

# **175<sup>th</sup> Wharf Birthday Photo Contest to be held during the month of October 2020 with “Wharf Dollar” Prizes**

September, 2020. Monterey, CA. Although an in-person Wharf Birthday party cannot be held this year, Fisherman’s Wharf Association is pleased to announce a virtual **175<sup>th</sup> Wharf Birthday Photo Contest** to be held during the month of October 2020 to honor this milestone.

## **At a Glance**

### **What:**

Everyone is invited to submit one photo of yourself, your family, a friend or a special memory you had on Old Fisherman’s Wharf, including on any of our boat trips. Please include a one-sentence photo caption, the year the photo was taken, your name, address, email and phone number.

Send your photo submission to [info@montereywharf.com](mailto:info@montereywharf.com) before October 31, 2020.

Please indicate in the email submission if the photo can be used on the Wharf’s social media with your photo credit (who took the photo and what it describes).

The subject line of the email should state **Wharf Photo Contest Entry**. Anyone can enter a photo via email from all over the world if they’ve visited Old Fisherman’s Wharf within the last 175 years.

There will be a total of 3 winners and the first-place winner will receive \$100 in Wharf Dollars, the second-place winner will receive \$50 in Wharf Dollars and third place winner will receive \$25 in Wharf Dollars to be redeemed at any Wharf merchant.

Winners will be notified by November 15, 2020.

If you're local to Monterey County and want to come to the Wharf to take a photo, take advantage of the 2-hour free parking (Mondays-Thursdays) for Monterey County locals with ID and the Locals Menus on the Wharf..

### **When:**

The 175<sup>th</sup> Wharf Birthday Photo Contest will be held from October 1-31, 2020

### **Contest Information Contact:**

For more information about Old Fisherman’s Wharf, go to [www.montereywharf.com](http://www.montereywharf.com) or call 831.238-0777.

## **Overview of the History of Old Fisherman's Wharf**

*It has seen bales of Chinese silks and barrels of Spanish wine,  
whaling ships, Navy cutters, and fishing boats by the score;  
Fisherman's Wharf, in its various incarnations,  
has been the focus of Monterey's economic life for centuries.*

The City of Monterey has welcomed people from many different countries who journeyed to this beautiful and fertile region, forming an intricate tapestry of cultures. Rumsien, Spanish, Mexican, British, French, Portuguese, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Scandinavian, and many others came to Monterey to live and work by and on the beautiful Monterey Bay.

### **Pre-1500**

Prior to the 16th Century, there were approximately ten thousand Native Americans who lived in the area by the coast from the San Francisco Bay to Big Sur. The Spanish called them Costanoan, but in Monterey, they were Rumsien, as that was the language they spoke. They lived off the natural plants and animals in the area, hunting for bear, deer, elk, sea lions, whales, abalone and otters. Roots, seeds, grasses, and especially acorns were an important part of their diverse diet.

### **1500 – 1800**

The Spanish began seeking the Northwest Passage around 1542 which they thought would connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Spanish explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo is recognized as the first Euro-American to see the Monterey Bay, and called it the Bay of Pines or La Bahía de los Pinos.

In 1602, the Viceroy of New Spain, the Conde de Monterey, delegated Sebastian Viscaíno, mariner and merchant, to explore the western shore of California. Viscaíno was tasked to prepare a detailed map of his findings, and to look for a harbor-haven for the Manila galleons which brought the many goods from the Philippines to the Pacific shores. Viscaíno landed in Monterey that year and named the harbor after the Count of Monterey.

In 1769, Gaspar de Portola, a Spaniard, was sent north. In 1770, he located the Monterey Harbor and the City of Monterey was founded. California remained under Spanish control with Monterey as its capital until 1822, when Mexico, declared its independence from Spain and California became part of Mexico.

In 1770, Father Junipero Serra constructed a mission in Carmel, the second mission built in California. The Presidio of Monterey was also built at that time.

In 1845, Thomas Larkin constructed a wharf at Monterey for regular passenger and freight service, with ships arriving four times weekly. Growth of the sardine industry and the need to keep the Wharf in better repair prompted the Monterey City Council to assume ownership of the pier in 1913. At some time during this period, it became known as "Fisherman's Wharf".

After war broke out between the United States and Mexico in 1846, Commodore John Drake Sloat landed at the present-day Wharf. He then claimed California for the Union. Thus, the Marina, Old Fisherman's Wharf and Municipal Wharf II lie in some of the most historic waters in California.

