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MANY GREAT BENEFITS PLUS YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS THE MUSEUM

Museum News

We celebrated the Marin History Museum with gusto and generosity at our annual fundraiser at Sweetwater in Mill Valley.



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Feature Article

THANKSGIVING AT SAN QUENTIN

Thanksgiving for most is a high-calorie football fest with friends and family. But—what if miles and prison bars kept you from your besties and kin? What if you're...say...in San Quentin for Thanksgiving?

In June 1912, San Quentin's inmates rioted for five days over their twice-daily rations of rancid food. Thirty years later, in 1943, with Warden Duffy in charge for three years, San Quentin's death row inmates relished their Thanksgiving dinner. In gratitude, they crafted and signed a thank you card to the Warden and his wife. Their love of commas and questionable spelling notwithstanding, the inmates' appreciation confirms Clinton Duffy's success as a humane warden.

KEEP SMILING

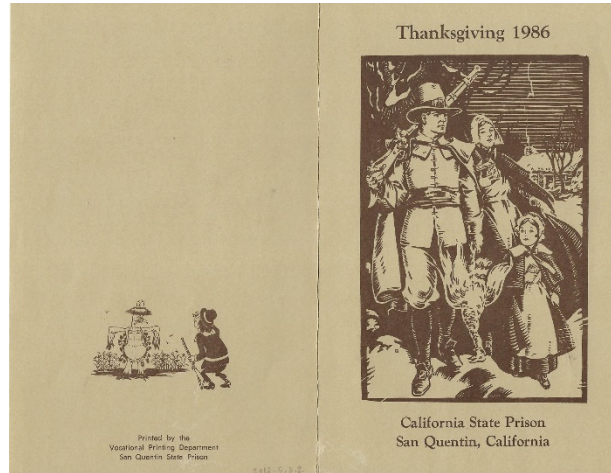
We, the men of condemn row, send
to you, our hearts of Thanks, and appreciation,
for making the day of Thanksgiving, truly, a
day of Thanks, for us all.
THANK YOU AN GOD BLESS YOU!



SOURCE: MHM

While we don't know what was on the menu for Thanksgiving dinner in 1943, we know that in 1986 the prison kitchen team created a traditional dinner of [Waldorf salad](#) and turkey with all the fixings followed by pumpkin pie (with cream!) and coffee.

The museum's collection includes a *Thanksgiving 1986* brochure created by the prison's Vocational Printing Department including the day's menu as well as the names of the Warden, other members of the prison's administration, and the entire kitchen staff from Food Service Sergeants through the butcher, the baker, and seventeen cooks—no candlestick maker.



SOURCE: MHM

In a photo of the San Quentin kitchen crew from 1916, we see a team of ten men, one smiling and the rest posing with grim faces. One man, a butcher by his clothing, scowls with crossed arms staring resolutely away from the camera. In contrast to the forbidding faces and shadowy surroundings, vases of flowers grace the counters.



SOURCE: MHM

The staff and volunteers at the Marin History Museum wish you and yours a happy and tasty Thanksgiving—don't forget the Waldorf salad!



Clinton Truman Duffy
(August 4, 1898 –October 12, 1982)

he son of a San Quentin prison guard, Clinton Duffy was the seventh of eight children. After graduation from San Quentin Grammar School and San Rafael High School, Duffy served as a Marine in World War I. In 1929, he accepted a position as secretary to the Warden of San Quentin, the first of his many prison jobs including San Quentin historian.

On July 13, 1940, Duffy was appointed Warden, transforming the traditional punishment policy into one of punishment plus training and treatment. Head shaving, weekend lockups, underground “holes,” and physical abuse were abolished. Numbers were removed from clothing. Psychiatric and alcoholic treatments were introduced. “Idle time groups and activities” included sports, lectures, classroom and trade education. The San Quentin debating club competed against teams from Bay Area campuses.

In 1954, two movies— [Duffy of San Quentin](#) and [The Steel Cage](#) —were released based on Duffy’s 1950 book: [The San Quentin Story](#).



Gladys B. Duffy (Carpenter)
(December 18, 1899 – October 23, 1969)

Born in Stockton, Gladys moved to San Quentin at three months old where her father worked as a prison guard. Shortly, his support of the Republican Party forced the family to San Francisco. In her 1959 memoir, *Warden’s Wife*, Gladys recalled fleeing back to Marin after the 1906 earthquake—her father carrying two caged canaries and an empty Gladstone bag while her mother clutched her *White House Cook Book* under one arm and her sewing machine in the other.

Gladys grew up in San Quentin, attended grammar school, played with her friends on the prison’s Main Street and snuck into the Warden’s garden for lunch under the pomegranate tree with her beau, Clinton Duffy. After graduating from San Rafael High in 1918, Gladys attended the Normal School in San Francisco, training to be a teacher—at San Quentin.

On New Year’s Eve 1921, Gladys married her San Quentin playmate. Their only child, Jack, was born months later and Gladys returned to teaching shortly thereafter. When Clinton Duffy became Warden,

Madys became his partner in prison reform as much as in life. Called Mom Duffy by the inmates, Glad occasionally joined the prisoners for movie-night and spoke over the prison radio network, offering motherly advice and comfort to the inmates

Photo Source: MHM

Community Events of Interest

Wednesday, November 7:00-8:30pm
History Mill Valley Library

First Wednesday: Ross - A Rich

Ross: A Rich History, with Historians Richard Torney and Fran Cappelletti

In partnership for the first time, Torney and Cappelletti will tell the story of the small bucolic town of Ross in a presentation which includes beautiful archived photos of people and events over time, you'll see how much has changed along with how much has not. You will also learn about the important contributions Mill Valley residents to the development of the Marin Art and Garden Center.

Tuesday, November 27 7:00-8:00pm
Women Corte Madera Library

Her Side of the Story: California Pioneer

Librarian Patricia Keats for a presentation on rare, first-person historical reminiscences of California pioneer women. These documents currently on display at the Society of California Pioneers museum highlight the role women played in the formation of the state.