



# Catalyst

Fletcher Soul Traveler

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The definition of catalyst is as follows:

1. In a **chemical context**, a catalyst is a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. [It's like a facilitator that helps other substances react with each other more efficiently<sup>1</sup>.](#)
2. In a more **general sense**, a catalyst can refer to a person or thing that precipitates an event. [It's something that sparks a change or speeds up a process, much like how a match can ignite a flame<sup>1</sup>.](#)

[The term “catalyst” is derived from the word “catalysis,” which refers to the acceleration of a chemical reaction, and it's been part of the English language since the early 20th century<sup>1</sup>.](#) It's a powerful concept because it signifies the start of

something new or the acceleration of change, whether in a science lab or in society.

## Down the rabbit hole



Well, well, let's venture down this rabbit hole. In our previous chapter, we explored the concept of a catalyst—a spark that sets change in motion. As I age, I find these catalysts weaving intricate patterns in my life. Childhood events, seemingly innocuous, now reveal their influence on my future.

This book aims to convey a series of events from the early '60s. During my 4th or 5th grade, I spent time with Dana Robinson, a classmate. Little did I know the significance of her parents. Now, decades later, I embark on an incredible journey, tracing the threads they wove.

Faint memories resurface—Dana's hushed words about her parents' endeavors. Back then, I paid little attention. But life has a way of looping back. Almost 60 years later, a sequence of events draws me into this rabbit hole, where past and present converge.

And then there's my great-grandmother, a figure from the 1890s. Her legacy echoes through time, affecting my life today. Signposts surround us—subtle whispers from the universe. Do we have the eyes to see them?



### **The Catalysts of Life**

In the labyrinth of time,  
Each moment a thread,  
Woven by hands unseen,  
A tapestry of the living and the dead.

Childhood memories, faint and sweet,  
Echoes of a voice from the past,  
Dana's tales, once incomplete,  
Now in clarity, they're cast.

A catalyst, a spark, a flame,  
Igniting paths we tread,  
The confluence of events, no two the same,  
Guiding where we're led.

Great-grandmother's legacy, a distant bell,  
Ringing through the years,  
In its sound, a story to tell,  
Of triumphs and of fears.

Signposts abound, in dreams, in thought,  
Whispers of the universe, ever so sly,  
Do we see them? More often than not,  
Only when we close our eyes to try.

So let us journey down this rabbit hole,  
With eyes wide open, hearts attuned,  
For the catalysts of life play a role,  
In the symphony of fate, beautifully crooned.

May you continue to find clarity and meaning in the signposts of your life, and  
may the catalysts lead you to ever more enlightening discoveries.



## Echoes of the Back Bay A Journey Through Time



When our family first moved to Newport Beach in 1955, the Back Bay lay before us—an untouched canvas of natural beauty. It was an estuary, a sanctuary where the tides whispered secrets to the reeds. The water shimmered, and the air held promises of adventure.

My brother and I, mere toddlers at the time, reveled in the freedom of those open spaces. Our young hearts danced to the rhythm of the bay, and we imagined dragons in the distant hills. The world was vast, and we were explorers.



But then, in 1963, change rippled across the water. Dredgers arrived, their mechanical arms disturbing the tranquil surface. We watched, wide-eyed, as sand rose from the depths, like memories stirred from slumber. The bay was transforming, and we sensed it—the pulse of creation.



And so, Dover Shores emerged—a testament to human ingenuity and ambition. Three peninsulas sprouted from the dredged sand, reaching toward the horizon. Houses took root, their windows framing the ever-changing tides. The once-pristine estuary now bore the marks of progress.

Yet, beneath the surface, something remained—the echoes of our childhood. The laughter, the dragon tales, the shared wonder. As the years flowed by, we encountered barriers—legal battles, environmental concerns—but also stories of resilience and hope.

This book, my dear reader, is a journey through time. It weaves together the threads of memory, connecting us to the people who shaped Dover Shores—the dreamers, the activists, the everyday heroes. Their stories are etched into the very soil, whispering of interconnectedness and transformation.



So come, walk with me along the shores of memory. Let us explore the barriers faced, the moments cherished, and the resilience that binds us all. For within these pages, the Back Bay lives on—a beacon of harmony, a reminder that even in change, there is beauty.



And perhaps, just perhaps, a dragon still slumbers in the hills, waiting for curious hearts to awaken its ancient wisdom.

## *Echoes of the Unspoiled Bay*

A Journey to Newport Beach 1955



Their twin boys, John and the storyteller of our tale, reveled in this newfound playground. The neighborhood buzzed with life—frogs leaping through dew-kissed grass, turtles basking on sun-warmed rocks, and insects weaving intricate dances in the air. It was a symphony of nature, and the Fletchers were its enchanted audience.



Across the street lived Mark McClellan, their dear friend. His yard was a sanctuary—a haven for frogs that croaked their nightly lullabies and turtles that emerged like ancient guardians. Butterflies flitted from flower to flower, their delicate wings carrying secrets of metamorphosis and renewal.

But time, that relentless sculptor, chiseled away at the landscape. In 1963, the symphony faltered. The dredgers arrived, their mechanical arms disturbing the tranquil

waters. Sand rose from the depths, reshaping the bay. Houses sprouted like concrete mushrooms, and the wild west mentality of progress swept through the air.



John and our storyteller, now a decade older, watched with knowing eyes. They saw the branch being sawed—the delicate balance disrupted. The Back Bay, once pristine, bore the scars of human ambition. The frogs and turtles retreated, their ancient rhythms disrupted. The butterflies fluttered less, as if mourning the loss of their floral partners.





And so, the lesson unfolded: we are not divorced from nature; we are threads woven into its tapestry. Quantum physics whispers this truth—the interconnectedness of all things. We are stardust, atoms dancing in cosmic choreography. When we alter an ecosystem, we sever a strand of our own existence.

The wild west mentality persists, but wisdom calls us back. We are not conquerors; we are caretakers. The Back Bay, scarred yet resilient, still cradles life. And within its reeds and ripples, we find our reflection—a piece of the puzzle, intricately linked to every living thing.

So let us remember, dear reader, that we are both architects and guests in this grand design. As the frogs croak and the turtles bask, as the butterflies alight on fragile petals, we must tread lightly. For when we protect the bay, we safeguard a part of ourselves—the echoes of an unspoiled time, forever etched in the sands of Newport Beach.

And perhaps, just perhaps, the Gabrielino spirits still dance, whispering secrets to those who listen—the wisdom of interconnectedness, the harmony of existence.



## **Echoes of the Back Bay**

Once upon a time, in the quaint town of Newport Beach California , two childhood friends, Mark and Rick, reunited after decades to share memories of their youth and the wild, untamed beauty of the Back Bay they once knew. Rick's twin brother was not involved in this conversation. The neighborhood, once remote with wildlife thriving around it, had transformed dramatically over the years, and the friends felt a deep nostalgia for the past.

Rick, now a researcher writing a book about the Back Bay, was eager to capture the essence of the place that held so many cherished memories. He recalled the untouched nature of their childhood, where they would daringly climb down cliffs to explore the shores, despite the area being off-limits. The thrill of adventure and the serenity of nature were palpable in their tales.

Mark equally moved by the memories, shared his own experiences. They spoke of the eucalyptus trees where Carter Robinson used to hang out and the feeling of serenity they couldn't describe as children. The Back Bay was their playground, where they built forts out of tumbleweeds and discovered octopuses under rocks.

As they delved deeper into their conversation, they touched upon the environmental activism that had taken place in their community. Dana Robinson's parents, whom they knew as kids, had been instrumental in preserving the Back Bay. What started as a selfish desire to access the beach turned into a 30-year commitment to environmental conservation, fighting against big developers like the Irvine Company.

The friends discussed the balance needed between civilization and nature, the importance of custodians who protect the environment, and the interconnectedness of all things. They laughed about childhood pranks and reminisced about the music that shaped their youth, from the Rolling Stones to Chad and Jeremy.

Their story was a tapestry of life, woven with threads of friendship, environmental awareness, and the inevitable changes that come with time. As they parted ways, promising to continue their conversation the next day, they knew that their bond, much like the Back Bay, was a testament to the enduring power of nature and nostalgia.





## Mark McClellan Back Bay YouTube Part 1



### Mark McClellan Back Bay Part 1

Fletcher Soul Traveler • 2 views

Fletcher Soul Traveler Click on link for PDF

<https://evolutionrevolutionoflove.com/PDF/Books/Catalyst/Catalyst.pdf>

The video features a conversation between two individuals reminiscing about their childhood in Newport Beach, discussing the development of their neighborhood, the Back Bay area, and the environmental changes they witnessed. They share personal stories, reflect on the interconnectedness of nature and community, and express hope for a more harmonious future.

- [00:01](#)**Childhood Memories**
- Moving to Newport at a young age
- Early encounters with neighbors
- Feeling of nature's presence
- [02:16](#)**The Back Bay's Transformation**
- Changes from untouched nature to development
- Personal experiences with the environment
- Impact of construction on natural habitat
- [06:09](#)**Community Efforts**
- Local families' involvement in environmental conservation
- Struggle against developers and companies
- Personal sacrifices for the cause
- [11:22](#)**Interconnectedness and Balance**
- Importance of harmony between development and nature
- Personal philosophies on life and community
- Hope for a more aware and united society
- [20:52](#)**Wildlife and Agriculture**
- Abundance of wildlife and local farming
- Impact of urbanization on natural diversity
- Nostalgia for the rich ecosystem of the past
- [27:33](#)**Community Dynamics**
- Diverse families and their contributions

- Influence of church and community leaders
- Reflections on societal changes and personal growth

Reference: [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

### Childhood Memories

- **Moving to Newport:** The conversation begins with reminiscing about moving to Newport Beach at a young age. The narrator shares how they felt a sense of wonder and excitement upon arriving in this coastal community.
- **Early Encounters with Neighbors:** The neighborhood was filled with friendly faces. The narrator fondly recalls interactions with neighbors, forming connections that would shape their understanding of community and interconnectedness.
- **Nature's Presence:** Newport Beach was more than just a place; it was an environment where nature played a significant role. The narrator describes feeling the presence of nature all around them.

### The Back Bay's Transformation

- **Changes from Untouched Nature to Development:** Over time, the Back Bay area underwent significant changes. What was once untouched nature gradually transformed into a developed neighborhood. The impact of this transformation on the environment becomes a central theme.
- **Personal Experiences with the Environment:** The narrators share personal stories of exploring the Back Bay, witnessing its beauty, and observing the delicate balance between human activity and nature.
- **Impact of Construction on Natural Habitat:** As development progressed, construction projects altered the landscape. The loss of natural habitat became evident, prompting reflection on the importance of preserving green spaces.

### Community Efforts

- **Local Families' Involvement in Environmental Conservation:** The conversation shifts to community efforts. Families in Newport Beach actively engaged in environmental conservation. They recognized the value of protecting the natural world for future generations.
- **Struggle Against Developers and Companies:** The battle to preserve natural habitats wasn't easy. The community faced challenges from developers and

companies seeking to exploit the land. Yet, determined individuals persisted in their fight.

- **Personal Sacrifices for the Cause:** Some families made personal sacrifices to protect the environment. Their commitment to conservation extended beyond words, demonstrating the power of action.

### Interconnectedness and Balance

- **Importance of Harmony Between Development and Nature:** Both narrators emphasize the need for balance. They recognize that development is essential for a thriving community, but it must coexist harmoniously with nature. Finding that balance becomes a shared aspiration.
- **Personal Philosophies on Life and Community:** The conversation delves into deeper philosophical reflections. The narrators discuss their outlook on life, community, and the interconnectedness of all living things.
- **Hope for a More Aware and United Society:** Despite challenges, there's hope. The narrators express optimism that society will become more aware of its impact on the environment. They envision a united effort to protect natural spaces.

### Wildlife and Agriculture

- **Abundance of Wildlife and Local Farming:** Newport Beach once teemed with wildlife. The narrators recall encounters with various species and the richness of the ecosystem. Additionally, local farming contributed to the community's self-sufficiency.
- **Impact of Urbanization on Natural Diversity:** However, urbanization took its toll. The loss of wildlife habitats and the decline in biodiversity weighed heavily on their hearts.
- **Nostalgia for the Rich Ecosystem of the Past:** The conversation ends with a touch of nostalgia. The narrators long for the vibrant ecosystem they remember—a place where nature and community thrived together.

This heartfelt dialogue captures the essence of Newport Beach's evolution, the struggles faced by its residents, and their unwavering commitment to preserving the environment. It serves as a reminder that our words and actions shape the world around us. 🌿🌍

## Mark McClellan Back Bay Story 2



*Figure 1 the Fletcher twins and Mark's family*

### **Mark's Legacy The Salt Ponds and the Sands of Time**

Once upon a time, in the coastal town of Newport Beach 's Back Bay, Mark McClellan's family etched their story into the very fabric of the land. Their tale unfolded against the backdrop of salt ponds and the sands of time, where the sun and sea conspired to create something magical. Mark's Dad Sparks worked for the Newport Dredging Company a family-owned business.

#### **The Salt Ponds**

Once upon a time, in the coastal town of Newport Beach, there lay a vast expanse of water known as the Upper Newport Bay. This tranquil estuary, where the fresh waters of the San Joaquin Hills met the salty tides of the Pacific, was home to a thriving ecosystem and a community of people who cherished the land and sea.

In the early 1930s, amidst the Great Depression, the people of Newport Beach sought ways to invigorate their economy. The Irvine Company, stewards of the land, envisioned a venture that would harness the bay's natural resources while

providing for the community. [Thus, in 1934, the Upper Newport Bay was transformed into a commercial Salt Works<sup>1</sup>.](#)

The Salt Works was a marvel of human ingenuity and nature's bounty. Seawater was collected and moved through a series of evaporation ponds, a process as simple as it was elegant: Seawater + Evaporation + Settling = Salt. [As the water evaporated under the golden California sun, it became 100% brine, ready to be pumped into crystallizer vats<sup>1</sup>.](#)

The salt harvested from these vats was not just any salt; it was water softener salt, a commodity that softened the hard water of the region, making it more suitable for daily use. [The Western Salt Company, which leased the plant in 1950, oversaw the production of over 500 tons of salt per season, a testament to the site's productivity<sup>1</sup>.](#)

But the Salt Works was more than a place of industry; it was a symbol of the community's resilience and adaptability. The people who worked there were not just employees; they were artisans of the earth, crafting an essential element of life from the sea itself.

As years passed, the Salt Works became a fixture of Newport Beach, its presence as constant as the tides. However, in the winter of 1968-69, a great flood swept through the region, causing extensive damage to the Salt Works. [The once-bustling ponds fell silent, and the vats lay empty<sup>1</sup>.](#)

The closure of the Salt Works marked the end of an era, but it was not forgotten. [The remnants of the works can still be seen, a reminder of the days when the Upper Newport Bay provided for its people in a unique and enduring way<sup>1</sup>.](#)

Today, the Upper Newport Bay is a protected ecological reserve, a sanctuary for wildlife and a haven for those seeking a connection with nature. The story of the Salt Works lives on, a chapter in the rich tapestry of Newport Beach's history, woven with the threads of community, industry, and the ever-present sea.

### **Cosmic Musings and the Sands of Time**

As the conversation between Mark and Rick went on, it wandered beyond the salt ponds into the realm of cosmic mysteries.





Mark marveled at a star older than time itself—a celestial sage whispering secrets across eons.

[Is the “Methuselah star” really older than the Universe?](#)

Their conversations danced between black holes and poetry. Rick recited verses about fleeting existence, while Mark pondered the restaurant at the end of the universe. They wondered

if parallel worlds existed, where alternate versions of themselves explored different paths. The yin and yang of cosmic forces fascinated them—the delicate balance that birthed galaxies and extinguished stars.

Meanwhile back to our story. In the heart of Back Bay, where the salt ponds mirrored the sky, Mark’s father, Sparks, found a stretch of land that whispered of potential. This was the Irvine property, a vast expanse that beckoned with its untamed beauty and the promise of prosperity.

### **The Irvine Property and the Sand Business**

Sparks, a man of vision, saw beyond the wild grasses and the rolling dunes. He envisioned a place where earth’s humble gifts could be transformed into pillars of industry. With hands weathered by work and a heart fueled by ambition, he set up his sand business on this unclaimed canvas.

The land was part of the Irvine Company’s holdings, but it lay dormant, untouched by the hands of progress. Sparks, with a pioneer’s spirit, did not wait for formalities. He brought in machinery, laid down tracks, and began the arduous process of mining the sand that would feed the foundries’ insatiable hunger.

Days turned into years, and the sand business flourished. The land, once silent, now hummed with activity. Conveyors chugged, and screens sifted, separating the precious grains that would become the backbone of industry. The foundries awaited, their fiery maws aglow, ready to cast the dreams of a growing nation.

But the story of the land was one of silent agreements and unspoken understandings. Sparks reached out to the Irvine Company, seeking their blessing, but no word came. No rent was asked, and none was given. The land and the McClellan family existed in a quiet symbiosis, each benefiting from the other's presence.

As Mark grew, he watched his father tend to the business with a dedication that bordered on reverence. The sand, like a golden treasure, supported them, sent Mark to school, and put food on their table. It was more than a business; it was a legacy in the making.

Yet, change is the only constant, and the winds of progress brought whispers of development. The Irvine Company, waking from its slumber, cast its gaze upon the land. They saw homes where Sparks saw sand, streets where he saw tracks. The company's vision for the future did not include the McClellan's sand business.

With a year's notice, the dream was asked to pack up and leave. Sparks, ever the stoic, faced the news with a quiet strength. The closure of the business was not just an end but a transition. It was a chapter closing, making way for new stories to be written.

### **Impact and Resilience**

The family rallied, as families do. They looked upon the empty land, the silent machines, and they remembered. They remembered the laughter, the sweat, and the triumphs. The closure of the sand business was a loss, but it was also a testament to their spirit.

Sparks, with the wisdom of the salt ponds in his veins, knew that life was about adaptation. He gathered his family, and together, they faced the horizon. New ventures awaited, new dreams to be cast. The land on the Irvine property had been a chapter in their story, a chapter filled with grit and grace.

