

M

MARIN
HISTORY
MUSEUM



The Campaign for Marin's New Museum of History, Art and Culture

Imagine a county-wide destination for history, art and culture. This is the new Marin History Museum to be built in Boyd Park in San Rafael. Through our campaign, **Preserving the Past, Building the Future**, we are moving closer to construction of this state-of-the-art facility that will enable us to expand the services we presently provide and attract world-class exhibits from major institutions. To date, we have raised more than \$7 million, including a \$5 million gift from an anonymous donor.

In this next phase of the campaign, we are seeking philanthropic investors to provide \$2.5 million in additional funds to guarantee construction—based on current bids at today's construction costs. Our goal is to begin construction in 2006.

To achieve this goal, we are approaching key partners in the community who have the ability to contribute significant funds to create a challenge grant. This will encourage a groundswell of participation from donors at all levels throughout the county. In-kind contributions are another way we are creatively financing this project. One of our primary investors is the City of San Rafael, which has

Continued on page 2

Telling the Story of Marin

The design of the permanent exhibit gallery in the new Marin History Museum is nearly complete. Museum staff, working closely with Academy Studios, our exhibit design and fabrication firm in Novato, have

and wealthy residents living in idyllic settings. But Marin County is more than a playground. It is a unique place with a rich and colorful past. Marin is a place of contradictions and odd pairings—of affluence and idealism, along with isolationism and innovation. It is a county where over one-third



Artist's rendering of the central exhibit area, with artificial trees "growing" up into the central rotunda. (Image by Academy Studios.)

created a truly exceptional museum experience. Read on to learn more about the Museum's exciting, engaging way of preserving Marin's past for the future....

Marin County is one of the most recognizable place names in the United States. One of the oldest and most famous counties in California, Marin immediately conjures associations and stereotypes. "Affluent Marin." "Beautiful Marin." The county is often viewed as a land of bubbling hot-tubs

of the land is open space dedicated to public parkland or agriculture. Marin is home to the first curbside recycling program in the nation and staunch environmentalists. At the same time, Marin is a county with limited mass transit and some of the most congested roads in the Bay Area.

These paradoxes make Marin, "Marin." To tell the story of such a special place, we are creating a very special museum. The Marin History Museum will combine multiple

Continued on page 2

The Campaign *Continued from page 1*

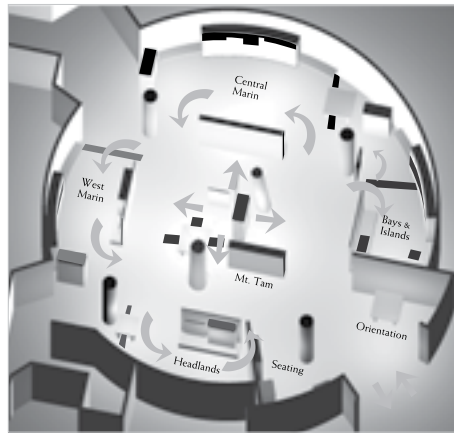
given us a generous long-term lease on the land. Likewise, our Marin-based team of contractors and subcontractors is supporting us by reducing fees and providing in-kind services.

One exciting aspect of this project will be the recognition opportunities for corporations, organizations, families and loved ones. Picture your name assured a place in history when we present a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian in a gallery bearing your name. In addition, we are developing a living legacy program that will offer ongoing connections once the Museum is completed.

After many years laying the groundwork, this is an exciting time and we invite your participation at this critical point. Working together, we will realize the dream to honor Marin's past, connect with its present and influence its future. We invite you to make history!

Telling the Story of Marin *Continued from page 1*

disciplines—art, history, culture and geography—to provide visitors with a fresh approach to understanding the broader story of the county. This innovative, interdisciplinary exhibit will showcase the extraordinary world of Marin, encompassing its divergent personalities and idiosyncrasies—its artists, hippies, farmers and technicians—all in one place. The permanent exhibit gallery will be the starting point for visitors to learn about the county. It will also provide local residents with a place to share and explore the diversity of Marin's culture and history. Visitors to the new Museum will see firsthand how the rolling hills, rugged seashore



Floor plan showing visitor flow patterns and exhibit locations. (Image by Academy Studios.)

and lush valleys have defined the county's cities and towns, as well as the people who call the county home. By linking cultural history with natural history, we are creating a new kind of museum that provides visitors with an understanding of how decisions of the past have impacted the way the people of Marin live today. In turn, visitors will see how their choices today are shaping the future.

