARLES FORT VAN DAMME**

**ARK**

Gate Six Sausalito  
 332-3622

**THE BEAT**  
**NOTES OF THE UNDERGROUND**

**SUN**

**DECEMBER 8th**  
**1968**





### Happenings at the Ark

#### Moby Grape

Friday-Saturday-Sunday Feb. 17-18-19  
8 PM to 2 AM

Friday: Freudian Slips  
Saturday: The California Girls  
Sunday: The Old Grey Sapper

ALSO Matinee 2-6  
The All Night Apothecary

2-5 AM Show on Saturday: The Sparrow

COMING TO THE ARK Starting Tuesday February 21  
Butch Eagle & the Sticks Thru Sunday the 28th, 9-2AM

ENTR. \$5.00 - \$10.00 (110) Phone 333-0000





# LIFE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

From Juanita in the 60's on into the early 80's, the *Charles Van Damme* attracted an illustrious crowd.

From Hollywood movie stars, to bands playing their debut gig, the *Charles Van Damme* was a home to them all.

Here is a list of some of Her better-known visitors:-

SALLY STANFORD  
STERLING HAYDEN,  
THE SMOTHERS BROTHERS,  
NOEL COWARD,  
GLENN FORD,  
BRITT EKLAND,  
ANTHONY QUINN,  
ROBERT MITCHUM,  
MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE,  
ERSKINE COLDWELL,  
JONATHAN WINTERS,  
JAMES STEWART,  
FABIAN,  
KIRK DOUGLAS,  
DEBORA KERR,  
FAYE DUNAWAY  
DAVID CROSBY,  
RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOT,  
BOB DYLAN,  
CARLOS SANTANA,  
BILL KREUTZMANN  
STEVE MILLER,  
JIMMY HENDRIX,  
JANIS JOPLIN,  
BIG BROTHER & THE HOLDING CO.,  
DINO VALENTI  
QUICK SILVER MESSENGER SERVICE,  
OTIS REDDING,  
RIP TORN,  
GERALDINE PAGE,  
JOAN SUTHERLAND,  
GLENN YARBOROUGH,  
JEAN VARDA,  
ALAN WATTS,  
ALBERT MORSE,  
ROBERT CRUMB,  
ALAN GINSBERG,  
SHEL SILVERSTEIN,



# LIFE AS A LIBRARY?



Artwork by Dona Schweiger

# LIFE AS A LIBRARY?



**1969 MAY 12TH: THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE SAUSALITO LIBRARY** Board of Trustees refer to the fact that Member Koenig brought up Mr. Hoffman's letter to the Board members suggesting the use of the ferryboat *the Charles Van Damme* (The Ark) as a library. After discussion of the size, site, and condition of the boat, a motion was made:

Member Duncan moved that Mr. Hoffman be informed that the Board has no opposition to his pursuing the availability and practicality of the use of "The Ark" as a library. Member Harris seconded the motion.

AYE: HARRIS   KOENIG   NO: NONE   ABSENT: SCARBOROUGH  
DUNCAN   STANLEY



**A PLAN IS PUT FORWARD** to the new council of Sausalito to purchase *the Charles Van Damme*, and turn the ferry into a library...

...She would be moved to the foot of Johnson St, behind the post office, where pilings would be driven, and sand pumped in to float the vessel and be stabilized. The old ferry had historic value and would be worth conserving. She would be converted to a library 3 times the size of the old one. The huge stack was to be made into a fireplace. Open decks would be inviting for summer reading... Architects agree with the plans and the librarian is enthusiastic.

The ferry would be a unique library fitting for a waterfront town. Faster to put up and cheaper than the \$100,000 The city had in the budget. The council however is skeptical and after a vote the motion loses three to two.

