

## Museum News



# You Are Invited To

## Fired Up About The Future!

*A Benefit for the Marin History Museum*

Thursday, October 18, 2018

Sweetwater Music Hall, Mill Valley

5 pm VIP Cocktail Reception + Silent Auction + Dinner

7 pm Doors Open for General Admission

7:45 pm Program

8:30 pm Party + Music

Come celebrate Marin's rich history and support Marin History Museum's programs at a night that will rock your socks off! VIP dinner guests will start with a cocktail reception on the Sweetwater Music Hall patio enjoying the best of Sweetwater's fresh gourmet appetizers and cocktails and the chance to bid on exclusive auction items sourced from some of Marin's beloved businesses. Then we will move into a family-style dinner created by Chef Goron Drysdale featuring the F.L.O.S.S. philosophy: Fresh, Local, Organic, Seasonal and Sustainable.

After dinner we will return to the patio for champagne and dessert and a last-chance to bid on auction items while our party-only guests arrive. All of us will hear from the museum team about exciting new plans - and you will get the chance to support their vision during a rousing paddle-raise. The night caps off with a dance-worthy set by Tailor Made.

This band gets rave reviews so don't miss out on this party!

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

#### Fire Chiefs

Pam Polite and Dennis Fisco  
Nancy and Rich Robbins  
Smith Family

#### Battalion Chiefs

Ann Batman  
Paul J. Boschetto Foundation  
Celeste and Jeff Craemer  
Paula Freschi Kamena  
Linda and Chris Moscone  
Montecito Plaza Shopping Center  
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#### Captains

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Lydia and Van Maroevich  
Mary Lou and Gary Ragghianti  
Marin Subaru

#### Firefighters

Mimi and Peter Buckley  
Lenore and Emil Maionchi  
Meridian Commercial

**Sponsor packages: \$1,000—\$10,000**  
(includes VIP dinner tickets)

**Individual VIP dinner tickets: \$300**

**Tickets for music and refreshments: \$125**



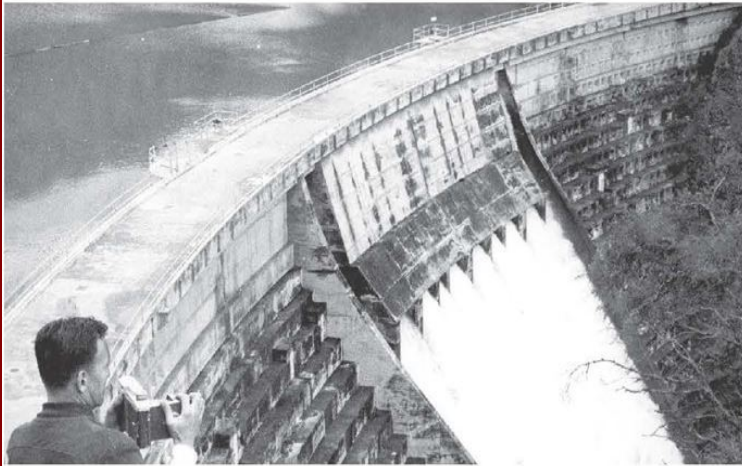
To purchase VIP dinner or  
concert tickets visit  
[www.SweetWaterMusicHall.com](http://www.SweetWaterMusicHall.com)

For sponsor packages contact  
415-382-1182  
or visit  
[MarinHistory.org](http://MarinHistory.org)

Marin History Museum Presents

# Marin Municipal Water District and Mt. Tam's lakes

Thursday, Oct 11 • 7:00 p.m. • Elks Lodge • 1312 Mission Ave, San Rafael



## Featured Speaker: Matt Cerkel, Marin Municipal Water District Park Ranger II

Mount Tamalpais is the symbol for the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) and all of Marin County. And, the mountain encompasses a watershed that is approximately 7% of the land area of Marin. But, in the early 1900s, the picturesque valleys, prosperous dairy ranches and stagecoach stop-overs made way to the demands of development. To secure the watershed's protection at this time, many private water companies needed to be consolidated into one district that could propose an ecologically sound solution for this development. Massive engineering construction soon began to dam the watershed areas, creating the lakes of Mt. Tam. Join MMWD's Matt Cerkel for an informative and visual story of Mt. Tam and its water.

