

VESTIGES of *Lands End*



Photo courtesy of Frank Mitchell

Sand sculptures on Ocean Beach, 1911.

Sand Sculptures

Though many artists have been inspired by their surroundings, a small group made Lands End itself both their canvas and medium. Several artists in sand were featured in *San Francisco Call Bulletin* newspaper articles in the early 1900s. The sculptors' temporary creations impressed viewers with their complexity, and charmed with their novelty. William Brandhorst, in a 1903 article, describes himself as an accidental artist with no formal training, who chanced upon his skill during an afternoon's rest on the beach. In 1909 James J. Taylor began sculpting statues and scenes out of wet sand at Ocean Beach. He had earned acclaim as a sand artist in Atlantic City, Long Beach, and other beach cities before his arrival in San Francisco. Taylor had no formal training but was considered one of the best of the many sand sculptors working at the turn of the century. Large crowds would gather to watch him build his creations, providing Taylor with \$20 to \$30 in tips in a day.