Edith Olson, Red Cross nurse, takes a break from serving coffee to pose with firefighters.

FROM THE EDITOR . . . Marilyn Geary

This Review is dedicated to the memory of Fred Sandrock, who died suddenly on April 23, 2004. Despite failing health, Fred had graciously agreed to submit an article on the fire lookout for this Review. His passion for our mountain and its history shone strong to the end. We are deeply grateful for the legacy Fred left us, for the many volumes of Facts and Fancies he compiled for the Mount Tamalpais History Project, for his unwavering commitment to historical accuracy, for his enthusiastic charting of new historic territories, and for the humor and joy with which he shared his deep knowledge of our past. We will miss him dearly.

Many thanks to all others who helped with this Review: Marianne Babal, Peggy Chenoweth, Jeff Deam of the Mill Valley Fire Department, Beth Koelker, Nan Paget, Keith Parker of the Marin County Fire Department, and Gene Stocking. Also thanks to Richard Candela Smith of the Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library - University of California, Berkeley, Joyce Crews of the Lucretia Little History Room - Mill Valley Public Library, Susan Goldstein of the San Francisco History Center - San Francisco Public Library, and Jocelyn Moss of the Anne T. Kent History Room - Marin County Free Library.

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Joan Murray

This year's Walk into History commemorates Mill Valley's Great Fire of 1929. The pictures in the annual Review will transport you back to those hot and windy July days in 1929, but the true human story is contained in the oral histories that we have collected and preserved from the survivors of that historic event.

It is a primary goal of the Historical Society to collect and preserve Mill Valley history, but it is more than information about our homes, commercial buildings or institutions that we want to save. It's the memories and experiences of the people who have built and sustained our community that we treasure. The names of those whose oral histories we have already recorded can be reviewed at the library or on our website at www.millvalleyhistoricalsociety.org.

Selected quotes of oral histories collected by the Mill Valley Historical Society from people who were affected by the Great Fire of 1929 are contained in this Review. If you have Mill Valley memories to share, or know someone who does, please contact the MVHS at the library or at our website.

HOW THE FIRE STARTED

Ruth White lived with her son, White, President of the Tar Water Company, at the Galade... "Somebody flicked a cigarette in the trains of the mountain railroad; right up here above the gardens, saw the little smoky railroad track. He came downstairs and said to my sister, 'There's a better report it to the fire department, but the fire simply spread..."

Charlie Ferrario was a junior at High School in 1929. "... Usually about four o'clock, train came down into Mill..."

View of the fire from a ferry boat.
Evewitnesses to the Disaster

HOW THE FIRE STARTED

The cause of the 1929 fire was never found.

RUTH WHITE lived with her husband Ralston White, President of the Tamalpais Land and Water Company, at the Garden of Allah.

..."Somebody flicked a cigarette from one of the trains of the mountain railroad. That started it, right up here above the Garden of Allah, and gradually everything took fire. Alphonse (the gardener) saw the little smoke starting above the railroad track. He came down to the house and said to my sister, 'There's a fire starting. You'd better report it to the fire department.' She did, but the fire simply galloped. It was so dry that July."

CHARLIE FERRARIO was a junior at Tamalpais High School in 1929.

..."Usually about four o'clock the mountain train came down into Mill Valley. It was such a hot, dry year. You see, when the firebox on the train got red-hot, they'd throw a couple of scoopfuls of sand into it to clean out the tubes that carried the water to create steam. That would send out cinders and embers. I think that's what happened."

MISS NORA EVANS, 46 years old at the time, lost her cabin on Ralston Avenue to the fire. She was an active member of the Sierra Club.

..."A fire had started on the mountain - either from a spark from the old railroad train, or possibly from some very dry grass that had heated under glass that had been thrown out."

"Marion, Vera and I stayed at the Alta Mira Hotel in Sausalito that night. We could see the fire burning all night. The next morning we went back to look at the cabin.

There was nothing left but ashes. The ashes were white, not black. The fire had been that intense."

View of the fire from a ferry boat.
MARGARET WOSSE DOWD was twenty-three years old in 1929. She was the daughter of a Southern Marin pioneer family.

"I remember they had a meeting at the town hall. A lot of indignant people were there, complaining and blaming the fire on the mountain train. People said that the trains had started the fire. The people for the railroad said, 'No, our trains went up the mountain at 2:20 p.m.'—or whatever the time was—and there was no fire.' The people said, 'Yes, but a half hour later the fire was blazing.'

"They started their (steam) engine with wood. When the trains would start up the mountain, hot coals from the firebox would drop on the right-of-way. The right-of-way was grassy, and it would catch fire. If there was any kind of wind, it would really spread in a hurry."