Matt Cerkel is a 20-plus-year historian and ranger for MMWD. With a local family ancestry dating back to 1850s, he has earned his place on the mountain he loves. Matt's mantra is "protect the park from the people, the people from the park, the people from the people and, sometimes, the people from themselves."

\$10 suggested donation. Free entry for Elks with ID card.

San Rafael Elks Lodge at Mission Ave at C Street in San Rafael. 1312 Mission Ave.  
Look for hidden driveway. Parking is in the rear of mansion. Follow one-way signs.

### Please RSVP

[info@marinhistory.org](mailto:info@marinhistory.org) • 415-382-1182

[www.marinhistory.org](http://www.marinhistory.org)

sponsored by

**B:OMARIN**



A Marin History Museum Walking Tour, sponsored by Save Marin History

# Mt Olivet Cemetery and its famous — and infamous — residents

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018  
10 am; \$10 fee; rain postpones

**Where:** Mt Olivet Cemetery  
270 Los Ranchitos Rd  
San Rafael

**For more info, contact:**  
Marcie@marinhistory.org  
415 446 8869



There is a sharp contrast among the current residents of San Rafael's cemetery. They range from some of Marin County's most prominent pioneers to convicts executed at San Quentin. Join Marin historian Marcie Miller for a guided tour of stories filled with history and scandal. Visit the final locations of the notorious Barbara Graham, first woman executed, Ethel Spinelli, and founding father Timothy Murphy.

Land donated by John Lucas in 1897 created the cemetery to relocate those buried at Mission San Rafael. Learn about cemetery statuary, Victorian beliefs, and why San Rafael was moving grave sites.

Tour provided by "Walking with Marcie"



Marin History Museum - Craemer Family Research and Collection Facility  
45 Leveroni Ct Novato CA 94949

Please call for an appointment  
415-382-1182

Mailing Address: PO Box 150727, San Rafael, CA 94915

For more information:

[www.marinhistory.org](http://www.marinhistory.org) [info@marinhistory.org](mailto:info@marinhistory.org)

## Feature Article

# CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN

## Ghosts? We've got a few...

With all the people living—and dying—in our little corner of California, it stands to reason that a few of the dearly departed might hang around to see how the next century or two turns out. In the spirit of Halloween, we offer you some of Marin's special specters.

When the winds roar down the eastern slope of White's Hill, you might hear the shriek of a wood-fired locomotive. In 1875, a sweet-talking roustabout dishonored railroad engineer Mahoney's beloved daughter who, with her baby, died in childbirth.



*(Northwestern Pacific Headlight, 1928)*

Source: Wikipedia

Along decaying tracks, abandoned since 1904, the bereaved father still guns his engine, determined to crush his daughter's lover under ghostly iron wheels.

\* \* \* \*

A mere slip of a sailor, thirteen-year-old Alfred Easkoot was disfigured for life when a fire charred his face and destroyed his hand. Years later, after Captain Easkoot's schooner went aground on Duxbury Reef off Stinson Beach, he built a house with lumber salvaged from the wreck.



Source: MHM

Constantly patrolling his property, Easkoot frightened trespassers away with his glistening gold hook. When his coffin was carried across the sand from his house, it fell, cracked open, and his golden hook was carried away by the tide. Every night, at the strike of two—the hour of his death—Easkoot returns to search Stinson Beach for his lost hook.



\* \* \* \* \*

In September 1888, heiress Ella Nichols Park moved into her new Queen and Eastlake-style mansion, now San Rafael's Falkirk Cultural Center, once described by the *Marin Journal* as "one of the most ornamental and best built mansions in this place of beautiful homes."



