

Restaurants in Shelter Cove

There were just two restaurants (sequentially) in Shelter Cove, both in the same two-story building. The first one was just named "Shelter Cove Restaurant", and was a drop-off point for bootleggers between 1920-1933 (they dubbed it "Smuggler's Cove" back then). Then there was "The Clipper Ship"- earliest references are for 1938. The Clipper Ship was alternately referred to as a bar, a restaurant and an inn. First owner was George Lewis, a sea captain who operated the Clipper Ship restaurant and snack bar. It was a fishing and popular beach spot for San Franciscans who came for the day. In 1949, Charles "Chuck" and Mary Pavka bought the Clipper Ship restaurant, which they ran until 1960.

Fierce storms caused heavy damage. In 1958, high waves flooded many of the cottages, bringing boulders crashing onto the beach and road. An even bigger storm came in February 1960. It destroyed three cove houses. The waves were so strong they picked up one of the houses and tossed it against the hill. "When you looked up, it looked like stairs coming in," said Gary of the rough, high ocean waves. He hung on to the roof of a building while tied by rope to Cal Hinton (later fire chief) while the waves battered the cove. After the storm, the Pavkas built three new two-story apartment buildings, replacing the units destroyed.



The Clipper Ship restaurant and snack bar was filled with nautical memorabilia. It had a big stained glass window with a clipper ship on it and an anchor outside that was donated the San Francisco Maritime Museum, and re-installed on the sailing schooner Balclutha, where it rests today.



Anchor Away

Since the 1930's and now the anchor will be pulled.
Tribune Photo



This anchor was originally on the full-rigger Emily F. Whitney, built in 1879 and re-installed on the sailing schooner Balclutha, a big tourist attraction at Fishermen's Wharf, because of its historic authenticity as a "wooden stock" anchor. Originally part of George Lewis's collection, presented to the S.F. Maritime Museum by Chuck Pavka in 1968.