



Coulter Exhibit To Open In Visitor Center

Nearly seventy years after the death of William Alexander Coulter, San Francisco’s most esteemed maritime artist, there is an unparalleled revival of interest in his artwork.

The exhibit, called “W.A. Coulter: A Master’s Brush With The Sea,” will open on the centennial of the great earthquake and fire, April 18, 2006. It will be staged in the heart of Coulter’s waterfront, at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park’s Visitor Center at Hyde and Jefferson Streets (near Fishermen’s Wharf).

Coulter’s 10-foot-long earthquake painting, “San Francisco Fire, 1906,”(shown above) painted on a window shade pulled by the artist from the rubble during the fire, will be a highlight of the opening. The exhibition will include paintings from private and public institutions and collections from around the country, many to be exhibited for the first time. This will be the largest and most complete retrospective of Coulter’s work ever attempted.

It is estimated that the artist created more than 1,000 oil paintings and 5,000 illustrations between 1869 and 1936. In addition to painting ship portraits, which adorned the offices of San Francisco’s most powerful men, as well as shipping magnates around the world, his illustrations regularly appeared in the pages of the former daily newspaper, the “San Francisco Call.” As a precursor to today’s news photographer, Coulter and his sketches captured waterfront scenes both peaceful and turbulent.

Coulter’s images in oil and ink transport viewers to the post-Gold Rush-era of the Barbary Coast. Fires destroyed much of his legacy, and roughly two-thirds of his work is unaccounted for.

Continued on Page 4



Navy Lieutenant Frederick Freeman. The heroic actions of Freeman and sixty-six Mare Island Naval Base sailors, who fought the post-earthquake fires, are well documented. With fire boat *Leslie* and tugboat *Active*, Freeman and his crew are credited with leading the effort that saved large areas of the waterfront and the railroad yards from destruction. Photo: Pond Family Collection.
Photo, top, W. A. Coulter’s 10-foot-long painting, “San Francisco Fire, 1906.” Photo courtesy of Tom Coulter.

Welcome!

San Francisco Maritime is a park that can be enjoyed anytime of the year. Winter months bring rainy days interspersed with crisp, brilliantly clear days that afford spectacular views of San Francisco Bay.

In February we celebrate African American History Month, and during March, Women’s History Month. Please visit the park during these months and take advantage of programs and exhibits that highlight the maritime achievements of these groups.

On April 18, 2006, the centennial of the great San Francisco earthquake and fire, the exhibit, “W. A. Coulter: A Master’s Brush With the Sea,” will open in the Visitor Center. This will be the first-ever retrospective exhibition of Coulter’s life and works.

Between 1869 and 1936, Coulter chronicled the shipping industry in San Francisco Bay. His paintings captured the energy of the working Bay, portraying vessels such as, square riggers, schooners, tug boats and hay scows.

On page three you will find information on many programs available on the pier, in the museum, Visitor Center and library.

Kate Richardson
Superintendent



1 Coulter Exhibit to Open in Visitor Center

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2 Park’s Connection to 1906 Earthquake

On the present day sites of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and Fisherman’s Wharf a heroic maritime rescue occurred.

4 Boatload of Maritime Activities for Children

Chantey singing, a capstan demo, boat drill, and a shipshape Junior Ranger Program — fun for all ages, but especially for kids and families.

- Coulter Exhibit ...1
- Superintendent’s Message...1
- Visitor Information...2
- 1906 Earthquake and Fire...2
- Events and Programs...3
- Kids Activities...4
- Park Map...4
- Today In the Park...4



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

**San Francisco Maritime
National Historical Park**

Established in 1988, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park encompasses only 34 acres, but contains the most national historic landmarks of any unit in the National Park Service. In addition to the fleet of ships at Hyde Street Pier, the park includes the Aquatic Park Historic District (Maritime Museum, urban beach, picnic area and bocce ball courts), a Visitor Center and a research library (in Fort Mason Center).

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Volunteers: Great People Doing Great Things

In September the volunteers at San Francisco Maritime had good reason to celebrate at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Dinner held on the ferryboat *Eureka* at Hyde Street Pier. The dinner is one way of acknowledging our appreciation to our volunteers for their dedication and support. Nearly 135 volunteers, guests, and staff members attended the happy event. During 2005,

Visitor Information

Dates and Hours of Operation

The ***Hyde Street Pier***, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM-5:00PM—last entry at 4:30PM (October 2-May 30), and 9:30AM–5:30PM—last entry at 5PM (Memorial Day-October 1).

The ***Maritime Museum*** (Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building), located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street, is open 10:00AM-5:00PM, year-round.

