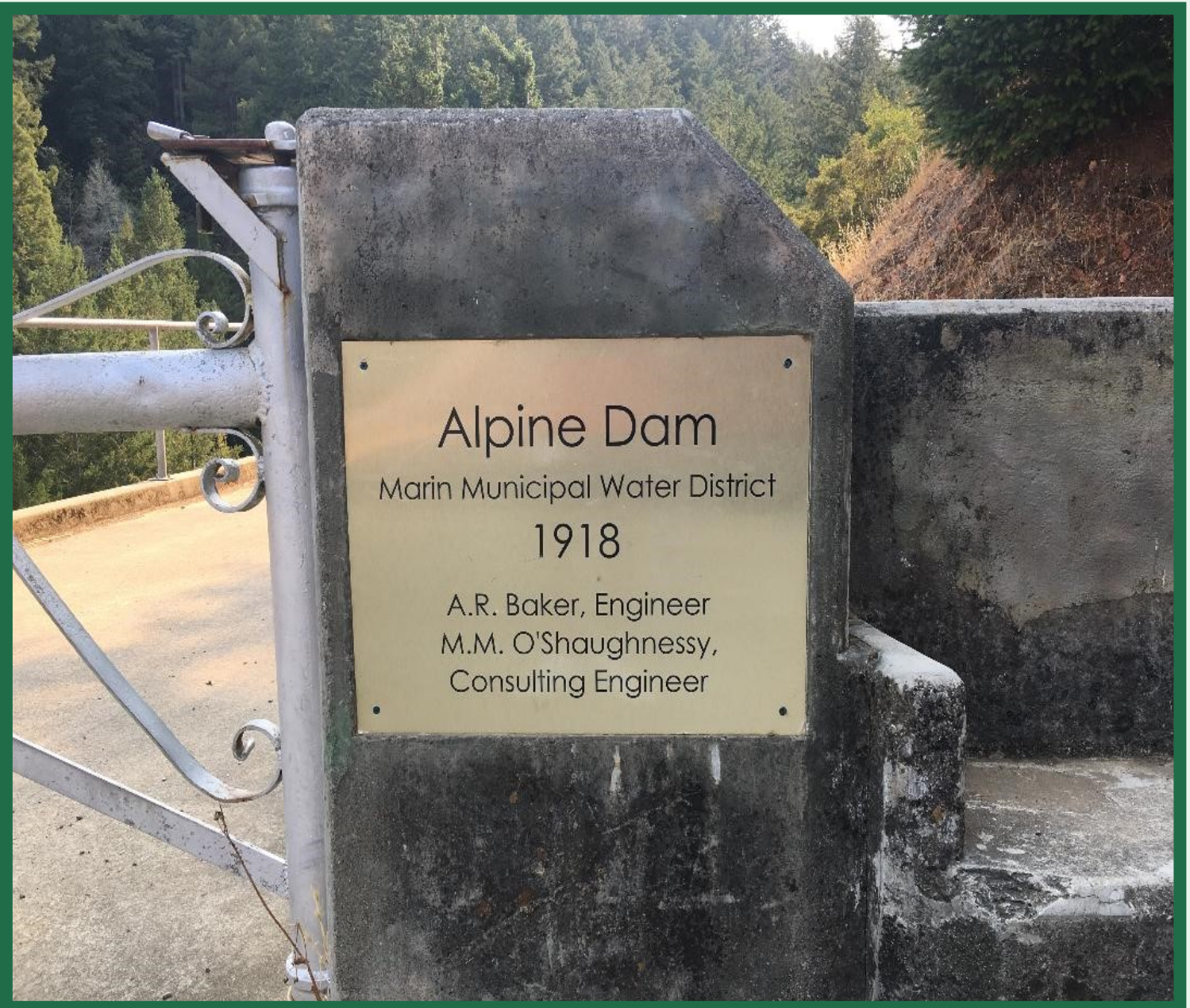


MARIN HISTORY MUSEUM

Bulletin

Fall 2021



All Things Water!

Marin Water Company
Timeline
Alpine Dam
The Civilian Conservation Corps
Jack Gibson: The Man Who Wrote
the Book On the MMWD

Where Flavored Fizz Began
MMWD and the Military
North Marin Water District
The Sugar Line
The Great Two-Year Drought

The Marin History Museum

Founded in 1935, the Marin History Museum celebrates the traditions of innovation and creativity of the people of Marin County. Through exhibitions and educational programs, the Museum aspires to honor the past, understand the present and imagine the future.

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The Bulletin - Volume XXXIX

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The Boyd Gate House - Research Library and Exhibit Center

The Boyd Gate house, now open to the public, is the Marin History Museum's research and exhibit space. It will feature changing exhibits related to Marin history.



and houses the Museum's Research Library where visitors may research any aspect of Marin's history. The Research Library contains rare manuscripts, maps, newspapers, directories, ephemera and a reference collection of over 1,000 books. At this time,

the library is open by appointment only.

To make an appointment, please email research@marinhistory.org or call 415-996-3599.

Located in downtown San Rafael at 1125 B Street, the Gate House was part of the estate of the Boyd family and was given to the City of San Rafael in 1905 as part of Boyd Park dedicated to their two sons who died at an early age.

Collections Center

At the Craemer Family Collections Facility the Marin History Museum collects and preserves a wide range of artifacts, photographs and archival materials chronicling Marin County's rich and diverse history. In total, the Museum cares for over 25,000 artifacts and over 200,000 photographs. Objects in the collection are conserved for their historical and educational relevance and serve as the cornerstone of the Museum's mission.

For the most up-to-date news and information about the Marin History Museum go to our Website - marinhistory.org
Check on events
Read our publications
Search the collection
Join the museum, donate and volunteer!



Dear Friends,

The Marin History Museum has exciting news! We are opening to the public with a brand new exhibit at the Boyd Gate House in San Rafael in November! We have been working hard toward this goal for a number of years and look forward to seeing you all back at the Boyd.

The new exhibit consists of 18 large-scale black and white aerial photographs from our Ed Brady/Aero Photographers Collection. The images will show Marin County from all angles during the 1950s and 60s, a time of accelerated growth across the Bay Area.

We are so excited to share just a peek into this vast collection of over 14,000 images, donated to the Museum in 2006 by Grethe Brady.

Our research library has been moved to the Boyd Gate House, and will soon be opening for appointments! Our new volunteer librarian, Lori Deibel, who recently retired as librarian for Branson School, is working hard to make our materials more organized and accessible. If you'd like to make an appointment for research of any kind related to Marin history, please email us at research@marinhistory.org or call 415-996-3599.

Our virtual book shop is also open with an array of Marin County themed books for sale. Of particular interest is a new book by Jo Haraf (a former MHM volunteer) titled *Marriage, Murder and Betrayal in Nineteen Century California*. Also available are the Museum's *Journal Across the Plains*, published last year, and Jack Gibson's *Mt. Tamalpais and the Marin Municipal Water District*. We look forward to offering these titles, and more, at our Museum's gift shop at the Boyd as well.