Chinese fishermen arrived in the early 1850s, coming initially for abalone but they also pioneered the California squid fishery. They lived near the cove of Point Lobos at China Point and other areas. By the early 1850's, there were about 600 Chinese fishermen fishing with flat bottomed boats in the Monterey Bay.

The Portuguese whalers came to the Monterey region in the 1850s, attracted to the area by a big population of gray and humpback whales. Whale blubber was used for lighting oil, soap and candles, but ultimately kerosene replaced whale oil. By 1900, the Portuguese whalers turned to fishing and farming.

In the early 1890's, Japanese fishermen arrived and focused on abalone and salmon fishing in the Monterey Bay. Before they arrived, abalone was collected by free diving. It was a Japanese man who first free dived for abalone beginning in the mid-1890s. Prior to that, no one dove for abalone, with the exception of the Rumsien, who were the first abalone divers in the very chilly waters. The Japanese were astonished by the "carpet of abalone" and used hard hat diving with helmets, nets and insulated suits. They started abalone canning and sardine and salmon fishing operations, too. During salmon season in 1909, there were an estimated 185 salmon boats fishing the Monterey Bay, and 145 were Japanese-owned. By 1920, there were nine Japanese companies diving for abalone, providing it to restaurants and markets throughout the county. Prior to World War II, the majority of the businesses on the Monterey Wharf were Japanese-owned.

By the end of the 1800's, many Italian fishermen also moved to Monterey from fishing towns in Western Sicily. The Chinese then began fishing for squid at night. The Italian fishermen used the lampara net from Sicily which revolutionized the fishing and canning industry and they focused on sardine fishing. Monterey soon became known as the Sardine Capital of the World.

### **Early 1900's**

In 1907, a German restaurateur, Chef "Pop" Ernest Doelter, opened a restaurant on Alvarado Street. In 1919, he moved his restaurant to the head of Old Fisherman's Wharf. Incorporating his knowledge of the wiener schnitzel dish in Germany, he began to pound abalone steaks until they were tender, and then breaded and fried them, creating a very popular delicious and innovative entree.

By 1916, the City of Monterey had purchased the Wharf and immediately began to expand the Wharf, providing more services to the fishing fleet and to the freight business. By 1920, the Wharf served as location for warehouses, nearly 20 wholesale and retail fish outlets, a marine service station, a restaurant, and an abalone shell grinding business.

On March 3, 1923, the largest load of sardines ever to be shipped from Monterey, 20,000 cases, was on Fisherman's Wharf ready to be loaded on the S.S. San Antonio. The weather was bad and

the San Antonio leaned too heavily onto the Wharf timbers, causing 132 feet of the pier to collapse and spilling 10,000 cases of sardines into the harbor.

In the Wharf reconstruction which followed, 750 feet were added, and a finger pier was built extending eastward from the Wharf. A marine service station was also added. In 1925, City of Monterey officials started a drive for the construction of a new cargo Wharf to meet increasing commercial fishing demands and to relieve congestion on Fisherman's Wharf. Bonds were voted in and a new Wharf (Municipal Wharf II) was completed in 1926. In 1929, Congress appropriated funds for the construction of the present breakwater. The breakwater and its 400-foot extension were completed in 1934.

### **1940's - 1960's**

By the 1940s, nineteen fully operating canneries harvested over 250,000 tons of sardines per season. During World War II, the character of the wharves changed. Due to the Japanese relocation to internment camps during the war, the Italian fishermen began to work at and open businesses on the Wharf. At the end of the war, more than 440 people, including novelist John Steinbeck, photographer Edward Weston and poet Robinson Jeffers, signed a petition to welcome the Japanese Americans home. It was published in the Monterey Peninsula Herald on May 11, 1945. Upon their return, some Sicilians hired Japanese fishermen and cannery workers for their sardine operations.

When sardines began to disappear after World War II, Fisherman's Wharf converted to a tourist-oriented operation. By 1956, the users of Fisherman's Wharf included restaurants, gift and candy shops, a theater, an aquarium, snack bars, boat rental businesses, fish markets, marine machine shops and a marine service station. Wharf II was still serving the wholesale fish businesses.

