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**President's Message**

John Leonard

Welcome to this year's edition of our Annual Review. I will contribute my own recollections to the theme of this year's Walk into History, the Centenary celebration of Tamalpais High School.

My parents influenced my orientation, like that of most young people. Political discussions at the dinner table were routine between my father, a moderate Republican in a time when the species still existed in California, and my mother, a very progressive Democrat. (My mother was instinctively, viscerally opposed to U.S. involvement in Vietnam from the beginning at a time when most people were willing to give the benefit of the doubt to authority figures.)

My time at Tam was bracketed by two events: the assassination of President Kennedy, which occurred when I was in Junior High School, as it was then, and, after graduation from Tam, heading off to U.C. Santa Cruz. (This too was my mother's doing; she read about the fledgling campus and decided it was the place for me.)

I entered Tam in the fall of 1965 and graduated in 1969. The times, they were a-changing, but much was still the same. For example, Tam had integrated classes and sports team, but racial segregation was still alive and well in Marin. What had been an integrated housing complex for workers in the federally-funded Marinship shipyards became an African-American enclave when, after World War Two ended, only white former employees were able to move to other parts of Marin.

Willie Hector, the football coach when I was at Tam, had played several years for the Los Angeles Rams, where he befriended star running back Dick Bass. Bass grew up in Vallejo, and starred at University of the Pacific before going to the Rams. Mr. Hector recounted how, in the early 60s, he and Dick Bass went looking for a house in Marin, but could not find anyone who would sell to them.

For a couple of years under Willie Hector, Tam was an MCAL (Marin County Athletic League) football powerhouse. Our traditional rival, San Rafael High, had been replaced by the two newer high schools which together with Tam comprised the Tamalpais Union High School District, Drake, and, in particular, Redwood. One of those years, we were the opponents at Redwood's homecoming game and their players came out with "Beat Tam" stitched on the back of their jerseys. We beat them 33-0.

Tam was the school with the most diverse student body. We took in Mill Valley, Sausalito, Marin City, the Marin Headlands, (fords Barry, Baker and Cronkite) and, over the hill by way of bus, West Marin. Drake we regarded as a more blue-collar version of ourselves, Redwood as the province of the most likely to succeed. We liked the layout and evident age of our campus and the presence of vocational and art teaching along with academics. Henri Boussy, who later contributed significantly to the work of the Historical Society, Kett Zegart, Dan Caldwell, and Bob Greenwood all contributed to the lives of generations of Tam students and to Tam's reputation (at least among its own students and alumni) as the coolest High School in Marin.

The late 60s at Tam was a time of promise and a time of sadness, but mostly I remember it as a time in which learning was encouraged, when standards and respect for them existed with support for creativity. This is my nod to those times, those teachers, and those classmates.

*
Tamalpais High School
The 100-year-old Teenager by Tim Amyx

In 1908, Tamalpais High School was built with a style reminiscent of the California missions, on a hill adjacent to the County Road, the main route north from Sausalito. Today, the road is gone and the campus is more like a university than a typical high school. It's not just the natural beauty that has given Tam its charm and identity, but a combination of community involvement, a staff and faculty that has always been ahead of its time, and a core of students, maturing in an environment focused on higher education. This year Tamalpais High School celebrates 100 years of being one of the top public high schools in the country.

In 1890, when the railroad reached Mill Valley, Mill Valley's population increased from a few dozen, to a few hundred. The earthquake of 1906 led to the growth of well over a thousand residents, many with young families. Citizens petitioned the Sausalito and Mill Valley elementary school districts to add a public high school. As it was, kids in Mill Valley and Sausalito had to take the train to San Rafael High School.

In the spring of 1907 the newly created Tamalpais Union High School District paid $2800 for 2.8 acres of hillside, and $509 for five acres of marshland that would eventually become athletic fields.

On August 3, 1908, the school opened its doors to 70 students from Sausalito and Mill Valley. The new school began its existence in a temporary four-room, windowless, canvas-roofed wooden structure, quickly dubbed "The Shack." On September 21, 1908, one wing of the main building opened unfinished, and the students were finally settled away from the wind, heat and dust encountered in "The Shack." When the first graduating class went through their commencement in June of 1909, the core of the high school was finished.