Through the Covid-19 pandemic we have continued our Speaker Series on Zoom and walks through historic neighborhoods with historian Marcie Miller as your guide.

I know all of you will welcome the Marin History Museum back to downtown San Rafael. We have great plans for the future and we need your support! Please be sure your membership is current and an extra donation in any amount will help us move forward successfully. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the very latest news and lots of great local history!

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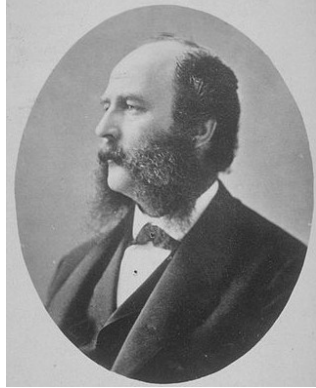
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For fees and information please contact
Collections Manager, Heather Powell,
heather@marinhistory.org.

Marin Water Company

By Brian Crawford

Water has always been a limited and precious commodity in Marin. The spring on San Rafael Hill supplied the needs of the Miwok village of Awani-wi, and later of the Mission San Rafael. It was acquired by James McCue and became known as McCue Spring. It produced 40,000 gallons daily and was sold to developer and shipping magnate William Tell Coleman, who installed a system of pipes to supply the needs of the little settlement of San Rafael.

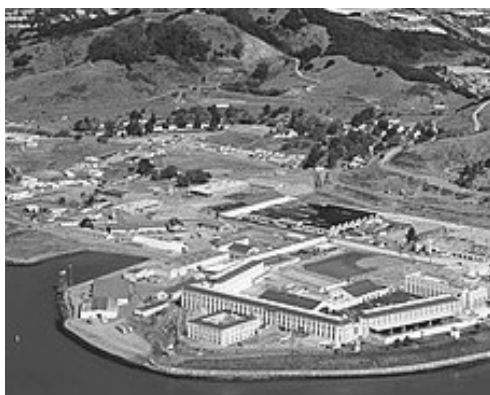


William Tell Coleman

The population soon outgrew the production of McCue Spring. Landowners lucky enough to have a water source on their land built little dams and reservoirs to supply their own needs and some sold water to their neighbors, but rapid development and population growth made it clear a more reliable source was needed. The obvious solution was to utilize the many springs on the heights of Mount Tamalpais that feed into Lagunitas Creek.

On August 31, 1872, Coleman and four other prominent developers and businessmen incorporated the Marin Water Company to develop this watershed. They issued \$600,000 in stock, which quickly sold. They acquired land on the north slope of the mountain and within a month had built Lagunitas Dam and Reservoir, containing 111 million gallons of water. An eight-inch pipe

was laid six miles to the city, and the elevation of the reservoir, 791 feet, supplied plenty of pressure. One of the biggest customers was



San Quentin Prison

San Quentin Prison, which had hauled their water two miles in barrels. By December 1872, the pipes were laid and the prison

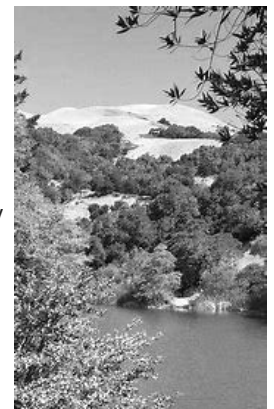
had a reliable source of water, for which it paid \$1,000 per month.

Soon other communities wanted a share of San Rafael's excellent water. Larkspur, Corte Madera, Tiburon, and Belvedere all sought contracts with the company, and more pipes were laid to supply their needs. The Marin Water Company was paying its stockholders a steady six percent dividend.

In 1877, the company installed the first telephone in Marin, connecting their office on C Street to the dam at Lagunitas. The *Marin Journal* reported on December 27: "The gentle tones of Superintendent Nye are distinctly heard at the dam in the tones of ordinary conversation, and Geo. Kendall's responses came back as distinctly as if spoken in the room."

Then as now, periodic droughts caused water shortages. The company continued to add to its system. In 1878, a reservoir was built on Forbes Hill, and later another was built on Moore Hill (remembered today only by Reservoir Road near Gerstle Park). In 1886 they built a reservoir in Bill Williams Gulch, followed in 1888 by one in Swede George Gulch. But these just tapped small streams. A major drought in 1903 caused widespread water outages and strict rationing was imposed.

That same year the company started construction of a new dam on Lagunitas Creek, to be called Tamalpais Dam — just below the site of Bon Tempe Dam. But their downstream neighbor, the immensely wealthy and powerful Shafter-Howard family, formed their own Lagunitas Water Company and sued to stop the dam, saying they intended to build their own reservoir at Alpine. The Marin Water Company eventually won the case, but the Tamalpais Dam was never completed. Instead, they built the much smaller Phoenix Dam in 1905. But it was not enough and the shortages continued.



Phoenix Lake

By this time consumers were frustrated with the company, the frequent shortages, and the high price of the water. Letters and editorials appeared in the papers, criticizing the company and its directors. Charges of unethical practices and inaccurate reporting were alleged. Many were frustrated that the rates kept going up so the company could continue to pay its six percent dividend.

In the spring of 1908 the Marin County Water Company reorganized as the Marin Water and Power Company and abandoned plans for the Tamalpais Dam. They proposed to do what the Shafter-Howard family's Lagunitas Water Company had proposed — build a much larger structure downstream at Alpine, where the Lagunitas Creek plunged into a steep gorge. They began proceedings to have the Shafter-Howard land condemned. The lawsuits dragged on for years.

In 1911, the legislature passed the Water Districts Act, which allowed voters to establish municipal water districts. In addition to cheaper water and better oversight, one of the arguments for a district was that the watershed could be turned into a park for public enjoyment. The water company maintained armed guards to keep hikers, hunters, and fishermen off their lands, and they were strongly resented. After a successful citizen petition, the Marin County supervisors scheduled a special election to form such a district in southern and central Marin. It would incorporate the lands and assets of both the Marin Water and Power Company (serving San Rafael, San Anselmo, Larkspur, Corte Madera, Sausalito, San Quentin, and Angel Island) and the North Coast Water



Congressman William Kent

Company (serving Mill Valley and Belvedere). The election was postponed until April 13, 1912, to give the newly enfranchised women of Marin time to register to vote. In this election, the first in which Marin women participated, voters approved by an 85 percent majority the creation of the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD).

After a year of studies, the MMWD engineers appraised the assets of the Marin Power and Water Company at \$1.2 million dollars. United States Congressman William Kent, who owned large tracts of land on the mountain, offered to donate his land to the district, as well as his considerable share of stock in the Marin Water Company, worth a million dollars in today's money. The company's directors bitterly resisted the takeover and fought the case, but lost. On August 28, a bond issue was passed by a large majority of Marin voters, and the two water companies were bought out. The shareholders received checks for \$80 per share. Most were very happy with the deal, as the stock had never traded over \$65. After 45 years of existence, on November 1, 1916, the Marin Power and Water Company ceased to exist.

