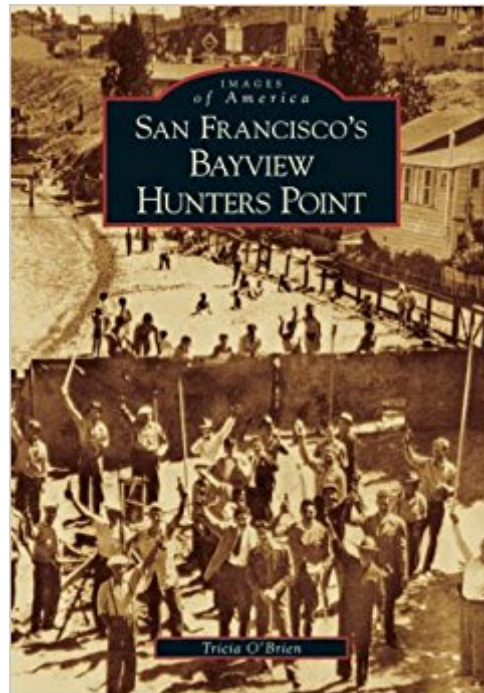




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San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point (Images Of America)



Synopsis

It's hard to imagine cows walking up Third Street or sheep on Innes Avenue, yet a large portion of the area known today as Bayview Hunters Point was once extremely rural. Called Butchertown by locals, the neighborhood was a source of much of San Francisco's food. Over the years, it evolved into an interesting combination of residences, businesses, and industries. The area was home to slaughterhouses, tanneries, tallow works, a saddle shop, the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, numerous boat yards including the legendary Allemand Brothers Boat Repair, and the U.S. Naval operations at Hunters Point Shipyard. Alongside these entities lived thousands of residents with unique stories and lifestyles.

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Customer Reviews

Author Tricia O'Brien, whose own family has deep Bayview Hunters Point roots, tells the area's story through more than 200 vintage photographs culled almost exclusively from the collections of local families and history-minded organizations. She shows readers the dramatic transformation that has occurred since the early days; the naval shipyard that once dominated the area is being redeveloped and the new Third Street light rail extension is bringing further change to the Bayview. Today, the neighborhood has its challenges, but this stirring collection is proof that the Bayview's history is an illustrious one and its spirit is strong.

Being a fan of San Francisco history, I was surprised to see a book dedicated to one quiet corner of the City (where is a volume on the Haight-Ashbury or the Mission District??). Once I picked this one

up, I literally could not put it down. The pictures of long-gone cattle and sheep drives (all within the city limits of SF) are intriguing. It was fascinating to read how the neighborhood has evolved with the businesses located there--from the slaughterhouses and tanneries, to the shipbuilders, to the Naval Shipyard, right up to the present transformation that is emerging as a result of the Third Street Muni line. Best of all, the author has her own roots in the neighborhood, and tells the story with the warmth and sincerity that only first-hand knowledge brings. It's not a tourist piece, though, since the author frankly acknowledges that the neighborhood continues to face a variety of social and economic challenges. If you read a history of the Marina or Chinatown, or the Castro, you know pretty much how the story will play out, but not so with this one! In the end, it is one of the most informative books that I have ever read on a City neighborhood.

Great

I am a Bayview native daughter, born and bred in this little quarter, a sunnier place than most in this City of fog. I stumbled upon this book by accident, and had to order it. What a gift! Like many people who knew the Bayview from late '50's to mid '70's, my roots took some bruising in the turbulence of the late '60's. Despite these times, it remains the place of my roots. This book shows how this part of the city first began to be developed out of horse pastures and the meat industry, among other industries. Whatever part of Bayview Hunters Point was your own stomping ground, you will find familiarity that will pull at your heart. Some of the names (and faces!) were even recognizable to me as neighborhood institutions. All Hallows parish tied my own neighbors together, but by the time I left the city in '74, Bayview had changed so much, it hurt to see her so injured. I hear that she still has many problems, but perhaps one day her streets will once again be safe, a secure place to call home. (Even in my day it wasn't so safe, and yet it was definitely "home"!) I believe that Bayview always has been, and will continue to be a place inhabited by a majority of good, hard working people with real heart and a sense of community. This book allows us to know Bayview Hunters Point on a new and deeper level Thanks much to the author for sharing her work, and to the people and families who provided the wonderful photos to this project.

Tricia O'Brien's SAN FRANCISCO'S BAYVIEW HUNTER'S POINT is unique in many ways: very few California or San Francisco books even mention the Bayview area so it stands out from the beginning, and author O'Brien's Irish-Italian-Portuguese roots lend a unique personal facet to her coverage: her Irish grandmother had to keep her engagement with the Italian-Portuguese boy next

door a secret from their families who would view the couple as a 'mixed race' couple, so they met on Bayview's Third Street to court. Their engagement, radical in their day, actually reflected the growing mixed ethnicity of Bayview and not only represents the neighborhood but influenced Tricia O'Brien's research, which brings some truly rare photos to life from many private collections. You won't find anything even remotely like SAN FRANCISCO'S BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT in print - take it from a native.

The book does a fair job of describing the Bayview, but fails in capturing the multi-cultural essence of the neighborhood in the 50's. There were Whites, Blacks, Italians, Maltese, Irish, poor, middle-class, Catholics, Protestants all interacting in a comfortable blue collar neighborhood. Many of the stores and businesses such as dairys, poultry shops, hardware stores, bakeries were overlooked. These all contributed to the strong sense of neighborhood.

This is a must read for anyone who grew up in the Bayview-Hunters Point area in the 30's,40's and 50's. To recall the schools, churches, businesses and nuances of the neighborhoods bring back a joyful and carefree time of growing up in area where diversity had not yet become a trend. This easy to read book is a reminder of how a melting pot of nationalities can make a name for itself in a beautiful place to have grown up.

Writing as a former resident of Butcherstown-Bayview (1943-1957), I found the book full of memories which capture the spirit of the community. It stimulated discussion and new insights from my 94 year old mother who lived there for many years (1911-1957). I found many of the photos of places talked about but never seen. Bravo. Job well done. Thank you for the memories.

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