-As referred to in the book, *Sausalito-Sau\$alito* by George Hoffman



The collage consists of four distinct images. The top-left image is a color aerial photograph of a historic town, likely in the Pacific Northwest, showing dense red-roofed buildings, a prominent church with a tall steeple, and a waterfront area with a few boats. The top-right image is a vintage poster for a 'CHARLES VANDAMME BENEFIT' performance. The poster is yellowed and features a central illustration of a large, multi-story building, possibly a hotel or warehouse, with a ship docked in front of it. The text on the poster includes 'AN EVENING OF COSMIC ENTERTAINMENT', 'AT THE GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS', 'FRIDAY OCT. 24 8 PM', and 'TICKETS 10c, 20c, 30c'. The bottom-left image is a black and white photograph of a large, multi-story building, possibly a hotel or warehouse, with a prominent chimney and a car parked in front. The bottom-right image is a black and white photograph of a large, multi-story building, possibly a hotel or warehouse, with a prominent chimney and a car parked in front.

*The Grateful Dead were tame compared to the Redlegs.*

— Dr. John Ciambotti

The Grateful Dead were famous for their "Dead & Company" tour, which featured a variety of acts, including the Grateful Dead themselves. The image shows a wooden sign with the word "GRIPES" in large, dark, block letters. Above the sign, a small flag with a skull and crossbones is visible. The background is a wooden wall.

[illegible]

# LIFE AS A HANGOUT



*Photograph by Bruce Forester*

**1970's – 1980's: DON ARQUES** allows **JOE TATE**, with the band '**REDLEGS**', to use the *Charles Van Damme* for a fund raising benefit. Arques insists Joe call her only by that name. The clean up is enormous, but the waterfront community goes happily to work. The enticement is 'free beer'.

The first dance leads to another, then more. Marti Martinez even comes and dances there.

**1973: A SCENE FROM "THE LAST FREE RIDE,"** reenacting the houseboat wars, is filmed on board the *Charles Van Damme*.

The upper level of the *Charles Van Damme* is occupied by Chris Roberts, who built the 'Madonna' and 'Owl'. He is married to the actress Laura Ash. Their friends, the actors Rip Torn and Geraldine Page, come to stay, and agree to do a film with Larry Moyer, called 'Harry's Movie'. The Marchettis also live there during this time.

The *Charles Van Damme* is used as a community center for many a creative project. Barbara Stein remembers having an art studio, Catherine Lyons had her loom there. Patrick Vaughn remembers being a nude model for a life drawing class.

There are dancing lessons every Saturday on the top deck. A group of boat builders get permission to fix their boats on the main deck of the *Charles Van Damme*. The boats consist of a collection of dories and a 40' Polynesian catamaran.

*'At this time the Charles Van Damme represents a beacon for the tremendous energy of a growing community and will be recognized as such by anyone who has managed to escape the dehumanizing influences of big business and life in an unnatural country' – Garlic Press.*



*Drawn by David John Thompson – Garlic Press 1978*



# LIFE IN DANGER



There was a picture over the van damme the morning before she went down.



Trying to stay the wrecker's ball from Sausalito's 'Ark'

Optimism about saving old ferry

Check fails to save Van Damme

The Charles Van Damme is no more

On March 3, 1980, the CHARLES VAN DAMME ferry, built in 1912, was torn down by the Helitower Three as directed by Ted Brown.



# LIFE IN DANGER



**1970's: THE ACTIVITIES ON the Charles Van Damme** finally come to the attention of the authorities. Almost immediately the ferryboat is banned from public use.

**1976: THE COUNTY ORDERS The Charles Van Damme ABATED.**

Considered a health and fire hazard, an order is set by the county to either tear the ferry down or find a way to get her up to code.

The waterfront community prepares plans to rebuild the Charles Van Damme as a Community Center and Youth Hostel.

**1982: ARCHITECTS PROPOSALS ARE SUBMITTED.**

Although physically feasible, the \$300,000 plus costs are considered too expensive.

The Marin County Board of Supervisors vote 5-0 to RAZE the Charles Van Damme.

The community tries to collect \$7,700 to save the pilot-houses and \$30,000 to save the upper deck salon, but it is too late.

**1983 MARCH 1ST: The Charles Van Damme IS DEMOLISHED.** There are 13 arrests; people lie in front of the bulldozers and tie themselves to the smoke stack. The demolition contractors underestimate the strength still left in the ferry and lose money on her tear-down. Failing to pull down the smoke stack after two tries, the demolition team begins to plow the bulldozers into her sides.

Barbara Stein—"She was a Mother to us all."