Photo Source: Wikipedia

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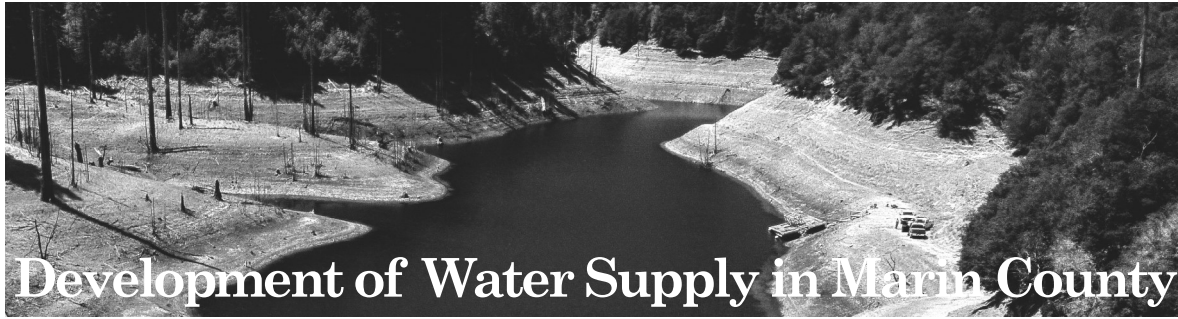
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Early Years	Water Supplied from many springs & streams coming off Mt. Tamalpais plus wells throughout the county.
1871-1912	Approximately 26 separate water companies supplied water for growing Marin County.
1911	California legislature passed Municipal Water District Act.
1912	Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) formed to provide water for Central and Southern Marin plus watershed and parklands.
1915	With 77% approval voters passed \$3 million bond issue to buy water companies, build Alpine Dam and buy additional lands for watershed.
1917	Park ranger program created, one of the first in the State.
1919	Alpine Dam dedicated.
1920	C & H Sugar Line built.
1924	C & H paid to raise Alpine Dam by 8 feet.
1925	In October \$1.5 million bond measure passed to raise Alpine Dam by 30 more feet.
1930s	Civilian Conservation Corps constructed facilities throughout the watershed.
1940-41	Alpine raised another 30 feet to hold 2.4 billion gallons.
1941	WWII begins. Military facilities built on MMWD lands.
1948-56	To accommodate growth five more dams and reservoirs were constructed - Bon Tempe Dam, Peters Dam, Kent Lake, Seeger Dam and Nicasio Reservoir.
1948	After voter approval North Marin Water District formed.
1951	Stafford Lake completed to serve North Marin.
1958- 1962	MMWD builds Bon Tempe and San Geronimo treatment plants. .
1961	North Marin Aqueduct built to connect North Marin Water District to water supplies in Sonoma County.
1979	Soulajule Reservoir constructed
Now/future	Water districts continue to develop recycling plants, water conservation programs, watershed protection plans and volunteer opportunities to enhance parkland activities.

Alpine Dam: Jewel of the Marin Municipal Water District

By Steven Davis

Alpine Dam is an inspiring symbol of public water in Marin. It is the first dam built by the first municipal water district in California – The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) incorporated in 1912. Alpine Dam was completed in 1919.

It was almost certain that a dam would be built in the vicinity of where Alpine Dam now exists. What was not certain was whether that dam would be built by a private company or a municipal water district.

MMWD, and its Alpine Dam, are the embodiments of the “Free Water Movement” that took hold during the progressive era in the beginning of the 20th century in the U.S. The water is free. The “infrastructure is the cost,” says John (Jack) Gibson, author and MMWD board member.

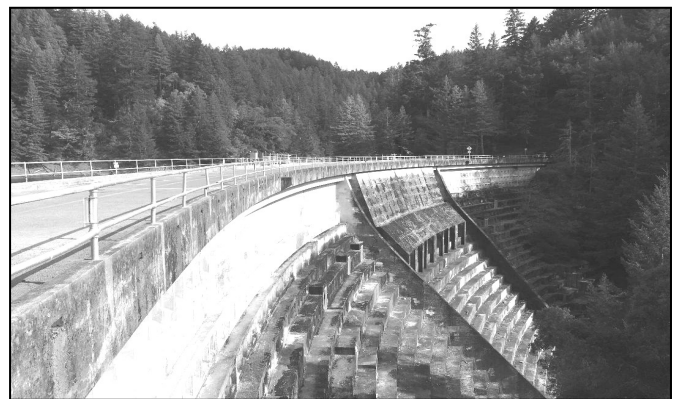
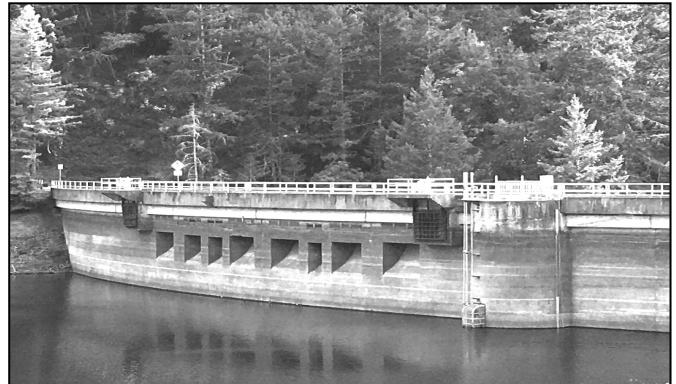
Marin County “was the last bastion of land grants,” says Gibson. “This fostered [the development] of private water companies” that were established to support the sale of land. The land holdings would have been worthless without water.

The Marin Water and Power Company had the first plans to build a dam (Tamalpais Dam) near today’s Alpine Dam. The progressive politics of the day and public dissatisfaction with the service from private water companies doomed their plans.

If you want to see where our water comes from be prepared to drive up steep and windy roads. The elevation is at the heart of Alpine Dam’s gravity system, designed by Michael O’Shaughnessy (who also designed San Francisco’s Hetch Hetchy Water System), and Albert Reed Baker (the MMWD engineer who developed and recommended the plan for the Alpine Dam).

A plaque at the dam site that lists O’Shaughnessy as consulting engineer seemingly downplays his importance in the dam’s construction. However, he was the “political mastermind” behind the scenes while Congressman William Kent was “politically most significant” in its approval, says Gibson.

Alpine Dam’s most striking feature is its spillway. Also impressive are the two massive, manual gate levers that control the dam’s floodgates. You can park on the side of the road, walk around and marvel at how



this feat of engineering was constructed in the middle of nowhere using early 20th century technology.

It’s also amazing to drive over the spillway on Fairfax-Bolinas Rd. (which had to be rerouted during the dam’s original construction). The dam has since been raised twice to hold more water (the first paid for by the C & H Sugar Company in exchange for access to MMWD water). It now holds “nearly 2.9 billion gallons of water,” and covers 224 acres.