A New Approach to History

The diversity of the land continues to shape Marin's unique communities and their journeys through time. Exhibits within the Museum will be organized by geographical region, linking cultural and natural history in a way that no history museum has done before. From the green farmland of *West Marin* to the shimmering waters of *Bays & Islands*, each of the Museum's five sections will highlight the stories and events that have made Marin the place it is today.

Mount Tamalpais: *Inspiring Generations*

Mount Tamalpais serves as the central landmark for Marin County. It will also serve as the central exhibit of the Museum, with the other four exhibit areas situated around it. For centuries, the mountain has drawn dreamers, artists, innovators and tourists seeking inspiration and beauty. The citizens of

Marin continue to protect Mt. Tam's splendor for future generations.

Bays & Islands: *Navigating Waterways*

Marin is surrounded by water on three sides. This geography has played a major role in the history of the communities on Marin's many waterfronts, each one with its destiny tied to the water.

Central & Northern Marin: *Building Community*

Highway 101 is Marin's urban corridor, as officially designated by the 1973 Countywide Plan. Central and Northern Marin are home to the largest portion of the county's population. From the Mission San Rafael, to the County Courthouse, to the Civic Center, San Rafael has served as the seat of government for nearly 200 years.

West Marin: *Living in Abundance*

From the time when Coast Miwok villages dotted the landscape, Marin has been rich in natural resources. A mosaic of micro-climates helps sustain the land's bounty. Since the Gold Rush, Marin's dairies have provided for San Francisco and much of the state. West Marin has been an innovator in sustainable agriculture since the 1970s, acclaimed internationally for its organic food and pioneering farmers.

The Headlands: *Bridging the Divide*

The construction of the Golden Gate Bridge was a defining event for Marin. Upon its completion in 1937, Marin boomed practically overnight, yet the Headlands changed little. Military control over these strategic bluffs insulated this area from rapid post-war growth. Reacting to an influx of new

residents and the demand for housing, citizen groups organized to preserve Marin's natural environment.

Exhibit Highlights

- Coast down Mt. Tam with vintage films of the Gravity Railroad.
- Brand a (paper) cow with a cattle brand from an historic Marin ranch.
- Do (a little) hard time in a recreated San Quentin prison cell.
- Watch a Miwok woman create a basket from native reeds and grasses.
- Get inspired by Marin painters, writers, poets, musicians and sculptors.
- Add your family snapshots to the Marin Family Photo Album.
- Plan day trips throughout the county with a detailed guide from the Museum.
- Share your opinions about the future of Marin, and participate in ongoing discussions.

Special Museum Spaces

- The multipurpose theater can accommodate different group uses. School groups can use kid-sized tables and chairs for activities. Movable seating transforms the space into a theater with multimedia capabilities. The space can be cleared for parties, art installations and other events.
- The central space beneath the rotunda can be partially cleared for cocktail parties or sit-down events. The exhibits and trees in the center are a sophisticated setting for a reception.
- The temporary exhibit gallery provides opportunities to explore topics in greater depth through in-house productions and traveling shows.



A Temporary Home for MHM's Collection

In August, the Marin History Museum successfully moved its entire collection out of the Boyd Gate House and into a climate-controlled facility. While the new Museum is under construction, this rented facility will provide much needed space for storage and curatorial work. As the Museum expands its operations in 2006, the Boyd Gate House will continue to be used for programs, exhibits and meeting space. Eventually, the Gate House will be restored and interpreted as a Victorian home.

Finding a temporary space for the Museum's collection had become critical over the years. Without the ability to control temperature and moisture throughout the year, most types of materials were at risk in the Boyd Gate House. As the collection grew, our storage space shrank. Bedrooms, bathrooms and closets were packed tight with boxes and furniture, making it difficult to access most of the collection without risking damage to the artifacts.