O'Hara - 71 years old, is there until the end.

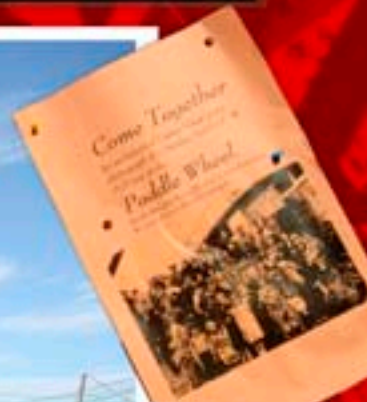
He had worked as first mate on the Charles Van Damme from 1931 - 37.

"I just want to have a final look at her before she is gone".

Relatives of Captain Raymond H. Clarke, are there that day, looking on in dismay. They are not even allowed a scrap of the young boy's dream.



# LIFE IN RUINS



Gates Co-op creates mural to protest eviction

CHARLES VAN DAMME



1875-1911 life preserver from Charles Van Damme in display case

CHARLES VAN DAMME



# LIFE IN RUINS



Photo by Steve Schaefer

**THE SMOKE STACK, A NAME BOARD, AND ONE PADDLE WHEEL** with shaft still attached, are all that can be seen of the *Charles Van Damme* in the area next to the extra 14 parking spaces that were created by her demolition.

Some of the boat, however, still remains.

The lower part of her is buried in the mud, including large refrigerators.

Other pieces were grabbed and stashed away in the 15 minutes people had to evict before she was bulldozed.

One name board hangs in Mama's Cafe, in Mill Valley, after being found hidden under the stairs of a house on Bridgeway in Sausalito.

The water pump is in Sonoma with Andy & Fitz. A rope chock, cleat, gear parts and a window, are with different people on the waterfront.

The Sausalito Historical Society has a life preserver.

The San Francisco Maritime Museum is home to two of her name boards, the steering wheel, a flag, & the steam engine.

**1992: A MURAL** of the *Charles Van Damme* is painted next to the paddle wheel on The Gates Co-Op office wall at Gate 6. called 'Guardians of the Gates' it is designed by artisan, Kathleen Roberts, who lives in the Gates Co-Op. ... 'the painting celebrates the world famous Sausalito artist community and will serve as a continuing symbol of spirit and pride' - Marinscope 1992

**EVEN IN PIECES, the *Charles Van Damme's* PRESENCE LIVES ON AS A SYMBOL OF A DREAM COME TRUE; INSPIRING INDEPENDENT THINKING AND A COMMUNAL SPIRIT.**

She comes alive again in people's memories of her.





# LIFE IN LIMBO



**CHARLES VAN DAMME**

**FERRYBOAT COMMEMORATIVE PROJECT**

Keeping Her Creative Spirit Alive by  
Telling Her Story, Creating a Monument,  
Replacing the Cultural Center that She once provided.

[WWW.CHARLESVANDAMMEFERRY.ORG](http://WWW.CHARLESVANDAMMEFERRY.ORG)

**A PROJECT IN PROGRESS BY THE RBMA**

The RBMA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.



**FERRY: 'Last vestige of communal creative spirit'**

**Famed ferry's final voyage**



**Van Damme campaign spreading**

**Opinion**

**Van Damme was far more than a ferry**

**FAMED FERRY MOVED, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

When mount exhibit to honor the Charles Van Damme

**Marin Independent Journal**

**\* Live Music**



**GIVE A Charles Van Damme**

**FEARLESSLY COMMUNICATIVE PROJECT**

all fundraising proceeds support the project of  
telling her story, creating a monument & replacing the Cultural Center

But the most powerful...





# LIFE IN LIMBO



**2004: WALDO POINT HARBOR RECONFIGURATION** permits require a public park to be built where the remains of the Charles Van Damme ferry now rest. Lew Cook, owner of Waldo Point Harbor, offers to pay a one time move of the paddlewheel for permanent relocation.

**APRIL 24 2005:- CATHERINE LYONS ARRANGES A PHOTOSHOOT** in front of the paddlewheel with the community. Similar to the one she took next to the Charles Van Damme ferry before it was demolished over 20yrs ago.