Source: Falkirk Cultural Center

Some evenings, Mrs. Park still descends the stair from the second to the first floor, perhaps seeking a book from the library. Witnesses to her ethereal journey describe her friendly, "woman's energy" and the sense that she still watches over her cherished home.

\* \* \* \* \*



*The Silver Sixpence, Fall/Winter 2008*

Near midnight, an Olompali State Park manager saw a girl wearing multiple petticoats, her long, dark hair curled into side buns. He next encountered her outside his office, reaching longingly toward a candy bowl she couldn't touch. The last time they met, she gazed down at him curiously from the stair top.

Perhaps easily bored, the little girl only appears to new park employees. Some speculate the dark-haired child is Mary Black, an early resident and eventual owner of Olompali or her daughter or one of two children who drowned on the premises in the 1960s.

Maybe, if we offer just the right sweets, the little dark-haired girl will tell us her name.

\* \* \* \* \*

If these brief tales of phantoms whetted your appetite for more, click to read about [the bicycle-riding ghost in the San Rafael jail](#) or perhaps [Elmer Pimm—Tiburon’s last remaining railroad man](#)—who is still on the job.

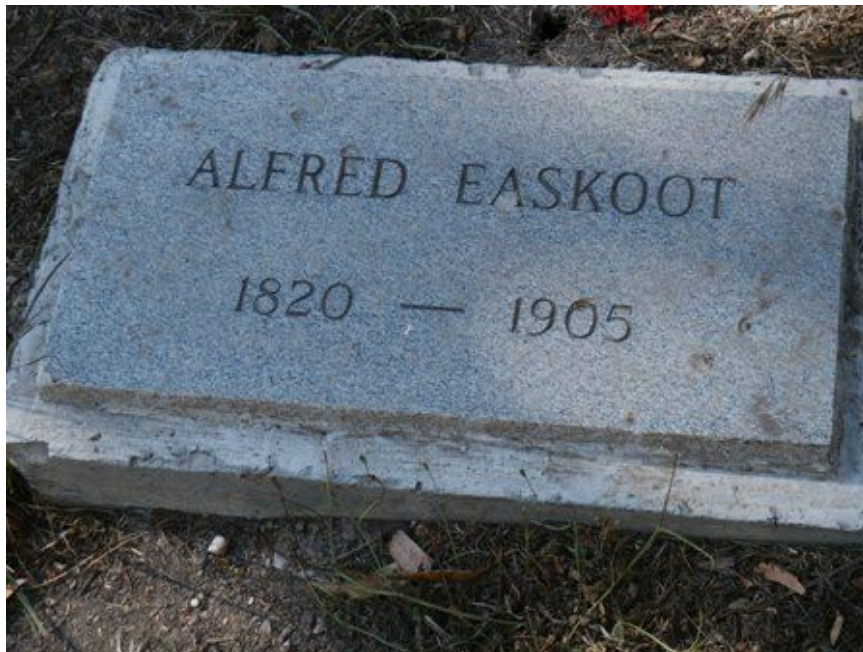
Send us *your* tale of things that go bump in the night at [info@MarinHistory.org](mailto:info@MarinHistory.org). We’ll post it on our Facebook page and save it in our archives.

By Jo Haraf

## Faces of Marin

A wise man once said, “I don’t believe in ghosts, but I do believe in ghost stories.” Sometimes, the true tales of the people behind the hauntings are more interesting than the spooky stories.

Captain Alfred Easkoot  
1820-1905



If you're not afraid of sea captains who search the sand for their missing hook, [click here to read the story of the real man behind the ghost of Captain Alfred Derby Easkoot.](#)





**Ella Nichols Park**  
**1857-February 10, 1905**

Ella Park was born in Vermont. On May 31, 1882, she married her best friend's father, Trenor Park, a man thirty-four-years her senior, and found herself firmly established in Marin County society.

