

9/6/95

# FEATURE

## History goes on-line in Belmont

BY ALAN SISENWEIN  
Staff Reporter

Internet users can now learn about the history of Belmont without cracking open a book.

Last week, the city officially announced that a "Historical Tour of Belmont" can now be taken in cyberspace.

The "tour" is a chronological series of about 30 articles or documents which detail the city's past from its pre-history to the 1970s.

The articles are grouped under five broad headings. For example, the section on Belmont's "discovery" includes articles describing the culture of the Ohlone Indians and the lives of Spanish settlers.

"It's like a book, but it's better," said Jonathan Herbach, a 16-year-old Belmont resident who spent his summer vacation spearheading the effort to bring the tour to life.

Aside from text, the program features pictures and will eventually include sound-bites of taped interviews with local seniors. The tapes themselves can be viewed by arrangement with the Belmont Historical Society, which provided much of the program's source materials.

Herbach noted that new additions to the program will be ongoing and existing articles will be expanded. Articles on the Belmont Sea Scouts and the Fire Department are slated for the future.

"Once this starts, this is going to mushroom," said city Technology Specialist Lynette Tillner, who worked with Herbach on the project.

Most of the articles in the program fall within the 1850-1940 time period. Subjects range from a biographical sketch of 19th-century financier William Ralston to the history of the Reid School for Boys, which operated from 1885 to 1952.

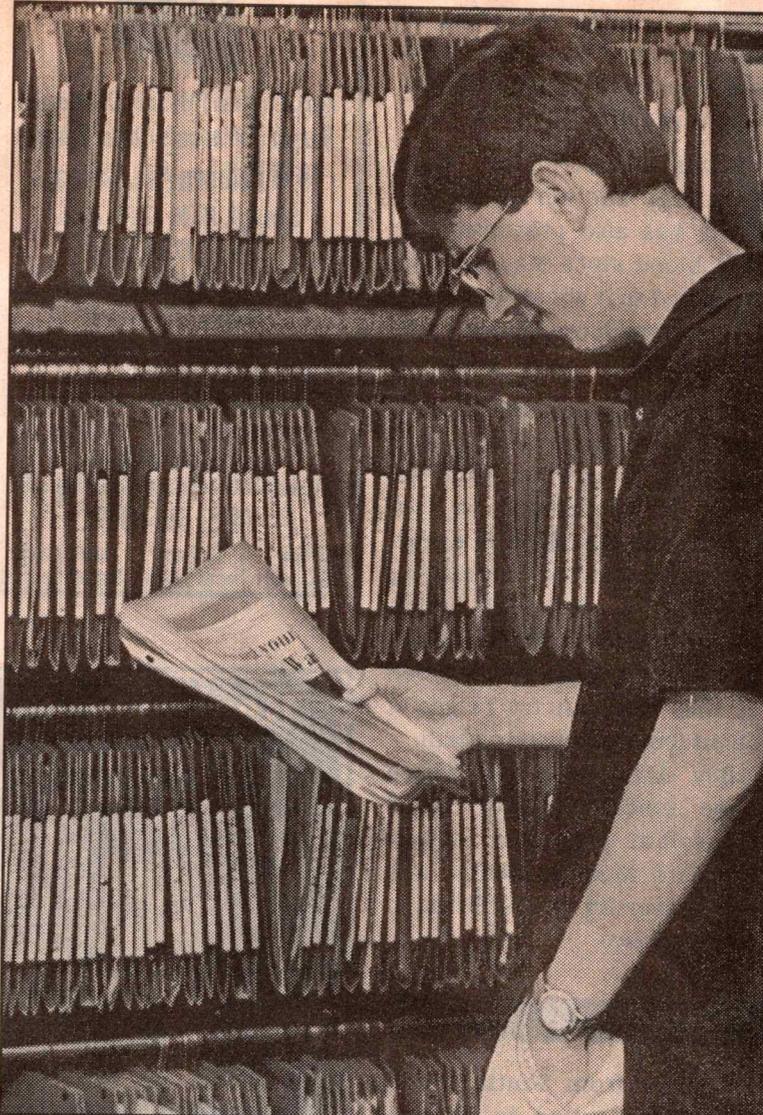
For research materials, Herbach used old newspaper clippings, the articles of the late historical columnist Russel Estep and "Heritage of the Wooded Hills," a scholarly study of the city's past.

He also interviewed five seniors, carefully comparing their stories to ensure accuracy. Some of the seniors have lived in Belmont all their lives and others have lived here since the 1930s, he noted.

Although Herbach spent 100 hours working on the program, he was assisted by friends, family, historical society members and other community volunteers. Much of his work involved coordinating their efforts.