**LOCAL RESIDENTS AND ARTISAN HISTORIANS** Judyth Greenburgh and Dona Schweiger go to the shoot and are inspired to make their next initiative in preserving the heritage of the Richardson's Bay - the Charles Van Damme Ferry Project. Calli Rose Lyons joins them in gathering stories, materials and art - inspired by the ferry.

**JANUARY 2006:THE SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME MUSEUM IS CONTACTED** and research on the history of the ferry begins with the assistance of Sara Diamond, Maritime Library Archives Specialist.

**APRIL 2006: THE FIRST EXHIBITION AND FILM** "Celebrating the Charles Van Damme, the story of a much loved ferryboat", is part of a waterfront show at gallery 'Studio 333' in Sausalito. Over 300 people attend, including Juanita Musson of Juanita's Galley, and Ann Clarke and son Chris Clarke, relatives of Capt. Raymond Clarke. Joe Tate founder of the waterfront band the Red Legs performs.

**AUGUST 2006: INVITED.** Exhibit at Galilee Harbor Maritime Day.

**NOVEMBER 2006: THE BCDC LANDSCAPE DESIGNER IS CONTACTED.** Along with the Permit Analyst, they are willing to consider the paddlewheel as a design element in the required park.

**DECEMBER 2006: THE RBBC JOINS FORCES WITH THE RBMA** - Richardson's Bay Maritime Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The RBCC becomes the Charles Van Damme Ferry Project.

**JANUARY 2007: S.F. MARITIME, LIBRARY ARCHIVES SPECIALIST,** Sara Diamond, arranges for us to photograph the original blue prints of the Charles Van Damme Ferry.

**FEBRUARY 21-APRIL 9 2007: EXPANDED EXHIBITION** held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito.

**MARCH 24, 2007: FUND-RAISING EVENT** "The Van Damme Jam" held at the Bay Model. Over 500 people attend. Once again Juanita Musson, Ann Clarke, and Chris Clarke attend and contribute to the Charles Van Damme Ferry Project.

# LIFE IN LIMBO



**JULY 2-4, 2007: INVITED.** Exhibit at the Marin County Fair.

**JULY 4, 2007: THE GATES CO-OPERATIVE** creates and builds the Charles Van Damme float for the Caledonia St. Parade. Joe Tate writes and performs his new song about the Charles Van Damme. **THE FLOAT WINS FIRST PLACE.**

**AUGUST 2007: INVITED. EXHIBIT AT GALILEE HARBOR MARITIME DAY.**

**NOVEMBER 11, 2008: FILM EVENT** showing latest cut of "Celebrating the Charles Van Damme", held at Studio M in Sausalito. Dedicated to Susan and Phil Frank supporters of the Project.

**JANUARY 2009: EUGENE HUGGINS FORMS THE CHARLES VAN DAMME BAND** with Joe Tate and other local musicians. They perform their first gig at The Presidio Yacht Club.

**FEBRUARY 2009: ROBBYN JACKSON, HEAD CURATOR OF THE S.F. MARITIME LIBRARY,** is willing to help the Charles Van Damme Project. She is also interested in sending a historian to record and formalize the story.

**FEBRUARY 2009: RENEWED ENTHUSIASM AND DISCUSSIONS BEGIN** on how to move, store, and preserve the Paddlewheel and Steamstack. The goal, to install the artifacts in Waldo Point Park when it is completed.

**APRIL 2009: INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE SUPERVISOR CHARLES MCGLASHAN,** and various Sausalito Maritime and Civic Organizations. S.F. Maritime Small Boat Shop, Curator, Bill Doll, provides contacts for moving the Artifacts.

**MAY 24 2009: RICHARDSON'S BAY MARITIME ASSOCIATION** includes the Charles Van Damme Ferry Project in their booth at the Caledonia St. Fair. New contacts are generated.

**JULY 2009: S.F. MARITIME HISTORY CURATOR, STEPHEN CANRIGHT,** provides a plan for preparing, stabilizing, and securing the Paddlewheel and Steamstack for a move. He agrees the Artifacts should be saved.