Within a year of her marriage, her husband died, leaving her wealthy and eager to leave the now gloomy house they had shared. With limitless resources, Ella hired renowned architect Linton Day to build her dream mansion on an eleven-acre parcel of land on Mission Avenue. Ella Park died on February 10, 1905 in the home she built and loved so dearly. She is buried in Mount Tamalpais Cemetery. In 1906, the mansion was purchased by shipping magnate and philanthropist, Captain Robert Dollar, and renamed after his birthplace in Scotland: Falkirk.

Many believe Ella's ghost still inhabits her beloved mansion. Ghost hunters

have reported strange noises and spotted her spirit walking about the second floor landing, passing through the front door then descending the stairs to the driveway. Her ghost has been seen in the home's windows. During weddings she's been heard to wail and moan just as the officiant says, "till death do you part." Those who have seen her specter say she seems to be watching over the mansion.

By Alice Tanner

## Community Events of Interest

**Friday, October 5 11:00 am**

**The Doughboy Experience-Americans in the Great War**

**Moya Library/Ross Historical Society**

This presentation by Military Historian Colonel Fred Rutledge will cover the lead-up to America's declaration of war against Germany in April 1917, the mobilization of military forces, the battles in France, life in the trenches, and the troops coming home in 1919. Uniforms and artifacts will be displayed. We request \$10 at the door for the presentation.

**Thursday, October 11 7:30 pm**

**Northwestern Pacific Railroad History Symposium**

**Elks Lodge, San Rafael**

Creator of the photo archeology-based [eastbayhillsproject.org](http://eastbayhillsproject.org) website and Bay Area Electric Railway Association member **Stuart Swiedler** will present an exciting program entitled "How We Got to School by Electrics in the Bay Area". The talk will provide rare images and personal accounts of the use of electric railways and street cars to get teenagers to high school during the Golden Age of electric railways in the SF Bay Area.

In addition, a brief extra-special electric railways presentation entitled "Wye San Anselmo?" will be offered, based on the impact made on the presenter after two decades of weekend trips traveling between Oakland to Woodacre in Marin County.

**Monday, October 15 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Visions of Marin**

**Civic Center Library California Room**

Artist & historian **Mary Gilardi** presents Visions of Marin, describing the life and work of American Impressionist painter George Demont Otis, who lived at his studio-home in

Kentfield from 1934 until his death in 1961. Otis' paintings of Marin capture the beauty of our landscape and along the way document our evolving history and geography. Afterwards, using the California Room's collection of Otis paintings as a point of departure, historian Dewey Livingston will take us on a trip through time, showing us how the Marin scenes Otis painted have changed over time.

PLEASE NOTE LOCATION OF EVENT: 1600 Los Gamos, Suite 182 (via Lobby B), San Rafael

**Thursday, October 25 7:00pm**

**Annual Members Meeting**

**In the Heart of Marin: Then and Now 2.0**

**Kentfield Greenbrae Historical Society**

Many members requested that we revisit a photo presentation hosted by our very own historians, **Dewey Livingston and Richard Torney**, "In the Heart of Marin: Then and Now 2.0."

**Saturday, October 27 9:00 am**

**Stroll Through History**

**San Anselmo History Commission**

Travel back in time with **Dick Miner** and other members of the Historical Commission on a walking tour through downtown San Anselmo. The tour will highlight San Anselmo's historic Hub, the role of the railroad in the development of town and the changing character of the businesses and architecture on San Anselmo Avenue over the years. The tour will end at the Historical Museum for refreshments.

Meet at Creek Park.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU**

**MEMORIES REQUEST**

The Marin History Museum's Winter 2018 Bulletin will feature Marin's state, county, and city parks. You told us how much you enjoyed the "Movie Memories" in our Summer issue, so we're asking you to share memories of your first hike, swim, picnic, or kiss in one of Marin's many parks. We look forward to sharing your stories with our readers.