And so, Mark's legacy was not just of salt and sand, but of resilience. It was a story of a family that stood firm against the tides of change, their roots deep in the land they loved. They carried forward the lessons of the salt ponds and the sands of time, ready to write their next chapter under the vast, open sky.

*And thus, the tale of Mark and his family continues, woven into the fabric of the land, a narrative of endurance, hope, and the undying spirit of adventure. 🌻🌻🌻*

## The Rise of East Bluff and Newport Center

The land that once bore the weight of sand and the whispers of salt began to transform. The Irvine Company, stewards of the land, envisioned a future where families could thrive, where children could play under the sun that once crystallized the sea into salt. The East Bluff development was ambitious, a testament to the city's growth and the ever-changing landscape of Newport Beach.

Thousands of homes began to dot the area, each a beacon of new beginnings. The Newport Center emerged as a hub of activity, a place where commerce and community intertwined. [The development of East Bluff and the Newport Center became symbols of progress, embodying the spirit of innovation that Sparks's sand business once represented<sup>1</sup>.](#)

Mark watched as the bulldozers and builders worked tirelessly, crafting streets from the trails he once roamed. The echoes of his childhood adventures were now overlaid with the laughter of new generations making their own memories. The salt ponds, a mirror of the sky, reflected the change, embracing their role in the tapestry of time.

The development brought prosperity to the region. It created jobs, homes, and a sense of community that extended beyond the boundaries of East Bluff. [The Newport Center, with its modern amenities and bustling energy, became a beacon of the city's forward-thinking attitude<sup>2</sup>.](#)

Yet, amidst the concrete and glass, the legacy of the McClellan family endured. The balance they sought between nature and progress, the wisdom they shared by the salt ponds, and the resilience they showed in the face of change—these were the true foundations upon which East Bluff was built.

And so, as the new community flourished, Mark found solace in the knowledge that the spirit of his family's endeavors lived on. The sands may have shifted, but the lessons they taught remained steadfast, guiding the residents of East Bluff and Newport Beach towards a future as bright as the sun that once danced upon the salt ponds.

*In the heart of every grain of sand, in the foundation of every home in East Bluff, the McClellan legacy continues—a testament to the enduring power of family, adaptation, and the beauty of embracing the new while honoring the past.*

## Newport Dredging Company

The McClellan family had a notable involvement in the sand business in the Back Bay area of Newport Beach. Here's a brief overview of their contributions:

### 1. Newport Dredging Company:

- [The McClellan family operated the Newport Dredging Company in the early part of the 20th century<sup>1</sup>.](#)
- [Their dredging activities contributed to the formation of significant landmarks in Newport Beach, such as Harbor Island, the Newport Harbor Yacht Basin, and Linda Isle<sup>1</sup>.](#)

### 2. H. Sparks McClellan:

- [H. Sparks McClellan, a member of the family, worked for the company when they dredged what is now Oceanside Harbor<sup>1</sup>.](#)
- [After serving in the Navy during World War II, he returned to work in the family sand pit in Anaheim<sup>1</sup>.](#)
- [Later, he operated his own business in the Newport Back Bay, digging fine molding sand used by businesses throughout Southern California<sup>1</sup>.](#)

### 3. Legacy and Community Involvement:

- Beyond their business endeavors, the McClellans were active in the community. For instance, H. [Sparks McClellan was involved in promoting programs that benefited Newport Harbor High School and organized class reunions for many years<sup>1</sup>.](#)

The McClellans' involvement in the sand business played a part in shaping the infrastructure and development of Newport Beach, leaving a lasting impact on the community. 🗺️ 🌊

Learn more

1 [ocregister.com](#)2 [ocregister.com](#)3 [dredgingtoday.com](#)+1 more

## H Sparks McClellan OBITUARY



**Birth: 1921**

**Death: 2020**

<sup>1</sup>November 28, 1921 – October 31, 2020 H. Sparks McClellan died at his home in Newport Beach at the age of 98, surrounded by his family. Sparks was the youngest of four children born to Rollo and Blanche McClellan in Anaheim, CA. The McClellan family operated the Newport Dredging Company in the early part of the 20th century.

Their dredge material helped form Harbor Island, the Newport Harbor Yacht Basin, and Linda Isle. Sparks worked for the company

when they dredged what is now Oceanside Harbor. Sparks was a member of the class of 1940 from Newport Harbor High School, where he lettered in football and basketball and ran track. After high school, he attended Fullerton Junior College until 1942, when he enlisted in the Navy during WWII.

He completed a civilian pilot training course, before entering the naval aviation training program. He earned his wings at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi and was deployed to the war in the Pacific, where he flew a Hellcat fighter plane from the escort carrier USS Chenango.

His squadron was involved in extensive combat operations throughout the Pacific, involving numerous attacks on enemy airfields and other shore facilities. Nicknamed the “Lucky Lady”, the Chenango was never damaged by enemy action, despite participating in many of the large campaigns of the Pacific war. Sparks was very proud of his service aboard the Chenango and stayed in touch with his shipmates throughout his life.

He also participated in ship reunions for many years. After the war, Sparks married Virginia Dulaney, a high school classmate, and started working for R.W McClellan in the family sand pit in Anaheim. Later, he operated his own business in the Newport

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<sup>1</sup> [H. McClellan Obituary - Newport Beach, CA \(1921-2020\) \(ocregister.com\)](https://www.ocregister.com/2020/11/28/h-sparks-mcclellan-obituary-newport-beach-ca-1921-2020/)

back bay, digging fine molding sand used by businesses throughout Southern California.

He and Virginia had a daughter and two sons, all of whom graduated from Newport Harbor High. After retiring from the sand business, Sparks purchased The Hobby Shop in Costa Mesa, which he operated for many years.

During that period, he built several slot-car tracks, participated in radio controlled (RC) glider competitions, and raced scale model 12-meter RC sailboats, which he sold nationally and internationally.

Sparks was active in promoting programs that benefitted Newport Harbor High School. He organized the Ralph K. Reed Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament, was active in the school's historical society, and organized class reunions for many years.

Sparks is survived by his three children, Georgia McClellan-Wood (Steve) from Solana Beach, CA, Crit McClellan (Cheryl) from Biloxi, MS, and Mark McClellan (Phyllis) from Costa Mesa, CA, and six grandchildren: Ryan McClellan, Kyle McClellan, Scott McClellan, Casey Wood, Connor Wood, and Cameron Wood.







### Mark McClellan Back Bay Part 2

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<https://evolutionrevolutionoflove.com/PDF/Books/Catalyst/Catalyst.pdf>

## PART 1 [Video summary](#)

The video features a conversation between two individuals reminiscing about old times and discussing various topics, including the history of salt ponds, the process of salt collection, and personal anecdotes related to their families and childhood experiences. They touch upon the significance of balance in life and share philosophical insights, reflecting on the interconnectedness of their stories and the broader context of societal changes.

### Highlights:

- [00:07](#)<sup>3</sup> **Reminiscing and Wisdom Sharing**
  - Reflecting on past conversations
  - Discussing the value of wisdom over information
  - Emphasizing the importance of balance in discussions
- [02:15](#)<sup>4</sup> **Salt Ponds and Personal History**
  - Exploring the history and operation of salt ponds
  - Sharing family involvement in local businesses
  - Recounting childhood memories and local developments
- [11:41](#)<sup>5</sup> **Industrial Evolution and Foundry Work**
  - Describing the transformation of sand into industrial materials
  - Detailing the foundry process and its intense heat
  - Relating personal visits and experiences at foundries
- [20:06](#)<sup>6</sup> **Balance and Life's 'Fine-Tuning'**
  - Discussing the concept of balance in work and life
  - Sharing strategies for maintaining a balanced lifestyle
  - Reflecting on the challenges and adjustments of aging

- [27:38](#)<sup>7</sup> **Community and Social Changes**
  - Discussing the impact of community development on local businesses
  - Reflecting on the changes brought by new infrastructure
  - Considering the future implications of land leases and property rights
- [31:00](#)<sup>8</sup> **Mythology and Cultural Stories**
  - Delving into the power of myths and their role in society
  - Discussing the influence of archetypes on storytelling
  - Reflecting on the importance of narratives in shaping societal values

## PART 2 [Video summary](#)

Part 2 of the video captures a conversation between Mark and his friend, discussing various topics ranging from personal growth to cosmic mysteries. They reflect on their unorthodox approaches to life, share insights on meditation, and delve into the interconnectedness of the universe. The dialogue also touches on the concept of multiple universes and the enigmatic nature of black holes, blending scientific curiosity with philosophical musings.

- [33:02](#)<sup>3</sup> **Personal Growth and Support**
  - Mark expresses gratitude for his friend's help
  - They discuss unorthodox methods and personal development
  - The importance of friendship and advice is highlighted
- [35:02](#)<sup>4</sup> **Meditation and Cosmic Insights**
  - Meditation's impact on their lives is acknowledged
  - They share a fascination with a star older than the universe
  - The possibility of multiple universes is contemplated
- [36:37](#)<sup>5</sup> **Poetry and the Universe**
  - A poem about life's fleeting nature is shared
  - The conversation shifts to the vastness of the universe
  - They discuss the restaurant at the end of the universe concept
- [37:45](#)<sup>6</sup> **Scientific Wonders and Theories**
  - They marvel at a geometric formation on Jupiter
  - Theories about black holes creating new universes are explored
  - The yin and yang balance in cosmic phenomena is discussed
- [57:00](#)<sup>7</sup> **Cultural Experiences and Food**
  - A story about a Japanese cultural experience is shared
  - They discuss the high cost of beef in Japan
  - The conversation includes a barbecue experience

- [01:02:03](#)<sup>8</sup> **Gardening and Cooking**
  - They talk about home gardening and growing various vegetables
  - The conversation includes cooking methods for okra
  - Differences between cuisines and preparation styles are discussed

The video transcript from the YouTube video “Mark McClellan Back Bay Part 2” provides a detailed conversation between two individuals reminiscing about the Salt Ponds and sharing personal history related to the area. Here are some key points from their discussion:

- **Salt Ponds History:**
  - [The Salt Ponds had been in operation for a long time, possibly before the speakers were born \[00:02:53\]](#)<sup>1</sup>.
  - [They had their own train system with tracks for transporting salt \[00:03:06\]](#)<sup>2</sup>.
  - [Salt was harvested by letting seawater into reservoirs, then closing them off to let the sun evaporate the water, leaving salt crystals behind \[00:05:15\]](#)<sup>3</sup>.
- **Personal History:**
  - [One speaker’s father had a sand business across from the Salt Ponds \[00:08:27\]](#)<sup>4</sup>.
  - [The sand from the area was used for foundry work, which was a significant industry in the region at the time \[00:10:25\]](#)<sup>5</sup>.
  - [The speakers also shared memories of exploring the area, finding petrified shells, and collecting shark teeth \[00:09:21\]](#)<sup>6</sup>.

The conversation captures a sense of nostalgia and provides insights into the historical and personal significance of the Salt Ponds and the surrounding area. It also touches on the changes in the landscape and the industrial evolution of the region.

The video discusses the history and operations of a salt production facility and a sand business located on Irvine Company property. It details the process of salt harvesting, the use of a small train system for transportation, and the method of separating salt from dirt using conveyor belts and screens. It also touches on the production of organic sea salt and the differences between sea salt and table salt. Additionally, the video covers the sand business operated by the speaker’s father, which provided casting sand and silica for foundry work in the industrial area of Santa Ana. The sand was used for making molds and casting metal parts for various industries. The speaker recalls visiting foundries where molten metal was poured into molds, highlighting the intense heat and dangers involved in the process.

The sand processed in the video was not ordinary due to its age and composition. It had transformed over hundreds of thousands of years into something different, becoming compacted and suitable for foundry work. This type of sand, referred to as **casting sand** or **silica**, was used for making molds and casting engine parts,

among other industrial applications. [The unique properties of this sand made it valuable for precise manufacturing processes in the growing industrial area of Sanana at the time \[00:10:09\]<sup>1</sup> - \[00:11:14\]](#)

Regarding the use of land on the Irvine property, the speaker's father set up his sand business without a formal agreement or lease. Despite attempts to contact the Irvine Company for official permission and terms, no response was received, and no rent was paid for the duration of the business's operation. Eventually, the Irvine Company informed the business owner that the land would be developed into a residential area, leading to the closure of the sand business.

The video captures a personal narrative filled with historical anecdotes, technical details of salt and sand production, and reflections on industrial evolution and foundry work. It provides a glimpse into the past industrial activities in the region and the informal nature of land use agreements during that time.

How did the closure of the sand business impact their family?

The closure of the sand business, as discussed in the video, seemed to have a significant impact on the family. The father had set up the sand operation on company property without a formal agreement, and after years of operation without paying rent, he was informed that he would have to close shop within a year due to upcoming development plans for the area. This unexpected notice likely caused a considerable shift in the family's business and financial planning. The father's resourcefulness in establishing the business and the subsequent need to find a new location or venture are indicative of the challenges faced by small business owners when confronted with changes in urban development and property ownership. The video suggests a sense of nostalgia and loss associated with the closure of the family business. [\[00:14:15\]<sup>1</sup> - \[00:17:08\]<sup>2</sup>](#)



Mark had a huge influence on my life. We were neighbors. He lived across the street. I spent many hours with Mark and his family.

Mark is extremely kind and loves the adventures of life. He loves to snow ski and spent many years snow skiing. Mark introduced me to many different kinds of music.

He was always sharing different points of view. People liked to be around Mark. Kevin Charles another good childhood friend said to me about a year ago "Who wouldn't like Mark?"

Mark is the kindest person I have ever met." Yep, that's true. Mark has the spark of life. Maybe he gets that spark from his Dad. Spark is his Dad's name.

Knowing someone that long Mark has a deep place in my heart. We have had many incredible adventures along the way. I call Mark about 4 times a year to keep in touch with him.

Mark will forever be young at heart. He loves life and life loves him.

Mark had quite a wide spectrum of listening to music. He introduced me to Linda Ronstadt and Chad and Jeremy. Also, I remember the first time I ever heard the album sticky fingers by the stone. Mark played it for me.

Back then during our high school days, he went to a lot of concerts.



[Linda Ronstadt](#)

Mark, introduce me to the music of Linda Ronstadt. At that time I didn't have a clue who she was.

It was rare during this time to have a solo female artist singing. She said definitely out of the box.

"You're No Good" Live 1976



Linda Ronstadt "You're No Good" Live 1976 (Reelin' In The Years Archives)

6.2M views • 9 years ago

 ReelinInTheYears66

This clip of Linda Ronstadt and her stellar band (Andrew Gold, Kenny Edwards, Waddy Wachtel, Dan Dugmore, Brock Walsh and ...

Feelin' better, now that we're through  
Feelin' better, cause I'm over you  
I've learned my lesson, it left a scar  
Now I see how you really are  
You're no good, you're no good, you're no good  
Baby, you're no good (I'm gonna say it again)  
You're no good, you're no good, you're no good  
Baby, you're no good

I broke a heart, that's gentle and true  
Yes, I broke a heart over someone like you  
I'll beg his forgiveness on bended knee  
I wouldn't blame him if he said to me  
You're no good, you're no good, you're no good  
Baby, you're no good (I'm gonna say it again)  
You're no good, you're no good, you're no good  
Baby, you're no good

## The Rolling Stones Sticky Eingers Full Album 1971

This rolling Stones album was quite radical for its time. Even the name sticky fingers were quite controversial for its time. But it was an amazing album.



## Gerry & The Pacemakers - Ferry Cross The Mersey (1965)



## Lyrics

Life goes on day after day  
Hearts torn in every way  
  
So, ferry cross the Mersey  
'Cause this land's the place I love  
And here I'll stay  
  
People they rush everywhere  
Each with their own secret care  
  
So, ferry cross the Mersey  
And always take me there  
The place I love

People around every corner  
They seem to smile and say  
We don't care what your name is, boy  
We'll never turn you away

So I'll continue to say  
Here I always will stay

So ferry, cross the Mersey  
'Cause this land's the place I love  
And here I'll stay

And here I'll stay  
Here I'll stay

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Gerard Marsden / U.s. Income Only

Ferry Cross the Mersey lyrics © Pacermusic Ltd.



## Carter Robinson



Carter Robinson  
Fletcher Soul Traveler • 8 views

### PART 1 [Video summary](#)

The video features a conversation between two individuals, Carter and another person, reminiscing about their childhood experiences, family dynamics, and the impact of their upbringing on their lives. They discuss the absence of father figures, the adventures they had in the Back Bay area, and the influence of their neighborhood on their development. The conversation also touches on the importance of imagination in their youth, the discipline instilled by their community, and the contrast between their generation and the ones that followed.

#### Highlights:

- [00:46](#)<sup>3</sup> **Reconnecting with the past**
  - Discussing reacquainting with old friends
  - Reflecting on life's journey and changes over time
  - Sharing stories of personal growth and experiences
- [01:47](#)<sup>4</sup> **Childhood without a father figure**
  - Exploring the impact of growing up without a father
  - Bonding experiences missed with male figures
  - The role of other family members in their lives
- [04:00](#)<sup>5</sup> **Adventurous childhood in the Back Bay**
  - Recalling mischievous activities and explorations
  - The thrill of discovering abandoned places
  - Learning about nature and developing a connection with it
- [10:02](#)<sup>6</sup> **The changing environment and community**
  - Observing the evolution of the Back Bay ecosystem
  - Discussing the influence of local development on nature
  - Reminiscing about the simplicity of past times
- [16:15](#)<sup>7</sup> **Imagination and play in youth**

- Emphasizing the importance of imagination in childhood
- Recounting playful adventures and creative endeavors
- The value of outdoor activities and community interaction
- [20:03<sup>8</sup>](#) **Reflections on generational differences**
  - Comparing the maturity and responsibilities of different generations
  - The impact of societal changes on ambition and work ethic
  - Recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of the 'greatest generation'

### Carter Robinson Story

In the heart of the Back Bay, where the waters whispered tales of old, lived Carter, a man whose eyes held the sparkle of youth despite the years that had graced his face. Carter was a keeper of stories, a guardian of memories that danced through the streets of his childhood neighborhood.