The ***Visitor Center***, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM-5:00PM (October 16-May 27) and 9:30AM-7:00PM (May 28-October 15).

The ***Maritime Library***, located on the third floor of Bldg. E in Fort Mason Center (auto entrance at Buchanan Street and Marina Blvd), is open 1:00PM-8:00PM Tuesdays, 1:00PM-5:00PM Wednesday-Friday, and 10:00AM-5:00PM Saturdays.

No-Fee Areas

Visitor Center, Hyde Street Pier, Aquatic Park Historic District (including the Maritime Museum) and the Maritime Library (Fort Mason Center).

Park’s Connection to 1906 Earthquake

On the second day following the great 1906 earthquake, 30,000 frantic residents, forced to flee to the waterfront to escape fires raging through the city, were safely evacuated by boat from the present day sites of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and Fisherman’s Wharf. Preceding this rescue the city was enveloped in spectacular tragedy and chaos.

At 5:12 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18, a 7.9 to 8.3 magnitude earthquake shook San Francisco and most of California for 48 seconds. In the city, the seismic upheaval cut all communication with police and fire stations. The entire electrical and water supply system failed. Scores of buildings, especially in the hard hit South of Market area, partially collapsed, leaving hundreds of people killed or trapped inside.

Then the fires started. During the day more than 50 fires ignited in the city, many of them eventually joining together. The firefighters had little or no water to suppress them. In 1906, San Francisco was the largest city west of the Mississippi River with 410,000 residents, and it was in danger of complete destruction. The person most qualified to lead the emergency response, Fire Chief Dennis Sullivan, was

fatally wounded when a brick chimney and wall from a next door hotel collapsed, crashing 60 feet through the roof of his firehouse.

Five hours after the quake struck, three Navy boats from Mare Island Naval Base, commanded by 31-year-old Navy Lieutenant Frederick Freeman, arrived on the



Photo of San Francisco taken from the Navy tug *Active* five hours after the 1906 Earthquake. Photo: Pond Family Collection.

downtown waterfront. For three days, with little or no rest, Lieutenant Freeman and sailors aboard the fire boat *Leslie* and tugboat *Active*, lead the firefighting efforts to save the waterfront and railroad yards.

The arrival of the Navy tugs greatly aided the firefighting effort as the city did not have a fire boat. Freeman directed the men to lay one fire hose after another into the interior streets. The tug’s pumps were able

to supply salt water from the Bay through the hoses to fight the fires. Freeman’s efforts covered most of the waterfront and extended many blocks inland. Protecting the seaport and railroad yards were crucial for the city’s survival and renewal.

On Thursday afternoon, April 19, Army crews used dynamite to destroy buildings on Van Ness Avenue to create a fire break to protect the western half of the city. Unfortunately a dynamited chemical warehouse started a fire that burned east into Russian Hill. The next morning, the winds picked up and the fire burned through North Beach and Fisherman’s Wharf. The North Beach residential area had not been evacuated as the fast moving fire approached, resulting in true and absolute panic. Many residents were overrun by the fire and perished. More than

30,000 found themselves trapped at the waters edge between Fort Mason and Pier 27, “hysterically endeavoring to escape the flames,” Lieutenant Freeman wrote.

Sixteen men and two officers from the *USS Chicago* rescued 20,000 residents from the foot of Van Ness Avenue, at the present day site of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Commander Badger of *USS Chicago* wrote, “The city on the Fort Mason side of the harbor was, at this time, in full blaze. The air was filled with burning cinders, thousands of panic stricken, homeless and destitute people thronged the shore in the neighborhood of the Fort.”

Every ship, scow and rowboat was used to evacuate residents off the piers and beaches. Waiting with the thousands to be rescued from the sweeping firestorm, historian Bailey Millard later wrote, “About us was every conceivable kind of craft: tugs shrieked sharp warnings, boatmen called aloud from two junks crowded with escaping Chinese. We passed lateen-sailed fisher boats, loaded down with Italian voyagers, shouting to each other.”

The fires following the earthquake stand as the largest peacetime city fire in world history. The four-day event took more than 3,000 lives, rendered 200,000 homeless and burned 28,000 buildings. In 1906 dollars, property damage was estimated at \$500 million. In terms of measuring by comparing the total values of the Gross Domestic Product, economists have figured the damage to be worth \$195 billion today.

By John Cunnane, Supervisory Park Ranger, SF Maritime NHP
Sources: “San Francisco Is Burning,” by Dennis Smith, and “Denial of Disaster,” by Gladys Hansen and Emmet Condon.



Photo by Dominick Grillas

volunteers provided over 37,800 hours of time and service.