[Info@MarinHistory.org](mailto:Info@MarinHistory.org)



## JOIN THE MUSEUM OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

IT'S EASY at [marinhistory.org](http://marinhistory.org)  
MANY GREAT BENEFITS PLUS YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
SUPPORTS THE MUSEUM

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## FROM THE COLLECTION



Light yellow crew neck t-shirt with blue graphics promoting a special two-night Halloween party featuring Redlegs with Mr. Crunch and Diamond Slide at River City nightclub, October 31-November 1, 1975. \$2.50 cover and free drinks promised to anyone in “full costume.”

This t-shirt was donated to the Marin History Museum in 2010 by Ron Barbarita, former owner of the popular and short-lived River City, a favorite mid-1970s pool hall and nightclub once located at 52 Bolinas Road in

downtown Fairfax. River City attracted many now famous musicians both as patrons and players, including Huey Lewis, Michael McDonald, Bill Evans, and Phil Lesh. In a music review dated May 20, 1975 published in the *Marin Independent Journal*, writer Paul Liberatore describes River City as “fast becoming the best local hall (pool or otherwise), for listening to good live music in relaxed surroundings.”

Headliner Redlegs got their start in 1970 on the Sausalito waterfront and were part of the larger Waldo Point houseboat scene, a raucous crew of artists and musicians. According to the band’s vocalist and guitar player Jeff Costello, Redlegs’ rock and roll music embodied the magic of the late 1960s counter-culture and the fun and freedom of life on the waterfront.

Other artifacts from River City now part of the Marin History Museum’s permanent collection include photographs of Maria Muldaur, Bill Evans, and Phil Lesh performing on stage, a concert flyer promoting the Bill Evans Trio and official River City stationery.

**Sources:** Marin History Museum, [marinnostalgia.org](http://marinnostalgia.org), [theredlegs.com](http://theredlegs.com)

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## **IN THE NEWS - 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

### **Marin Journal**

### **October 1918**

#### **IN THE SAME BOAT**

*In one of the big base hospitals of the army not long ago a new librarian was sent to work by the American Library Association. She was a very charming young woman and very anxious of please all of her "customers," though some of them didn't even wish to look at a book. In her rounds she approached one of the patients and he declined to be interest in her wares. At the next cot she stopped and offered its occupant a book.*

"What's it about?" the patient asked.

"Oh, this is Bambi," said the librarian. " It's about a girl who married a man without his having anything to say about It."

"Hold on there," shouted the man who had declined all books. He raised himself up on his elbow and reached out his hand. "Give me that book. It's my autobiography."

Take a book or two to the San Rafael Public Library. They all go to the boys in Service.

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## **VOLUNTEER JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

We can use your help! Have a little time on our hands and looking to help a local non-profit? Below is a list of some of the volunteer positions we need to fill.

Please let us know if any of these look interesting to you by emailing [info@marinhistory.org](mailto:info@marinhistory.org) or calling 415-382-1182. We would love to hear from you!

### **Writer**

We are starting to create a lot of content for our eNewsletters, social media sites, and future traveling exhibitions and publications. If you like to do historical research and write short articles, we could use your help.

### **Editor**

Along with writers, we need editors to give the final article its blessing before it goes to print. This volunteer job can be done from home or on site. Let us know if you have that required eagle eye and grammatical tenacity to tackle this job.

### **Heavy Lifter**

We need a few strong individuals to help move heavy shelving units within the Collections Facility. If you have few hours to spare during the week and could help us move our shelves, we would love to hear from you.

### **Special Event Assistant**

If you enjoy hosting or attending a well-planned party, you'll be a natural at during the Museum's special events. We would love to see you help create the party, greet guests who attend, and keep that friendly and festive feeling going for the whole evening.

### **Photographer**

Capture the moment for us! Your photos of the Museum's special events and exhibitions will be invaluable for public outreach, future fundraising campaigns and our institution's historical record. We could use your help documenting our history!

**Are you a student looking for community service hours? Know a student who needs hours before graduating? The Marin History Museum is a 501(c)3 and can grant students their community service hours. Let us know and we'll take care of it!**