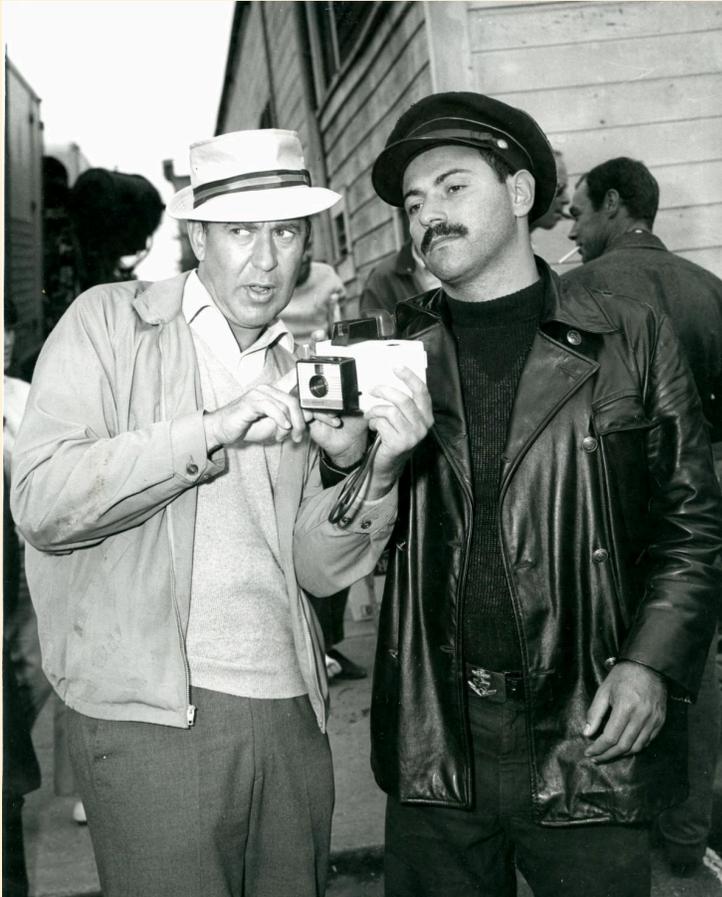

YOU'RE INVITED!**60TH ANNIVERSARY*****The Russians are Coming, The Russians are Coming***

Sunday, November 9th, 2pm-6pm



2pm-3:30pm: Reception and Pop-Up Exhibit. Noyo Center for Marine Science's Field Station at 32430 N. Harbor Drive in Fort Bragg. Enjoy snacks and drinks, meet local residents who were extras during the film's production, and check out the Kelley House Museum's pop-up exhibit, which includes a photo of what the Field Station looked like during filming when it was Carine's Fish Grotto Restaurant. Raise a glass of Bee Hunter wine in honor of Bruce Levene, for his work preserving much of our cinematic (and other) local history.

4pm-6pm: Screening of *The Russians are Coming, The Russians are Coming!* Coast Cinemas, 135 S. Franklin St. Fort Bragg. Shot entirely on the Mendocino Coast, this cold war

comedy's cast included Carl Reiner, Alan Arkin, Eva Marie Saint, Jonathan Winters, Brian Keith, and Ben Blue, plus plenty of locals. Tickets \$15, purchase using link below.

[LEARN MORE](#)[BUY TICKETS](#)

A PEEK INTO THE PAST



The Russians are Coming Filming

By Avereer McNear

Filming took approximately three months, with the crew of 150 arriving from Southern California in early September, 1965 and the film wrapping in early December. Several buildings in Mendocino were used for interior and exterior shots, including the Beggs-Bishop house on Ford Street and the Denslow-Hayden House on Williams Street.

To film the shots of the submarine, the crew initially contacted the U.S. Navy, which would not let them borrow a sub. They subsequently contacted the Russian Embassy, which also refused. Instead, a submarine made of plywood with a steel-reinforced bottom was rented from Paramount, where it had been used the film *Assault on a Queen*. The boat was deconstructed and shipped to Northern California on eight semi-trailers. The crew spent two weeks rebuilding the 140-foot-long boat in Noyo Harbor, and to make matters more complicated, the sub was German in design, not Russian. The Art Director Robert Boyle redesigned the exterior during the construction. The submarine was launched in Noyo Bay on October 21, and the *Mendocino Beacon* noted "It is hoped that the seas will remain calm enough that the craft can be floated to Los Angeles, between two barges, when its use is completed in this area." Due to unfortunate weather that delayed some filming, this plan wasn't carried out, and the submarine was dismantled and shipped back to Hollywood in December. [READ MORE](#)

Emmy Lou Packard

Emmy Lou Packard's life brought together two passions: art and a commitment to social activism. Were it not for her devotion to these two enterprises, Mendocino might be very different today—the quaint village would look out upon development instead of the beautiful expanse of Mendocino Headlands State Park.