**AUGUST 2009: INVITED.** Exhibit at Galilee Harbor's Maritime Day.



# LIFE IN LIMBO



**WALDO POINT HARBOR** construction is about to begin. The Charles Van Damme ferry artifacts are positioned in the staging area so will be the first to be moved during the 5 years of construction.

**THE PADDLEWHEEL HAS DETERIORATED** making it fragile and the 10ft shaft of the wheel is embedded in the mud. This is what saved it from destruction in 1983 but what will make it difficult to move.

**JULY 29TH 2009** - The RBMA help us to identify a plot of county land nearby to temporarily move the artifacts to.

**AUGUST 2009** - Dona and Jude pitch for permission from 5th District County Supervisor Charles Mc Glashen to put the artifacts on their land. Leslie Alden his aide is moved by the project - We are invited to submit a relocation plan.

**DECEMBER 2009**- Plans are drawn up in preparation of the proposal by Barbara Jaffe, a local waterfront resident and Michael Rex's architectural firm and submitted to the county.

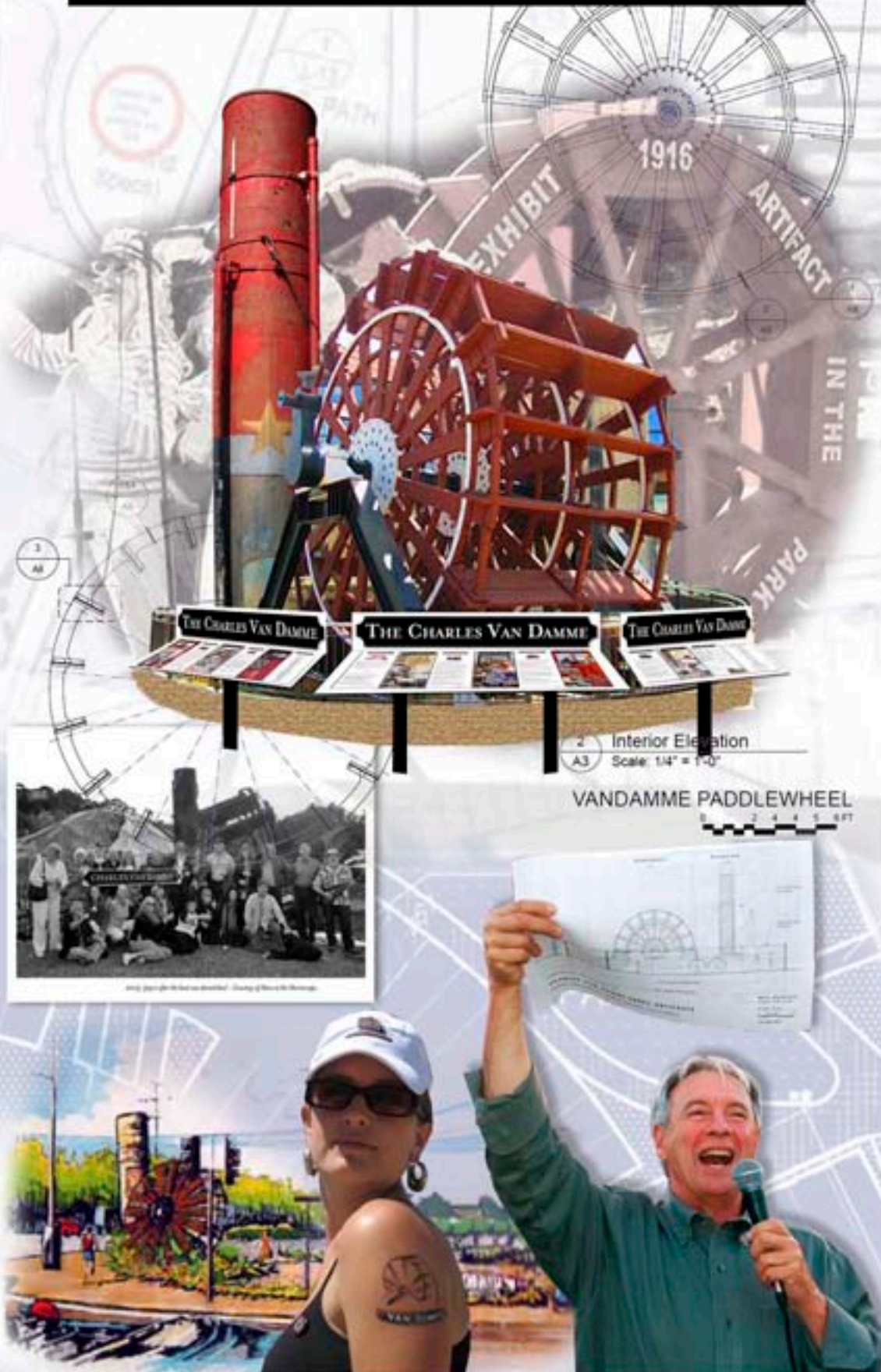
**APRIL 2010** - We learn there is not enough of the artifacts to be recognised as a heritage monument. However, its rich story makes it possible to deem the actual site, of historical & cultural interest.