#### **The Reconnection**

One balmy evening, as the sun dipped below the horizon, painting the sky in hues of orange and purple, Carter found himself walking down the familiar lanes of his past. The air was thick with nostalgia, and every corner held a whisper of the boy he once was. It was here, amidst the echoes of laughter and the ghostly footprints of play, that Carter reconnected with an old friend. Together, they journeyed through the corridors of time, sharing tales of adventures and the lessons life had taught them.

#### **A Fatherless Canvas**

Carter's canvas of youth was painted with the broad strokes of imagination rather than the guiding hand of a father. The absence of a paternal figure was a silent space in his life's portrait, filled in with the vibrant colors of his mother's strength and the golden hues of his grandmother's wisdom. They were the stars that guided him through the uncharted territories of boyhood.

#### **Adventures in the Back Bay**

The Back Bay was Carter's kingdom, a realm of endless discovery where he and his band of merry friends were the undisputed rulers. They charted maps of the unknown, claimed abandoned forts as their own, and learned the language of the earth and sky. It was a time of pure joy, where every day was a new chapter in their grand saga.



### **The Times They Are A-Changin’**

As Carter grew, so did the Back Bay. The wild, untamed beauty he once knew was now tamed by the hands of progress. The marshes and meadows that were once his playgrounds had given way to concrete and steel. Yet, in the quiet moments, when the world seemed to pause, Carter could still hear the heartbeat of the land he loved.

### **Imagination: The Legacy of Youth**

If there was one gift that Carter cherished most from his youth, it was the gift of imagination. It was the magic that turned trees into watchful guardians and clouds into fantastical beasts. It was the currency of dreams, more valuable than any coin. And it was this gift that Carter sought to pass on to the generations that followed, a legacy more precious than gold.

### **Generational Reflections**

In his twilight years, Carter often pondered the differences between his generation and those that came after. He saw the shifts in ambition, the evolution of work ethic, and the changing tides of responsibility. Yet, he also recognized the sacrifices of those who came before, the ‘greatest generation,’ whose shoulders bore the weight of the world.

Carter’s story is a tapestry woven from the threads of past and present, a narrative that speaks of loss, growth, and the enduring power of the human spirit. It is a story that reminds us that while the players may change, the game of life remains the same, an adventure that spans the ages.

## Entanglement Theory



“Entanglement is one of the most fascinating concepts in quantum physics,” Zoran said. “It describes how two particles can become linked in such a way that they share a single quantum state.”

The children listened intently as Zoran went on to explain how entangled particles could be separated by vast distances but still remain connected. He told them that this principle was essential to our understanding of the universe and had led to many important discoveries in fields such as materials science, chemistry, biology, and astronomy.

“Entanglement is what allows us to create quantum computers,” Zoran said. “These computers can perform certain calculations much faster than classical computers because they can process information in parallel.”



The children were fascinated by what they heard. They asked Zoran if he could show them an example of entanglement in action.

Zoran smiled and conjured up two small boxes. “Inside these boxes are two particles,” he said. “If we measure one particle as having a certain property, we know that the other particle must have the opposite property.”

The children watched in amazement as Zoran opened the boxes and revealed the particles inside. They saw how they were linked together in such a way that they shared a single quantum state.

“Entanglement is just one of the many mysteries of quantum physics,” Zoran said. “But it’s an important one because it helps us understand how everything in the universe is connected.”



[PDF](#)



## The back bay



Drone Scenic Aerial View of Back Bay Loop Trail - Newport Beach,...

Andy's Aerial Adventures • 1K views

DJI Mavic 2 - <https://amzn.to/2CeMfqj> DJI Phantom 4 - <https://amzn.to/2Rjd8wi> DJI Spark - <https://amzn.to/2CcaANE> DJI...

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Back Bay** is the colloquial term for the inland [delta](#) in [Newport Beach, California](#). It connects the [Upper Newport Bay](#) with the Newport Harbor. It is a nature reserve home to several species of birds with hiking and biking trails. The bay is recognized for protection by the [California Bays and Estuaries Policy](#).<sup>[1]</sup>



Newport Beach Back Bay from the air. [Santa Catalina Island](#) is visible on the horizon.

It is a heavily residential area being in the wealthiest portion of both [Orange County, California](#) as well as the city of [Newport Beach](#).



## History

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Sculpted by the [Santa Ana River](#) and carved during the [Pleistocene Epoch](#), [mammoth](#), [bison](#), and [giant sloth](#) fossils have been discovered in sedimentary deposits of an older marine terrace. Until 1862, the Newport Bay flowed directly into the [Pacific Ocean](#). The earliest human inhabitants lived in the bay some 9,000 years ago. The Bay was home to the [Tongva](#) and [Acjachemen](#) for thousands of years, who lived in nearby villages and mainly lived off fish, shellfish, and plants inhabiting the area. In the California mission period. The multiethnic village of [Genga](#) held influence over the Bay area prior to the arrival of Europeans in the area. In the [California mission period](#), these villages declined from displacement and the area above the bay was used for grazing by cattle and sheep by the missionaries.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1870, the steamwheel steamer "[Vaquero](#)" gave [Newport](#) its namesake after delivering loads of lumber in a "new port." Acquired by the [Irvine Company](#) in 1864, the bay was used as a salt works from the 1930s up until 1969, when the land used for the salt works was destroyed by flooding. It was not until the 1960s that preservation of the Newport Back Bay began. The area included a section that began near where the Back Bay Science Center is currently located, where small boats were allowed to speed up to 35 miles per hour in a circular course of approximately 1/4 mile in length. After another 1/4 mile further, past Big Canyon, water skiing was permitted in a circular course; due to ten years of constant lawsuits, enacted by concerned citizens, the State of California Department of Fish and Game designated the undeveloped portions of the Upper Newport Bay as an ecological reserve. In the mid 1980s, Orange County incorporated the bluffs surrounding the bay to the ecological reserve. In 1989, Orange County accepted the 140-acre Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve.<sup>[3]</sup>



Aerial view of The Back Bay of Newport Beach

## Recreation

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Newport Back Bay at sunset from a kayak

Activities that are open to the public include kayaking, canoeing, picnicking, horseback riding, biking, hiking and bird watching. The trails tend to be crowded with people on the weekends.<sup>[4]</sup> Newport Back Bay is open from 7:00 a.m. to sunset, and the Ecological Information center is open 7:00 am to 4:00 pm every day of the week except Monday.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Wildlife

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The Back Bay has a wide range of plants, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and marine life. Many of the animals that inhabit the Back Bay are listed on the state and federal endangered species list.

### Mammals

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The [mammals](#) found in Newport Back Bay include rodents, bobcats, coyotes, and raccoons.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Marine life

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The Upper Newport Back Bay boasts one of the few remaining natural [estuaries](#) in Southern California.<sup>[7]</sup> Living in the waters of the Upper Newport Back Bay, are several diverse species of [plankton](#) and [algae](#).<sup>[8]</sup> These plankton and algae act as a food source for the eighty or so species of fish that live in the estuary.

The [topsmelt](#), [anchovy](#), and [mullet](#) are especially common in the area, feeding on the abundant population of plankton and [detritus](#). Along with a multitude of fish, plankton, and algae, a number of [invertebrates](#) occupy the marine zone of the Upper Newport Back Bay.<sup>[9]</sup> The most common invertebrates that can be found in the Upper Newport Back Bay are [worms](#), [molluscs](#), and [crustaceans](#). Molluscs found in the bay are likely to harbor hurtful micro-organisms and bacteria, therefore human consumption of mussels, clams, and snails found in the bay is forbidden. Some of the molluscs that can be found in the Upper Newport Back Bay are [California jackknife clam](#), the [bent-nosed clam](#), the [ribbed horse mussel](#), [lined shore crabs](#), [fiddler crabs](#), [mud crabs](#), [swimming crabs](#), [skeleton shrimp](#), [ghost shrimp](#), and the [California horn snail](#).

### Plants

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An abundance of plants have taken root in Newport Bay. Each of the plants has adapted to the saltwater-marsh habitat, known as a saltmarsh. These plants are known as [halophytes](#), and have adapted to grow submerged in saltwater. Common halophytes found in the Back Bay include: saltmarsh bird's beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus*), fleshy jaumea, sea lavender, brewer's salt brush, sea blite, and alkali heath.<sup>[10]</sup> There are also coastal plant communities scattered throughout the land surrounding the Back Bay. This includes grassland and [coastal sage scrub](#). Native sage scrub varieties include California sagebrush and buckwheat. However, recently the Back Bay has been known to be home to various invasive plant species. These non-native species include wild mustards and pampas grass.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Birds

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Newport Bay is one of the top birding sites in the United States, as there are over 200 bird species that have made their homes here. Visiting the Back Bay will showcase the immense diversity of the bird inhabitants. The Back Bay is a vital area in the migration process; it serves as a sort of rest stop for birds migrating from Alaska or Canada. Some examples of birds that can be seen in the Back Bay are the light-footed clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris levipes*), the [California least tern](#) (*Sterna antillarum browni*), the Belding's Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*), and the [least Bell's vireo](#) (*Vireo bellii pusillus*).<sup>[11]</sup> All of these birds are considered endangered, on both the federal and the state levels.<sup>[11]</sup> The bluffs surrounding the bay are also home to three sensitive species, the [California gnatcatcher](#), the [San Diego cactus wren](#), and the [burrowing owl](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

### Watershed

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Newport Bay's [watershed](#) encompasses 154 square miles of the Orange County area. This watershed is divided into two key sub-watersheds, the [San Diego Creek](#) and the [Dehli Canal](#). The San Diego Canal services the younger cities, while the Dehli canal services older cities, such as Santa Ana. This watershed is not connected to the [Santa Ana River](#) Watershed, as it is hydraulically distinct; although these two watersheds share an aquifer in northern Orange County. The [Orange County Water District](#) (OCWD) manages extraction and replenishment of the aquifer.<sup>[10]</sup> Because the Newport Back Bay watershed is such a dry area, the water demand is high and supply upkeep is of utmost importance. To decrease the reliance on the Colorado River and Sacramento Delta, steps are being taken to educate people on how to conserve water. This educational process is fronted by the Newport Back Bay Science Center.<sup>[10]</sup>

### Upper Newport Bay

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The [Upper Newport Bay](#) is one of the last remaining natural [estuaries](#) in Southern California; that is, it is a very lush area of land that is home to fish, birds, and other animals. This land is important to migrating birds; it is used as just rest stop or a permanent winter dwelling for birds coming from Alaska or Canada and the spring it is a habitat for birds from the south.<sup>[12]</sup> The upper bay serves as a barrier for industry of the lower bay and beaches in Newport. The beaches serve as playing group for families and the harbor serves as a docking site for boats.<sup>[12]</sup>

### Newport Back Bay Science Center

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The Newport Back Bay Science Center is located in Newport Beach, California on Shellmaker Island.<sup>[4]</sup> This center's main focus is to supply information on estuarine and marine biology through activities and lectures in a year-round program. This



science center is connected to the watershed, which is home to around 175 thousand people in urban cities. The Newport Back Bay Science Center's goal is to educate the citizens on how they can aid in keeping the Back Bay area clean, and how they affect the watershed. <sup>[4]</sup>

## Back Bay Loop Trail

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The Back Bay Loop Trail is a popular 10.5 mile trail that winds around Upper Newport Bay as well as the Back Bay. The trail stops at scenic locations, such as [Upper Castaways Park](#), <sup>[13]</sup> the [County of Orange's Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center](#), <sup>[14]</sup> the [Back Bay Science Center](#) <sup>[4]</sup> (see section below), and Big Canyon. <sup>[15]</sup> The loop runs through many different types of terrain, but is open to people of every ability. It is a common place to walk, jog, bike, or even cruise around in the car. The majority of the loop is paved, although there is a small section of earth that many joggers and hikers choose to walk upon. There are many stops along the loop, where visitors can look out at the bay, and even learn some interesting history about the various species they may see. Many entrance (as well as exit) points exist.



### Back Bay Loop Trail - Newport Beach, CA An 11.4 mile bike ride

Joe TheCyclist • 2K views

Exhilarating ride at the Back Bay Loop Trail in Newport Beach. Certainly enjoyed this one 🚲 🌞 #cycling Upper Newport Bay is on...

## Conservation

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The Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, which spans 752 acres, is one of the largest natural estuaries remaining in California. According to Brian Shelton, of the California Department of Fish and Game, less than five percent of California's original coastal estuaries exist today. <sup>[16]</sup>



### 4K Trail Walk | Back Bay, NEWPORT BEACH, California in ...

Where's My Map • 538 views

Take a virtual walk through the dangerous wilds of Newport Beach's Back Bay, but don't forget your essential yoga pants and latté. Bonu...

## Education

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Educating the youth is one of the most important ways to the preservation of nature, and here at Newport Back Bay, there are many organizations and groups



that seek to educate members of our society about the importance of nature preserves. Newport Bay Conservancy, in cooperation with OC Parks, California Department of Fish and Game, the City of Newport Beach, the Newport Aquatic Center, the California Coastal Commission, along with several other organizations, aims to reach out to the public regarding their goal. Their goal is “to increase environmental awareness and promote environmental stewardship at the Bay, in the watershed and beyond so as to protect and preserve not just Upper Newport Bay, but the planet.” <sup>[17]</sup>

## Controversy

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The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has posted signs telling users of the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve that they may be subject to a fee. The signs indicate that users must have a Lands Pass — which costs \$4.32 for a day at the reserve or \$22.68 for the year and is required for people who want to hike, bike, bird watch or do anything but hunt in any of seven Fish and Wildlife-managed areas, including the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve. The requirements have been in effect for several years yet the fee is not enforced. The Newport Beach City Council has submitted a letter to the department asking that the reserve be free. <sup>[18]</sup>

## References

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3. <sup>^</sup> [Jump up to:<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> "Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve"](#). Retrieved 9 December 2012.
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16. <sup>^</sup> ["5 - South Coast Region"](#). Retrieved 6 December 2012.
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18. <sup>^</sup> ["Pay to enjoy Upper Bay?"](#). Retrieved 21 June 2013.

## External links

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[33.6201°N 117.8936°W](#)

[Newport Bay Conservancy](#)

## Frank and Frances Robinson



In the heart of Orange County, where the sun kisses the sea and the land holds tales of old, there was a place called Back Bay. It was a sanctuary where the whispers of the Gabrielino Indians still danced in the reeds, and the waters held secrets of a time when nature was untamed and free.



In 1963, Frank and Frances Robinson, a couple with dreams as vast as the California sky, settled near this wild basin with their two young children. They envisioned a life where their offspring could play on the shores, much like the ancient inhabitants of the land.

But fate had other plans. “No Trespassing” signs sprouted like unwelcome weeds, and the Irvine Co. unveiled its vision of progress—a development that would cage the free spirit of Back Bay. The Robinsons’ hearts sank; this was not the future they had dreamed of.

“It was all selfish in the beginning,” Frank confessed. They wanted a beach for their children, not a concrete jungle. And so, armed with little more than determination, they stood against the city, the county, and the mightiest landowner in the county. Their battle cry was simple: the bay belonged to the people.

As the Robinsons fought, a movement took root around them. Friends of Newport Bay and Stop Polluting Our Newport emerged, rallying warriors who saw the beauty in the “shaggy sweetness” of the wetlands. National groups like the Audubon Society and Sierra Club joined the fray, turning a local skirmish into a war for the soul of the bay.

The fight was long and arduous, stretching nearly three decades. It was a “real bloody fight,” as Frank put it, but one that would shape the destiny of Upper Newport Bay.

The turning point came in 1969, when nature herself rebelled. The Santa Barbara oil spill awoke the consciousness of a state, and fierce flooding brought environmentalists to the forefront. Chuck Greening, a space scientist turned eco-warrior, led tours of the bay, drawing people from far and wide. They came in droves, braving the storms, standing in the mud, united by a common cause.

The battle was fought on two fronts: in the court of public opinion and the halls of justice. The Robinsons, now champions of the environment, challenged the legality of a land exchange that would have marred the bay’s beauty. In a twist of fate, the courts sided with nature.

By 1975, victory was theirs. The state purchased the bay's islands and lowlands, preserving them for the creatures that called them home. The developer's dreams evaporated like mist in the morning sun, and the bay was saved.

Yet, even as the dust settled, new challenges loomed. The bluffs surrounding the wetlands, once threatened by development, became the next frontier. But the preservationist movement was now a force to be reckoned with, its ranks swelled to 1,500 strong.

And so, the story of Back Bay is one of hope, of a community that stood together to protect the legacy of their land. It's a tale of ordinary people who achieved extraordinary things, proving that when hearts are united, even the mightiest foes can be vanquished.



In the end, the Robinsons' dream prevailed. A 140-acre regional park was planned, a "natural park" that would honor the bay's tumultuous history with gentle trails and picnic areas—a haven for both wildlife and the human spirit.

This is the legacy of Back Bay, a testament to the power of passion and perseverance. It's a story that reminds us that sometimes, the greatest victories come from the humblest beginnings.



## Frank and Frances Robinson files on Upper Newport Bay preservation



### Guide to the Frank and Frances Robinson Files on Upper Newport Bay Preservation MS.R.090

Patricia Glowinski, 2012.

Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

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Once upon a time, in the golden state of California, nestled within the embrace of Orange County, there was a tranquil expanse of water known as Upper Newport Bay. It was a place where the whispers of the past mingled with the gentle lapping of waves, a sanctuary for both wildlife and the human soul.

In the year 1962, Frank and Frances Robinson, a visionary couple with hearts as wide as the Pacific, moved from the bustling city of La Canada to the serene Westcliff neighborhood of Newport Beach. Their new home was a mere stone's throw from the bay, a place they hoped would be a playground for their children and a haven for the community.