The man synonymous with the name of the high school for over 30 years was Ernest Wood. He was the first principal and taught history. He was a man of great stature, respect, and admiration. Depending who you ask, he was a congenial great man, or a self-righteous bully, a leader or a bureaucrat, a communi-
In the spring of 1907 the newly created Tamalpais Union High School District paid $2800 for 2.8 acres of hillside, and $509 for five acres of marshland that would eventually become athletic fields.
Mr. Wood was generally an admired, respected, and well-liked man and teacher. From 1905 through 1944, Mr. Wood was in charge and there were few who challenged his authority or word. Being a great leader Mr. Wood always hired the best possible teachers. Two of his early finds were outstanding women teachers: Elizabeth Keyser and Ruby Scott.

Ms. Keyser was the first teacher hired by Mr. Wood when the school opened in 1908. She taught English and stayed at Tam until 1947. Appropriately enough, when the new Humanities building was constructed in 1923, it was named Keyser Hall, in her honor.

Ruby Scott was hired by Mr. Wood to teach Latin and French in 1913. She stayed at Tam until 1956. When the new women's gymnasium was built on the campus in 1957, it was named for Ruby Scott.

There were two houses along the County Road on the land purchased for the school in 1907. Mr. Wood and his family lived in one of them for many years. He had four daughters. He planted a redwood tree next to the house at the birth of each daughter. The house was demolished in the 1950s, but the redwoods still stand, now over 100 ft. high.

In 1936, the other house was moved to the back of the campus on Homestead Blvd. to house the school custodian. From 1945 to 1950, custodian and later district maintenance supervisor Ralph Hoetger lived in the house. His son, Conrad Hoetger, who later became a teacher at Tam, has a building named after him.

As time passed, the town grew, the student population increased from the initial 70 in 1908, to 330 in 1917, to 952 in 1936, to 1,125 in 1960. It peaked in the 1970s at around 1,800, and is currently about 1,000. Between 1934 and 1950 most of the kids in southern Marin went to Tam High. They came from elementary school districts of Belmar, Tiburon, Fairfax, San Anselmo, Ross, Kentfield, Larkspur and Corte Madera.

From the day Tam opened, there was a public transportation system that brought kids to school. Although the automobile was making an impact on Mill Valley at the time, there were still countless buggies in use, and public transportation was mostly by train. The rail spur to downtown Mill Valley ran next to the gymnasium. The "Special," a five-car school train picked up students from Manor in Fairfax through the Ross Valley to Corte Madera — one car for girls, one for boys and three co-ed. Busses brought students from Tiburon/Belvedere and Belmar/Stinson Beach.

It is interesting to note from old photos how the roads were routed in front of and through the Tam High campus. One needs to go back in time to understand and appreciate the impact of the automobile in Mill Valley and Marin. The first roads that were graded through Mill Valley were dirt roads for wagons and carriages. The County Road from Sausalito came from Manzanita to Tam Junction, then on what is now Almonte Blvd. around the current football fields and then through the middle of the high school grounds on what is today the walk path next to the swimming pool. Today's four-lane Miller
Ave. between the current baseball fields and the condominiums was marshland. The railway was built on a raised bed of landfill to pass above the water level at high tide. To this very day, during high tides with heavy rains, the water level rises to cover much of this part of Miller Ave.

In 1908, the County Road went along the base of the hill in front of the school. In 1923, the gym was built on the other side of the County Road. Students had to cross Highway 101 to go the gymnasium and athletic fields! At first the students crossed when it was safe, looking both ways. Later a stoplight was installed for safety. The problem was solved in 1931 when the Richardson Bay Bridge was built and the County Road through the campus was later abandoned.

There have been two swimming pools at Tam. The first was an indoor pool built in 1923 next to
the Boys Gym. By 1957 it became a safety hazard as it continued to sink further into the marsh. It was torn down, and the current boys locker room was built on its site. Within a year a new outdoor swimming pool was built. It connected to the new girls locker room, and Girl's Gym, known as Ruby Scott Auditorium. The original cafeteria was located on the first floor of the main building.

The Mary Baker student center was built in 1972. It includes a cafeteria, and offices for various student and sports activities, but also serves as a place to hang out. Before the student center was built, lunches were served at a snack bar on the side of the Ruby Scott Auditorium. The original cafeteria was located on the first floor of the main building.

Mead Theater, the outdoor amphitheater built by the WPA in 1936, is one of the most nostalgic and unforgettable of Tam's landmarks. It has been the location for rallies, graduations, plays and concerts. A wooden stage served an important function at the amphitheater until it was torn down in 1975 due to dry rot damage. A fund raising effort is underway to rebuild the stage.

The newest and most advanced building is the Caldwell Per-

When asked to write something about the 100th anniversary of Tam High, I felt a little presumptuous. After all, I was just one of the many thousands who passed under those arches in the past century. So I polled a few fellow Tam High alumni about what word popped first into their minds at the mention of our high school.

