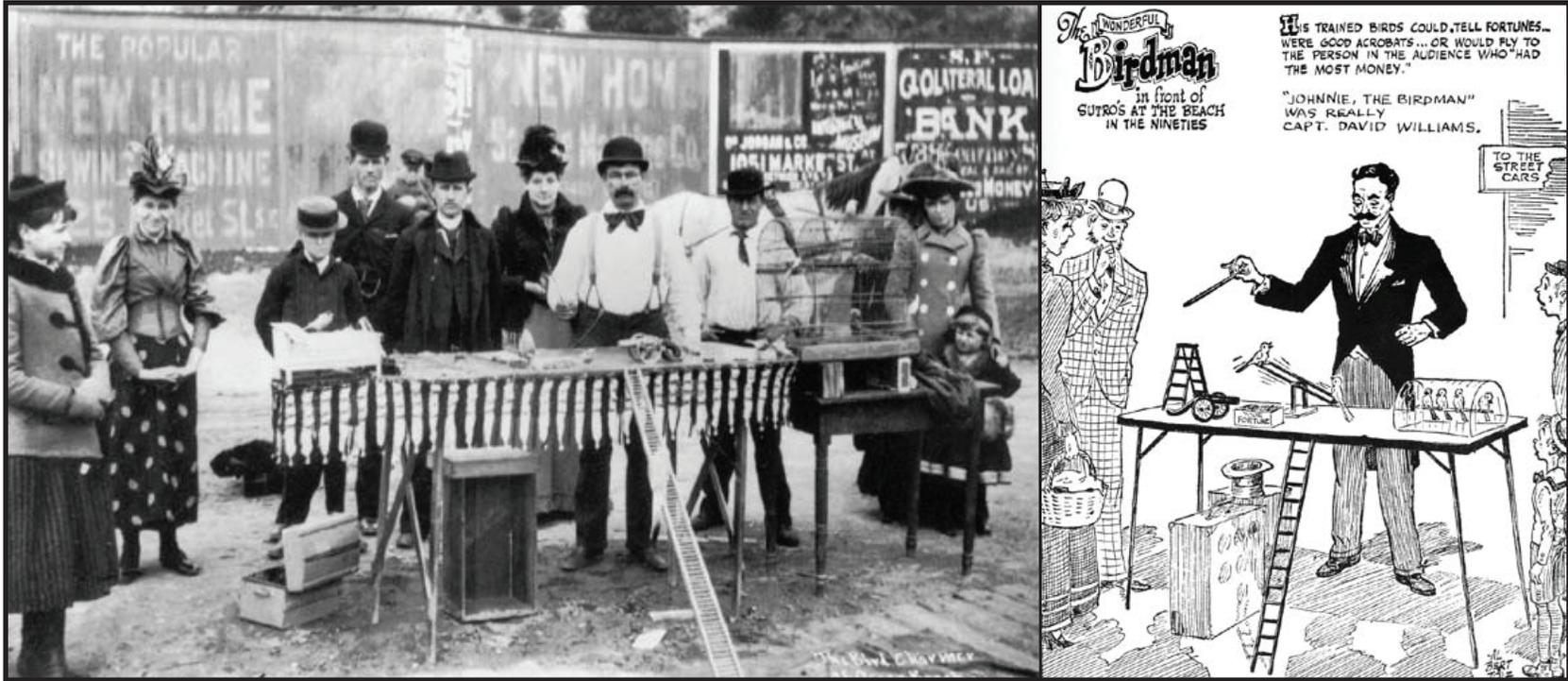


VESTIGES of *Lands End*



Johnnie the Birdman

John “Johnnie the Birdman” Williams began entertaining visitors of Lands End in the 1880s. Every day from 1:00 to 4:00 the Birdman would set up his folding card table near the Cliff House and amuse visitors with his canaries, parakeets, and lovebirds. Johnnie began at La Playa and Balboa in 1887, moving to the terminus of the Park and Ocean Railroad. With the growing popularity of Sutro Baths, he relocated once again near the Ferries and Cliff House Railway terminus.

Johnnie’s birds would play dead, climb ladders, and sing songs. Like any good street performer, Johnnie knew how to get the most money from the crowd. His act that involved audience participation and plenty of opportunities to contribute more coins to the donation box.

The Birdman was a fixture of the Cliff House area for 20 years. He finally retired after the 1907 Cliff House fire that greatly diminished the crowds.