The park offers myriad activities for those who wish to volunteer. Duties include: ship maintenance and preservation, docent and living history programs, honing nautical skills at the small boat shop, serving at the library, providing assistance to

the administrative, exhibits, and historic documents departments, or helping with one of the park’s special events. To join our family of volunteers, please call 415-556-1613 or email the volunteer program manager, terry_dorman@nps.gov. For more information on volunteering with the National Park Service, go to www.nps.gov/volunteer.

Boarding Pass (Entrance Fee For Historic Vessels): \$5.00

Free for supervised children under 16. Free with National Parks Pass, Golden Age/Access Pass or Park Annual Pass.

Reservations/Permits

Reservations for school groups and other educational groups must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. At least one month’s notice and application for Special Use Permits is required. Filming permits are arranged on an individual basis.

Contact Information

General Park Information: 415-447-5000
Maritime Store: 415-775-2665
Maritime Library: 415-561-7030

USS Pampanito: 415-775-1943
Park Website: www.nps.gov/safr
Association Website: www.maritime.org

Music, Tours, Events, Living History and Films

MUSIC

CHANTEY SING
Saturdays, January 7, February 4 and March 4, 8PM-MIDNIGHT. No fee. Aboard the historic vessel Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Reservations required: call 415-556-6435 or email peter_kasin@nps.gov.
Sing traditional working songs aboard a historic floating vessel. Bring a mug for hot cider served from the ship’s galley.

MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS
Saturdays, January 21, February 18 and March 18, 2PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 17 free).
History comes alive for kids in this special program, where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun. Ages 7 and up.

CHANTEYS: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONNECTION
Saturday, February 11, 2PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.
See description below.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

CHANTEYS: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONNECTION
Saturday, February 11, 2PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.
Join Park Ranger Peter Kasin and Park Volunteer Richard Adrianowicz in a program of African American and Caribbean based work songs of sailors and dock workers. The choruses to these chanteys are easy to sing and participants will be encouraged to sing along.

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WORLD WAR II LIBERTY SHIPS
Sundays, February 12 and 26, 2PM. In the Visitor Center theater. No fee.
A slide program detailing the contributions of African Americans to the construction and operation of Liberty Ships during World War II.

EXHIBIT: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE MARITIME TRADES
Daily, throughout February. On Hyde Street Pier.
Photo exhibit about the contributions of African Americans in maritime industries.

FILMS



SAN FRANCISCO OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL
Friday and Saturday, January 14 and 15. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center.
The Festival features independent film works that reveal the beauty, power and mysteries of our oceans. Catch the third wave of the Ocean Film Festival. In partnership with San Francisco Maritime NHP. For details go to www.oceanfilmfest.org.



Photo courtesy of Maria Brooks
Tamara Becker, 2nd Mate, on board the teaching ship, *Tole Mour*, at Catalina Island, CA.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

PREMIERE OF THE DOCUMENTARY, “SHIPPING OUT”
Saturday, February 18, 7:30PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Admission \$5, \$4 for Friends of the Library and Association members.
Come to the premiere of “Shipping Out, the Story of America’s Seafaring Women.” Filmed on board merchant ships in coastal waters from Alaska to New York, “Shipping Out” looks at the little known history of women and seafaring in America. Meet the producer, Maria Brooks and listen to sea-songs regaling women sailors and talk with women mariners. *For information, and to RSVP, call 415-447-5000.*

WENDY THE WELDER: WOMEN BUILDING LIBERTY SHIPS IN WWII
Sundays, March 12 and 26, 2PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.
During World War II, a shortage of men brought women into the workforce building Liberty Ships. Hear fascinating accounts of their contributions in this slide presentation.

EXHIBIT: WOMEN WHO CHANGED MARITIME HISTORY
Daily, throughout March. On Hyde Street Pier.
Photo exhibition illustrating the often overlooked impact women have had on maritime history.

TEA WITH THE LADIES AND SUFFRAGETTE MARCH
Saturday, March 11, afternoon. In the Ark houseboat and Hyde Street Pier. No fee.
Join a salon of Victorian women (the Park’s costumed living history players) on an afternoon in the year 1901 as they discuss issues ranging from corsetry to voting rights. At noon there will be a march on the pier in support of women’s suffrage. Come voice your opinion.

PROGRAMS

SMALL CRAFT ON HYDE STREET PIER
Saturdays, January 28, February 25 and March 25, 2PM. At the Small Boat Shop on Hyde Street Pier. No fee.
Join a ranger for an interesting look at our small craft collection, and learn about its place in San Francisco Bay history.