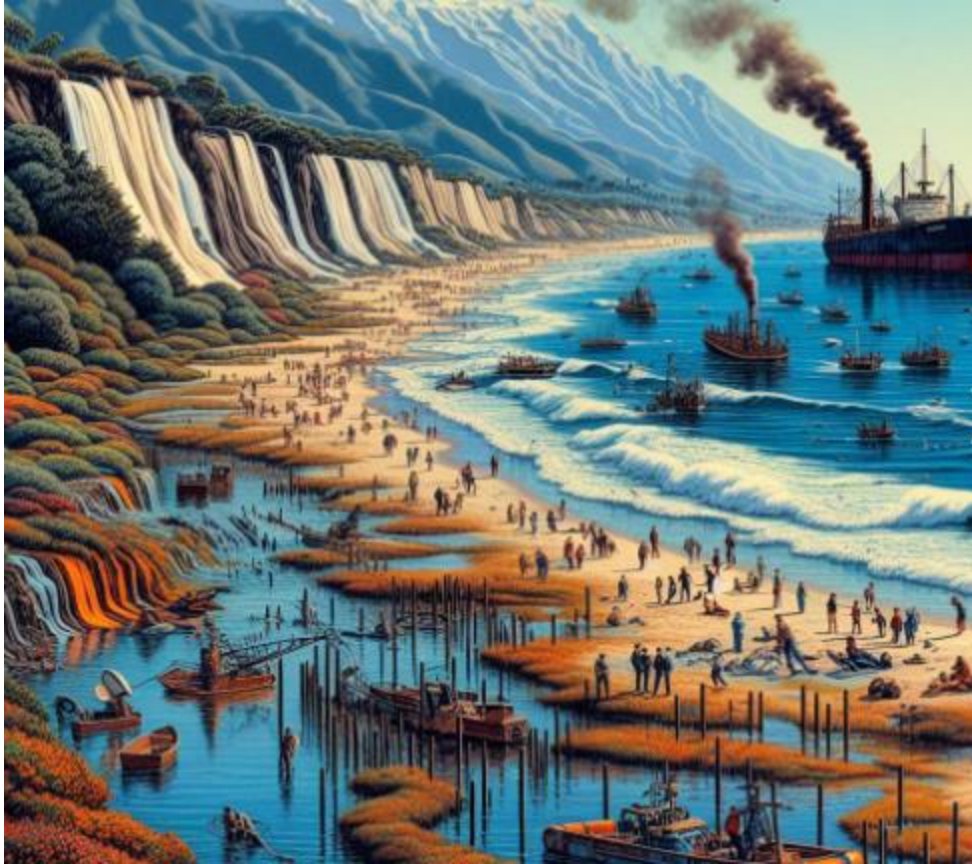
But as the summer of '62 unfurled, their son Jay stumbled upon a disheartening sight—signs declaring the beaches of Upper Newport Bay as “private.” This discovery marked the beginning of a saga that would span over a quarter of a century, a crusade for public access and the preservation of the bay’s natural

beauty.

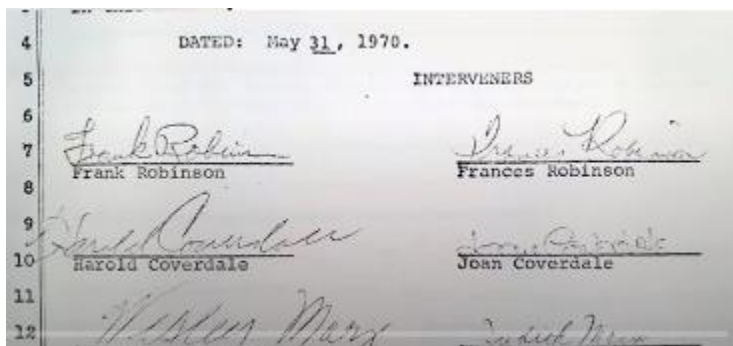


Frances, with the meticulousness of a historian, began to collect news clippings about a proposed land exchange between The Irvine Company and the County of Orange. This deal threatened to transform the pristine waterfront into a bastion of privilege, with upscale homes and private docks, at the cost of the bay’s ecological integrity.

The Robinsons, alongside a growing cohort of concerned citizens, rallied against this impending transformation. They founded Friends of Newport Bay in 1967, an organization dedicated to the bay’s environmental education and protection. Their efforts were a beacon, calling others to join the cause.



As the decade turned, the environmental movement swelled like a tide. The Santa Barbara oil spill of 1969 ignited a nationwide awakening to ecological issues, and the importance of coastal wetlands became a clarion call for action.



In that same year, the Robinsons, together with Harold and Joan Coverdale and Wesley and Judith Marx, were granted the right to intervene in a lawsuit that sought to finalize The Irvine Company's claim to the bay's tidelands. The battle lines were drawn, and the Orange County Foundation for Preservation of Public Property was established to fund the legal fight.



## Chronology

1962	Frank and Frances Robinson and their two children move from La Canada to the Westcliff neighborhood of Newport Beach, California, two blocks from Newport Bay.
1962 Summer	The Robinson's son Jay discovers "private" signs posted along the beach in Newport Bay (Back Bay).
1963 May	Frances collects news clippings detailing a proposed channelization and development of Upper Newport Bay. Included would be a land exchange between the County of Orange and The Irvine Company.
1965	Orange County Board of Supervisors approve the land exchange. The State Lands Commission vote to withhold approval.
1967	The State Lands Commission reverses its non-approval position on the land exchange. The Robinsons become more determined to keep fighting and they continue to travel, lecture, write letters, and talk to people to gather public and political support.
1967	Friends of Newport Bay (FONB) formed.
1969 January- February	Santa Barbara oil spill. The devastation spurred a growing awareness and interest in the United States of ecological issues and of the issues and importance of coastal wetlands.
1969	A "friendly" lawsuit is brought by the County of Orange against The Irvine Company (TIC) in order to establish legality of the trade and finalize TIC's title to the tidelands. The Robinsons and two other couples (Harold and Joan Coverdale and Wesley and Judith Marx) petition the court and are granted the right to "intervene" on behalf of the county in opposition to the trade.
1969	Orange County Foundation for Preservation of Public Property founded.
1970	The California Department of Fish and Game issue a report warning of dire ecological consequences if major modifications are made to Newport Bay and support preservation of the bay.
1970	Orange County Superior Court Judge Claude Owens rules in favor of the land exchange.
1971	Orange County Board of Supervisors oppose the land exchange.



- 1972 Orange County Board of Supervisors hire attorney C. E. Parker to investigate the validity of the Irvine Company's Swamp and Overflowed patents.
- 1973 California State Court of Appeal reverses the 1970 Superior Court ruling and deems the land exchange unconstitutional.
- 1975 Upper Newport Settlement Agreement is signed by The Irvine Company, County of Orange, City of Newport Beach, and the Department of Fish and Game authorizing the State to purchase 527 acres within Newport Bay from TIC for \$3.48 million. Combined with 214 acres of tidelands, the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve is created.
- 1975 Following the settlement agreement, Parker's investigation was terminated by the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Parker continues an investigation regarding titles during the second lawsuit (1979-1987).
- 1977 Frank Robinson receives a copy of Solomon Finley's field notes of his 1889 survey of Upper Newport Bay. In the field notes, Finley classifies all of the islands in Newport Bay as tidelands.
- 1979 Orange County Foundation for Preservation of Public Property files lawsuit against The Irvine Company, First American Title Insurance Company, and the State of California for the return of the \$3.48 million plus interest to the State of California.
- 1987 Judge Judith Ryan rules in favor of The Irvine Company

## The Birth of a Conservation Movement



When the Spanish missionaries arrived in California during the 18th century, estuaries and coastal wetlands were abundant. However, over time, these vital tidal areas gradually succumbed to development—first to commercial ports and later to yacht marinas and waterfront housing. By 1975, less than 10% of the original coastal wetlands remained between Santa Barbara and the Mexican border<sup>1</sup>.



In the 1960s, plans were underway for a commercial development that would have transformed the Upper Bay into a large marina with private docks and waterfront homes. Concerned local citizens, including **Frank and Frances Robinson**, stepped forward to fight these plans in court. Simultaneously, the **Friends of Newport Bay** played a crucial role by organizing leading-edge nature tours. [Through these tours, they raised public awareness about the ecological significance of the Bay and garnered broad support for its retention and protection in its relatively natural state<sup>1</sup>.](#)

#### A Triumph for Conservation

As a result of their collective efforts, in **1975**, the Upper Bay was officially designated an **Ecological Reserve**, managed by the **California Department of Fish and Game**. Additional acreage at **Big Canyon** was later added to the Reserve in **1982**. In **1990**, the **County of Orange** acquired **140 acres of bluffs** on the north and northwest sides of the bay, creating what we now know as the **Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve**, managed by **Orange County Parks**. [Together, the Ecological Reserve and Nature Preserve encompass approximately 1½ square miles of precious open water, mudflat, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh, riparian, and upland habitat<sup>1</sup>.](#)

#### The Legacy Continues



The **Newport Bay Conservancy** traces its heritage back to **1967**, when a group of citizens, including the Robinsons, founded the **Friends of Newport Bay**. Their mission was clear: educate the public about the Bay's ecological importance and

rally support for its preservation. Today, the Back Bay remains a rare treasure in Orange County—a magnificent natural estuary where freshwater and seawater converge, creating a unique habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. [It plays a critical role in Southern California’s ecosystem and economy, providing shelter and sustenance for migratory birds and offering recreational opportunities for residents and tourists alike<sup>23</sup>.](#)

The legacy of the **Friends of Newport Bay** lives on, inspiring us to cherish and protect this precious natural treasure for generations to come. 🌿🐼

## Harold and Joan Coverdale



Their names resonate through the corridors of time, woven into the fabric of Upper Newport Bay's preservation. Let us delve into their story—a tale of dedication, intervention, and the relentless pursuit of safeguarding nature.

### The Coverdales: Guardians of the Bay

#### **Intervention in Preservation**

In the mid-20th century, when the specter of development loomed over Upper Newport Bay, three couples emerged as its champions. Among them were Harold and Joan Coverdale. Their names would soon resonate through the corridors of time, woven into the very fabric of this pristine sanctuary.

[Among them were Harold and Joan Coverdale, alongside Frank and Frances Robinson and Wesley and Judith Marx<sup>1</sup>](#)

The Coverdales, alongside Frank and Frances Robinson and Wesley and Judith Marx, stepped forward as environmental activists. They weren't content to merely watch the tide of change; they became its staunch opponents. The pivotal moment arrived when the County of Orange and The Irvine Company proposed a land



exchange that would allow development to encroach upon the bay's fragile ecosystem. The Coverdales petitioned the court, their voices echoing through legal proceedings. Their commitment was unwavering, their dedication unyielding.

[This exchange would have allowed development in the bay area<sup>1</sup>.](#)

## **The Threads of Time**

As decades passed, the Coverdales' footsteps left imprints on the shores of Upper Newport Bay. Their legacy intertwined with the Robinsons, the Marxes, and countless others who rallied for preservation. Through their collective efforts, the bay remained unyielding—a sanctuary where egrets waded, where the ebb and flow of tides whispered secrets, and where each action reverberated through time.

The Coverdales' names may have faded from headlines, but their spirit endures. They were catalysts for change, guardians of the bay's delicate balance. As we stand on the shores today, let us honor their memory. Let us continue weaving our stories into the very tapestry of preservation, ensuring that the heart of Upper Newport Bay beats in harmony with the rhythm of nature itself.

And so, the Coverdales remain etched in the annals of conservation—a testament to human intervention, resilience, and our shared responsibility to protect the places we hold dear.

## Wesley and Judith Marx



Their names echo through time, resonating with purpose and passion—a symphony of dedication to the fragile ocean and the interconnectedness of all life. Let us delve into their story, where science, advocacy, and love for the sea converge.

In the heart of the environmental movement, amidst the fervent discourse on the future of our planet, stood two figures whose names became synonymous with ecological advocacy—Wesley and Judith Marx. Their story is not just one of activism but of a profound connection to the Earth and a relentless pursuit to protect its natural splendor.



[to climate change<sup>1</sup>.](#)

### **Wesley Marx: The Philosopher of Nature**

Wesley, a man of deep thought and reflection, saw the world through the lens of interconnectedness. His philosophical musings were not confined to the abstract; they were deeply rooted in the tangible reality of the Earth's ecosystems. [He was known for his scholarly work that reinterpreted Marx's views, advocating for an environmentalist perspective that challenged the industrial practices leading](#)



### **Judith Marx: The Botanist with a Cause**

Judith, with her hands in the soil and her eyes on the horizon, was a botanist whose love for plants was matched only by her commitment to conservation. Her research was more than academic; it was a call to action. She cataloged rare plant species, understanding their role in the larger ecological tapestry, and fought against the forces that threatened their existence.

**Together: A Union of Ideals and Action** The Marxes' home was a hub of intellectual and activist fervor. [It was a place where theory met practice, where discussions on dialectical naturalism and the writings of Karl Marx merged with plans for the next environmental protest<sup>2</sup>.](#) Their living room was often filled with like-minded individuals, each bringing their passion and expertise to the table, united by the Marxes' leadership.



**The Frail Ocean: Wesley's Magnum Opus** Wesley's seminal work, "The Frail Ocean," was a poignant mix of indictment and adoration for the sea. It communicated both his love for its enormity and fertility and his fear for its future. [The book became a cornerstone of environmental literature, inspiring a generation to view the ocean not just as a resource but as a living, breathing entity deserving of respect and protection<sup>3</sup>.](#)

**Legacy: The Marxes' Enduring Impact** The Marxes' influence extended far beyond their lifetime. They inspired countless individuals to view environmentalism through a new prism—one that considered the intricate balance between human progress and the natural world. Their story is a testament to the power of ideas and the impact of dedicated action.

As we face the challenges of our own time, the story of Wesley and Judith Marx reminds us that change is possible when conviction is paired with action. Their legacy lives on, a beacon of hope in the ongoing struggle to preserve the beauty and diversity of our planet.

This story, while inspired by the Marxes' dedication to environmentalism, is a fictionalized account meant to honor their spirit and contributions to the cause.



## Three amigos

Once upon a time, in the serene landscape of Upper Newport Bay, there lived three couples whose love for nature and community would intertwine their destinies in a heartwarming tale of camaraderie and conservation.

**Frank and Frances Robinson**, a pair whose hearts beat with the rhythm of the tides, had settled near the bay's tranquil waters. Frank, an aerospace engineer by profession, and Frances, a homemaker, were the kind of people who believed in the power of small actions to create big waves of change.

**Wesley and Judith Marx** were thinkers and dreamers, philosophers who saw the world not just as it was, but as it could be. Wesley's mind was a library of ideas, and Judith's hands were always covered in the earth she cherished so deeply.

**Harold and Joan Coverdale** were the quiet strength of the group. Harold, with his weathered hands and gentle demeanor, and Joan, whose spirit was as vibrant as the sunsets over the bay, shared a love that was as deep as the waters they sought to protect.

Their paths crossed not by chance, but by a shared vision. The specter of development threatened to shatter the tranquility of their beloved bay, and they knew they had to act. [Together, they stood in court, a united front against the forces that sought to exchange the soul of their community for the coldness of concrete and steel<sup>1</sup>](#).



The Robinsons, the Marxes, and the Coverdales became more than neighbors; they became allies, friends, and family. They shared meals, laughter, and plans, their homes becoming war rooms where strategies were formed over cups of tea and the children's playful shouts.

Their battle was not an easy one, but their unity made them strong. They poured over legal documents, rallied the community, and spoke with a passion that ignited a movement. Their efforts were not in vain, for they triumphed, preserving the bay not just for themselves, but for every creature that called it home, and for every child who would grow up marveling at its beauty.



The legacy of these six guardians of nature lives on in the rustling reeds, the chirping birds, and the laughter of children playing by the water's edge. Their story is a testament to the enduring power of love—love for one another, love for their community, and love for the natural world that sustains us all.

And so, as the sun sets on Upper Newport Bay, painting the sky with hues of gold and pink, the spirits of the Robinsons, the Marxes, and the Coverdales dance upon the waters, whispering a simple truth: when hearts unite for a cause greater than themselves, miracles can happen.

## Jean Cohen Beek and Allen Beek

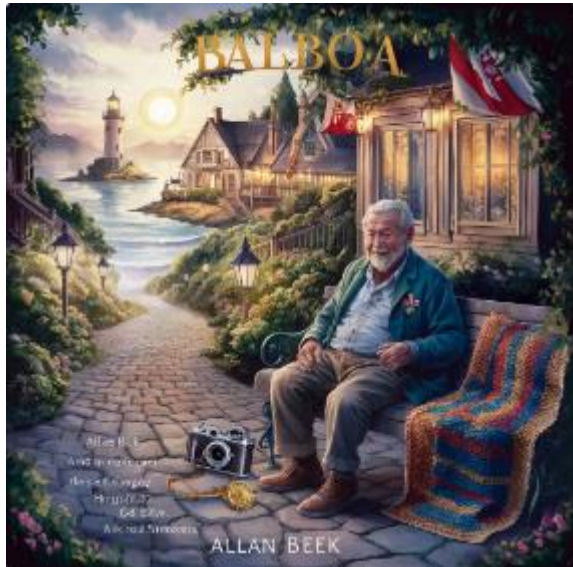


Jean Cohen Beek and Allen Beek are remembered for their significant contributions to the community. While specific details about their involvement with Upper Newport Bay are not mentioned in the search results, it's clear that individuals like them often play crucial roles in environmental and community efforts.

[Allen Beek, in particular, is noted for his logical and eccentric nature, and his activism in various causes, including healthcare reform<sup>1</sup>. The Beek family has a historical presence in the area, with Joseph Allen Beek known for his development of Balboa Island and his long service as the secretary of the Senate in California<sup>2</sup>.](#)

Their legacy, much like the Coverdales and the Marxes, is likely intertwined with the story of Upper Newport Bay, contributing to its preservation and the well-being of the community. It's through the efforts of such dedicated individuals that natural treasures like the bay are protected for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

## Allan Beek



In the quaint town of Balboa, where the sea's embrace met the land's end, there lived an old man named Allan Beek. At 96 years young, Allan's eyes twinkled with the wisdom of the ages, and his voice carried the warmth of countless sunsets. Born in 1927 to a mother whose strength defied the odds, Allan's life was a tapestry woven with threads of resilience and grace.

His mother, born in the waning days of the 19th century, was a woman of conviction. Despite her own health challenges, she chose life for Allan, a decision that shaped

her advocacy for choice later in life. Allan often mused about the serendipitous encounter his mother had with the actress Ally McGraw, a memory that brought a smile to his weathered face.

Allan's father, a man who had tasted the bitterness of orphanhood, found solace in the arms of Allan's mother. Their love story was one of controversy and charm, a tale that Allan recounted with a hint of mystery. It was at a garden party, amidst the melodies of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, that his father fell irrevocably in love with the beautiful violinist who would become his bride.