"He sends me e-mail and drives me crazy," Tillner said with a laugh.

Tillner suggested the project to Herbach in June when he was looking for a project to help him qualify as an Eagle



KURT DOTSON/ENQUIRER-BULLETIN

**Flying high:** Soon-to-be Eagle Scout Jonathan Herbach has created an on-line history of Belmont.

Scout, the highest honor a Boy Scout can attain.

For Herbach to attain this coveted rank, his project had to be beneficial to the community in a lasting way, and it had to demonstrate his leadership skills.

Tom Seivert, president of the Belmont Historical Society, sees the program as a boon to school children studying their city's past.

A demonstration of the "Historical Tour of Belmont" is scheduled to be held at 11 a.m. Sept. 9 at the next Belmont Historical Society meeting at the Lodge Building in Twin Pines Park.

For more information, call 593-4213.

The URL number for the program is <http://www.belmont.gov/hist/>

# Foundation puts students on-line

**BY ALAN SISENWEIN**  
*Staff Reporter*

Children and teachers throughout Belmont's school system will soon have access to the Internet — due in large part to a recent grant from a community foundation.

In a short ceremony at the district office, the Belmont/Redwood Shores Education Foundation recently presented school officials with a check for \$12,500. The 3-year-old non-profit organization exists to raise money for the schools serving Belmont and Redwood

Shores.

According to Jeff Keuscher, business manager of the Belmont Elementary School District, the money will be used to buy 20 computer workstations which will connect all of the district's five schools to the Internet.

Keuscher added that the schools have long been capable of connecting to the Internet, but three of the lacked computers able to access it. The two campuses currently connected are Central Elementary School and Fox Middle School.

"The grant gave us a leg up," Keuscher said, noting that Nesbit, Cipriani and Fox schools will now be able to use the Internet. "This is a real leap forward."

Aside from the grant for the computers, the foundation also presented the district with a \$1,275 check to be used for art and drama programs. Stephen Sexton, who chairs the foundation, noted that this money was raised through an art auction.

The \$12,500 for the computers came from a donation from MCI.

With so many organizations in need of funds today, Sexton said his group tries to take different approaches to fund-raising, such as the art auction, or a '50s-style sock hop slated for June 15 at Barrett Community Center.

Sexton noted that the purpose of these activities is vital to the community.

"It's for the children of Belmont and Redwood Shores," he said. "If the children don't have a future, we don't."

For more information about the sock hop, call 592-6316.

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# Belmont internet to go wireless

**BY ALAN SISENWEIN**  
*Staff Reporter*

Sharp-eyed Belmont residents will soon notice white boxes attached to the tops of city lampposts.

The boxes are radio devices which allow wireless contact between computers. Like computer modems, they are designed to carry information from one computer to another.

Last week, the Belmont City Council approved an agreement which will allow Metricom, Inc., a Los Gatos firm, to install 29 of the devices.

The company will begin installing the devices in April, said Lynette Tillner, the city's technology specialist.

Metricom is offering its service, which will probably be available by the end of May, to both the city and its residents.

The main advantage of the system, according to Tillner, is its lack of wire connections.

Tillner said this would enable policemen, who are issued with laptop computers in their cars, to relay their reports from the field without having to return to their station.

Home users, she said, would be able to tap into the Internet without having to own an extra phone line. If they own a single line, the process interrupting their phone service while sending or receiving information.

Metricom charges users a \$30 monthly subscription fee, plus a \$95 activation fee.

A user would also have to buy a Metricom wireless modem, which costs \$299.

Metricom is negotiating with

Bay Area cities to extend their service.

At the moment, the service is available in Los Gatos, Cupertino and Saratoga.

The company, which has the backing of high-tech giant Microsoft, plans to spread its service throughout the country.

To compensate Belmont for the use of its lampposts, Metricom is offering one free subscription for each device installed.

The city, however, would have to purchase one modem for each subscription.

Another option is for the firm to pay the city \$60 per year for each device in operation.

The city is considering a combination of the two options. It may take payment for the use of 14 lampposts and subscriptions for the remaining 15.



## Belmont's History available on the Internet

(The above photo, taken in the History Room, is a circa 1930's city limits sign)

Belmont, CA -- August 30, 1995

A "Historical Tour of Belmont" is now available through Belmont-- Access for the Community (B.A.C.), the City of Belmont's community-wide presence on the Internet. B.A.C. has been available on the World Wide Web since April 7, 1995 and is a joint project. B.A.C. relies on citizen volunteers who have spent many hours developing the structure and content of our web site. Formatting information from local non-profit organizations to encourage their participation. The City of Belmont is especially proud of local Eagle Scout candidate, Jonathan Herbach, who worked all summer with friends, other Boy Scouts, the Belmont Historical Society, and the Belmont Senior's Club to put a chronological history of Belmont together for B.A.C. The Historical tour can be found at <http://www.belmont.gov/hist/> beginning August 30, 1995.