If you see how low Alpine Lake’s waterline is for yourself, you will likely think twice about leaving the tap running while you brush your teeth or watering the landscaping an extra day.

Photos: Steven Davis

Sources:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. FIC-SF Go Fish! . Gibson, Jack. *Mount Tamalpais and The Marin Municipal Water District*.

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Thompson, Laurie. *Celebrating the Centennial of Alpine Dam, 1919-2019*. Anne T. Kent California Room. Marin County Free Library. 2020.

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The Civilian Conservation Corps and Three Bear Hut

By Shannon Dutra

The Civilian Conservation Corps

In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed an adaptation of TERA, the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration. Out of this proposal emerged the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)—a public works program that was launched in 1933. This voluntary program also intended to rebuild worker morale and create jobs following the Great Depression.

The CCC was open to unmarried men, ages 18 to 23 (later expanded to 28), who were unemployed. Veterans, Native Americans, and other minority groups could enroll; however, by 1935, all camps in the United States were segregated.

Enrollees worked 40 hours per week. Meals, housing, or medical care were provided. Each camp had around 100 to 300 enrollees and by 1933, there were more than 1,000 camps throughout the country.

Work in the Civilian Conservation Corps

Enrollees performed different types of work in the CCC including flood control, forest protection, firefighting, road improvements, tree planting, landscaping, bridge and trail improvements, and more.

The first enrollees were sent to work at Camp Roosevelt. "... Camp Roosevelt, located in the George Washington National Forest, was the first camp to open. Six additional CCC camps soon followed in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park." Forestry was the primary goal of the early camps where enrollees removed dead trees and planted saplings.

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Marin County

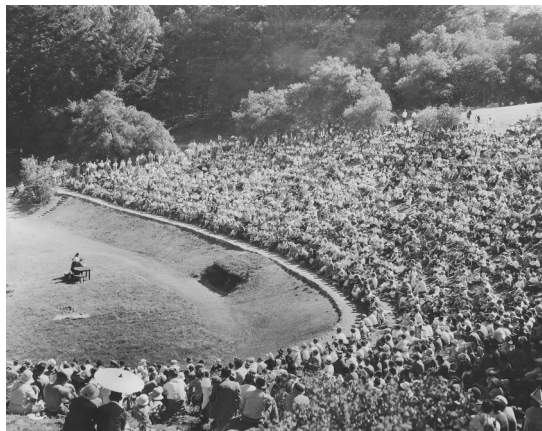
In 1933, enrollees dispersed throughout the United States to support conservation and infrastructure needs. Locally "... the CCC operated four camps in Marin County, including one at Muir Woods National Monument, one at Fort Baker in Sausalito, a camp near Mill Valley on the south slope of Mt. Tamalpais; and a camp at Alpine Lake on the north slope of Mt. Tamalpais." At one time, there were more than 100 camps throughout the state.

There are many examples of the CCC's work that can be found throughout the county. The town

of Ross is home to one of the CCC's projects called the Three Bear Hut — a picnic structure in the Natalie Coffin Greene Park. "The roughly 500-square-foot (sf) structure ... was constructed in 1935-36." The structure includes a stone chimney, floor, and walls, and fireplace. The Three Bear Hut is one example of the CCC's goal to revitalize campgrounds throughout the country.



Three Bear Hut



Mountain Theater

Similarly, a camp at Mt. Tamalpais completed a variety of infrastructure projects. "...the Mountain Theater on Mt. Tamalpais, a stone fire lookout on East Peak, stone retaining walls in Muir Woods National Monument, and scores of footbridges built over creeks and gullies on the mountain's many hiking trails."

The outdoor Mountain Theater, like countless CCC projects, still exists today.

Decline

The CCC allowed millions of men the opportunity to recover from the Great Depression. "From 1933 to 1942, the CCC had enrolled more than 3.4 million men to work in CCC camps across America."

As employment opportunities increased throughout the late 1930s, CCC opportunities declined and camps closed. Enrollment declined drastically following World War II and the reintroduction of the draft. The CCC formally disbanded by Congress in 1942.

Sources

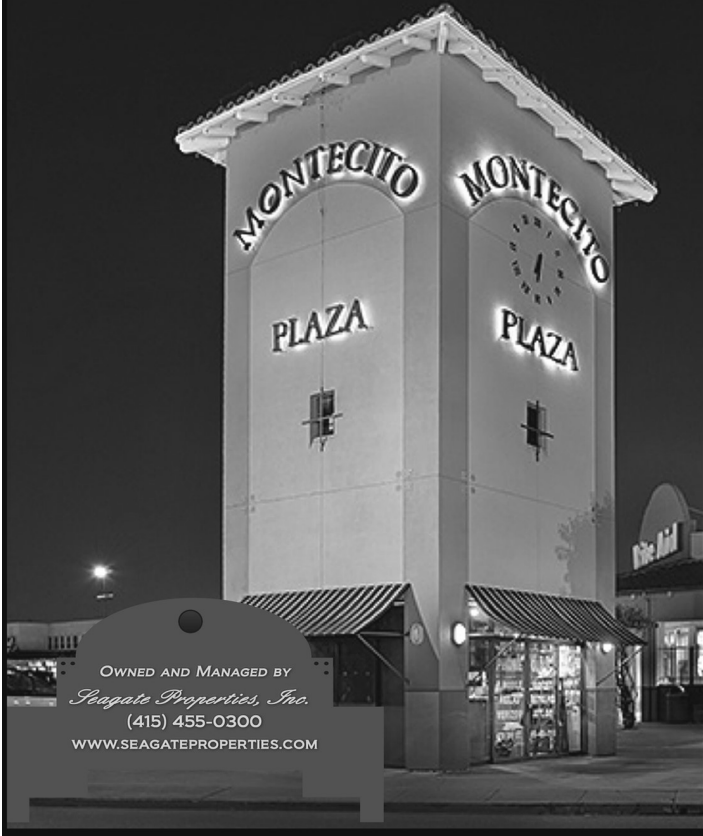
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Ver Planck Historic Preservation Consulting, "Historic Resource Evaluation: The Bear Hut". April 17, 2016.

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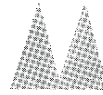
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Jack Gibson: The Man Who Wrote the Book on the MMWD

By Steven Davis

From a personal interview with Jack Gibson, August 10, 2021



The 190,000 customers that receive their water from the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) are fortunate to have John (Jack) Gibson to represent their best as Marin faces the worst drought since the MMWD was chartered in 1912.

Gibson's public life is a life of service. It is a life of teaching, collaborating, and consensus building. Gibson is an active estate planning lawyer. During this drought he is exercising his "best talent" as a collaborator, attending four meetings a week on our behalf.