Life on Balboa Island was a portrait of luxury and leisure, a stark contrast to his father's humble beginnings. Allan grew up with the ocean as his backyard, the ferry business as his legacy, and the community as his extended family. The Balboa Island Ferry, a lifeline born out of necessity and ingenuity, was a testament to his father's determination. From a rowboat and a pair of oars, the family business flourished, ferrying souls across the gentle waters.

As Allan reminisced about the Pacific Electric rail car and the cultural icons he had witnessed, his stories painted a vivid picture of a bygone era. Rachmaninoff, Rubinstein, and Gieseking were but a few of the maestros whose performances Allan cherished in his heart.

The island, with its ever-persistent parking woes, was a character in itself. Allan chuckled as he recalled the community's denial of a parking problem, a sentiment

that echoed through the years. His own contributions to the island's planning and development were marked by passion and a touch of humor.

Allan's life was a mosaic of personal encounters, political battles, and enduring friendships. From teaching at UCI to engaging in spirited debates with sailing legends, his influence rippled through the community. His anecdotes of political victories and heartfelt connections with students were a reminder of the impact one person could have on the world around them.

As Allan shared his story, the listener couldn't help but feel a part of the rich history of Balboa Island. Allan's narrative was not just a personal memoir; it was a chronicle of a place and its people, a legacy etched into the very fabric of Newport Beach.

## Allan Beek Part 2

Once upon a time, in a land of innovation and enterprise, there lived a wise old sage named Allan. He was known far and wide for his insightful tales and his deep understanding of the world of business and beyond.

In the heart of this land stood a grand library, a repository of knowledge where Allan often shared his wisdom. One day, a group of eager listeners gathered around him, their eyes filled with curiosity, as Allan began to weave a tale not just of commerce, but of life itself.

“All in this realm,” Allan began, “are part of a great tapestry, each thread representing a stakeholder in the grand design. Just as a tapestry cannot hold without every thread, a company thrives only with the investment in its people.” He spoke of businesses where employees were owners, their loyalty and innovation driving growth and success.

The listeners were captivated as Allan recounted the tale of a new space race, not of rivalry but of shared dreams and technology. He chuckled as he told of his own youthful follies with patents, reminding all that true innovation cannot be shackled by trademarks.

With a twinkle in his eye, Allan shared anecdotes of historical figures, weaving personal experiences with the threads of the past. He spoke of Earl Warren and other luminaries, their decisions rippling through time to touch the lives of many.

As the sun dipped low, casting long shadows across the library, Allan’s voice grew soft as he recounted the days of World War II. The listeners could almost see the young Allan, navigating the challenges of life in Newport Beach amidst the turmoil of war and the pain of Japanese internment.





The tale took a turn to the days of Prohibition, where Allan's father, the harbor master, danced a delicate waltz with rum runners who would later stand as heroes in the war. The listeners laughed and sighed, caught in the ebb and flow of Allan's memories.

As twilight embraced the land, Allan spoke of the evolution of Newport Beach, from a quiet haven to a

bustling hub of activity. He shared stories of local events, of scouting jamborees that left lasting imprints on the community.

The story ended as Allan reflected on the power of storytelling itself, the impact of literature on life, and the importance of preserving these tales for generations to come.

The listeners departed, their minds brimming with new insights, their hearts touched by the sage's words. And as the stars twinkled above, the grand tapestry of the land seemed a little brighter, woven with the wisdom of Allan, the sage of innovation and life.

## Echoes of Balboa Island

### Childhood Memories



In the heart of Balboa Island, where the salty breeze dances with the scent of taffy and sun-kissed sand, young Allan Beek roamed the narrow streets. His childhood was painted in hues of nostalgia—fires that licked the horizon, yet he never stepped foot inside the legendary Rendezvous Ballroom. Instead, he reveled in the Fun Zone’s carousel, its painted horses carrying him through time. And the Balboa

Theater? A sanctuary where flickering images whispered secrets to his curious soul.

### Personal Interests



Beyond the wooden boardwalks, Allan’s passion unfolded: tap dancing. His feet tapped rhythms into the sun-warmed planks, echoing the island’s heartbeat. But floods, relentless and unyielding, etched their mark on Balboa. Amid rising waters, Allan clung to family moments—their laughter, their shared fears. The island’s pulse synchronized with his own.

## Family and Career

His father, a silent pillar, shaped Allan's path. Regrets lingered—the words unsaid, the missed opportunities. Yet, Allan's journey diverged. A computer engineer by day, he wove circuits and dreams. Forty years of code and electrons, bridging the analog and digital realms. Balboa Island watched, whispering secrets to the sea.

## Educational Experiences



Lectures by Linus Pauling echoed in Allan's mind, molecules dancing like fireflies. He stood before eager students at UCI, sharing knowledge like a seasoned mariner guiding ships through uncharted waters. Years later, a former student approached him—a spark ignited, a legacy passed on.

## Maritime Adventures

The Panama Canal beckoned—an invitation to steer a ship through locks and history. Allan's hands gripped the wheel, salt spray baptizing his face. Beside him, memories of excursions with his father resurfaced—their laughter, their shared awe at sea creatures. Balboa Island's shores whispered tales of voyages past.

## Community Impact

The Green Light amendment—a beacon for environmentalism. Allan stood at its helm, advocating for change. Balboa Island rallied, hearts beating in unison. Personal connections fueled the movement, history intertwining with hope. The island, once a canvas for childhood dreams, now bore the brushstrokes of conservation.

And so, Allan Beek's story unfolded—a tapestry woven with threads of memory, passion, and

# The man and his old trusty Bug

Allan Beek's 1951 Volkswagen turns 500,000 — miles

ALEX COOLMAN  
Daily Pil

Allan Beek has driven half a million miles, and he's still in Newport Beach. The outspoken 72-year-old environmentalist and gadfly watched the dial of the odometer on his 1951 Volkswagen Bug spin around to the 500,000 mile mark Wednesday on a trip down to the launch point of the Balboa Island ferry.

Beek says he racked up most of the miles just tooting around town and commuting to a job in Anaheim. And, along the way he and his car have managed to have a few adventures.

"The best stories about it, you can't print," Beek joked as he polished up the car before the ceremonial drive.

The canary yellow Bug once rumbled across the dike at Upper Newport Bay, before the floods washed it away in 1969.

That color, at times, is a little more than Beek can handle.

"This really isn't the color I wanted," he said. "I'm not that aggressive."

Still, he knows he's stuck with it. When it was time to get the paint redone, he had his choice: the inexpensive job, or one that would last.

"I'll take the best," Beek said he told the auto painter. "We're going to be together until one of us dies."

The classic car has its original steering wheel and dashboard controls, though its engine, fenders, running board and windshield have all been replaced.

"When the floorboards go through under my feet, then I'm afraid I'll have to give up," Beek said.

The 500,000 miles mean more to Beek than they might to some people because he is an aficionado of numbers, continually fascinated by chance arrangements of the dials in his life. The



This is the fifth time that the odometer showed all zeros.

happy to supply further numerological tidbits about his history.

"My eighteenth birthday was on 1/23/45," he points out.

Beek has a friend, whom he first encountered when he was a teaching assistant at UC Irvine, that he always has dinner with when the day, month and year share the same digit. Their first encounter took place on 6/6/66 and has continued through the decades. Their next date is set for 1/1/01.

A head for figures comes in handy when telling the story of all the Newport history Beek has witnessed. His father, Joseph Beek, who originally gave him the Bug, was also the man who started the Balboa Island Ferry. Beek has memories of playing around on the sandbars of the bay when it was still shallow and remembers the days when the dredger transferred the sand from the bay bottom to the beach at the peninsula.

"I was in fourth grade," Beek said, and then stopped to consider the accuracy of that statement, his eyes rolling upward skeptically.

"Let's see if I've not that right," he said. "I've



PHOTOS BY CONRAD LAU / DAILY PILE

Allan Beek's VW Bug passed the 500,000 mile mark on a trip to the Balboa Island Ferry.

The article recounts the story of Allan Beek and his 1961 Volkswagen Bug, which has just reached the 500,000-mile mark. Beek, a 72-year-old environmentalist from Newport Beach, has had many adventures in his canary yellow Bug, including a memorable drive across the dike at Upper Newport Bay. Despite not being fond of the car's bright color, Beek chose a durable paint job, saying he and the car would be together until the end. The Bug has undergone several replacements, including the engine and windshield, but retains its original steering wheel and dashboard controls. Beek, who has a penchant for numbers, enjoys sharing numerological anecdotes, such as his unique birthday sequence and his tradition of dining with a friend on dates with matching digits. His father, Joseph Beek, who gave him the Bug, was also the founder of the Balboa Island Ferry. The article also touches on federal funding awarded to the city for environmental protection projects, highlighting the efforts of local officials and organizations to safeguard the bay.

In summary, the article celebrates Allan Beek's milestone with his beloved Volkswagen Bug and his deep connection to Newport Beach's history and environmental conservation efforts.



## Allan Beek Part 4

### Echoes of Balboa Island: The Untold Struggles

#### The Maverick's Lament

Allan Beek, a maverick in his own right, faced the relentless tides of adversity with the same resolve he showed against the rising waters of Balboa. His conservative ideals, often at odds with his party's mainstream, left him isolated—a lone sailor navigating the political storm. [He championed single-payer healthcare, a cause that saw him branded a pariah among his peers<sup>1</sup>](#). His pamphlets and flyers, crafted with painstaking care, fell on deaf ears, his voice drowned out by the cacophony of corporate interests.

#### The Ferryman's Burden



The Balboa Island Ferry was more than a vessel; it was Allan's legacy, a testament to his dedication to the community. Yet, the burden of its upkeep and the weight of expectation were heavy anchors. [He stood firm, a captain ensuring safe passage for all, even as the winds of change threatened to capsize his endeavors<sup>1</sup>](#).

#### The Composer's Silence

Music was Allan's solace, his compositions a reflection of his innermost thoughts. But the melodies that once flowed freely now faltered, stifled by the march of time and the loss of his wartime comrades. [The notes, once vibrant and full of life, now carried the somber tones of remembrance and the silence of those no longer present<sup>1</sup>](#).

#### The Conservationist's Crusade

His fight for the environment, a noble quest, was fraught with challenges. Allan's vision for reforestation and conservation clashed with the expanding urban sprawl. [Each tree planted was a victory, each green initiative a battle won, but the war raged on—a war for the soul of Orange County and the preservation of its natural beauty<sup>1</sup>.](#)

## The Legacy of a Lifetime

As the sun sets on Balboa Island, Allan Beek's struggles are etched into its history. His triumphs and tribulations, his passions and pains, all woven into the fabric of the community he loved. His story, a beacon for future generations, shines brightly—a reminder that one person's resolve can indeed make a difference.

Allan Beek's life was rich with stories that spanned the realms of community development, politics, and personal adventures. Here are some highlights that capture the essence of his interesting life:

### 1. Community Development

Allan Beek's imprint on Balboa Island extended beyond mere existence. He played a pivotal role in shaping the island's infrastructure and connectivity. Here are some key aspects:

- **Balboa Island Ferry:** Allan's vision and determination led to the establishment of the **Balboa Island Ferry**, a lifeline connecting the island to the mainland. From humble beginnings—a rowboat and a pair of oars—the ferry business flourished, ferrying souls across the gentle waters. The rhythmic chug of the ferry echoed the heartbeat of the community.
- **Roads and Bridges:** Allan's hands were not only skilled in weaving circuits but also in constructing tangible pathways. He contributed to building roads and bridges that crisscrossed the island, creating vital links for residents and visitors alike. [His efforts in building roads and bridges helped shape the infrastructure of the community<sup>1</sup>](#)

### 2. Political Maverick

Allan's political journey was as colorful as the sunsets over Balboa's horizon. His maverick-conservative views set him apart, making him a memorable figure in Newport Beach's political landscape: [His relentless logic and eccentricity made him a unique figure in the political landscape of Newport Beach<sup>1</sup>.](#)

- **Campaigns and Initiatives:** Tireless and unyielding, Allan worked on various campaigns and initiatives. His relentless logic and eccentricity made him both admired and controversial. Whether advocating for local causes or challenging the status quo, he left an indelible mark.

### 3. Environmental Stewardship and Innovation

Allan's dual roles as an environmentalist and computer engineer exemplified his forward-thinking spirit: [His innovative approach to problem-solving was reflected in his creation of pamphlets, flyers, and arguments to support his causes<sup>1</sup>](#)

- **Single-Payer Healthcare Advocate:** Ahead of his time, Allan championed single-payer healthcare. Armed with pamphlets, flyers, and well-crafted arguments, he sought to convince fellow conservatives of its merits. His innovative approach bridged the analog and digital realms.

### 4. Personal Encounters and Glamour

Allan's life intersected with luminaries and legends, adding sparkle to his narrative:

- **Humphrey Bogart's Race:** Picture Allan, wind in his hair, racing against Humphrey Bogart along the shores. The thrill of that moment—two worlds colliding—etched itself into Balboa's sands.
- **Debates with Sailing Legends:** Bill Ficker, a sailing icon, sparred with Allan in spirited debates. Their words danced like sailboats on the bay, leaving ripples of wisdom.

### 5. Educational Legacy

Allan's passion for education found expression at the University of California, Irvine (UCI): [His dedication to teaching and the value he placed on education were integral parts of his legacy<sup>1</sup>](#).

- **Guiding Future Minds:** As a teacher, he stood before eager students, sharing knowledge like a seasoned mariner guiding ships through uncharted waters. His legacy lives on in the minds he shaped.

Allan Beek's tapestry—woven with resilience, curiosity, and a touch of eccentricity—became an integral part of Balboa Island's fabric. Each thread, a story; each memory, a ripple in time.

These stories reflect Allan Beek's multifaceted personality and his contributions to society. His legacy continues to inspire those who value community, innovation, and spirited debate.

Allan Beek's delicate dance between environmentalism and conservatism was akin to a tightrope walker navigating the chasm between two worlds. Imagine him perched on that narrow line, one foot planted firmly in the soil of tradition, the other reaching for the ethereal sky of ecological consciousness.

**1. The Pragmatic Steward:** Allan understood that conservatism need not clash with environmentalism. He saw himself as a pragmatic steward of both ideologies. Like an alchemist blending base metals into gold, he sought to transmute their seemingly opposing elements into a harmonious whole. His conservative roots anchored him to the past—the values of hard work, community, and fiscal responsibility. But he also recognized that the Earth was not an infinite resource, and its care was a duty bestowed upon each generation.

**2. The Bridge Builder:** Allan built bridges across the ideological divide. He engaged in conversations with fellow conservatives, weaving threads of environmental awareness into their discourse. His arguments were not fiery or confrontational; they were gentle whispers of reason. He spoke of fiscal responsibility extending beyond mere budgets—into the preservation of natural resources. He reminded them that a healthy economy rested upon a healthy planet.

**3. The Unconventional Conservative:** Allan was no cookie-cutter conservative. He defied stereotypes. While others clung to fossil fuels, he championed solar energy. His computer engineering background fueled his fascination with innovation. He envisioned a world where conservatism embraced clean technology, where wind turbines spun alongside red barns, and where recycling bins stood next to picket fences.

**4. The Symphony of Values:** In Allan's mind, conservatism and environmentalism were not discordant notes; they were instruments in a grand symphony. He believed in conserving traditions while adapting to changing times. His love for Balboa Island was inseparable from his desire to protect its shores. He reveled in the island's history, yet he also advocated for sustainable practices—be it composting, rainwater harvesting, or protecting endangered species.

**5. The Legacy:** Allan Beek left a legacy that transcended political labels. His life was a testament to the interconnectedness of all things. He taught us that

conservatism need not be rigid, and environmentalism need not be radical. Instead, they could dance together—a waltz of responsibility and reverence.

And so, Allan Beek walked his tightrope, balancing the scales of ideology. As the sun dipped below the horizon, casting its golden glow upon Balboa Island, he whispered to the wind, “May we conserve not just what we inherit but also what we pass on.”

And the island listened, its waves echoing his wisdom across time and tides.

Allan Beek’s views on environmentalism were like the tides—ever-changing, influenced by the currents of experience, knowledge, and introspection. Let us journey through the seasons of his consciousness:

1. **The Dawn of Awareness:** In his youth, Allan reveled in the beauty of Balboa Island—the salt-kissed air, the whispering palms, and the rhythmic lapping of waves. Yet, it was during these early years that he glimpsed the fragility of nature. The pelicans’ wingspan, the eucalyptus groves, and the iridescent tide pools—they all whispered secrets of interconnectedness. His heart stirred with a nascent environmental consciousness.
2. **The Entrepreneurial Tide:** As the Balboa Island Ferry business flourished, Allan’s pragmatic side emerged. He balanced the ledger sheets and navigated the choppy waters of entrepreneurship. The environment, though cherished, often took a backseat to economic realities. Yet, seeds were sown—a solar panel experiment here, a compost bin there. The island’s ecology was etched into his soul.
3. **The Awakening Storms:** Middle age brought storms—personal and global. The oil spills that marred pristine shores, the smog-choked skies over Los Angeles, and the silent decline of species—all cast shadows on Allan’s heart. He questioned the cost of progress, the price of convenience. His conservatism grappled with the urgency of preservation. The tightrope wavered.
4. **The Winds of Advocacy:** Allan’s political involvement amplified his voice. He stood before city councils, eloquently arguing for environmental safeguards. His conservative brethren raised eyebrows, but he persisted. “Fiscal responsibility,” he declared, “extends beyond budgets. It embraces the Earth itself.” Solar panels adorned his home, and he championed recycling bins. The tightrope steadied.
5. **The Sunset Contemplations:** In twilight years, Allan sat on the Balboa Island shoreline, watching the sun dip below the horizon. The waves



whispered ancient truths—the impermanence of all things, the delicate dance of ecosystems. His conservatism had mellowed, softened by the wisdom of seasons. He spoke of legacy, not just for his family but for the Earth. The tightrope dissolved.