Moving thousands of objects of all shapes and sizes was no small task. The move went very smoothly, thanks to the expertise of Farnsworth Express, the support of volunteers, interns and board members, and in-kind donations from local businesses. This project also provided a test-run for the eventual move into the new building.

Continued on page 4

ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION IN 2005

GIFTS

Grape Festival Cookbook, 1940
Melville Dickson

Collection of toys, c. 1950s
Ailene Taylor

Collection of photographs & personal items
John Farley

Watercolor of Boyd Gate House by Eric Bancroft
Eric Bancroft

1939 World's Fair coin & U.S. Navy pendants
Georgia Sagues

First edition of *The Serial* by Cyra McFadden
Tyler Sterkel

Collection of Marin County maps
Warren Pery

Collection of photographs from Striped Bass Festival, c. 1930s
Gary Hitchings

Tournament of Stars program, 1966
Jackie Boccabella

Souvenir of San Quentin on Air, 1943
Beryl Lehnkering

Brass pipe bowl from China Camp
Bill Cox

Collection of photographs, c. 1920s
James Schulze

Collection of Marin County ephemera
Jeff Craemer

Collection of clothing
Shirley Graves

Bathing suit, c. 1920s & U.S. Navy dress cap, c. 1940s
Donn Wells

Mayonnaise jar & women's jacket, c. 1800s
Gloria Simonds

Collection of photographs
Marilyn Westervelt

Collection of ephemera from Peter Behr, Sr. Peter Behr, Jr.

Vinyl LP of *The Youngbloods* & camping stove
Richard Torney

Collection of Marin County bottles
Kurt Berger

Golden Gate Bridge bond in frame
Trish Hibben

Map of Marin County, 1914
Villa Marin

ACQUISITIONS

Call boxes from Maple Lawn estate

Movie poster of *Serial*, 1980

DONORS RALLY TO PRESERVE COLLECTION

A huge "Thank You" to all of our 2005 Holiday Appeal donors! It is not too late to add your name to the list and help us achieve our goal of \$24,000. With your generous help, we will be able to complete the projects necessary to maintain and update the Museum's collections.

Raised to Date: \$10,000

Glen & Merry Alberigi in honor of Carina Alberigi	Wilfred & Mary Lafranchi Sol & Jaqueline Langsam
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Stuart & Jean Brown	Daniel & Kathleen McNear
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Spring Kraeger in memory of Juliet & Alfred Kraeger	Andrew & Mary Ann Wilcox
Evelyn Kunst in memory of John R. Kunst	Henry H. Wilkins

A Temporary Home Continued from page 3

The move reaffirmed how essential it is to maintain an accurate inventory of the collection. The 2005 Holiday Appeal will support the Museum's goals by funding our latest behind-the-scenes projects of digitizing and bar-coding the artifact and photograph collections.

The Museum's collection exists so that we may explore and share our history. Proper care and careful planning will ensure long lives for the irreplaceable artifacts, photos and documents. The collection continues to grow, thanks to community members like you who recognize that our history is contained in the everyday objects that tell our stories.

YOU MADE HISTORY! (And so did your go-go boots!)

Everyone is a part of history. That **mini skirt** in the back of your closet, or the **Nehru jacket** you've been hiding could be just what the Marin History Museum needs to tell the story of Marin in the 1960s and 1970s. Did you attend the **Magic Mountain Music Festival** on Mount Tam? Do you have **love beads**, **posters** or **photos** from that period? These are just a few examples of the artifacts related to the **music**, **events** and **trends** of this time that the Museum needs to better document this pivotal era. If you have anything that you are interested in donating, please get in touch!

Nina Fairles, Collections Manager
nina@marinhistory.org, (415) 485-0164



NEW EXHIBIT WISH LIST

As part of the development of the new, permanent exhibit, the Museum is seeking the following items:

- A used rancher's hat
- Antique milking equipment
- Hiking boots from different time periods
- Early camping equipment (e.g., lantern, stove, tent, pack)
- Posters from the Magic Mountain Music Festival and other rock concerts on Mt. Tam
- A drink coaster from the Sweetwater Saloon
- Historic trail markers from somewhere in Marin
- Gloves made at the Carson Glove factory in San Rafael



The Church of the Assumption in Tomales, built in 1900.
(Photo courtesy of the California State Library.)