Gibson is the MMWD's defacto district historian; he literally wrote the book on the MMWD (*Mount Tamalpais and the Marin Municipal Water District*). His book is the result of redirecting research initially conducted as part of his work towards a master's thesis on the same subject at San Francisco State University. Gibson visited Yale four times to make use of the William Kent family papers there, and made extensive use of the Michael O'Shaughnessy papers at UC Berkeley. Without Gibson's historical perspective it might be easy to ignore aging infrastructure or "how it was in the beginning" when privately owned water companies gouged customers, and they had to contend with water shutoffs due to unpredictable water supplies. Gibson reminds us that it would be "unimaginable that people had to" pump their own water from a well or travel to a pond in San Rafael to collect water to use at home prior to 1912.

"Who was President when this pipe was installed?" Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) board members often ask Gibson questions like this when faced when making decisions about replacing aging water distribution infrastructure. During his 20 years as a board member, Gibson's responses to questions about who the President of the United States was when a certain piece of infrastructure was installed have ranged from President Truman (President 1945-1953) all the way back to President Chester Arthur (President 1881-1885) because MMWD inherited some legacy infrastructure from previously private owned water companies.

Gibson taught history and civics at Galileo High School in San Francisco in the 1960's. Although he left the classroom to pursue a career as a bank lawyer "closing big loans," "teaching is in [his] DNA." Gibson continues to educate board members, members of other water agencies, and the public in general on the history and future of water in Marin. As a lawyer, Gibson has taught hundreds of hours of continuing education courses, including teaching a finance course at the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley, and has given over 48 lectures to rotaries, local historical societies, and high school classes.

Gibson was first elected as a member of the MMWD Board of Directors in 1994. During that time he has sought to collaborate with other board members and encourage regional cooperation between all the water utilities of the Northbay because "watersheds don't know political boundaries." He knows that communication and collaboration between the water utilities is necessary to maintain sustainable water supplies for the region in an environmentally conscious way.

The most important thing in life, Gibson says, is not to "fight about unimportant things." "And that's true in everything not just the water district. [It's] true across the board."

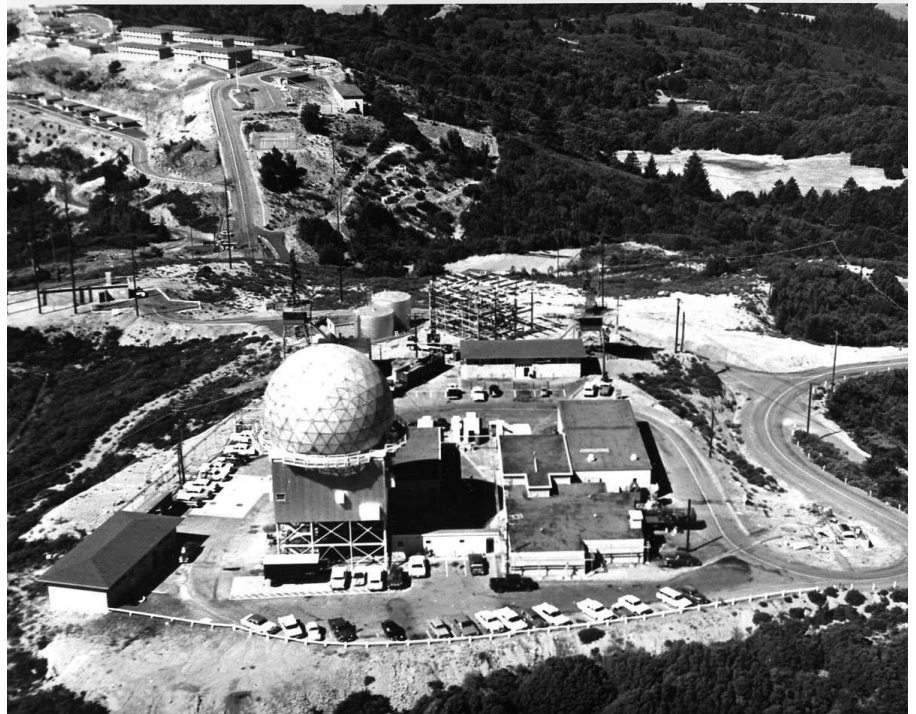
Sources: Gibson, Jack. *Mount Tamalpais and The Marin Municipal Water District*. Images of America. Arcadia Publishing. 2012.
Gibson, Jack. Personal Interview. 10 August 2021.
Photo: Richard Wheeler, 2013

MMWD and the Military

By Alice Tanner

Marin County has a rich history with the military that most today know nothing of. All signs of it are essentially gone except to those with keen eyes who know its history and see remnants amongst the landscape. Marin military history dates to Civil War days with a legend told of stolen Confederate gold buried somewhere on Mount Tamalpais by Bill Williams. Williams was a Confederate Army deserter after whom Bill Williams Creek is named.

More recently, Mt. Tam was home to the Mill Valley Air Force Station. Built in 1951, the station was visible throughout Marin and across the bay, prominently marked by two giant white “golf balls” high atop the Sleeping Lady. The Air Force would only admit there was radar “on a hill near Mill Valley,” However, over time people learned the radar station was part of the Cold War network of posts that served as a warning system against a surprise atomic attack. This system was linked to Hamilton Field 10 miles away in Novato where fighter jets could be mobilized against Russian nuclear bombers.



U.S. Air Force Radar Station atop Mt. Tamalpais.

West of the domes, scattered over 100 acres, were 40 buildings — barracks, a mess hall, swimming pool, basketball courts, tennis court, movie theater, hobby shop and a row of small homes that once housed soldiers, technicians and their families.

Advancements in technology and the subsiding Cold War threat made the station obsolete, and it was abandoned by the Air Force in 1983. The site was inherited by the Marin Municipal Water District and the National Park Service, but at the time neither had the funds to clean up the ruins. Local citizens began tearing down the buildings, but the discovery of asbestos halted their efforts.

By 1996 government agencies had removed all the buildings, including the golf balls, but building foundations, power lines, fencing, pipes and other ruins remained. These ruins are at the top of Marin’s watershed, so restoring the area to its natural condition is a priority. Efforts are spearheaded by a coalition of agencies, including MMWD, that work together under the name One Tam. Funds for the massive project come from grants and private donations with the goal to remove all but a couple building foundations which will be used to share the history of the Air Force station and the need for restoration. Work continues, but when fully complete the site cleanup will ensure unique plant communities are enhanced and stewarded. Visitors will enjoy breathtaking views and an opportunity to learn about the unique ecology of the mountain.