**FEBRUARY 2011** - Ted Rose shows us plans of the new Co Op dock. It is to be called the Charles Van Damme Dock and will incorporate the steamstack and create postboxes resembling the paddlewheel.

**FEB 14TH 2011** - Sue Phillips, who's family were the Olsen shipping Co. donates both a Charles Van Damme and the City of San Rafael name board .

**MARCH 2011 - THE PROJECT IS STALLED.** There is a halt in the application process when 5th District Supervisor Charles Mc Glashen - an advocate of the project tragically passes away. The Charles Van Damme Project cannot move forward until a place to move the artifacts to is found.

# LIFE AS AN ICON





# LIFE AS AN ICON



**JANUARY 2013:** We discover, the steamstack will no longer be incorporated into the new dock. Michael Rex, Chairman of the RBMA our fiscal sponsor, asks around town for another place to store the artifacts but he has no luck.

**MARCH 1ST 2013:- 30 YEARS SINCE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FERRYBOAT.**  
- candlelight vigil at the artifacts site, this is the last year they will reside here. We launch a petition to County Supervisor Kate Sears asking for help.

**FRONT PAGE OF THE MARINSCOPE:-** Awareness in the project is rekindled, but answers are what we need. We cannot plan to move the artifacts without a place to restore them.

**APRIL 2013:- MIKE LINDER OF BAYSIDE BOATWORKS THROWS A LIFELINE.**  
He offers to move & restore the artifacts in his boatyard. help of local boat building schools.

**JUNE 2013: MOVE . RESTORE . EXHIBIT.** Finally we have a plan! We apply for grants and step up our fundraising campaign.

**JULY 4TH 2013** - Victoria Colella creates a float for the Sausalito 4th July Parade. We win 1st place again! This brings us more press coverage and awareness.

**JULY 2013:** The RBMA- asks Waldo Point Harbor for the option to acquire the Charles Van Damme artifacts when they need to be removed. A date is set for AUGUST 15TH 2013.

**JULY 29TH 2013;- THE STEAMSTACK FOR SURE!** We have enough money for Mike Linder to move and store the steamstack. We step up the campaign to move the paddlewheel too.

**AUGUST 2013- SURPRISE!** The Marin IJ ask to do a front cover spread on our project.

**ACTION!:** A group of Maritime experts including Richardson's Bay Harbor Master Bill Price, Mike Linder and Michael Rex seriously look at the logistics of moving the artifacts.

**MARITIME DAY** - Awareness gains momentum. More and more people offer help save the artifacts. It looks like The Charles Van Damme ferry's story will be told.

# WHO GIVES A CHARLES VAN DAMME?



*Raymond H. Clark had the Charles Van Damme Ferry built in 1916 - Photo Courtesy of Ann Clark*



*1929 before the Charles Van Damme was demolished. Photo by Catherine Lyons - Lebate*



*2005, before reconfiguration of the docks begin - Photo by Catherine Lyons - Lebate*



*2013, 30yrs after the boat was demolished - Courtesy of Hans at the Mantiscope.*

PEOPLE HAVE LOVED THE CHARLES VAN DAMME FERRY FOR ALMOST 100YRS.