Most of the words had to do with the physical nature of Tam. A unique school at the doorway of a unique little town. I've been driving past those arches and that clock tower that announce the entrance into Mill Valley for most of my life. For my first 18 years, Tam was just the high school, my eventual destination and the place that would usher me out of town. It wasn't until I returned to Mill Valley as an adult - first just passing through and then staying to raise my family - that I truly began to appreciate Tam.

By that time, I'd seen far too many drab, boxlike institutions. Sterile places without character or a sense of place, where students were housed with the purpose of embracing new ideas. Places indistinguishable from each other. That isn't Tam. When I drive past with an out-of-town visitor, most do a double take, asking, "That's your high school?"

Tam is getting a lot of love this year. We're having two big birthday parties in Southern Marin, celebrating the centennial birthday of both Tam High and Muir Woods. That they share the same birthday is no coincidence.

A century ago, our forbears had a strong aesthetic sense, one that sadly has been diluted by succeeding generations. At the turn of the 19th century, the Arts and Crafts movement was at its height. Theodore Roosevelt was
forming Arts center, named for longtime drama teacher, and former Tam student, Dan Caldwell. The theater for plays and musicals was opened in 2006. The architectural design is more in line with the science building and student center than the older part of the campus that reflects the California mission style.

Just about anyone who has ever studied or taught at Tam High School has a soft spot for it in their heart. Some even remember a line from the Tamalpais High School song, 'In our hearts you are enshrined.' Parents, who had students there, also have special memories of this very special high school. Very few schools in the Bay Area stand out as clear and as beautiful as Tam does with its arches and clock tower which is visible from as far away as the Richardson Bay Bridge, or the top of Mt. Tam. Similar to the Dipsea Steps, Boyle Park, or the Old Mill, Tamalpais High School is as much a part of Mill Valley and its history as the mountain it was named after.

President and expanding national protection for our country’s physical jewels including Muir Woods. In the wake of the grim industrial revolution, the gaudy Victorian era, there was newfound appreciation for nature. Beauty was embraced. There was an acknowledgement that people are affected by their surroundings.

That was the world into which Tam was born. A high school campus built into the hill, framed by the mountain. Though the school has grown over the years, it has never stopped reflecting the beauty of its surroundings. The clock tower. The arches. The high ceilings and bay views in Wood Hall. Most recently, the new landscaping and the state of the art theater.

For 100 years, the setting has fueled creativity. The drama, arts and music departments have always thrived at Tam. Like so many other thousands of students, I found my own writing voice in the sunny journalism room in now-vanished Keyser Hall, learned to tap my courage on the black stage of Ruby Scott, wove big dreams on the hill under the clock tower.

When I was at Tam in the late 1970s, we embraced new ideas, new trends, and new thoughts - sometimes to our detriment. As a former student and the parent of a Tam junior, I know better than to overly romanticize the place. It is a public high school - not overwhelmingly large or suffocatingly small. A place where students choose their own path, where they can succeed or struggle. You can leave Tam flying high on wings of promise or depart without having yet found any clear direction.

All high schools provide opportunity. But Tam provides them in a more unique setting than most. It is a school of character, with a sense of place. Arches. A tower. The bay on one side, the mountain on the other. One of my friends offered another word to describe Tam:

HOME.
Muir Woods
by Peter Finnrite, San Francisco Chronicle

The birthdates of its trees are lost to history, so Muir Woods did the next best thing on January 9, 2008 and celebrated its 100-year anniversary as a national monument.

Just for good measure, it got itself listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Muir Woods listing in the National Register, which is administered by the National Park Service, was timed to coincide with the anniversary of the day President Theodore Roosevelt declared it the nation's 10th national monument. The famous redwood grove was listed, according to park historian Stephen Haller, not only because of the ancient trees but because of its importance as the birthplace of the modern conservation movement.

"It's a historic site because it changed people's lives, their thinking and the politics of land use," Haller said.

Muir Woods would almost surely have been logged and flooded with a dam had U.S. Rep. William Kent not purchased the land and donated it to the federal government.

By then the vast old-growth redwood forests that once covered much of the California coast had been chopped down and used to build San Francisco and other cities. The forests, which covered 2 million acres in the early 19th century, were reduced by more than 97 percent.

The giant sequoias in what was then known as Redwood Canyon still existed in the early 20th century only because of their remote location. But pressure from logging interests was mounting, and the wildlife was disappearing. The last grizzly bear in Marin County was killed in the canyon in 1903.