Voices From the Past: Two earthquake letters from San Rafael

Introduction

by Jocelyn Moss, MHM Librarian

The terrible quake of April 18, 1906, devastated San Francisco, and had long-lasting effects in Marin as well. Just when we thought there was nothing new to be said about that earthquake, new scientific evidence suggests that the epicenter was not in

Olema, where the San Andreas Fault slices Marin in two, but under the ocean off Daly City.

That does not change the fact that the earthquake caused severe damage in West Marin. In Tomales, the new stone Catholic church fell into a pile of rubble, as did the jail and Holland's store. Railroad tracks were bent in peculiar ways, and a train was thrown off its track in Point Reyes Station. The most serious damage consisted of buildings jumping off their foundations. In Bolinas, some buildings slid gracefully into the bay. Farther east in San Rafael, Mill Valley and other towns, the main problem was toppled chimneys. Many families were forced to cook outdoors until their chimneys could be repaired.

One oft-told story takes place on the Shafter ranch, near Olema. Apparently, a huge rift in the earth opened there, very near the Fault, and swallowed a cow. With subsequent shakes the rift closed, leaving only the cow's tail above ground. Some say this is a tall tale, but Bertha Shafter swears

she saw that poor cow's tail herself.

Marin's eastern shores immediately welcomed hoards of refugees from San Francisco. Many went to stay with family and friends, but most were cared for by various community organizations. Committees were formed in each city to provide relief for the refugees. They needed housing and food immediately, and Marinites stepped up to provide those necessities. While most of those forced to flee ultimately returned to San Francisco, many of the grateful refugees began to see Marin as their new home, and the county's population boomed as a result.

As the anniversary of the 1906 earthquake approaches, we have ample opportunities to compare it to more recent disasters in our country. Will we be prepared and able to handle the next one when it happens? Let's hope so. In the meantime, these letters from the Museum's library provide chilling, first-hand accounts of Marin in those dark spring days 100 years ago.

Sister Alexius of Dominican Convent reminisced about her experiences in January, 1962

[On the morning of April 18, 1906,] We went to school as usual in Mr. Robert's two-horse bus. When we arrived at school [St. Raphael's] Father Philips was the first person we met. Since the church was built on a knoll of stone, there was no harm done to the church. Father Philips was very cool and thought we were silly to worry about the children.

About 9 o'clock only five or six children appeared for each class in the school. I had the fifth and sixth grades at that time and Sister Joseph had the seventh and eighth grades so with five pupils sitting in each classroom we tried to become interesting. All the children wanted to talk about was "chimneys" fallen from every house in town. It was about 10 o'clock when another tremendous earthquake shook the school. Out jumped the children from each classroom, down the stairs into the street and off to their homes. The Sisters never saw a child of the school again until the opening of school in August [...].

The following morning Father Philips telephoned that the school hall was filled with refugees from the Bay Area who had been transported by the Northwestern Pacific Railroad from Fisberman's Wharf to San Rafael.

Mother Louis sent Sister Joseph and we went down to see if we could do anything for these poor people. All they wanted was something for their sore feet. So back we came to the Convent to get cans of Vaseline and bandages for their feet. Most of these people had been burned out and walked from South of Market out to Hayes Street, then out to the Cliff to get away from the awful heat of the fire.

By evening that day, Mr. Foster then owner of our Forest Meadows [across the street from the Dominican Convent on Grand Ave.] offered the use of Forest Meadows for these families. The San Rafael Military Academy offered their summer tents [...] about 400. That night Forest Meadows became a village of about 400 families.

Mr. Sawyer, a dentist in town, secured a big tenting stove and begged meat, vegetables etc. and made gallons of Irish stew for these people, many who had not eaten for two days. It was interesting to see the people, groups of families form in line carrying a tin plate, tin cup and spoon to have Dr. Sawyer serve them generous helpings. No one wasted a mouthful.

This lasted until about the end of August.