Photo Source: Joint Office of Information, Hamilton Air Force Base April 17, 1963


Sources: SF Chronicle (Bill Van Nierkerken, Jan 2019)

MMWD website, www.marinwater.org

Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov

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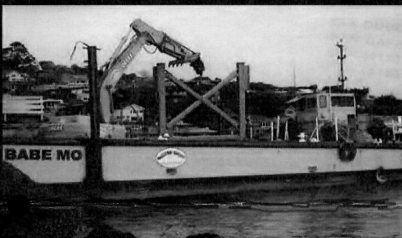
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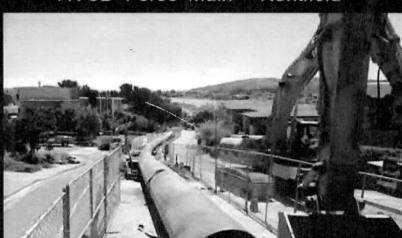
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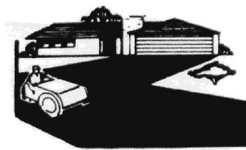
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North Marin Water District

By Nancy Niche

The North Marin Water District was formed in April 1948 following voter approval. Prior to 1948, water service to the Novato area was provided by a privately owned public utility, operated for many years by the Cain family. In 1947 Novato was a small agricultural community with about 500 customers. It began to experience serious water supply problems, since its existing wells were not producing sufficient high-quality water to meet its customers' needs.

A committee then formed in fall 1947 to advance development of a new water supply, and to upgrade and expand the system to meet the needs of the growing Novato community. Shortly after forming the district, voters approved two bond issues to purchase and upgrade the system and to construct Stafford Dam and treatment facilities. The dam was completed in 1951, and the treatment plant was put into operation the following year.

During the following five years, growth exceeded earlier predictions, and it became apparent the district was approaching the limit of its capacity. An 18-month study completed in 1960 resulted in successful negotiations with the Sonoma County Water Agency and the City of Petaluma for a contract providing an annual Russian River water supply to the district. The North Marin Aqueduct went into service in December 1961.

The 10-year period from 1961 through 1970 saw the number of consumers increase by 162 percent. In this same period, the district experienced annexations in southern Sonoma County and western Marin, which increased its service area from 75 to approximately 100 square-miles.

By 1970 it became apparent that an intertie between Cotati and the Russian River was needed. The Marin Municipal Water District, also seeking to import Russian River water, was included in the proposed addition. In November 1971, the issue failed to get voter support. The proposal was again presented to North Marin voters and in June 1973 received 79 percent approval. In October 1974, the Sonoma County Water Agency's major water contractors signed a new Mas-

ter Agreement providing for water supply. The intertie project was placed in service in April 1977, at which time the district's aqueduct capacity entitlement was increased.

In 2006 the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply with Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) was executed, authorizing SCWA to construct facilities to increase North Marin's water delivery entitlement to meet Novato's future needs consistent with the community's general plans.

North Marin's water conservation efforts continue to be focused on reducing summer water demand,

which is primarily outdoor irrigation. They constructed the Deer Island recycled water treatment facility in 2007 which produces highly treated recycled water. In cooperation with



the Novato Sanitary District, recycled water also is produced and distributed to irrigate landscape in North Novato, including the Fireman's Fund business park, Valley Memorial Park cemetery, Olive School playing fields and private and public landscape along the recycled water pipeline route. Recycled water is expected to offset 7.5 percent of the potable water demand in Novato.

Stafford Lake provides about 20 percent of Novato's water with 80 percent originating in Mendocino County and supplied from both the Eel River and the Russian River watershed.

Source: North Marin Water District website

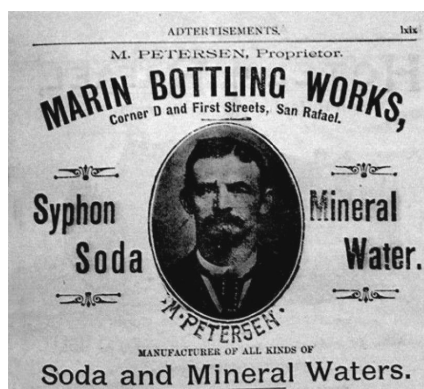
Where Flavored Fizz Began

By Lane E. Dooling

Back in the 1880s, the soda works industry combined popular culture, a desire for flavored waters and natural resources. Long before the smoothies or flavored bubbly drinks we enjoy today, soda waters were considered health drinks. First created by pharmacists, these concoctions were a combination of roots, herbs and fruit juices added to carbonated water. The popularity of these drinks created a business opportunity — to bottle this product for distribution.

Enter Martin Petersen, a German immigrant from Schleswig, Germany. Petersen came to San Rafael in 1872 and opened a bakery. Petersen and Mary J. Kelly wed in 1877 and went on to have six children. In 1886, Petersen founded Marin Soda Works. It was located on the southwest corner of First and D streets, and a few years later his business was deemed a success. An April 1889 Sausalito News article reported, "The finest soda water in the state is put up at the Marin Soda Works in San Rafael." The following year, the paper boasted, "Petersen's Marin Soda Works of San Rafael has placed their iron and orange phosphates and syrup soda in every first-class saloon in Sausalito."

Petersen's adopted a new and exclusive process combining pure bicarbonate of soda instead of marble dust. At the time, marble dust combined with sulfuric acid raised safety concerns. And, no business is without a bit of drama. Although Prohibition didn't start until 1920, there was a zealous anti-alcohol movement that promoted beverages called "temperance drinks" like those of Marin Soda Works. Yet, all soda work drinks were not the same. An eastern state board of health study found that a majority of the temperance drinks inspected contained 20 percent alcohol and one up to 44 percent which was claimed to be "a purely vegetable extract."

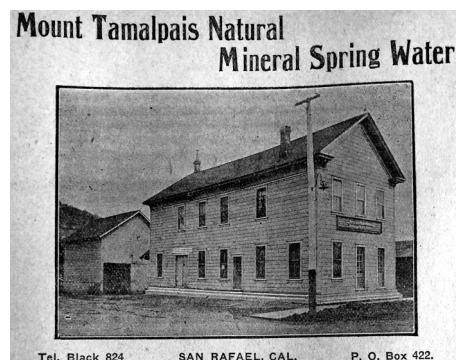


In 1893, Petersen purchased 65 acres near Fairfax Station and built a saloon called the Fairfax Park Annex on the corner of Broadway Avenue and Bolinas Road. In 1900, Petersen sold his San Rafael business to Eugene Klammer and Emil Malz. Their business included the Marin Soda Works and the Marin Bottling Works. In the 1911 Polk-Husted Directory, Malz publicized their Cascade Ginger Ale as a drink that "has the real smack of Old Ireland."



There were a few other local soda works companies including the San Anselmo Soda Works on D and Fourth streets run by F.M. Weinbeck. The Buffalo Soda Works operated in San Rafael in the late 1800s until the Borello Brothers

purchased it in 1903. After a positive water analysis of their spring located on their property (First and Hayes Streets) in late 1904, the Borello Brothers began promoting their products as



"Mount Tamalpais Natural Spring Water and Carbonated Beverages" which included ginger ale, root beer, lemon soda, and carbonated mineral spring water.

So, the next time you crack a La Croix, think about Marin's early and industrious connection to the refreshing soda works industry.