To create the Historical Tour, Jonathan, along with other Boy Scouts, friends and family members spent time doing research at the Belmont Historical Society's archives, located in Twin Pines Park. Jonathan and his team of helpers, interviewed long time residents of Belmont, the Belmont Senior's Club, and wrote and formatted the resulting documents. Now that the History Tour is complete, Jonathan will demonstrate his project at the upcoming quarterly meeting of the Belmont Historical Society. **The meeting will be held on September 9, 1995 at the Belmont Lodge Building in Twin Pines Park and the demonstration will begin at 7:00 PM.** If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact the Belmont Historical Society at 593-4213 and leave a message that you are planning to attend.



<--- Boy Scout Troup photo from History Room

Jonathan Herbach, Eagle Scout candidate --

Boy Scouts then and now -- Belmont's history  
putting them together



Project Credit Jonathan Herbach, a resident of

Belmont and a scout in Troop 98 of San Mateo, began this project in June, 1995. However, much of the work for the Historical Tour was accomplished with the help of (or by) others. In fact, many people contributed to this project's research, interviews, HTML coding, retouching, and creativity. Although this is an ongoing project, it could not have been started without the help of these people: Steve Childs, Etta Herbach, Matt Johnson, Jonathan Kratter, Alexei Kosut, Denny Lawhern, Madeline Lombaerde, Mike Lynette Tillner, and Tom Seivert. In addition to the specific work on these pages, Belmont's senior citizen community was especially helpful because they were willing to share some of their experiences in Belmont. Some of the contributors were: Burt Johnson, Patrick, Betty Slay, and Bethal Walden.

You can find the Historical Tour of Belmont by visiting: <http://www.belmont.gov/hist/> available on the Internet. For additional information on B.A.C. and it's related projects, please contact Lynette Tillner, Technology Specialist for the City of Belmont at 595-7446 or via e-mail at: [cityhall@belmont.gov](mailto:cityhall@belmont.gov).

*Internet  
The Independent  
Feb 20, 1999*

## Belmont and San Carlos

### High-speed Internet service available through cable system

By Amy Wallace  
Staff Editor

As of early February, the cities of Belmont and San Carlos will be the first two cities in San Mateo County to receive high-speed Internet service through their cable system.

"We have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of this new service," said San Carlos Assistant City Manager Brian Moura.

TCI of California is making TCI@Home available to the two communities. It is a cable service that enables customers to enjoy the Internet with access to the con-

tent at unprecedented speeds via a cable connection, cable modem and customized software.

With this new technology, dial-up modems could become a thing of the past.

There are currently two high-speed Internet providers of this type in the United States: Road Runner and @Home.

Founded in May 1995, @Home has reached affiliate agreements with multiple cable companies in North America including Cablevision, Comcast Corporation, Cox Communications, InterMedia Partners, Marcus Cable, Rogers, Shaw and TCI, a founding partner.

"We started our program in the San Mateo County cities of Belmont and San Carlos because from our research, both cities represented markets with a high rate of

## are first to get TCI@Home

Internet usage," said Andrew Johnson, director of communications for TCI. "We are anticipating a very high demand for this service and are expecting to expand its availability to all cities in San Mateo County."

Other Bay Area cities that are currently gaining access to this service include Fremont, Richmond, El Cerrito, Pleasant Hill, Hayward, Walnut Creek, Pleasanton, Petaluma, Sunol, San Rafael, Orinda, Lafayette, Martinez, Milpitas, Los Gatos and others.

The TCI@Home modem technology offers connection speeds up to 100 times faster than a typical 28.8 modem and allows for faster access to a wide range of multimedia items including rich graphics, near-CD quality audio and on-demand video clips.

The software is based upon Netscape Communicator and Microsoft Explorer Internet Software. A connection from the neighborhood cable system to the home is necessary to deliver the TCI@Home service.

However, a customer is not obligated to subscribe to cable TV to receive the TCI@Home service.

"Using TCI@Home's organized and rich content and cable's high-speed capabilities, 60,000 residents in Milpitas, Los Gatos, San Carlos and Belmont can now cruise through the Web as fast as they can click their mouse," said John Kopchik, president of TCI's West Division. "Leaping from site to site isn't just fast, it's instantaneous when you connect with TCI@Home."

To subscribe to TCI@Home, customers can call 1-(888)-824-8560.