Maria Cochrane Praetzel described the scene in a letter to her cousin, George Matthews, in Cloverdale

San Rafael Wednesday night [April 18, 1906]

Dear Cousin George,

I am writing to you from my Father's front porch with all the children asleep beside me. Tonight we are all together but somehow I am thinking of you up there and wondering how you stood after the dreadful earthquake this morning. All San Rafael is sleeping on porches or streets tonight. The people are near crazy. We have had bad shocks all day. San Francisco is ruined. All the buildings are on fire: the Call, Chronicle, Emporium, J [...] Church and Saint Patricks Church in fact all the best of San Francisco is gone. They are blowing all the buildings up to save the city. Thousands are dead [...]. Families are coming over here everything lost glad to get away with their lives. Buildings have gone down with hundreds of people buried in the ruins. Oh, George, this is dreadful.

Thursday morning, April 20th [This appears to be a mistake, she must have meant the 19th —ed.]

All night the people of San Rafael slept in the streets. All of us on the porch. Irene and Helen on the chairs on the front sidewalk. My father on a cot at the front door. Light shocks all night and every half hour

explosions from the city, where they are blowing up all the buildings. All San Francisco is gone now out to 20th Street on one side and Dayton and Union on the North Beach side. Trains ran all night, you see the Earthquake broke all the water mains and left the city without water. Water is selling for 25 cts a glass, potatoes in San Rafael today are five dollars a sack. The Company D [state militia unit based in San Rafael] is ordered out and tents are going to be put up all over town this afternoon for the thousands of people coming over. Automobiles are charging 50 dollars an hour in the city. [...] The Hibernia Bank went down. All the banks are gone. [...] Stanford's College all down, took all the patients out of Saint Mary's Hospital in boats and blew up the building. [...] I tell you George, I am sick [...] Saucelito is in riot, people breaking into stores for something to eat. Martial law is all over. I just came from up town trying to get some groceries as people are afraid of famine. Not a ham or a bag of flour to be got in town.

Now, George, I am afraid you will throw this scribble aside before you are half through but I thought you would like to hear. If your sun is dark it is from the smoke of the lost dear old city. It is a true saying that one touch of nature makes all the world kin. Hoping you are well and safe, I remain your loving cousin,

Maria

Stories of World War II Exhibit Closes After Successful Run

The Marin History Museum thanks guest curator Kelly Brisbois, St. Mark's School history teacher Mike Fargo, his 8th grade students and the participants who produced the exhibit *Stories of World War II: Making History Come Alive*. The exhibition ended its successful, year-long run with a closing reception on October 29, 2005.

Stories of World War II brought together the personal accounts of local veterans, Holocaust survivors

and interned Japanese-Americans. The exhibit included videotaped oral histories conducted by the students, as well as models, artifacts and memorabilia loaned by the veterans and survivors. The exhibit provided a way for the students to explore media technology, physical artifacts and, most importantly, to explore their elders' experiences to understand history in a deeper, more personal way than textbooks allow.

Copies of the oral histories are available for viewing in the Museum library. Contact Jocelyn Moss at (415) 454-8538 ext. 2, or jocelyn@marinhistory.org.



Curator Kelly Brisbois and Theodore "Dutch" Van Kirk, Navigator on the bomber Enola Gay. (MHM photo)

LEARN MORE ABOUT MARIN'S HISTORY

The Marin History Museum maintains extensive archives and a library of local history resources. If you are interested in using our archives to research Marin County history, please make an appointment. Use of research facilities costs \$5.00, but is free to Museum members. Appointments are available on most Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am – noon. To make an appointment or to learn more, please contact the librarian, Jocelyn Moss, at (415) 454-8538 ext. 2, or jocelyn@marinhistory.org.

The Boyd Gate House Gets a Facelift

This past August, the Marin History Museum moved its entire collection off-site (see the article on page 3). This move gave the staff an opportunity to begin several maintenance projects at the Boyd Gate House. In November, the staff moved its offices upstairs, freeing up the main floor for exhibits and public programs. This required upgrading the electricity in several of the bedrooms. In November, most of the main floor and the stairwell area were repainted, and large areas of damaged drywall were repaired.

The first major event in the rejuvenated Boyd Gate House was our successful 2005 Holiday Open House on December 8. In February, we began a monthly speaker series, *Marin Stories* (see the schedule on page 8). The exhibit *Louise Arner Boyd: Marin's Arctic Explorer* is still open, and the library is available for research by appointment. An exhibit showcasing the plans for the new Museum is also on view. The MHM staff is proud of the Boyd's refreshed good looks, and it will become even more beautiful as 2006 progresses. Stop by and see for yourself!