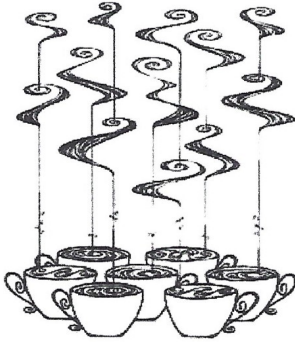
Source: "Early Soda Works Tapped Mt. Tamalpais Spring Waters from The Patch (May 12, 2012).

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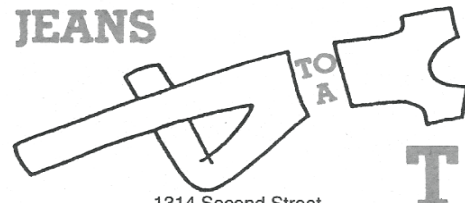
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The Sugar Line

By Alice Tanner

With Marin suffering yet another water shortage it might be hard to believe that at one time the county had so much water it was shipping it out at a nice profit. In 1920, the Marin Water District was besieged with requests for water contracts from cities and districts such as Vallejo, Mare Island, San Francisco and Berkeley that were all in desperate need of water. The California and Hawaiian (better known as C&H) Sugar Refining Company was also in need of water for their processing plant in nearby Crockett. Marin had a plentiful supply and soon a contract with C&H Sugar was in the works. By 1924 a contract was signed

The five-year contract called for the MMWD to supply the sugar company with 300 million gallons of



Photo was taken along what is now Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, about where Marin Catholic High School is today.

water annually for \$30,000, plus \$10,000 for an additional 200 million gallons whether they were used or not and included an option for another five years. All water in excess of 500,000,000 was also sold to

the sugar plant for five cents for each 1,000 gallons. The original C&H contract paid for the expansion of the water district's transmission line through the Ross Valley and a contract extension covered the cost of raising Alpine Dam by eight feet. Constructed in the early 1920's, six miles of 12-inch cast-iron pipe originating in Ross traveled in trenches dug by hand through Kentfield, Greenbrae, Larkspur and San Rafael, reaching Point San Quentin near the McNears quarry and brickyard. It was aptly named "The Sugar Line." The cast-iron bell and spigot pipe came by rail from the American Iron Pipe Company in Birmingham, Alabama. Portions of the original pipeline are still in use today.

Once water reached the Marin County endpoint at San Quentin where C&H had built a wharf, C&H's water barges transported the water across the bay to the refinery in Crockett. C&H paid for the pipeline, about \$180,000, the wharf, about \$75,000, three half-million gallon water tanks built atop the wharf, and the barges. However, in July 1920 when the tanks were about one-half filled they collapsed, also destroying the wharf. Within a week the debris was cleared and a system devised to transfer the water directly from the pipe to the barges.

The MMWD was given the privilege of purchasing the pipeline for \$45,000 to be paid in five annual payments of \$9,000, one-fourth of its actual cost. For a small fee, the MMWD also retained the right to use the company's wharf to supply other customers. The new contract meant an annual net profit to the district of \$31,000, a very big contract for the MMWD in those early years.

Photo: Marin Magazine, November 13, 2018 courtesy of Marin Municipal Water District Archives.

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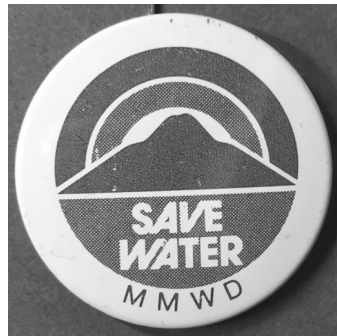
Carlo Farina

The Great Two-Year Drought

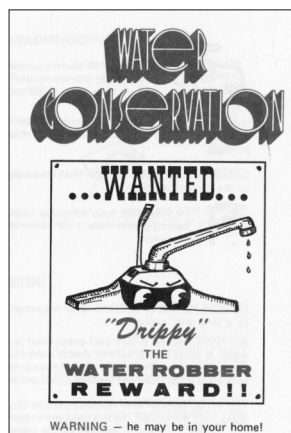
By Lane Dooling

It was referred to as the “Great Two-Year Drought” beginning in winter 1976 and lasted through 1977. In January 1978, the Marin Independent Journal ran a comprehensive “souvenir edition” about the two-year drought in a series of articles chronicling how it affected Marin County and the county’s response.

It was unseasonably sunny in winter 1976 but within months, it was clear the lack of rain would cause trouble during the summer. One of the Marin IJ’s later articles was titled, “Sunshine Came to Stay, and Stay” ... which summed up the two-year drought. The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) was vulnerable because the reservoirs are dependent on the run-off from storms. By March, the district raised rates and prohibited washing cars and sidewalks. The goal was to cut usage by 25 percent and it was met. By summer 1976, brown lawns were more a “status symbol” than the manicured lawns that normally adorned the county.



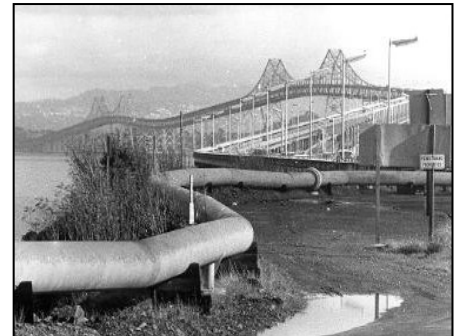
The focus on the water shortage led everyone to become resourceful — using hoses, buckets and barrels to recycle “gray water” from showers, sinks and washing machines. New rules about flushing and gardening — or the lack of it — came into play. The general allotments per person were: 1.7 gallons for cooking and drinking; 1.2 gallons per day for shaving, brushing teeth or washing; one four-minute shower (with a low-flow shower head); 3.5 flushes of toilet. Residents cut down on clothes washing and hand-washed dishes instead of using the dishwasher.



The second year of the drought brought shrinking reservoirs within cracked mud flats. Faced with running out of water by summer, the district imposed a tough rationing system in February 1977 with cutbacks of 43 percent. Stiff fees for those who exceeded ration-

ing levels were enough to convince most customers. The second winter of the drought was the second driest in history with reservoir levels decreasing rapidly. A February 1977 Marin IJ article featured images of water meters with a brief description of how to read the meters. In April 1977, Sunset Magazine featured an article on a Kentfield couple’s gray water garden full of plants and vegetables — all watered with recycled shower water siphoned from the upstairs bathtub and through a hose to the planted boxes.

By the summer, the focus was on how long the drought would last. In June 1977, an emergency pipeline over the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge was built in only three weeks. Quite impressive — Marin consumers were one of the top six counties in the state that had a 53 percent reduction in the past year.



Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Pipeline

When the Marin IJ had a water-saving suggestion contest (\$25 for every printed idea), they received over 2,000 suggestions. The ideas ranged from a waterless dog bath (baking soda/corn meal mix), drawings of how to pipe water from the shower into the toilet, a water-savings tip pamphlet created by a Lagunitas sixth grade class to BBQ meal ideas (so no pots and pans to clean). A few wrote in saying if people can afford to live in Marin, they can afford to take a trip ... take it now.