Kent, the heir to a Chicago meat-packing fortune, organized the Tamalpais Forestry Association and in 1905 bought the canyon for $45,000 from the Tamalpais Land & Water Co. (TL&W). That

"This is the best tree-lovers monument that could possibly be found in all the forests of the world."

—John Muir to William Kent Feb. 8, 1908
might have been enough to save the land had the 1906 earthquake and fire not created a need for both lumber and a reliable water source for the region. The North Coast Water Co. proposed damming Redwood Creek and filed condemnation papers in an effort to take Kent's land.

But Kent and his wife, Elizabeth Thacher Kent, thwarted the land grab, donating 298 acres of forest to the federal government on Dec. 26, 1907.

Kent's wife was initially leery of giving away such a valuable asset, but her husband reportedly responded, "If we lost all the money we have and saved these trees, it would be worthwhile, wouldn't it?"

Roosevelt wanted to name the monument after Kent that day a century ago, but the legislator declined saying, "I have five good husky boys. If they cannot keep the name of Kent alive, I am willing it should be forgotten. Rather, Kent insisted that it be named after natural-
MUIR WOODS

ist John Muir. Later additions expanded the monument to 550 acres.

Rep. Kent went on to co-author the act that created the National Park Service in 1916.

Kent's generous act, which jeopardized his own financial wellbeing for the good of the people, is now considered one of the most courageous acts of land preservation in U.S. history, inspiring generations of conservationists throughout the region.

"It's wonderful to see so many people honoring these trees and my grandparents," said Kent's granddaughter, Eleanor Kent. What John Muir said in 1897, about the vanishing redwoods still resonates today.

"God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods," Muir said, "but he cannot save them from fools - only Uncle Sam can do that."

"Come to the wood, for here is rest. There is no repose like that of the green deep woods."

— John Muir
Chief Marin
A Mill Valley Success Story Forgotten, Ignored, and Denied by Betty Goerke

John Reed may be recognized as the first settler in Mill Valley, but in truth Mill Valley was founded by Native Americans over 5000 years ago.

The evidence of past Indian presence is all around us. We use Indian names everyday when we speak, for example, of Mt Tamalpais, but we also commonly use the Spanish names that were given to Native Americans at the missions when we refer to Marin and Novato, and we travel on roads that were formerly Indian trails.

Scattered across our landscape, perhaps in your back yard, in areas on creeks near the former shoreline, and along trails on our hillsides and the mountain, there are still remnants of Indian villages, campsites, and hunting and clamming sites. Soil with native county's namesake was reported to have been born here at the village of Anamá, and lived in the Richardson Bay area until he was an adult.

These facts were not recognized previously because historians did not investigate unpublished materials such as the official mission records of San Francisco and San Rafael, diaries, letters, histories and documents, all of which mention Marin and his activities.

Surprisingly, even published material, such as the interviews of two Coast Miwok in the 1930s (one of whom was a relative of Marin) and the records from the first California senate in 1850 which named the counties, were ignored by many.

The first public notice in English of Chief Marin was General Mariano Vallejo's rationale in the Senate record for choosing a Coast Miwok Indian for the name of the county north of San Francisco. As a military man, Vallejo was familiar with Marin's reputation as a fighter, his conflicts with the military, his incarcerations at the presidio jail, and his hide-out on the Marin islands, but he was unaware of Marin's affiliation with Mission Dolores and his participation in mission government at the missions in San Francisco and all but his last years at San Rafael. In spite of 'Vallejo's description of Marin as a courageous fighter, the namesake of our county was largely forgotten over the years.

This Coast Miwok male was a member of Chief Marin's Huimen group of Richardson Bay. In 1816 he was among 16 male and 2 female survivors out of 162 Huimen that had been baptized at Mission Dolores.

Gambling among Coast Miwok provided fun and a chance to exchange goods between villages and tribes.

The captain of the San Francisco presidio relied on Chief Marin's navigational skills to paddle a similar tule boat.

The evidence of past Indian presence is all around us. We use Indian names everyday when we speak, for example, of Mt Tamalpais.
years, his reputation questioned, and his existence doubted by some scholars.