BORN AGAIN: THE MANY LIVES OF THE SCHOONER C.A. THAYER
Sundays, January 8 and February 19, 2PM. In the Visitor Center theater. No fee.
Adapting to multiple careers, the C.A. Thayer has survived for more than a century. Learn how the restoration of this 1895 West Coast schooner will preserve not only the vessel itself, but also a variety of vanishing maritime traditions.

EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR
Sundays, January 15, February 5 and March 5, 2PM. Meet on Eureka’s gangway. Vessel admission.
Take a special tour of the ferryboat Eureka’s engine room and get a close-up look at what makes a steam ferry run.

HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR
Sundays, January 8, February 5 and March 5, 3PM. Meet at the gangway on the Pier. Vessel admission. Tour includes climbing moderately steep ladders and entering cramped spaces.
Explore the major engineering spaces and learn about steam engine technology and its effects on the working environment of the marine steam engineer.

THE OCEAN: BARRIER OR HIGHWAY?
Sundays, January 15, February 12 and March 12, (March program on Balclutha) at 3PM. In the Visitor Center.
Was the ocean a barrier or a highway for the vessels Balclutha, Thayer and Hercules? Join a ranger for a thirty minute slide presentation to examine this question.

BIRDS OF THE BAY
Sundays, January 22, February 19 and March 19, 9:30AM-11:30AM. Meet at the Hyde Street Pier entrance. No fee.
See shore, migratory, citified and resident birds on this birdwalk. Bring binoculars, bird books and dress in layers.

LIFE IN NELSON’S NAVY
Saturdays, January 7, February 4 and March 11, (March program on Balclutha) 2PM. In the Visitor Center theater.
View a slide show about life in the British Royal Navy at the time of Nelson, featuring period food, clothing and surgical instruments.

MARITIME HEROICS IN THE 1906 EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE
Saturdays, February 18 and March 18, (March program on Balclutha) 3PM. In the Visitor Center theater.
While San Francisco burned, sailors evacuated thousands of residents forced to flee to the shores of San Francisco Bay (At the present site of the park.) Join a ranger for a slide presentation about these heroic efforts.

SHIP RADIO DEMONSTRATION
Saturdays, January 28, February 25 and March 25, 10AM-12PM AND 1-4PM. In the Maritime Museum. No fee.
Inside a replica WWII ship’s radio room, docents interpret the technology and explain the vital role ship’s radio operators played. They will also send a real radiogram message for you to anywhere in the United States!

SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR
Saturday, February 11, 9:30AM-2:30PM. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. No fee. Reservations required; call the Boat Shop at 415-556-4031.
Bring a bag lunch and ride with us over to our small craft warehouse in Alameda. We’ll tour the collection of nearly 100 local historic boats, discussing interesting elements of their history, design and construction.

COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901
Saturday, March 11, 10AM-4PM . Aboard the historic vessels. Vessel admission.
Step into the past as you board our historic ships. Help the sailors on Balclutha raise the staysail and then remain onboard for musical fun during the afternoon dogwatch. Join ferryboat passengers on Eureka, or Mrs. Galan on the Ark houseboat for an afternoon tea. Come voice your opinion at the boisterous demonstration in support of women’s suffrage.

IN THE LIBRARY

USS PAMPANITO
Saturday, January 14, 6PM. In the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center. Fee: \$5 (\$4 Library Friends and SFMNP) Reservations: 415-561-7040.
Diane Cooper, Pampanito curator, will tell about the history of the World War II submarine. The Pampanito served in the Pacific Theater during the last years of the war, completed six war patrols, and rescued 73 Australian and British prisoners of war. Learn about the sub, the men who sailed her, and her career after the war.

PIRACY AND MARINE TERRORISM
Saturday, February 11, 6PM. In the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center. Fee: \$5 (\$4 Library Friends and SFMNP) Reservations: 415-561-7040.
Captain Keith Graham, 30-year professor at California Maritime Academy and a recognized expert on piracy and marine terrorism, will discuss modern trends in piracy and increasing instances of maritime terrorism.

THE STORY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL YACHT POTOMAC
Saturday, March 25, 6PM. In the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center. Fee: \$5 (\$4 Library Friends and SFMNP) Reservations: 415-561-7040.
Maritime historian and publisher Walter Jaffee will present the history of the famous presidential yacht, now berthed at Jack London Square in Oakland.

MODELMAKING

MODELERS’ CLUB
Saturdays, January 21, February 18 and March 18, 9:30AM. Meet in the Museum Building basement. No fee.
The model ship building club meets the third Saturday of every month in the basement of the Maritime Museum.