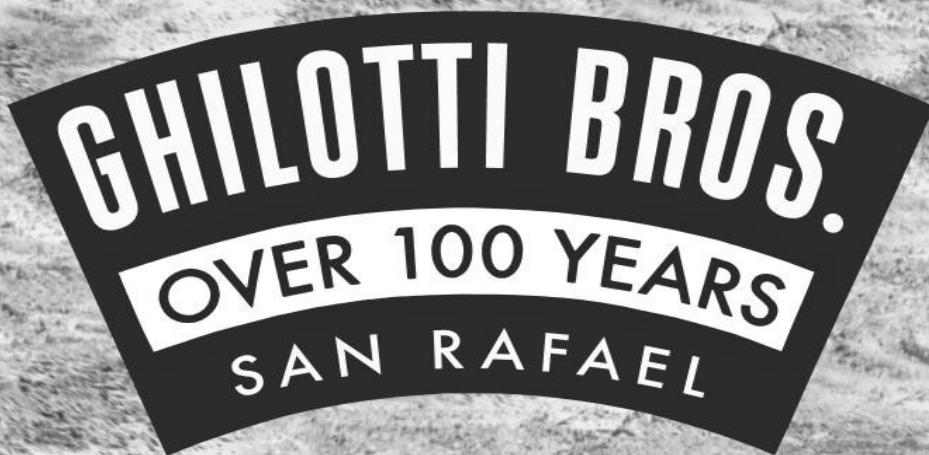
With many different predictions, the optimists were correct. The next winter boasted rains that within only eight weeks brought the reservoir levels from 18 percent full to almost overflowing.

Marin County became a household name. According to one of the IJ articles, “If you mentioned Marin in Westchester County, New York, they’ll say, ‘Yeah, Marin is the place where people really buckled down and cooperated during the drought.’ ”

Source: *Marin Independent Journal and Marin Magazine*
Photos and artifacts: MHM Collection

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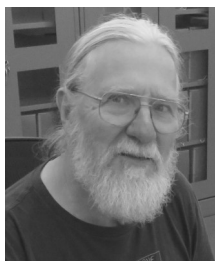


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Brian K. Crawford is a retired computer programmer who spends his time doing historical and genealogical research, writing books, and building trails.



Steven Davis loves his wife, Amy, their dog, Bun, and Marin history. He is especially interested in North-western Pacific Railroad's Engine 112.



Lane Dooling is the Marketing, Social Media & Administrative Coordinator at the Marin History Museum. She loves research, writing articles and social media posts.



Shannon Dutra is a communications and museum professional who lives in the Bay Area. Outside of work, you can find her tweeting, reading, or exploring museums.



Alice Tanner, born in Tiburon, has witnessed Marin's transformation over several decades. An addiction consultant in private practice, she works with families locally and nationwide.

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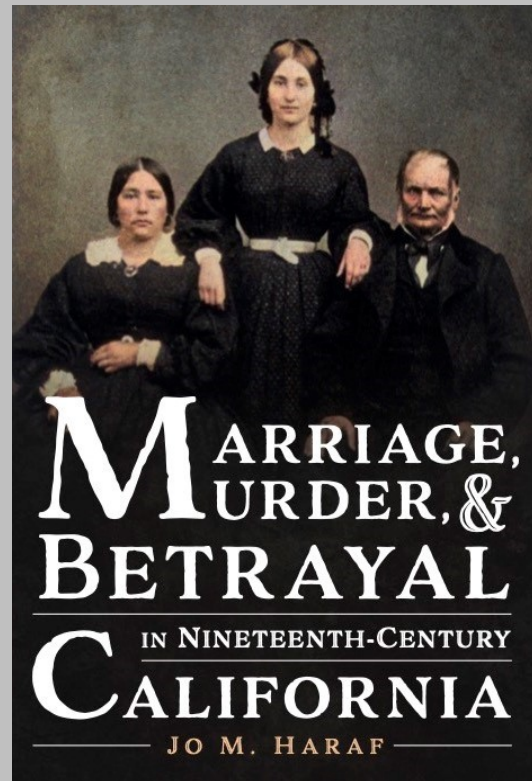
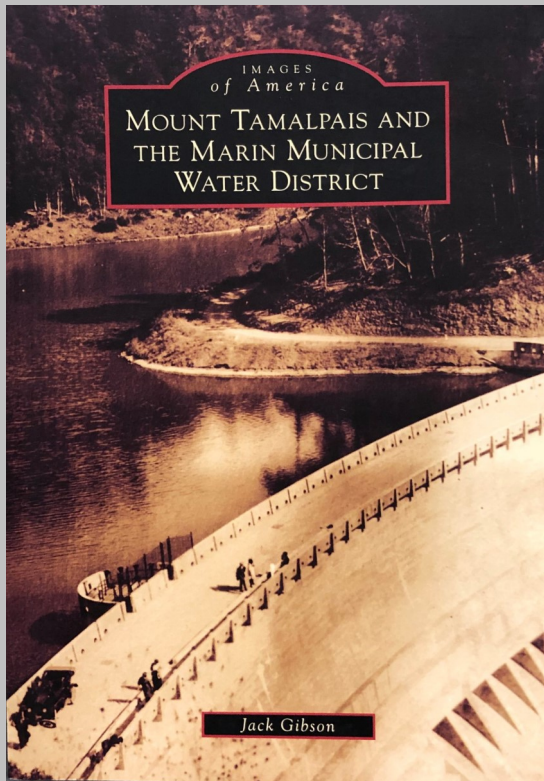
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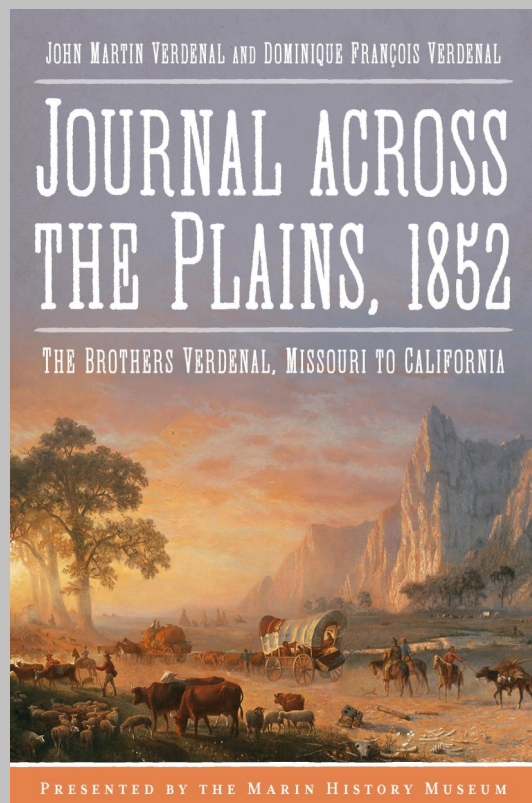
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