The records show, however, that there was a Coast Miwok Indian named Huicmuse, a member of the Huimen group of Coast Miwok whose territory included Mill Valley, Tiburon, Belvedere, and Sausalito. He received his Spanish name, Marino, at age 20 when he left the Richardson Bay area and was baptized at Mission Dolores in San Francisco. He was a skilled boatman. For years he continued to be referred to as Marino by the missionaries, but the military began to use the shortened version "Marin" by the time he was 40, and eventually the priests did too. Delving into the records, one soon finds Marin to be a fascinating character, someone who managed to maneuver in three conflicting worlds: Native, mission, and military, and eventually gained respect in all three.

At the time of Marin's birth in 1781, no Coast Miwok had yet entered Mission Dolores in San Francisco which had been founded five years earlier. However, Huimen Coast Miwok had observed and in some cases met the priest, surgeon, and some sailors from the Spanish ship San Carlos when it anchored off of Sausalito and Angel Island for over a month in late summer 1775. The priest described the native population of Richardson Bay as generous in their gifts to the Spanish, polite in their interactions, and quick in their grasp of Spanish. The Spanish were also impressed with the speed and agility of the native canoes of tule which were easier to manipulate and faster than the Spanish boat.

The Huimen village of Anamas, Marin's reported birthplace, lay in southeastern Mill Valley, adjacent to a small creek and near the marshes. The 20 foot high oval mound on which it was situated was larger than a football field, and although it was not longer occupied, was still clearly visible when archaeologist Nels Nelson made a survey of Bay area mounds in 1907. At that time its size and dark soil containing broken pieces of clam, oyster, and mussel were tip-offs that this was a former Indian village even though the kotchas (thatched homes) had collapsed and much of the soil had been removed by white settlers for their own use.

Professional excavations at six archaeological sites in Mill Valley and Strawberry have revealed that the native population subsisted on seeds, fish, shellfish, deer, elk, acorns, rabbits, and grasshoppers; that they made tools out of locally available stone, chert, and imported obsidian; and that they decorated themselves with ornaments of mica, abalone, soapstone, and shell. Only such indestructible items could have resisted damage by rain, and a long life in the soil.

If these items represented all we knew of the cultural items of the Coast Miwok culture, we might turn away disappointed, but fortunately we know from several European museum collections and visitors' drawings of native peoples at Mission Dolores from the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that they made a variety of beautiful handcrafted objects from plants and feathers. The Coast Miwok wove watertight baskets of willow and sedge root, decorated with shell beads and abalone pendants. They also produced other perishable works, including woven peals or skins of otter, rabbit, and duck feathers which helped to keep them warm. The intricate feather work obtained from condors, hawks, meadowlarks, mallards, and woodpeckers adorned their brilliantly colorful cloaks, blankets, hats of various designs, and belts.

Imagine the Mill Valley landscape before there were fences and roads, and when the extensive marshes and open water were teeming with ducks and waterbirds. Open water and marshes covered the land east of Camino Alto, including the site of the present Mill Valley Middle School, the Redwoods Retirement Commu-
The Coast Miwok treasured their feathered belts above all their possessions. They were approximately 5 feet long by 4 feet, 5 inches high, and contained iridescent green feathers of the head of the male mallard, red cap feathers of the acorn woodpecker, and beads made from olivella shells.

Nevertheless, all did not go smoothly at the mission. In 1822, a year after Marin had served with another Indian on a Spanish military expedition, the priest, Father Amoros complained of Marin’s insubordination and requested more soldiers to keep an eye on him. This was most likely during the time when Marin was periodically hiding out on the islands off of San Rafael, named after him during his lifetime. He was eventually incarcerated at the Presidio, and finally released, to remain in the San Francisco area for several years, with greater freedom than he had experienced at San Rafael. Yet he returned to San Rafael after Amoros’ death and again became politically active.

Marin was closely observed by General Vallejo in 1833 when Marin successfully headed a delegation of Coast Miwok leaders demanding that the military under Vallejo, stop the missionaries’ use of whipping and other punishments against the native population. He died six years later at San Rafael.

How did a local Mill Valley boy come to be such a high ranking figure? Marin had the advantage of spending his formative years in his native village, free from the preaching of a church that derided native culture and spiritual values. Given this foundation, his survival may have been the result of his confidence, and his linguistic, navigational and leadership skills, all honed in his home area on Richardson Bay.

On December 15, 2007, at a mass at St Raphael Church in San Rafael, retired Bishop Quinn of Sacramento apologized to the Coast Miwok for the Catholic church’s past injustices, and the chairman of the tribe accepted the apology. This fall a plaque commemorating Marin will be placed at Anamis.

Chief Marin – Leader, Rebel, and Legend, A History of Marin County’s Namesake and His People, Betty Goerke, Heyday Books, $21.95
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