

## Annie Murphy

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**From:** Annie Murphy  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** Paia Levine  
**Subject:** FW: Hemingway's S.C. Hero  
**Attachments:** Marriman PDF.pdf

**From:** Ross Gibson [mailto:rossericgibson@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2017 12:58 PM  
**To:** Annie Murphy <Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us>  
**Subject:** Hemingway's S.C. Hero

Dear Commissioners

I served on the Live Oak Landmarks subcommittee of the County Historic Resources Commission in 2006, seeking overlooked landmarks to add to the county's inventory. Our committee was unanimous in our desires to protect the Bob Merriman Ranchette (1438 Capitola Road, near Live Oak Market). Here was the home of the Santa Cruz man who from 1936-1938 headed the "Abraham Lincoln Brigade" in the Spanish Civil War (the earliest international Anti-Fascist Movement to oppose Hitler and Mussolini), and who inspired his friend Ernest Hemingway to write the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls," basing the novel's hero Robert Jordon on Robert (Bob) Merriman.

In 2006, the Bob Merriman Ranchette was owned by the County of Santa Cruz, representing the People of Santa Cruz County. The Andraes Ranchette next door to it was already listed on the county historic resources inventory, even though it was less historic than the Merriman Ranchette. But because the site was being considered for housing by the Redevelopment Agency, county leaders didn't want to consider the Merriman House for landmark status at the time. However, we received vague assurances that it *might* be retained on the site as a clubhouse for the complex, or moved to another site.

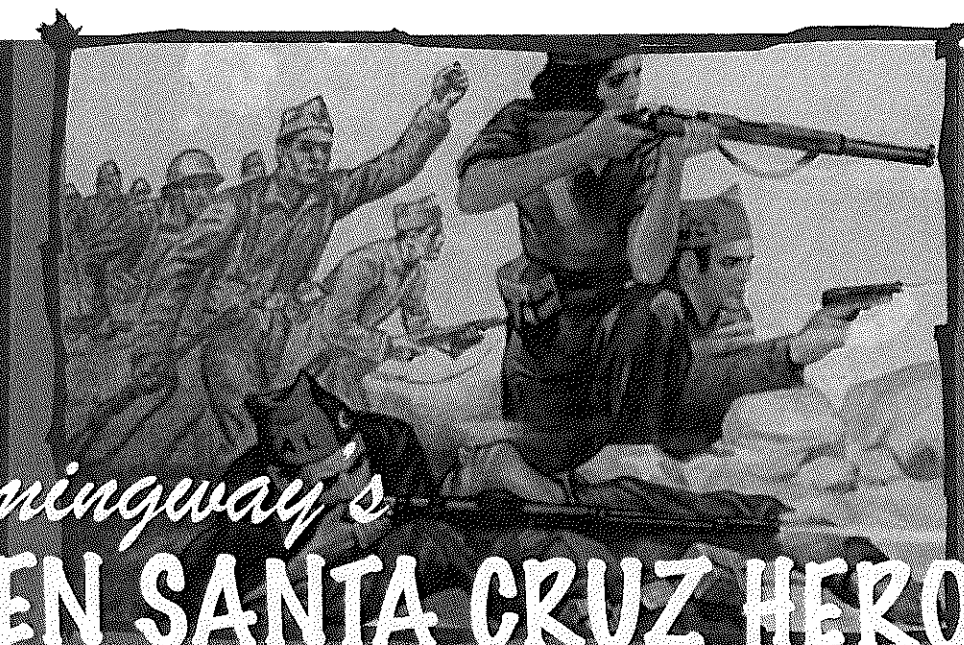
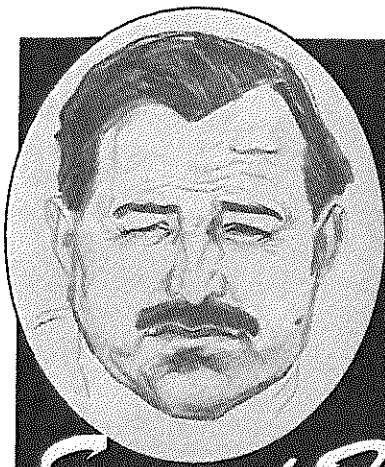
Today, however, the fate of the Merriman House is again up for debate, with redevelopment still framing the discussion. The only time we hear about Bob Merriman locally is in connection with this house, proving the building is the most viable interpretive tool for honoring those who foresaw World War II, and stood up for Democracy under the leadership of Merriman. Below is a PDF of my 2006 report "Ernest Hemingway's Forgotten Santa Cruz Hero: How Bob Merriman Inspired *For Whom the Bell Tolls*."

Please find a way to preserve this landmark.

Sincerely

Ross Eric Gibson





# Ernest Hemingway's FORGOTTEN SANTA CRUZ HERO

Featured in "For Whom the Bell Tolls"



## The Last Landmark of BOB MERRIMAN

by  
Ross Eric Gibson