6. **The Eternal Tidepool:** Allan Beek’s legacy transcends labels. His environmentalism was not radical; it was rooted in reverence. His conservatism was not rigid; it flowed with compassion. The island, with its salt-streaked cliffs and seagull choruses, became his sacred text. And as the tides continue their eternal dance, Allan’s spirit whispers: “Balance, my friends. Balance.”

And so, the old ferryman became a sage—a bridge between worlds, a custodian of both tradition and transformation. His footprints remain, etched in sand and memory, reminding us that the tightrope need not be walked alone.

Yes, Allan Beek was known for his collaboration with other environmentalists and organizations. His commitment to environmental causes led him to work alongside various activists and groups, often bridging the gap between conservative values and environmental advocacy.

One notable collaboration was with the group **Healthcare For All California**, where he worked to promote single-payer healthcare as a conservative cause. [He believed that such a system would be more efficient and prevent public wealth from being siphoned off by unnecessary corporate entities<sup>1</sup>](#). This effort showcased his ability to find common ground between his conservative principles and progressive environmental and social initiatives.

[Additionally, Allan’s activism and contributions were recognized by organizations like \*\*Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks\*\*, which acknowledged his passing and celebrated his life as an activist<sup>2</sup>](#). His work with these groups reflected his dedication to making a positive impact on both the environment and the community.

Through his collaborations, Allan Beek left a legacy of passionate advocacy for the environment, demonstrating that one can hold conservative values while actively working towards ecological preservation and sustainability.

## Saving Upper Newport Bay –Author Interview



### PART I [Video summary](#)

The video features an interview with Cassandra Radcliffe, the author of “Saving Upper Newport Bay,” which narrates the story of Frank and Fran Robinson’s efforts to preserve one of California’s last estuaries. The book details their journey from the initial discovery of private property signs in 1963 to their environmental activism, court cases, and eventual success in the early 1970s. It highlights the importance of community involvement and the impact individuals can have on environmental conservation.

### Highlights:

- [00:00](#)<sup>3</sup> **Introduction to the Author and Book**
  - Cassandra Radcliffe discusses her first book
  - The book’s focus on the Robinsons’ fight to save Upper Newport Bay
  - The story’s beginning with a young boy’s discovery in 1963
- [02:01](#)<sup>4</sup> **The Robinsons’ Journey**
  - The family’s initial desire for beach access
  - Their transition into dedicated environmental activists
  - The decades-long battle to protect the bay
- [04:05](#)<sup>5</sup> **Writing Process and Research**
  - Cassandra’s four-month writing period and research efforts
  - Contributions from volunteers and board members
  - Utilization of UCI archives for historical information
- [08:10](#)<sup>6</sup> **Publishing Insights and Personal Background**
  - Cassandra’s role at Quarto Publishing
  - Her journey from journal writing to publishing a non-fiction book
  - The book’s local history significance and connection to the bay
- [14:00](#)<sup>7</sup> **Environmental Education and Volunteering**

- Cassandra's personal experiences with the bay and volunteering
    - The importance of environmental education and restoration events
    - Encouragement for community involvement in conservation efforts
  - **20:03<sup>8</sup> Reflections on the Bay's Impact**
    - The bay's role in fostering a balance between nature and recreation
    - The Robinsons' legacy in environmental conservation
    - The ongoing need for community engagement and waste reduction
- 
- The court cases related to the preservation of Upper Newport Bay were pivotal in the environmental conservation efforts led by Frank and Fran Robinson. While the specific details of the court cases are not provided in the video summary, they likely involved legal battles against development plans that threatened the estuary's ecosystem.
  - These cases would have required the Robinsons to present compelling evidence to demonstrate the ecological importance of the bay, rallying community support and navigating the complexities of environmental law. Their success set a precedent for community-led conservation initiatives and highlighted the power of individuals to effect change through the legal system.
  - For more detailed information on the court cases, one would need to look into historical records or legal documents pertaining to the conservation of Upper Newport Bay. These records would provide insights into the arguments presented, the legal strategies employed, and the outcomes that contributed to the bay's protection. If you're interested, I can help you find more resources or books that delve into the history of these court cases. Would you like me to assist with that?

The main arguments in favor of preserving Upper Newport Bay were centered around its ecological significance and the benefits it provides to both the environment and the community. Here are some key points that were likely part of the advocacy for its conservation:

- **Biodiversity Hotspot: Upper Newport Bay is recognized as a globally significant hotspot of biodiversity, supporting a diverse range of marine, plant, and animal life<sup>1</sup>.**

- **Environmental Education**: The bay serves as a vital resource for environmental education programs, enhancing public knowledge and appreciation of natural ecosystems<sup>1</sup>.
- **Research and Management**: It is an important site for scientific research and proper science-based management, which helps sustain the 154 square mile watershed of central Orange County that drains into the Pacific via the bay<sup>1</sup>.
- **Recreational and Aesthetic Value**: The bay offers recreational opportunities and contributes to the natural beauty of Southern California, which is valued by residents and visitors alike<sup>2</sup>.
- **Historical and Cultural Significance**: The bay's preservation respects the ancestral lands of native peoples and acknowledges their continuing connection to these lands and waters<sup>1</sup>.

These arguments highlight the importance of protecting natural resources like Upper Newport Bay, not just for the sake of the environment, but also for the cultural, educational, and recreational benefits they provide to human communities. The efforts to preserve the bay reflect a broader understanding of the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the human responsibility to maintain them for future generations.

## Restoring Harmony to Upper Newport Bay



In the heart of Southern California, Upper Newport Bay stands as a testament to the resilience of nature and the power of community action. The bay's restoration is not just a task for environmentalists but a collective responsibility that begins in our backyards. This chapter explores practical steps towards restoring the bay, envisioning a future where human actions align with the rhythms of the natural world.



### *Reimagining Our Lawns*



Imagine a neighborhood where the monotonous green of water-thirsty lawns gives way to the vibrant tapestry of native flora. [Transitioning from traditional lawns to native gardens can significantly reduce water usage, as indigenous plants are adapted to local rainfall patterns and require minimal additional watering](#)<sup>12</sup>. This shift not only conserves precious water

### *The Ripple Effect of Pesticide-Free Living*



The absence of pesticides like Roundup would have profound implications for the bay's ecosystem. [Without these chemicals, soil health would improve, beneficial insects would thrive, and water quality would be safeguarded](#)<sup>45</sup>. The interconnectedness of life becomes evident as we observe the resurgence of pollinators and the return of birdsong to our gardens.

### *Cultivating Organic Gardens*



Each household embracing organic gardening contributes to a larger movement of ecological restoration<sup>67</sup>. Organic gardens serve as mini-reservoirs of biodiversity, supporting soil microbes, pollinators, and various fauna. They also act as educational spaces, where families learn the cycles of growth and the importance of sustainable living.

### *Steps Towards Restoration*

1. **Replace Lawns with Native Plants:** Begin by removing sections of your lawn and planting native species that provide food and shelter for local wildlife<sup>2</sup>.
2. **Eliminate Pesticides:** Opt for natural weed deterrents and encourage the growth of beneficial insects to maintain a healthy garden balance<sup>4</sup>.
3. **Install Organic Gardens:** Start small with a few vegetable beds or containers, using compost and organic matter to enrich the soil<sup>6</sup>.
4. **Community Involvement:** Join local restoration initiatives, participate in ‘Weed Warrior’ programs, and contribute to habitat restoration projects<sup>89</sup>.
5. **Education and Outreach:** Share knowledge with neighbors, schools, and community groups about the benefits of sustainable practices<sup>8</sup>.

## *A Vision for the Future*



As we implement these changes, we witness the gradual transformation of Upper Newport Bay. The bay's waters become clearer, its marshes teem with life, and its shores resonate with the activities of a community in harmony with nature. This vision is not unattainable; it begins with the soil beneath our feet and the choices we make every day.

In this journey of restoration, we find balance and rediscover the interconnectedness of all things. The back bay, once a silent witness to human encroachment, becomes a vibrant symbol of coexistence and hope for future generations.



## Memories of Newport's Allan Beek, 1927-2024

BY

**VERN NELSON**

– FEBRUARY 13, 2024 **POSTED IN:** "THE OC", CLEAN  
ELECTIONS, CONSERVATION, CONSERVATISM, ENVIRONMENT, FRESH JUICE, NEWPORT  
BEACH, REPUBLICANS, SINGLE PAYER



<sup>2</sup>Relentlessly logical and eccentric, my maverick-conservative Republican friend Allan Beek died this month just before his 97th birthday. The tireless activist did so much in his near-century that I kept meaning to spend a few days with him and get half of it down, but too late. (And I hope to be able to add a lot to this story soon, if I hear from some of his old friends and colleagues!)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.orangejuiceblog.com/2024/02/memories-of-newports-allan-beek-1927-2024/>



Back in 2004 the LA/OC area enjoyed a liberal talk radio station called “Air America” – it gave birth to pre-TV Rachel Maddow, pre-Senate Al Franken, Thom Hartmann, Stephanie Miller... and I listened to it every day. And **Sheila Kuehl** (left, as “Zelda” in the 1959 sitcom “Dobie Gillis”) was now a Democratic state senator, who’d written **SB 840**, a single-payer healthcare bill for California. And a statewide group formed with the goal of getting that bill passed, calling itself “Healthcare For All California.” And that group advertised for a few weeks on Air America, and I heard the ads and wanted to join up.

Not that I’m some nice caring guy who frets overmuch about people’s healthcare, but this seemed like ONE especially egregious instance of **GREEDY CORPORATIONS** (mostly Big Insurance & Big Pharma) robbing the public blind, causing unnecessary death and substandard health, and hoodwinking voters with scare stories while paying off politicians from both Parties. Right up my alley.





When I called, though, the HCA folks told me there was no Orange County chapter, “but maybe you could start one up, there’s one other guy in Newport Beach that’s interested in this” and that turned out to be octogenarian Republican **ALLAN BEEK**. We made an odd couple, but hey – we grew that OC chapter to nearly 200 activists, before I handed it off in 2008 to someone else when I got too busy with this blog and other things.

Allan was forever crafting new pamphlets, arguments, flyers, to try to convince his fellow conservatives that single-payer healthcare should be a conservative cause, as it would be (ideally) so much more efficient and prevent so much public wealth getting bled over to unnecessary parasitic corporations. And he was forever frustrated at their unreceptiveness. And the general public’s fear of making any changes in healthcare coverage, terrified their own tenuous situations could worsen. And a general (understandable) aversion to bureaucracies and taxes, even if it would save us billions in the long run. And the half-

hearted support of Democrats who were more comfortable settling on half-measures like Obamacare.

Establishment Republicans treated Allan as a tiresome crank and gadfly, whose version of conservatism led him to agree more often with leftists than with them. I remember Matt Cunningham dismissing him as an “anti-business RINO,” which should be a badge of honor. He used to meet monthly at his home with a group of likeminded elderly neighbors who called themselves “**The Nation Group**” because they all loved that magazine – sure enough all the other members were Democrats or Greens.



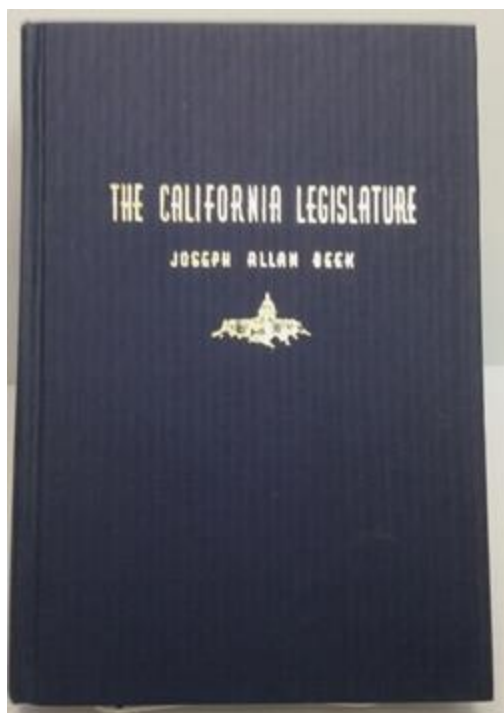
Did I say Allan was “eccentric?” He drove a BRIGHT yellow Volkswagen bug, with the license plate “1234567.” With his lanky 6’4” frame wedged in there, he reminded us of that Tall Man in the Small Car that Nelson ridiculed...

He joined my friends in other causes as well, such as protesting against the attempted sale and privatization of the OC Fairgrounds, showing up with one of his favorite signs that consisted simply of a gigantic “**NO!**” (Damn, I’ve got a

picture of that somewhere...)

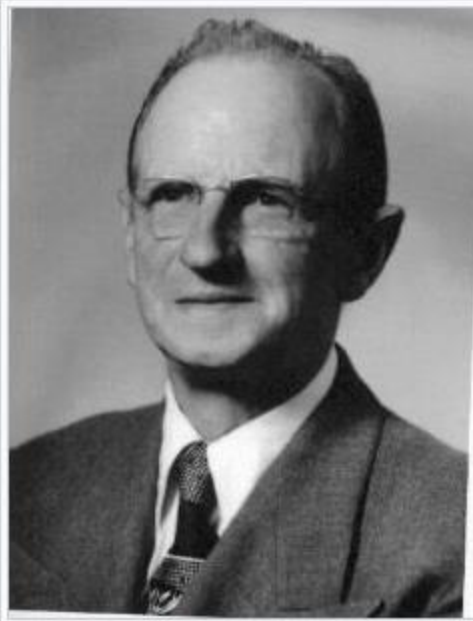
## Clean Money & Paternal Segue

Another cause Allan was devoted to along with mostly (but not only) Democrats was cleaning up our political system, with transparency and other campaign reforms. So once around 2006 we made it up to Sacramento – me, Allan, Trent Lange of the Clean Money Campaign, and progressive Democrat David Sonneborn – to lobby for the DISCLOSE Act.



When we got to Senator **Lou Correa**, he was all genial, backslaps, changing the subject (I don't think he ended up voting for our legislation) and he insisted on taking us on a personal tour of the Senate Chambers since we had driven so far! And once Allan Beek's name was mentioned, and it was confirmed that he was indeed the **son of the legendary Joe Beek**, politicians and staff alike crowded 'round him to get him to autograph their own copies of his Dad's 1942 masterpiece "*The California Legislature*." **HEY YOU GUYS, THIS IS JOE BEEK'S SON!!!** Allan, sheepish and uncomfortable in the spotlight, signed all their books.

Yep, Allan's dad Joseph Allan Beek, to whom Allan always measured himself and found himself wanting, was, according to Wikipedia, "**the longest-serving Secretary of the Senate in California history (1919–68)**." Also, according to Wikipedia,



Joseph A. Beek

*Beek was perhaps best known for his role in developing Balboa Island. He established the Balboa Island Ferry, built roads and bridges, and was one of the island's chief promoters. Beek was also Chairman of the California Small Craft Harbor Commission, was a published musician and composer, a World War II veteran, and a promoter of reforestation of hills surrounding Orange County.*

*"And you, my father, there on the sad height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.  
Do not go gentle into that good night.  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light."*

("A published musician and composer?" I don't think Allan ever told me that, although he used to never miss my concerts.)

So that's why Allan was featured in this 2012 *Daily Pilot* story, "**Before there was a ferry, there was a rowboat.**"



*How many locals know that the **very first Balboa Island ferry franchised by Joseph Beek was a rowboat?***

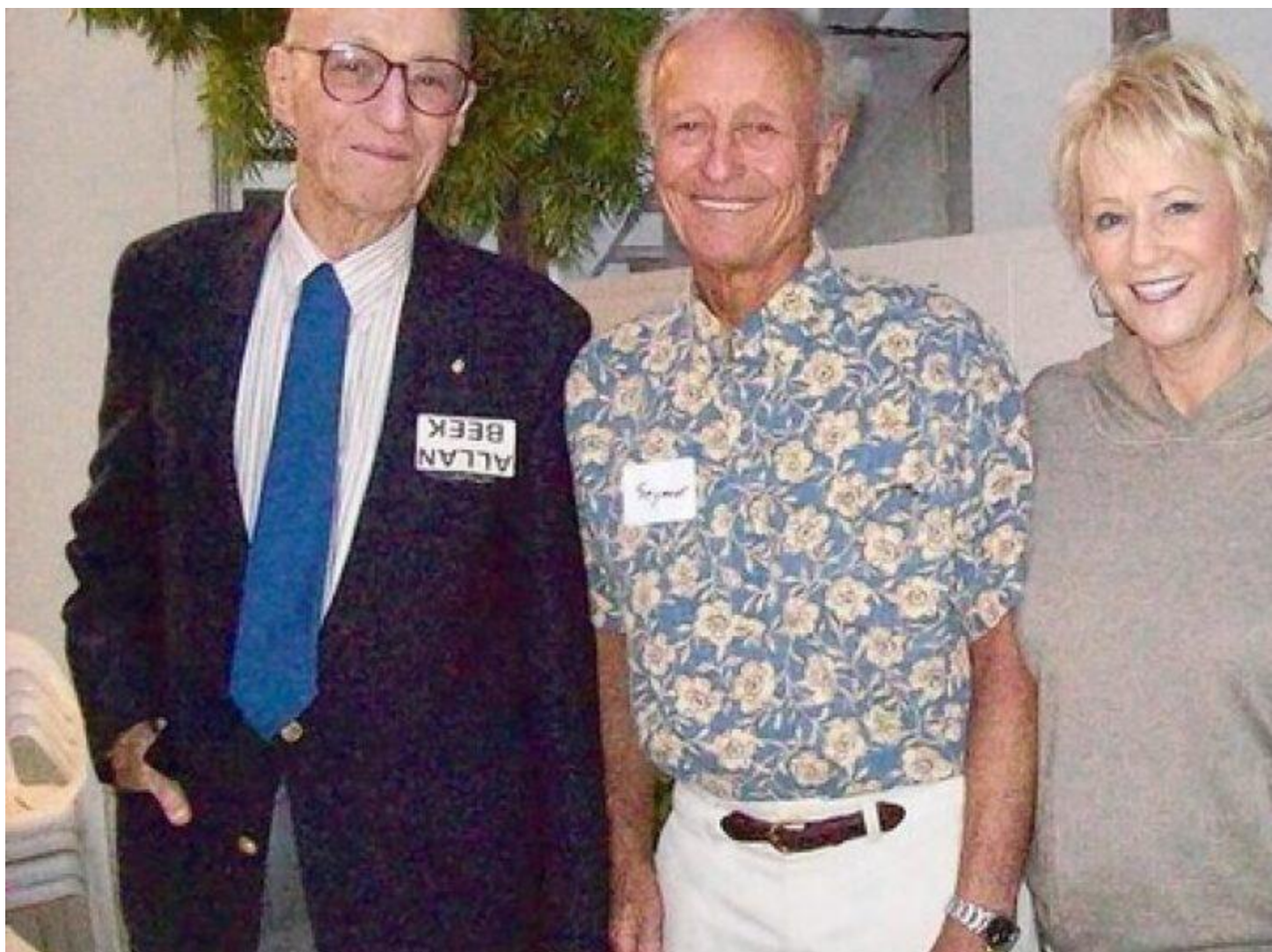
*Nearly 100 years has brought significant changes, and even though the rowboat has been replaced by a barge transporting both people and vehicles from the island to the Balboa Peninsula, the need to cross the channel is exactly the same as it was before the advancement of the electronic and technical age.*

*Last week on Balboa Island, the descendants of Joseph Beek, brothers **Seymour and Allan Beek**, addressed a crowd of some 80 guests who had come together at the Balboa Island Museum & Historical Society for a nostalgic look back at local lore...*

And that's why Tom Johnson's awkwardly written obituary for Allan identifies him as an "elder statesman" ... "of Newport Beach *first family* fame," elaborating "Beek was a longtime, respected community activist who was especially involved in **Still Protecting Our Newport** (SPON) and other efforts that he believed had an adverse effect on negative growth, increased traffic, environmental concerns and unwanted change for Newport Beach." (*That's the awkward sentence.*)

Yes, it seems that Allan is more remembered in his community for fighting to conserve open space and neighborhoods than what I knew him for. Of course. Conservatism to Allan meant SAVING things – saving money, saving the environment, saving old neighborhoods' character. Not what it means to some people.





