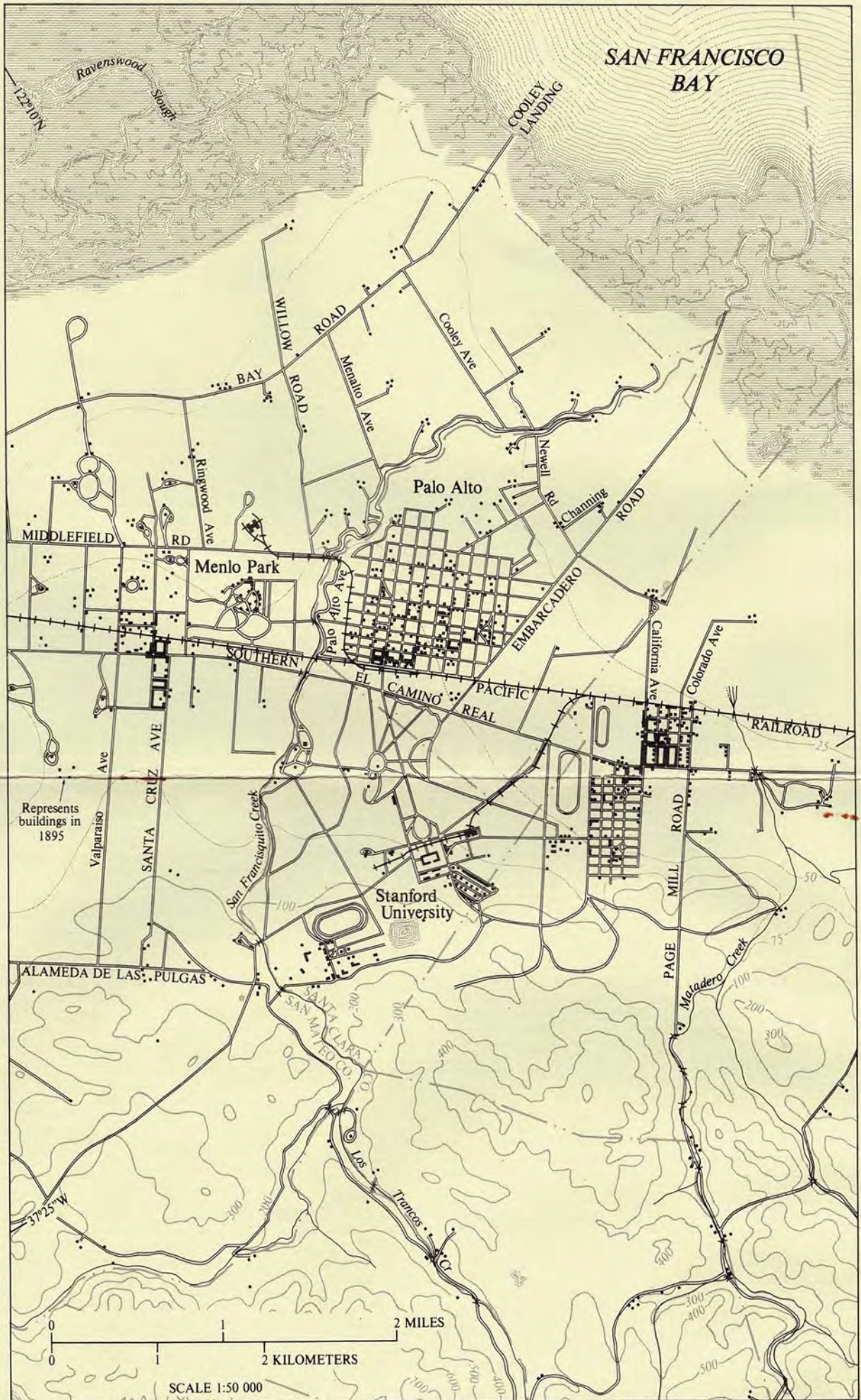


AN EXPEDITION TO REDISCOVER THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY



Redrawn from U.S.G.S. 1897 ed. PALO ALTO

Clark Akatiff, geographer Sara Boore, illustrator

We'll get to know our Bay better during a day in the field to search out remnants of its historic shoreline. In a class before and after the field trip, we'll make an artistic statement by producing an overlay map of the past and present shoreline, study the natural history of the Bay, and learn how to look on our own for written and archaeological research material. • July 15 and 29, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.; July 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. • \$30/person • For more information contact NATURE EXPLORATIONS—TULEYOME, 2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, California 94306 (415) 324-8737

An Expedition to Rediscover the San Francisco Bay

Led by Clark Akatiff, geographer. Jan. 2, 1983, for Native Explorations—Tuleyome of Palo Alto

This geography tour, which took about half a day, started with a map orientation by Clark Akatiff. We then went to a lookout point in Foothill Park, off of Page Mill Road in Palo Alto. Here we viewed as best we could—the day was overcast and cold—the different landform zones between the higher ridges above us, such as Black Mountain, and the Bay at sea level.

From the bay, there are:

- (1) salt marshes
- (2) oak woodland meadows
- (3) ancient marine terraces
- (4) foothills
- (5) ridgetops

To the west of us, between the foothills and the ridgetop, runs the San Andreas Fault through Stevens Creek Canyon. We proceeded downslope to historic points at Stanford University, passing a marine terrace along the way. We walked along San Francisquito Creek, a large stream for the area along which Native American sites dating back 5,000 years have been discovered. It now divides Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, and for the first European and Anglo settlers, was also a formidable divide for travel at times of high water. Finally, we reached the Bay and walked on artificial levees to a point near the real edgewater of the Bay. We saw a great concentration of birdlife in the saltmarshes here.

(1) **San Andreas Fault:** the earthquake-active San Andreas Fault, which runs in a northwest-southeast direction, has created the depression through which Stevens Creek flows.

(2) **San Francisquito Creek and the spatial distribution of culture:** the various successions of cultures occupying this area--Native American, Spanish, Mexican, American—all developed their own seasonal responses to the Creek.

(3) **Salt marsh:** the large biomass which is supported in the salt marsh ecosystem by the bay is readily evident by the comparatively large birdlife abundantly visible, such as black-crowed night herons, great blue herons, clapper rails, egrets, and marsh hawks.

(4) **Marine terraces:** the marine terraces between the oak woodland meadows and the foothills indicate the influence of uplift and/or different Ice Age-influenced levels of the sea in the past.

[--Bill Helmer, written for a course in Physical Geography, Santa Rosa Junior College, 1982-1983]