

A far cry from the county's first small school is Carlmont High School, built in 1954. Carlmont is one of the largest and most modern of the county's secondary schools, draws its students from the Belmont-San Carlos area. The latest trends in functional school building design were incorporated in Carlmont.

Ralston's Carriage Race

William C. Ralston, one of the county's more flamboyant personalities in its early days, provided residents of the northern end of the county with many exhibitions of speedy carriage driving. Ralston prefered to drive to San Francisco because he was at odds with the Southern Pacific Railroad management.

He delighted in driving a four-horse team at break-neck speed in an endeavor to beat the train into the city. His normal route was over the San Bruno toll road via the bay shore. At regular intervals relays of horses were ready so that shifting steeds was a matter of moments. Whether or not Ralston ever beat the train, which took an hour to run between San Mateo and the city, is not recorded. But Ralston, if not his friends who had to hang on to the carriage for dear life, enjoyed the race.