In the 1950s, the demand for a small craft harbor or marina became increasingly urgent. In 1957, construction of a new marina was placed on the ballot, but divided Monterey citizens failed to approve the project until a 20-year, low-interest loan for half the construction cost was obtained from the State. Construction began in 1959.

Upon completion in 1960, the Marina provided 367 berths at a construction cost of slightly over \$600,000. A protective sea wall extended from Wharf II to the Marina entrance next to Fisherman's Wharf. The Monterey Municipal Marina was dedicated on September 11, 1960. The berthing facilities were constructed by Granite Construction Company of Watsonville, CA. The launching ramps were added in 1962.

### **1970 - Today**

In 1969, a new loan of \$325,000 from the State was provided to finance the construction of an additional bulkhead wall, a promenade and additional parking spaces in the Marina area. The G tier with 29 berths was added in 1975. In 1996, a \$5,000,000 Marina reconstruction project was finished, and new, wider concrete docks and a handicapped accessible ramp were added. A low-interest loan from the State Department of Boating and Waterways made the project possible. The City of Monterey continues to improve services to customers and public access to the

Monterey Bay. Old Fisherman's Wharf has continued to adjust to the ever-increasing visitor trade.

A visit to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula today just isn't complete without a rendezvous with Old Fisherman's Wharf in downtown Monterey. Known as the "Whale Watching Capital of the World" and a top destination of millions of visitors from around the world each year, Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf provides a wide array of award-winning dining, shopping, special events, and strolling in a gorgeous setting overlooking the Monterey Bay.

Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf features 15 restaurants and fish markets, 3 candy shops, an ice cream store, a coffee/tea shop, 9 gift shops, 4 whale watching firms, 2 fishing companies and sailing, glass bottom boat rides, Bay cruises, fish markets and the Wharf Theatre.

Savor delicious cuisine at a myriad of fabulous restaurants featuring stunning views and award-winning Italian food, sustainable seafood, steaks including the region's famous clam chowder and calamari. The Wharf was also a main location for the filming of the hit HBO series, Big Little Lies, Season One.

Enjoy salt water taffy, homemade chocolates, caramel apples, cotton candy and many other yummy sweet treats. View sea otters, sea lions, dolphins, whales, sea birds and other wildlife up close and personal that also share the Wharf while you stroll and dine. Throughout the year, there are sightings of 15 species of whales, 10 species of dolphins, 2 species of porpoise, 6 species of pinnipeds and 1 species of Fissiped (sea otter). Watch people who have gone out and caught their own fish on the local and chartered fishing boats return with their own "catch of the day". Celebrate the first location in Monterey County where tender abalone was cooked and served in a restaurant. Come back at the end of January to enjoy the annual Whalefest Monterey event. Check out the many fun shops to find the perfect memento of your visit and a variety of unique gifts. Bring your friends, family, and dogs (on leash) for a wonderful visit from morning to evening. Enjoy the exquisite views and the "best place to walk and people watch" in Monterey County. Situated near downtown Monterey, Old Fisherman's Wharf is conveniently located along the Monterey Bay Recreation Trail.

Take advantage of the Locals Menus at many of the Wharf restaurants. By showing a local ID with "939" in the zip code, Monterey County locals can park for free for two hours Monday through Thursday in the parking lot adjacent to Old Fisherman's Wharf.

The information above can also be found on the website at <https://www.montereywharf.com/history.html>

Learn more about the history of Old Fisherman's Wharf during the 1st Saturday monthly Wharf Walks with Maritime Historian Tim Thomas. For more details, see our Events page on [montereywharf.com](http://montereywharf.com).

Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf continues to feature its popular "Enjoy the Wonders of the Wharf" free VIP Card promotion available on the website with two dozen special offers for both locals and visitors.

Also, step into the Past via the "Monterey Walking Path of History" at Monterey State Historic Park. The park is a collection of significant historic houses and buildings interspersed throughout Old Monterey. Directly adjacent to Old Fisherman's Wharf is the Custom House, the first government building in Monterey, as well as the nearby Pacific House, Memory Gardens, First Brick House, Old Whaling Station, California's First Theatre and much more! For more information, go to [www.parks.ca.gov/mshp](http://www.parks.ca.gov/mshp).

For more information about Old Fisherman's Wharf, go to [www.montereywharf.com](http://www.montereywharf.com) or call 831.238-0777. Much of the above Wharf history can be found on <https://www.montereywharf.com/history.html>