MODELERS’ WORKSHOP
Saturday afternoons. On the car deck of the Eureka. Vessel admission.
View the Modelshop on the car deck of the Eureka. The public is invited to stop by and watch the model builders in action.

VOLUNTEERS

HANDS NEEDED
Interested in woodwork, rigging, working with the public, library science or archives? Have we got the perfect challenge for you! Call the Volunteer Office at 415-556-1613 or visit www.nps.gov/safr/local/vip1.html and join the crew!

WANT TO BE A DOCENT?
We will be offering a free docent training class on three consecutive Sundays; April 23, 30 and May 7, from 10:30am to 4:30pm. Call 415-556-1613 for more information.

JANUARY

28 Pleasure Afloat

Ship Radio Demonstration

FEBRUARY

- 18 Music of the Sea for Kids
 - Maritime Heroics in 1906
 - Earthquake and Fire
 - Premiere of "Shipping Out"
documentary
 - Modelers' Club
- 19 Birds of the Bay
 - Born Again: The Many Lives of
the Schooner *C.A. Thayer*
- 25 Pleasure Afloat
 - Ship Radio Demonstration
- 26 African Americans and WWII
 - Liberty Ships

MARCH

- 11 *Hercules Engineering Tour*
- 11 *Costumed Living History*
 A Day in the Life: 1901
 Life in Nelson's Navy
- 12 *Wendy the Welder*
 The Ocean: Barrier or
 Highway?
- 18 *Music of the Sea for Kids*
 Maritime Heroics in 1906
 Earthquake and Fire
 Modelers' Club
- 19 *Birds of the Bay*
- 25 *Pleasure Afloat*
 Ship Radio Demonstration
 Story of Yacht Potomac
 lecture in library
- 26 *Wendy the Welder*

This is a special section of the *Maritime News* just for kids. Listed below are some opportunities at the park to voyage through the museum, to sing like a sailor and to become a Junior Ranger!

Look for other special kids' activities on the program board next to the ticket booth on Hyde Street Pier.

On intermittent Saturdays in January, February and March, call day before for schedule, 415-447-5000. On Hyde Street Pier. No fee.

On board ship, sailors use the capstan to help them lift heavy objects such as the ship's anchor.

Join us for a hands-on demonstration of the power of that machine. In this maritime version of tug-of-war, it's children against adults: the kids use the capstan to try to reel in a line as their parents pull the other way! Who will win?

On intermittent Saturdays, call the day before for schedule, 415-447-5000. On Hyde Street Pier. No fee.

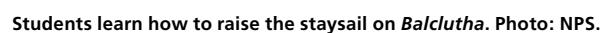
Grab a line and help raise and lower our
little flat-bottomed row boat from the side

ships. By completing the activities you will learn about seafaring history, become a steward of the national parks (a steward is one who takes care of parks) and and earn a Junior Ranger badge! Booklets are available at the Visitor Center, Pier ticket booth and Maritime Museum. Good luck and have lots of fun!

CURRICULUM IS NOT JUST FOR TEACHERS
Are you interested in a painless way to teach your children about maritime history? Take a look at the new *Voyages* curriculum available on the park website. Each of the six lessons contains a “Seaside Story.” These historically accurate fictional stories will capture the imaginations of your kids and help them walk in the sea

boots of kids from the Age of Sail. Find the *Voyages* curriculum at www.nps.gov/safr/local/education/education.htm.

Grab a rope handle and explore the Museum on this fun group “voyage.” Navigate through the exhibits (using a real compass), write a “radiogram,” compose messages using signal flags and roleplay about life at sea with character cards. This free program is available at the museum desk.

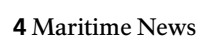


Saturdays, January 21, February 18 and March 18, 2PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.

History comes alive in this special program where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun.

NEW AND IMPROVED!

Pick up the FREE and newly improved
booklet and explore the park's historic



Continued From Page 1

“W.A. Coulter: A Master’s Brush With The Sea,” is being organized by the W.A. Coulter Exhibition Committee of the Paul and Linda Kahn Foundation (San Francisco) in partnership with San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

Other supporting organizations include the Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library, and the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association. Co-sponsoring organizations include the California Historical Society, the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, and the Society of California Pioneers.

For information on the exhibit contact
Dave Hull, Principal Librarian at 415-561-
7031 or Linda Kahn at 415-346-0643.

You can show your support for the Park through membership in the Maritime Park Association, our non-profit partner organization. Your membership assists with preservation and education projects for Park ships and collections. Membership comes with special benefits at each level, including the *Sea Letter* magazine, free park admission, and Maritime Store discounts. For more information, call Member Services at 415-561-6662 x 13, or email nmecum@maritime.org or go to www.maritime.org.