# WHO GIVES A CHARLES VAN DAMME?

MANY THANKS TO OUR GROWING NUMBER OF  
CONTRIBUTORS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

THE RBMA - RICHARDSON'S BAY MARITIME ASSOCIATION

- Michael Rex & Roberta Maloy -  
who without your advice, patience and support  
- this project would not be possible.

THE SAUSALITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
who provided us much of the materials -  
- Vicky Nichols who has stuck with us  
for the whole 7 yrs.

THE BAY MODEL - Park Manager Chris Gallagher.  
Your offering of the venue put our project on the map

THE SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME MUSEUM  
- curator Stephen Canright.

Catherine Lyons Labatte  
- your photos inspired us to tell this story.

JOE TATE - who tirelessly performed - rain or shine.

THE GATES CO OPERATIVE, THE FHA & GALILLEE HARBOR  
SAUSALITO WOODEN BOAT TOURS - Victoria Colella

To everyone who contributed to the Charles Van Damme Ferry Project,  
appeared on film, offered materials, created artwork & donated time money and advice.  
you are all very much appreciated..



# WHO GIVES A CHARLES VAN DAMME?

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS.

**DONA — ARTISAN & PHOTOGRAPHER.** Moved to Waldo Point in 1976, has owned and lives on a converted WW II landing craft since 1979. She has many personal experiences of the *Charles Van Damme*.

**CALLI ROSE LYONS — FILMMAKER,** also lives on a converted WW II vessel and was born on a neighboring ferry, the *Issaquah*, and remembers growing up with the *Charles Van Damme*.

**JUDYTH GREENBURGH — CREATIVE DIRECTOR.** Lives on a houseboat, with her husband who currently works on the Blue & Gold ferry. Moving here from Europe over 10 years ago, she was fortunate to meet many of the 'old timers' of the community who told their stories of the waterfront including many about the *Charles Van Damme*.

**SOURCES.** Juanita! — Sally Hayton — Keeva, Jeff Costello - Anderson Valley Advertiser Oct 15th 1997, The Old ferryboats of Sausalito - Annie Sutter, Simple Pleasures begin with Ferry boats by Nancy Olmsted, Of walking Beams and Paddle Wheels — Harlan — Fisher, San Francisco Bay Ferryboats — George H. Harlan, Sausalito - Sausalito — George Hoffman, Sausalito Historical Society, San Francisco Maritime Library, Art Venues North of San Francisco — Corry Arnold, Ferry Tales — Diana Lyster, Marin scope, San Francisco Chronicle, Pacific Sun, Local rags: - Garlic Press, Scuttlebutt plus people from the community past and present.





# WHO GIVES A CHARLES VAN DAMME?

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS:-

Judyth created the banners and Dona the 3D panels.

With information provided by the community, families from the ferry era, Sausalito Historical Society and San Francisco Maritime Museum - they pieced together the timeline.

Calli - Rose, also from the waterfront, joined in the Project, she created the slideshow & filmed people recounting their personal stories of the Charles van Damme. The completed documentary will be part of the exhibition. The oral histories donated as an archive to local historical societies.

The Gates Co operative created the first winning 4th July float and Joe Tate, a musician on the Charles Van Damme - wrote a song especially for it. Recently Victoria Colella of Sausalito Wooden boats tour has joined us - this year she created the second winning 4th July float at the 2013 Sausalito parade.

The exhibition & documentary film was first shown at studio 333 Caledonia St, Sausalito and has been shown at various locations since then - including the Bay Model for the 2006 fundraiser 'The Van Damme Jam'. Here, over 500 people enjoyed reliving the creative spirit of the waterfront. It was well received and through popular demand the show was shown again at the Marin County Faire and it is featured every year at Maritime day.

Our ultimate aim is to share the story further in the form of a published book and DVD. (There is a target set to raise the \$300,000 needed to move, restore and exhibit the artifacts and for the exhibition to be published as a book & DVD. \_

*"The RBMA is here to facilitate activities that further our mission, preserving and revitalizing Sausalito's maritime heritage & tradition, of which the Charles Van Damme project is one."* - Michael Rex Chairman of the Richardson's Bay Maritime Association (RBMA) - our fiscal nonprofit sponsor.