I hadn't seen Allan in a few years, and now and then I'd think, "I've got to catch up with him and write all about him before it's too late." Then he surprised me, showing up to my last concert just a few weeks before he died, and requested his favorite Beethoven Sonata, the "**Appassionata**." **SOLID CHOICE**.

But now I remember – about ten years ago he and his lovely wife Jean talked me into learning a piece by Schumann – the "Fantasy in C Major," they even gave me the sheet music – which turned out to be the most beautiful Schumann piano piece I've heard. I believe I'll do it at my next concert in his memory:

Johnson adds, "In accordance with his wishes, Allan's brain and body were immediately donated to the **UCI 90+ Study**." That checks out. Let's see, what else? I seem to remember he worked in aerospace before I knew him, like so many 20th-century OC men. Please, everyone who knew Allan, add to this in the comments! And, what a great American, what a great Republican. We need more like Allan Beek!





TAGS: [allan beek](#), [Appassionata](#), [Balboa Ferry](#), [Balboa Island](#), [beethoven](#), [clean elections](#), [conservation](#), [conservatism](#), [Disclose Act](#), [Health Care Reform](#), [Joe Beek](#), [Joseph Allan Beek](#), [lou correa](#), [newport beach](#), [SB 840](#), [Schumann](#), [Sheila Kuehl](#), [single payer](#)



*About Vern Nelson*

Greatest pianist/composer in Orange County, and official political troubadour of Anaheim and most other OC towns. Regularly makes solo performances, sometimes with his savage-jazz band The Vern Nelson Problem. Reach at vernpnelson@gmail.com, or 714-235-VERN.

13 Comments

1. [Reply](#)



**Ron and Ana Winship**

Posted February 13, 2024 at 2:51 PM

\*The great Alan Beek. Allan was a man of integrity, lust for life and a driving determination to get things done. Indomitable is the call word here. The whole Beek family has been a driving force in Newport Beach politics for as long as we can remember.

For those that do not know – The Balboa Island Ferry, founded in 1919 is a Beek family endeavor. We can recall in 1964 when thousands of reveling teenagers and young activists screamed in horror at the closing of Balboa Island by Police Chief Glavas. Two uniformed police arrived on the Peninsula sued to take the ferry to Balboa Island. The throng of thousands screamed insults: “Rent-a-cop” with expletives of course. It got them so upset they hit the gas and ran both bikes in the Bay. A self-styled Jesus in swaddling clothes screamed with his wooden staff “We go to Balboa Island”. An overflow crowd got on two separate Beek Ferry Boats and landed on the banned Balboa Island. Within minutes thousands of kids were screaming “Party on Apolena”. Just as those retorts were rising 10 cop cars landed with baton-carrying cops and we had to dive over the nearest hedge, following Jesus and his staff.

The interesting aside is that Allan and his brother did not shut down the ferry!

We loved Allan, although we disagreed about the Annexation of the Newport Coast. We loved Allan because in retrospect he was amazingly wise and on top of that a very real human being.

Alan at 97 was probably no different than Alan at 87, 77, 67 or 37!

God bless the Beek Family and the memory of a true Icon in Newport Beach politics.

Love from Ron & Anna

2. [Reply](#)



**Ron & Anna Winship**

Posted February 13, 2024 at 3:08 PM

\*Alan Beek was a great icon in Newport Beach politics. The Balboa Island Ferry began in 1919 and was founded by Joseph Allan Beek. When the dad passed away in 1969....the elder son Seymour Beek took the helm. Allan Beek was a brilliant human being. He was a Computer engineer, Logistician and Environmentalist. He hated Traffic and hated the demise of the concept – Seven Villages of Newport Beach! He supported the Traffic Phasing Ordinance and fought like hell against the Annexation of the Newport Coast. In retrospect his vision was probably right. He fought against an International Airport at Orange County.....Allan had his own thoughts on just about everything and anything. We loved his honesty. We loved his straight forward ideas, thoughts and words. The Beek Family and Allan in particular have been vocal and direct in their concepts of what Newport Beach should be. Allan's ideas will certainly stand long after his recent passing.

God bless the memory of Allan Beek and thank you Jesus for having the opportunity to know him over the years.

3. [Reply](#)



**Geoff West**

Posted February 13, 2024 at 7:25 PM

Thank for your this. A lovely remembrance of a memorable man.

○ [Reply](#)



**Vern Nelson**

Posted February 13, 2024 at 7:35 PM

Pot Stirrer! Long time no see!

4. [Reply](#)



**Dennis Bress**

Posted February 14, 2024 at 9:27 AM

God Bless Allan and condolences to the Beek Family.

5. [Reply](#)



**Shirley Grindle**

Posted February 15, 2024 at 2:06 PM

Allan and I were activist friends trying to clean up politics ever since 1973. He was a wonderful person and a pretty good tap dancer.

Shirley L. Grindle

○ [Reply](#)



**Ron & Anna Winship**

Posted February 17, 2024 at 3:46 PM



\*Shirley, it is the Winship's and we still love you too! Your service to Newport Beach is also legion and legend!

6. [Reply](#)



**Mark Tabbert**

Posted February 19, 2024 at 5:33 AM

Loved Allan. Never went to a community meeting about important things when he wasn't there in his coat and tie.

I worked with him on many issues but the biggie was Climate Change. Craig Preston and I formed a climate group with big plans called Newport 100. We planned to get 100 people to speak for 3 minutes each at city council meetings and read Bill McKibben's Eaarth, earth with 2 A's. We recruited one. Allan Beek, who went online, discovered Citizens Climate Lobby and went to one of their meetings in Pasadena. Allan shared what he found and we jumped on the CCL bandwagon.

CCL had a plan!! Allan attended our monthly meetings regularly and helped us grow until he moved to new digs in Irvine. When the three of us joined CCL we were the 72nd National Chapter. Today there are over 450. We were the first OC Chapter and we grew to have 6 more Chapters; Long Beach, Brea, Santa Ana, Irvine, San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Bch. It all began with Allan.

○ [Reply](#)



**Craig Preston**

Posted February 28, 2024 at 6:07 PM

I loved Allan also. What a fine human being. I learned so much from his experiences in professional, personal and volunteering experiences. I am still inspired by his passion and thoughtful ways to make the world better.

Allan, I miss you and thank you for your life lived well.

7. [Reply](#)



**Jonathan Adler**

Posted February 19, 2024 at 12:44 PM

I miss Allan Beek. I nearly always saw him at O.C. progressive groups' meetings — The Nation Group, Progressive Democrats of America, Democracy for America, Health Care for All. "Just showing up is 80 percent of life" is the quip reliably attributed to Woody Allen (via Marshall Brickman, his co-writer of "Annie Hall," in a joint interview, in August 1977, in The New York Times).

But Allan did far more than "just show up." He was, especially, a fierce outspoken advocate for single-payer healthcare (a.k.a. "Medicare-for-All"). Allan was totally convinced, justifiably, that after tallying all relevant costs, it made far more sense than the current, contorted, Swiss-cheese monstrosity that passes for a healthcare "system"; would rid the latter of most of its waste; and would be far more economical before long. I'm sure he believed that anyone who failed to see that was either venal or obtuse — although he was too polite to say so explicitly.

Allan's project for which I best remember him was to reduce the myriad reasons for single-payer to a formatted but readable 4-inch by 6-inch card. Many of us doubted he could do that successfully, but he did! One might cavil that Allen didn't get far down into the weeds of how to transition to single-payer from that current Swiss-cheese healthcare monstrosity. But, heck, someone had to stay focused on creating those persuasive 4"x6" cards; and that was Allan Beek.

○

[Reply](#)



**Vern Nelson**

Posted February 19, 2024 at 12:46 PM

And yet, Allan always remained a Republican. To him, all these causes SHOULD have been CONSERVATIVE ones, and he always held fast to what he believed Republicans SHOULD stand for.

○

[Reply](#)



**Greg Diamond**

Posted February 19, 2024 at 10:54 PM

If you have one of those 4x6 cards, Jonathan, we'd like to publish it. Alas, it's still timely.

8.

**Reply**



**K**

Posted February 26, 2024 at 11:26 AM

Yes! I want to see one of those 4"x6" cards. We need it!

I'm sorry to say I did not know this gentleman, and what a loss for any of us that did not get to have the honor of knowing him. Sounds like a really wonderful human being.

Thanks for this article Vern






## Balboa Ferry

This is a story from the Balboa Island Museum about the Beek family

In 1919 Joseph Alen Beek obtained the rights from the city of Newport Beach to provide a ferry service across the Newport Harbor between Balboa Island and the Balboa Peninsula.



 BALBOA ISLAND AUTO FERRY RIDE, NEWPORT

BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Where's My Map • 2.8K views

All tourists visiting the OC should do this - The cheapest attraction in SoCal, and you have a first-person front seat view ! Take an AUTO FERRY RIDE TO BALBOA ISLAND from BALBOA PENINSULA...

Before starting the ferry service Beek owned The Ark. The Ark consisted of a giant rowboat with a small engine which Beek used as his first ferry vessel.

The Ark carried oars in the event of engine failure. There was no regularly scheduled service and customers telephoned Beek when they needed a ride across the harbor.

In 1919 Beek charged a nickel (5 cents) per person. Three years after commencing operation, Beek built the Fat Ferry. This vessel held twenty passengers. Beek later built a small one-car barge which the Fat Ferry pushed across in front of it.

In the 1950s Beek built three double-ended wooden boats for his ferry service: the Admiral, the Commodore, and the Captain. These three boats are still in service and have transported over two million persons.

Each ferry holds three cars and 75 people. As of 2007, the Beek family charges \$1 per adult, \$2 per vehicle, \$.50 for children ages 5–11, \$1.25 for adults on bikes, \$.75 for children on bikes, and \$1.50 for motorcycles. Children under the age of 5 are free.

The ferry boats need constant maintenance but this does not usually interrupt the ferry service. For two weeks in 2008, the ferry service shut down for an extended period, for the first time in 50 years, to rebuild the automobile ramp leading to the boats.



Currently, Beek's three sons run the business and it has been in the family for close to 100 years.

## Gary Hill's Nautical Oasis The Boat Gas Station



In the heart of Newport Beach, where the sun kisses the waves and the sea breeze whispers secrets to the palm trees, there exists a hidden gem—a place where boats refuel not only with gasoline but also with stories. This place is none other than **Hill's Boat Service**, presided over by the enigmatic Gary Hill.

### The Gas Station on Water

Picture it: a weathered wooden dock stretching out into the cerulean expanse of Upper Newport Bay. At the end of this dock stands a modest fuel pump, its nozzle poised like a welcoming handshake. But this is no ordinary gas station—it floats. Yes, you heard that right. Gary Hill's boat gas station bobs gently on the water, a beacon for sailors, fishermen, and dreamers alike.

### Gary's Eccentricity

Gary Hill is a character straight out of a maritime novel. His salt-and-pepper beard dances in the wind, and his eyes hold the wisdom of countless tides. He wears faded Hawaiian shirts and a captain's hat, perpetually perched at a jaunty angle. His laughter echoes across the bay, a symphony of sea gulls and boat engines.

### The Art of Conversation

Visitors flock to Hill's Boat Service not just for the fuel but for the conversations. Gary spins tales of legendary storms, ghost ships, and mermaids who comb their hair with seashells. He knows every boat by name, every sailor's favorite drink, and the exact moment when the tide turns. His words are like ripples—they touch your soul and leave you wondering about the mysteries of the deep.

### Gary's Cosmic Musings

One moonlit evening, as the stars winked above the gas station, Gary shared his cosmic musings with a wide-eyed sailor:

*"You see, my friend," he said, leaning on the pump handle, "we're all celestial vessels navigating the cosmic sea. Our souls are sails, catching the winds of fate. And just like boats, we need fuel—love, laughter, and a dash of madness—to keep us afloat."*

The sailor blinked. *"But what about the storms?"*

*“Ah, storms,” Gary replied, “they’re the universe’s way of testing our mettle. We learn to dance with lightning, to ride the waves of chaos. And when the tempest subsides, we emerge stronger, our hulls polished by adversity.”*

### Gary’s Legacy



Gary Hill isn’t just a gas station owner; he’s a guardian of stories. He’s fought developers who wanted to replace his floating oasis with luxury condos. He’s rallied the community to protect the bay’s fragile ecosystem. And when the sun dips below the horizon, casting golden nets upon the water, Gary sits on his dock, legs dangling, and meditates on the interconnectedness of all things.

### The Cosmic Fuel

So, next time you sail into Newport Beach, seek out Hill’s Boat Service. Gary will greet you with a smile, fill your tank, and perhaps share a cosmic secret or two. And as you sail away, remember that the gas station isn’t just about fueling boats—it’s about fueling souls.



*May the tides be kind to you, dear traveler.*

<sup>1</sup>: [Hills Boat Service](#) – Updated May 2024.

Located at 814 E Bay Ave, Newport Beach, CA 92661. Open daily from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Accepts credit cards and offers free Wi-Fi. [Review rating: 4.3 stars based on 9 reviews.](#)

<sup>2</sup>: [Gary Hill receives the Good Scout Award](#) – Newport Sea Base presented Gary

Hill with the 2016 Good Sea Scout Award.



### **Gary and Bunker Hill Interview Highlights:**

- **Introduction to the Hill Brothers** [00:00:05]
  - Interview conducted by Leonard Davis of the Newport Beach Historical Society.
  - Discussion on Hill's Boat Service, a family-run marine fuel dock.
  - The company's history and the range of services they provide.
- **Post-High School Paths** [00:01:57]
  - Gary assumed responsibility for the fuel dock, while Bunker pursued a career captaining sport fishing boats in Cabo.
  - Their brother Sam also remained in the marine business.
  - They reflect on their father's influence and the legacy he left behind.
- **Business Challenges and Changes** [00:07:01]
  - The transition from oil company affiliations to independent operations due to environmental regulations.
  - The impact of these changes on their business model and the broader industry.
  - The acquisition of equipment from Chevron to continue the family legacy.
- **Yachting and Community Involvement** [00:14:01]
  - Gary's active role in the Newport Harbor Yacht Club and his contributions to local sailing events.

- Bunker's work as a marine surveyor and his son's involvement in the family business.
- Emphasis on the importance of community ties and their longstanding presence in Newport Beach.

•

In the heart of Newport Beach, where the waves whisper tales of old, there stood a pier that had seen the rise and fall of countless tides. It was here that the Hill brothers, Gary and Bunker, cast their legacy upon the waters, their lives intertwined with the ebb and flow of the harbor.

Their father, Peter Hill, a man of the sea, had taken over a humble fuel dock in the early '50s, planting the seeds for what would become a family beacon. The dock, known as Hill's Boat Service, became more than just a place to refuel; it was a gathering spot for seafarers and a cornerstone of the community.

Gary, the elder, took the helm early on, his hands weathered by the ropes and his heart anchored in the family business. Bunker, with a spirit too wild for classrooms, found his calling on the open ocean, captaining sport fishing boats in the distant waters of Cabo San Lucas.

As the years sailed by, the brothers watched the harbor transform. Sailboats gave way to powerboats, and the once bustling fuel docks dwindled to just two. Yet, through environmental challenges and changing tides, Hill's Boat Service stood resilient, a testament to the family's enduring dedication.

The brothers' lives were a tapestry woven with salt and diesel, their stories etched into the wooden planks of the pier. They raised their children on the bay, teaching them the art of navigating both boats and life's unpredictable currents.

Now, as the sun sets on their own voyages, they prepare the next generation to steer the course. Carson, Gary's son, steps forward, ready to chart his path in the wake of his forefathers. And so, the Hill legacy continues, as steadfast as the pier that has borne witness to their journey—a family's love letter to the sea.

This story captures the essence of the Hill family's connection to Newport Beach and their enduring impact on the local maritime community, as described in the video.





#### [Video summary](#)

The video features Gary Hill discussing the history of the Beek family's ferry service in Newport Beach, focusing on the fuel supply aspect during the 1970s fuel embargo and the evolution of their fuel delivery business. He recounts how they never faced fuel rationing due to their service to commercial fish boats and the Coast Guard, which led to a thriving business. The acquisition of a fuel delivery boat from Jack Nelson marked a significant expansion, allowing them to fuel boats without them leaving their slips. Despite challenges, they built a new double-wall tanker to meet Coast Guard regulations, ensuring the continuation of their unique service on the West Coast.