2005 Museum Magic Gala a Huge Success

The Museum's evening of festivities at the Mill Valley Community Center on April 29, 2005, was a huge success—as measured by money raised as well as good times. The generous sponsors of our 2005 gala deserve special thanks. The success of the event is due to the generosity of these individuals and organizations, and to the dedication of the Gala Committee volunteers. Join us again at this year's event on May 6, 2006, at Checker's Car Museum in San Rafael!

MHM on TV

Executive Director Merry Alberigi, Chief Curator Marcia Eymann and Board Member Andy Anderson recently discussed the Museum's exciting plans in a one-hour conversation on the cable TV program *The Public Advocate* with host Shirley Graves, MHM Advisory Board member. Videotapes of the program, "The Marin History Museum Story," are available to view at the Museum.

2005 Calendar Earns National Award

The Marin History Museum's 2005 Calendar, *Generations in Business*, received an Honorable Mention at the American Association of Museum's National Design Competition. MHM's 2006 calendar, *Sports and Recreation in Marin*, was submitted for consideration in this year's competition.

New Grant to Preserve the Past for the Future

The National Institute of Conservation recently awarded a Conservation Assessment Program grant to MHM. This grant will help fund an architect to assess the preservation needs of the Boyd Gate House and a specialist to review the conservation needs of the Museum's permanent collection.

Volunteer With Us

We need your help! Could you help with organization and maintenance of the Boyd Gate House? Or assist with administrative tasks? How about being a docent, or working at special events? Your skills can make a difference. Please contact Stephanie Christopher at (415) 454-8538 ext. 4, or stephanie@marinhistory.org.

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COME AND VISIT US!

The Boyd Gate House is currently open Tue. & Fri. 9-Noon and Wed. & Thu. 9-4. Current exhibits include *Louise Arner Boyd: Marin's Arctic Explorer*, as well as conceptual drawings of the new Marin History Museum. We look forward to seeing you!

MHM UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

Get the latest news and events listings on www.marinhistory.org. Support the Museum, shop for books and music, and check it often for frequent updates.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2006

Join us for the 2nd annual Marin History Museum Gala, *Cruising Through Time*, to be held at Checker's Car Museum in San Rafael.

JOIN THE MUSEUM!

Become a member of the Marin History Museum! As a member, you'll receive special benefits and know that you are helping to preserve the past for the future. Please contact Amy Foster at (415) 454-8538 ext. 1, or amy@marinhistory.org, or visit www.marinhistory.org.

INTRODUCING THE
2006 MARIN STORIES
LECTURE SERIES

The Marin History Museum presents *Marin Stories*, a new speaker series highlighting the fascinating people and legends of the land that make Marin distinctive. Join us for this series of entertaining evenings at the Museum. Please contact Crissa Williams to RSVP at (415) 454-8538 ext. 3 or crissa@marinhistory.org.

Marin Stories

First Thursday of the month
February – June, 2006, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
At the Boyd Gate House (open all day on lecture days).

Thank you to the February speaker, Susan Snyder, and to March's speakers, Elizabeth and Rondal Partridge.

Tom Killion

Thursday, April 6, 2006
Point Reyes artist Tom Killion, illustrator of *High Sierra of California* and an upcoming book of woodcuts inspired by Mt. Tamalpais, will discuss his technique and show slides of his work.

Lawrence DiStatsi

Thursday, May 4, 2006
The editor of *Una Storia Segreta: The Secret History of Italian American Evacuation and Internment during World War II* will share little-known details of Angel Island's wartime history.

Fred White

Thursday, June 1, 2006
Santa Clara University English professor Fred White will share poetic revelations about Muir Woods in his newly released novel, *The Essential John Muir*.

MARIN HISTORY MUSEUM STAFF

Merry Alberigi, Executive Director
Stephanie Christopher, Office Manager
Marcia Eymann, Chief Curator
Nina Fairles, Collections Manager
Amy Foster, Development Associate
Jocelyn Moss, Librarian
Crissa Williams, Education Director

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