

History and Trivia about Marin County



BOXING CHAMPION IN SAN RAFAEL

From about 1906 to 1914 there was a saloon at the west end of San Rafael's Fourth

Street called Billy Shannon's Villa. It doubled as a training facility for boxers and was run by Shannon, a former amateur lightweight boxing champion who later turned professional. He operated the Villa as a combination restaurant-bar and training camp and would also feature exhibition prizefights there.

NAMESAKE OF LUCAS VALLEY

Lucas Valley and Lucas Valley Road are not named for George! Instead, they are named for Marin pioneer John Lucas, who was born in Scotland and came to Marin in 1852. John Lucas spent much of his life on his 7,600-acre ranch and died in 1900.



ROCK N' ROLL ON MT. TAM

Held on June 10 and 11, 1967, the Fantasy Fair and Magic Mountain Music Festival took place on the east peak of Mt. Tamalpais at the Cushing Memorial Amphitheater, home to the annual Mountain Play. Sponsored by KFRC radio, the acts included The Doors, The Byrds, Captain Beefheart, Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, the Jefferson Airplane, Country Joe and the Fish, the Grass

Roots and others. It's estimated that 36,000 young people attended. Tickets were \$2; proceeds went to Hunters Point Child Care Centers. Image: Courtesy of Elmer Jan.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE BOULEVARD



In 1931, Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, winding from the San Quentin Peninsula to the tip of Point Reyes, was

officially named for the world explorer. Parts of the route were known by different names such as: San Rafael-Olema Road, Point Reyes Road, Ross Landing Road. Above: A car heads west on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard at the intersection of Highway 101 in Greenbrae, circa 1935.



SAN RAFAEL CANAL: PRIME BATHING SPOT

In the early 20th century, Charles P. Ware maintained a public bathhouse and open-air baths in the San Rafael Canal. In its heyday, the Canal was a popular spot for salt-water bathing and boating.

ROBIN WILLIAMS, REDWOOD HIGH CLASS OF '68

According to the 1968 Redwood High School yearbook, senior Robin Williams (he was called "Rob" at the time), was on Redwood's varsity soccer and cross-country teams. He was also a member of the Honor Society.



THE "CROOKEDEST RAILROAD IN THE WORLD"

From 1896 until 1929, the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railroad ran from downtown Mill Valley to near the summit of Mt. Tamalpais, with a second line descending the West

side of Mt. Tamalpais to Muir Woods beginning in 1907. The railroad—which ran along today's Railroad Grade—had 281 curves. At the Double Bow-Knot, the railroad track paralleled itself five times in about 300 feet to attain an added elevation of 90 feet.

CAMPING POPULARIZED IN MARIN DURING 1870s

When the narrow-gauge North Pacific Coast Railroad was completed in 1875 it ran through Camp Taylor (site of Samuel P. Taylor's paper mill,) making it a popular destination for excursionists. By 1877, parties were coming from San Francisco and the surrounding Bay Area to enjoy the great outdoors. It was one of the first places in the U.S. to offer camping as a recreational activity.

FORMER MADAM ELECTED TO CITY GOV

Former madam Sally Stanford was elected to the Sausalito City Council in April 1972 on her sixth try for the office. "Sinners never give up," she commented.

MARIN'S FIRST OLYMPIC MEDALIST

Swimmer Eleanor Garatti was Marin's first Olympic medalist. In the 1928 games in Amsterdam, she also won gold as a member of the U.S. freestyle relay team and a silver medal in the individual 100-yard freestyle.

MUSIC HISTORY MADE AT "THE PLANT"

Since 1972, numerous artists have recorded albums at Sausalito's famed studio The Plant. Among them were Stevie Wonder, Eagles, The Doobie Brothers, Huey Lewis & The News, Journey, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Buddy Miles, Fleetwood Mac, the Grateful Dead, Prince, Aretha Franklin, Mariah Carey, Dave Matthews, Metallica and Van Morrison.



MISSION SAN RAFAEL

Twenty-one missions were established by the Franciscans in California. Mission San Rafael Arcangel was number 20, founded in 1817. It was known as the "hospital mission," a place where ailing neophytes of Mission Dolores could find health in a warmer climate. Saint Rafael is the patron saint of healing. Image: Courtesy Seaver Center for Western History Research at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History.

A WOMAN WINS THE DIPSEA

In June 1980, Donna Andrews, a 39-year-old runner from Mill Valley, became the first adult woman to win the Dipsea Race and the first Marin resident to win the race in 12 years.

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