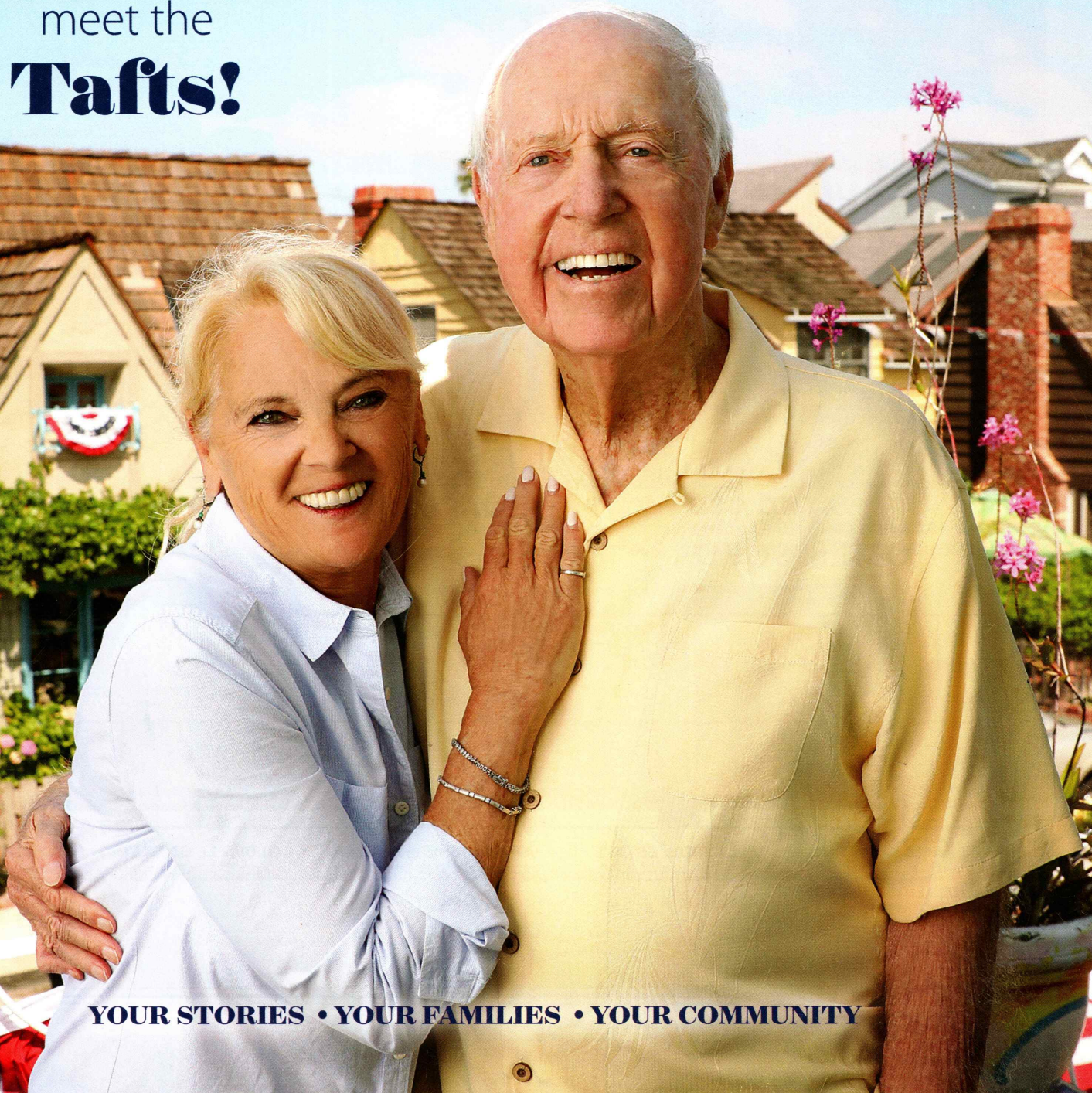


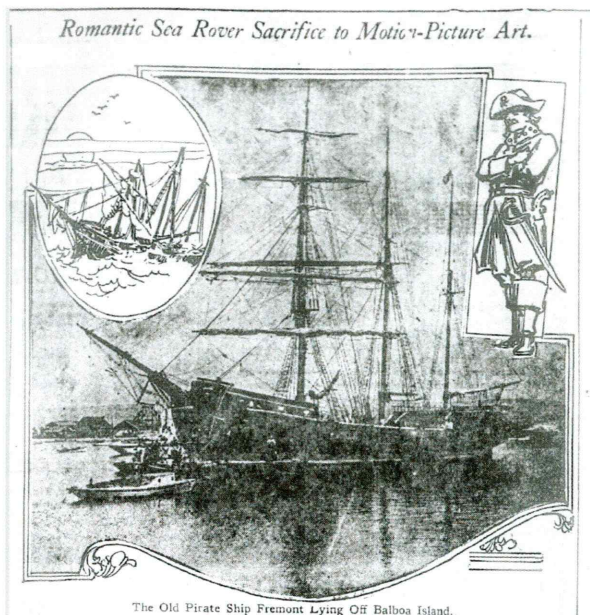
# BALBOA ISLAND LIVING

A PRIVATE SOCIAL PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BALBOA ISLAND • October 2019

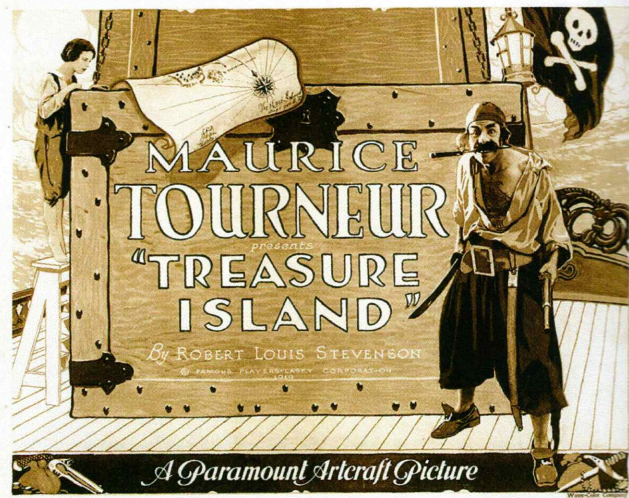
meet the  
**Tafts!**



**YOUR STORIES • YOUR FAMILIES • YOUR COMMUNITY**



The Old Pirate Ship Fremont Lying Off Balboa Island.



100 Years Ago - Can You Imagine?

# 100 Years Ago

## - Can You Imagine? **history**



By Shirley Pepys Balboa Island Resident



**1919** was an interesting year. Internationally, the Allied Nations and Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles, formally ending World War I. In the United States, bread cost 10 cents, eggs were 63 cents, and the pop-up toaster and zippers were among the inventions that would become commonplace in every home. Folks who could afford an automobile were driving Model Ts and silent movies were the rage.

Closer to home, Joseph Beek became a salesman for W.S. Collins and began what would become a lifelong career in the development of Balboa Island. In **1919**, 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, charging five cents per person. (Beek soon built the *Fat Ferry*, which could carry twenty passengers. He later built a small one-car barge which the *Fat Ferry* pushed across the water.)

Something else happened in **1919** right here that would bring much excitement to the neighborhood. According to an article

published in the **October 19, 1919** *Los Angeles Sunday Times*, the barkentine *Fremont*, being used as a prop in the filming of *Treasure Island*, ran aground, terrifying the 45 people onboard (all were ultimately rescued). This photo from the *Times* depicts the *Fremont* in the harbor (note a few houses in the background).

The *Fremont*, originally launched in 1850, had a somber history, including time spent as a slave ship, a blockade runner during the Civil War, piracy, and a cargo carrier. "Once manned by real pirates, she came in her old age to be the sea-rovers' craft in a film production of 'Treasure Islands' staged off Newport Harbor... [She] became a mere 'prop' for the film producers till she made new history last Tuesday when she went aground..."

Balboa Island is brimming with interesting history. Be sure to visit the Museum to learn more about our colorful past!

### Hours of Operation:

Monday - Thursday 10 am to 5 pm, Friday - Sunday 10 am to 6 pm  
 210 B Marine Avenue Balboa Island, CA 92662 949.675.3952  
[info@balboaislandmuseum.org](mailto:info@balboaislandmuseum.org) [www.balboaislandmuseum.org](http://www.balboaislandmuseum.org)