#### **Highlights:**

- [00:04](#)<sup>3</sup> **Early days and fuel embargo**
  - Discusses living on the peninsula and commuting to LA
  - Recalls fuel rations during the embargo, but their business thrived
  - Fueled cars and boats, aiding the community
- [01:01](#)<sup>4</sup> **Expansion of the business**
  - Acquired a fuel delivery boat, boosting the business
  - Fueled various vessels, including the Catalina Flyer and Coast Guard cutters

- Built a new tanker to comply with regulations
- [02:00](#)<sup>5</sup> **Building the new tanker**
  - Faced potential end of fuel delivery due to regulations
  - Collaborated with experts to design a compliant tanker
  - Constructed the tanker with advanced features and capabilities
- [04:02](#)<sup>6</sup> **Current operations and future plans**
  - Continues to fuel a wide range of vessels
  - Holds a unique position on the West Coast
  - Plans to expand services to include gasoline delivery

In the quaint coastal town of Newport Harbor, where the sea's whispers were a lullaby to the locals, Gary Hill's family ran a fuel business that was as much a part of the town as the lighthouse guiding ships home. The 70s brought challenges with the fuel embargo, but the Hills never faced rations, fueling not just cars but the lifeblood of the town's commerce – the commercial fish boats and the Coast Guard.

Gary's father, a man of the sea with hands as rough as the waves, had built a legacy that Gary was determined to uphold. When Jack Nelson, a respected competitor, retired, he offered his fuel delivery boat to Gary, a testament to the rapport between the two families. Despite his father's initial reluctance, Gary saw an opportunity to expand their horizon.

The years passed, and the single-hull tanker they operated was soon to be outlawed. Faced with the daunting task of building a new double-wall tanker, Gary's fate seemed sealed until a chance encounter with an old friend from MIT led him to a retired engineer in Palm Springs. Together, they defied the odds and crafted a set of plans approved by the Coast Guard.

With determination and the help of skilled welders from Ensenada, Gary and his son built the new tanker in an industrial building in Santa Ana. They worked tirelessly, installing systems, plumbing, hydraulics, and an engine sourced from Gary's brother in the marine engine business.

Now, with a state-of-the-art fuel tanker, the only one of its kind on the west coast, Gary and his son navigate the waters, fueling the vessels that keep Harbor alive. From the Catalina Flyer to the majestic yachts at the

Balboa Bay Club, they serve them all, ensuring that the town's heartbeat never skips a beat.

As the sun sets on Harbor, the silhouette of the tanker against the orange sky is a reminder of the Hill family's resilience and the bonds that hold the community together. For in this town, the fuel they deliver powers not just the boats but the dreams of those who call Harbor their home.

- This story captures the essence of the video, highlighting the family's dedication to their business and the community, the challenges they faced, and their innovative spirit that led to the creation of a unique fuel tanker. It's a tale of legacy, innovation, and the unbreakable bonds of a seaside town.

Gary Hill paused, his gaze drifting towards the horizon where the sky kissed the sea. "You know," he began, his voice carrying the weight of history, "our fuel delivery service wasn't the first to make waves here in Newport Beach. Long before us, there was the Beek family's ferry service."

He leaned back, the creak of his chair blending with the seagulls' cries. "It all started back in 1919," Gary continued, "when Joseph Allan Beek, a visionary with a heart as vast as the Pacific, obtained rights from the city to start a ferry service across Newport Harbor."

"The Beeks' story is one of true pioneering spirit. Joseph, a college student at the time, saw potential in connecting Balboa Island to the Balboa Peninsula. [With his original ferry, The Ark, he began shuttling passengers for just five cents<sup>1</sup>.](#)"

Gary's eyes twinkled with admiration. "They were the bridge between shores, long before bridges were built. And it wasn't just about transport; it was about connecting lives, dreams, and opportunities."

He chuckled, "And talk about ingenuity—Joseph Beek even built the ferries himself! [Can you imagine that? The ultimate DIYer, indeed<sup>2</sup>.](#)"

["The Beek family's service has been more than just a ferry crossing; it's been a century-long journey of back and forth, a testament to their](#)

[dedication to this community](#)<sup>3</sup>. And here we are, decades later, still fueling the vessels that continue to connect people, just like the Beeks did.”

Gary stood up, his silhouette framed against the setting sun. “Our businesses may be different, but our essence is the same. We’re part of the fabric of Newport Beach, woven into its history, its present, and, hopefully, its future.”

With a nod to the legacy of the Beeks, Gary turned back to his tanker, ready to write the next chapter of his own family’s story on the waters of Newport Beach.

## The Battle for Newport Bay

The Battle for Newport Bay--Tenacity Turns the Tide : Parklands: Newport Beach couple led tumultuous fight to save the Back Bay from development. They won, and this month county planners will begin meetings on a park to rim the marshlands.

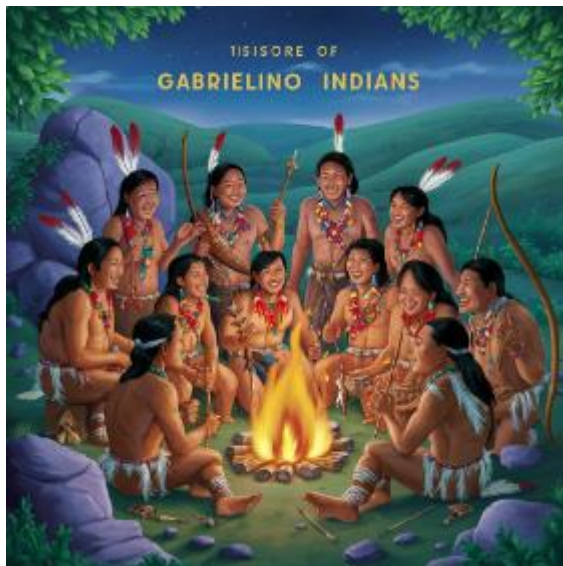
**By LESLIE EARNEST**

March 4, 1990 12 AM PT

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TIMES STAFF WRITER

NEWPORT BEACH —



In 1963, shortly after Frank and Frances Robinson moved within a few blocks of the Back Bay, their son delivered some news: “No Trespassing” signs had sprung up on the banks of that wilderness basin. The landowner, the Irvine Co., was announcing plans for a new development.

The Robinsons, who had imagined their two children playing on tranquil shores where Gabrielino Indians once lived, were alarmed.

“It was all selfish in the beginning,” Frank Robinson said of the impulse that propelled him and his wife into a battle with the city, the county and the county’s largest landowner that lasted for nearly 30 years. “They were going to dredge out and narrow the channel and make it like lower Newport Bay. We got a little upset.”



The couple, who say they didn't know a duck from a coot when they started their fight to save the bay, admit their initial concern was not for the environment, not for what one nature lover called the "shaggy sweetness" of the wetlands or for the endangered birds and plants which make the bay their home. They were simply determined that the land should be open to the public.

But an environmental movement began to swell around them. Friends of Newport Bay and Stop Polluting Our Newport were born. National groups, including the Audubon Society and Sierra Club, joined the war to save what some considered a suburban swamp.

"As we got into it, it was little bigger than a bellyache about not having a beach for our kids," Frank Robinson said. It became, he said, "a real bloody fight for a number of years."

Although there may still be a skirmish or two on the horizon, the war over the future of Upper Newport Bay seems now to be over. And the Robinsons won.

County planners will begin meetings this month with environmentalists and homeowners to design a 140-acre regional park to rim the marshlands, now an ecological reserve. The consensus seems to favor a gentle modification of the land from its virgin state into a "natural park," with meandering trails and picnic areas. It is a peaceful plan that belies the tumultuous history of the land.

It was in the early 1960s that environmentalists staked their claim on the Back Bay, which flourished as a seaport in the 19th Century and was the site of a salt company until 1969.

The initial movement was fragmented. A handful of residents, including the Robinsons, had been working to block development in the bay for a few years when a separate group, made up of about a dozen residents from throughout the county, formed the Friends of Newport Bay in 1968. Even within that small group, the goals were splintered, according to Chuck Greening, its first president.

One member, for example, favored creating an amusement park-type miniature city in the bay to ensure that people would be allowed access, Greening said. Another envisioned the bay as "unapproachable," closed off to human intrusion. When the "wildly divergent ideas" failed to yield to a single goal, Greening said, the group focused instead on simply blocking the development.

“Any position we took, we would fracture the little group and several of them would go off mad and so on,” said Greening, a Fullerton resident and retired space scientist. “So I just didn’t let us do that.”

The group was still in its infancy when the Santa Barbara oil spill shocked the state and heightened concern for the environment.

Then, when fierce flooding hit in February, 1969, Greening said, Orange County environmentalists discovered they were not alone.

A few months before the storms began, the group had begun to conduct tours of the bay to call attention to the endangered land. In February, the tour was featured in Sunset magazine. Greening’s phone number was printed in the article.

But then the storms hit the Southland, drenching the county and rupturing the main dike a half-mile from where the tour was to begin. As a result of ongoing construction, mud slid down the bluffs and gushed into the bay.

But at 5 a.m., Greening’s phone began ringing with callers wanting to know if the nature walk was still on. Not knowing the answer, Greening said he and his wife, Ada-Jane, headed for the bay. In the still-pounding rain, people from as far away as Santa Barbara began to arrive.

“As far as we could tell, it was something over 1,000 people turned out in that pouring rain,” he said. “It had to be a turning point for us.”

Ada-Jane Greening held an umbrella over a table and began collecting names. With rain spilling off his wide-brimmed hat, another group member began describing plant life to the crowd gathered in the mud. He will never forget, Greening said, “people just standing there spellbound, listening to this man.”

“Here these people were, muddy up to their knees, drenched, with water dripping off them, and smiling and saying, ‘Thank you,’ ” Greening said. “I think that morning we realized for the first time the breadth of interest there was in the bay.

“None of us ever dreamed that someone would wake up in Barstow at 4 in the morning and climb in their car and drive to the bay for the tour,” he said. “I don’t think any of us dreamed there were people that far away who were interested.”

Looking back, insiders say the battle to save the bay was fought on two fronts. While nature lovers plugged into the growing environmentalist movement to keep the spotlight on the Back Bay, others whittled away at the legal agreements between the county and the Irvine Co. It was on the legal front that the first major battle was won.

Under attack was a land exchange outlined in 1960 between the county and the Irvine Co., owner of three islands in the bay and most of the land around it. The proposal called for the islands to be dredged and for a navigable channel to be created with a marine stadium and parks. The Irvine Co. would receive certain public tidelands and filled areas along the channel for development of homes, a commercial area and a hotel. The county would pay to dredge almost three miles of the bay.

“We felt it was a horrible rip-off, to be honest about it,” said Frank Robinson, one of six people who challenged the constitutionality of the agreement in court. In 1970, after a 20-month legal battle, a Superior Court judge ruled the exchange constitutional. Three years later, an appeals court reversed that decision.

Greening heaped credit on the Robinsons for the court victory and for the fund-raising effort that paid for that battle.

“My comment was that you might think that (the fight) was one-sided,” Greening said, “if you didn’t know the Robinsons.”

In 1975, the state bought 527 acres of islands and lowlands up to the 10-foot contour of the bluffs for the Department of Fish and Game to operate within its Ecological Reserve System. The Irvine Co. was paid \$3.48 million. The county accepted \$1.65 million for disputed back taxes. And the developer’s dream of a marina community evaporated.

But another battle had long been brewing. Even before the Orange County Board of Supervisors accepted the agreement to turn the Back Bay into a permanent ecological preserve in 1974, environmentalists had begun eyeing the bluffs that surround the wetlands. The bluffs were vitally important, they said, both as a buffer between the bird sanctuary and the crush of urban life, and as an oasis for people.

But the Irvine Co., which still owned 114 acres along the bay, planned to build homes on 71 acres bordered by Irvine Avenue and University Drive, a spokesman for the developer said.

By then, however, the preservationist movement was firmly rooted. The membership of Friends of Newport Bay had swollen to 1,500.

## Notes

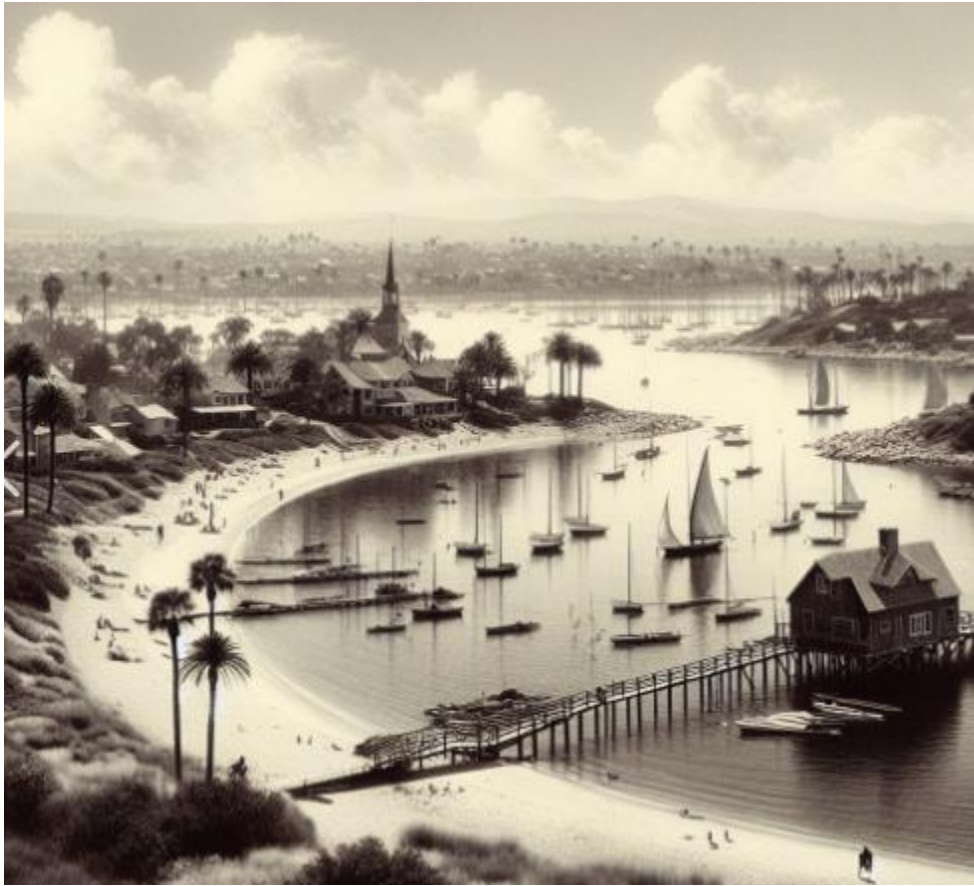
Chairman Agee opened the public hearing.

Frank Robinson, Newport Beach stated that if the alternative to Open Space is low density residential, there would be some dedication of the area as part of the normal requirements for park areas which could, in turn, be consolidated into this area. He stated that this area is needed for recreation and that this is the only area where you can get a complete panoramic view of the entire bay.

Ray Williams, President of Friends of Newport Bay stated that they are in agreement with the first choice of land use which is to leave it as open space. He informed the Commission that the bluffs and uplands are good fossil sites which he hopes will be available for study. He further stated that this bay is unique and, therefore, it is a valuable facility for educational purposes. He stated that a commercial area would be incompatible with the refuge below, would add congestion, air pollution, run-off problems and noise. He mentioned that the bay is unique and that a



## The Heart Of The Bay

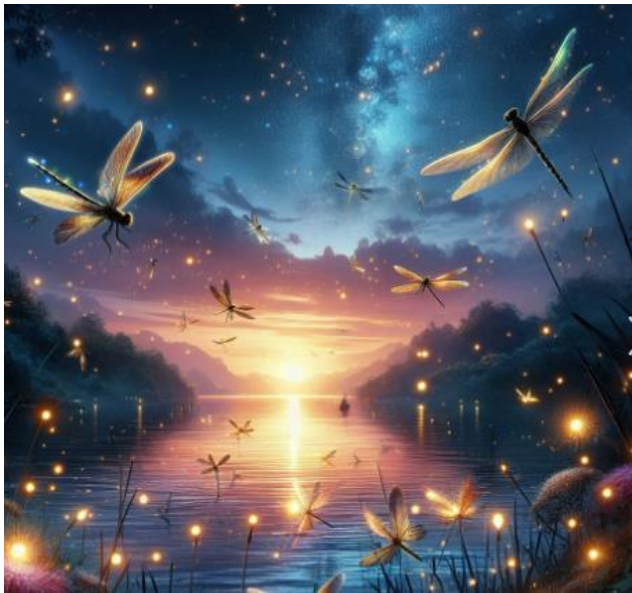


As the sun dipped below the horizon, painting the sky with hues of orange and purple, the Back Bay's waters mirrored the celestial ballet. It was here, amidst the whispering reeds and the gentle lapping of the waves, that the stories of the bay came to rest in the heart of every being that had ever called this place home.

The catalyst, a term once confined to the realms of science, had found its true meaning in the lives intertwined with the bay. Like the particles in the entanglement theory, each person, each event, was a thread in an intricate tapestry, their destinies bound by invisible forces that transcended time and space.

The echoes of the Back Bay, once vibrant with the laughter of children and the wisdom of the elders, now resonated with a deeper truth. The untouched beauty of the bay was not lost to the tides of change but had evolved, as all living things must. The developments that had seemed so intrusive at first were now part of the bay's story, a testament to humanity's unending quest for growth.

In this closing chapter, we find that the heart is more than an organ sustaining life; it is the seat of our deepest connections. It beats in unison with the universe, a drum heralding the dance of atoms and stars alike. The heart of the bay, a symbol of life's perpetual flow, reminds us that in every ending, there is a beginning, and in every separation, there is a reunion.



As night falls, the bay is alive with the fireflies' glow, each light a memory, each flicker a promise of tomorrow. The dragonflies skim the water's surface, their iridescent wings carrying the dreams of the past and the hope for the future.

And so, the story of the Back Bay is not one of loss but of transformation, a journey from the physical to the ethereal, from the known to the mysterious. It is a story that continues in the hearts of all who have witnessed its magic, a story that, like the bay itself, will endure for generations to come.