In 1960 Packard and her husband, artist Byron Randall, moved to Mendocino. Already a neighborhood activist in San Francisco, Emmy got involved in community issues in Mendocino, working against the Vietnam War and for environmental preservation. In 1968, word spread around town that Boise Cascade, which owned the headlands, intended to develop it. Emmy organized a "citizens' campaign" and petition drive to obtain the property and turn it into a state park. The movement was covered in the local press, in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and in the *Sacramento Bee*. The Director of California State Parks, William Penn Mott, had an interest in the proposition, but had no funds to purchase the property from Boise Cascade. He did, however, appoint an



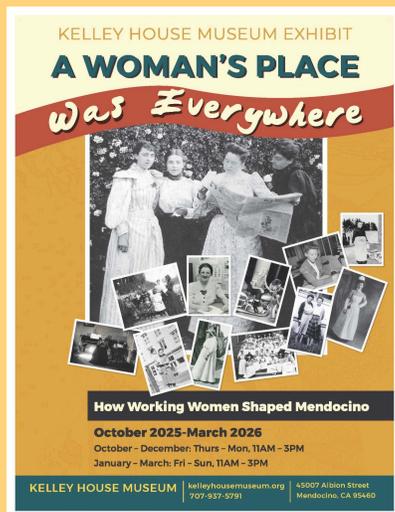
official Mendocino Headlands State Park Committee, made up largely of local activists, to continue exploring ways to accomplish their goal.

This is where Emmy Lou's path crossed that of Mildred Benioff, who became chair of the committee, a woman with impressive political expertise that complemented Emmy's visionary passion and moved the project forward. Mildred's connections engineered a land swap between the State of California and Boise Cascade, and Mendocino's headlands were preserved as a state park. Emmy credited the community, but her tireless efforts kept everyone inspired in the face of heavy odds against them. Emmy later wrote: "I saw this marvelous headland and the beach and the quaint little town and I knew it would be ruined sooner or later by commercial development, and I felt it had to be saved."

[Read more.](#)

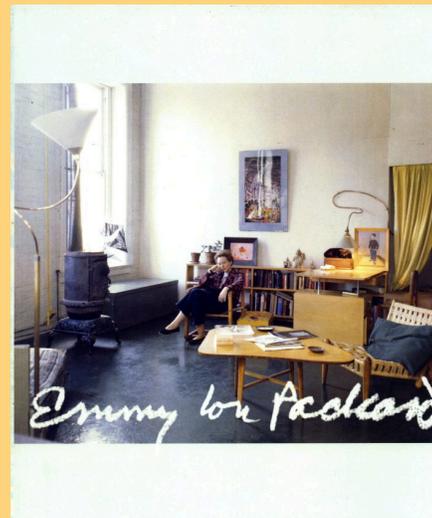
Excerpt from *From Maidens to Mavericks: Mendocino's Women* by Molly Dwyer.

Read more history on our [blog](#).



New Exhibit!
A WOMAN'S PLACE WAS EVERYWHERE

How Working Women Shaped Mendocino



New Book!
EMMY LOU PACKARD
\$40

by Paul Vol Blum, Sarah Poisner,
John Natsoulas

Exhibit Runs through March 29, 2026

While men wielded the axes that built the town of Mendocino, women created the community that made it last. Through their own diaries, photos, and oral histories, this exhibit tells the lesser-known stories of entrepreneurs, nurses, artists, teachers, madams, and philanthropists who laid the foundation for the Mendocino we know today. There's even a special section where you can nominate your own special heroine.

[LEARN MORE](#)

A brilliant 20th-century painter, printmaker, and activist, Packard was a tireless champion of social justice. This intimate look at her life and legacy also covers her deep connection to artistic icons Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. Throughout Packard's long career, she produced nearly 300 oil paintings, prints, watercolors, and drawings, many of which are reproduced in full color in this stunning book. 160 pages, 9" x 11", softcover.

[BUY BOOK](#)

The Kelley House Museum will be closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

Check our [calendar](#) for upcoming tours over the holidays.



Host a *Murder, She Wrote* Guest!

We are trying to find lodging for a few special guests who will be speaking or performing during the [Murder, She Wrote Festival](#) the first weekend of May, 2026. If you have guest accommodations in the town of Mendocino that you can offer for free or at a reduced rate for 2-3 days, please [email us](#). We appreciate any help.

**Kelley House Museum &
Research Center**
(707) 937-5791

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