DR. FERDINAND FISCHER resided in Blithedale Canyon with his wife Margaret.

"It is my personal opinion, as is that of many others, that the railroad was mainly responsible. The Mountain Railroad used the Shay engine, an excellent climber, but having an open firebox. The wind blowing through the firebox, leaves dry as tinder, and there you have the makings of a fire; one leaf or twig ignited in passing being enough to set fire to the rest."

JEAN BERNARD, niece of Ralston White, was a young girl in 1929. She later became Mayor of Mill Valley.

"I first learned that Clinton Thoney had made the extraordinary statement that the 'caretaker at the Ralston White place' had been 'burning rubbish' on July 2, 1929, and thus caused the Great Fire! I was struck dumb by such a totally erroneous and, up to now, totally unknown allegation."

"Mr. Thoney's remark has no foundation in fact whatsoever. No rubbish was ever burned at the White place except in the wet winter months. As an eyewitness to the start of the Fire, I can say positively that it started with a thin gray wisp of smoke, up in the canyon, well in back of..."
The Mountain Railroad used the
an excellent climber, but having an
The wind blowing through the fire
Irty as tinder, and there you have the
one leaf or twig ignited in
genough to set fire to the rest.”

D. niece of Ralston White, was a
1929. She later became Mayor of

Frank Canepa had planned on
opening his new produce shop
the very day the fire started.

FIGHTING THE FIRE

At 3:30 p.m. Chief Thoney brought in help
from local firefighting agencies, including
Corre Madera, Larkspur, Kentfield, Ross,
San Anselmo, San Rafael, Sausalito,
Mt. Tamalpais Forest Fire District (now the
Marin County Fire Department) and the San
Francisco Fire Department, which sent two
engines and two chemical wagons. Other
organizations responding to the emergency
included the Marin Municipal Water District,
PGE, telephone and telegraph companies,
American Legion, Tamalpais Conservation
Club, Northwestern Pacific Railroad, Mount
Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway, Red Cross,
Coast Guard and military personnel from Fort
Baker and the Presidio. Men were conscripted
off the streets. In all, over four thousand civilians,
soldiers, and professionals fought the fire.

The Mountain Railroad track.”

my Uncle Ralston’s place, just below the

FRANK CANEPA

MOON VALLEY MARKET

Announces the Opening of a
FRUIT & VEGETABLE DEPARTMENT
in which
QUALITY WILL BE PRE-EMINENT

You will find here only the choicest
offerings of the season

FRANK CANEPA, MGR.  TEL. 270

Ad in The Mill Valley Record, July 5, 1929.
 COLIN MENZIES Jr. lived with his parents on Magee Avenue. Their house was saved, but many neighboring houses burned.

"Fort Baker had sent a lot of Army personnel to fight the fire. They couldn't really do a thing, because there was no water left in the pipes. So they were all out on our lawn. They had swiped all my dad's liquor and were making bets on whose house would burn next."

WHAT A SIGHT!

MARIGO (MRS. FERDINAND FISCHER) was a writer and poet living in Blithedale Canyon. She occasionally wrote for The Mill Valley Record.

"The mountain was full of firefighters and soldiers, and a sorry sight they were, blackened by smoke, bitten by snakes and insects. A hospital was established at the Outdoor Art Club and was much appreciated by the boys, as was also the coffee and sandwiches served."

"The rafters of all the buildings stood silhouetted against the crimson wall, the tall trees like torches and then the collapse came, all at once. In spite of our anxiety, it was a wonderful thing to witness."

SAVINGS AND LOSSES

The fire spread like fingers. Some houses burned while the houses next door were saved.

WILLIAM PROVINES was a young man at the time. He worked for the Mountain Railroad while attending college. Official count of houses burned totaled 117.

"The whole Middle Ridge was nothing but a red mass of fire. You'd be downtown and hear someone say, 'There goes my house,' and he'd just stand there like a statue, staring. When you see fifty, seventy-five or more houses going up at once, it is quite a spectacle. I think around 105 houses were burned."

WILLIAM PROVINES...

"The fire moved so fast that sometimes it would burn the garage wouldn't take their things out into the yard. The things in the yard would burn and wouldn't. It was a peculiar fire and very moving. . . . The wind changed; that's the thing that saved the town."

HELEN BOSTWICK was a mother of seven and daughter-in-law of Frank Bostwick, a former Mayor of Mill Valley.

"Unfortunately there were thieves around under cover of darkness to steal possessions if they weren't watched - coming over from San Francisco. Everything my sister owned was stolen, all her crystals and everything. Isn't that heartbreaking? My house burned, too, so I suppose it didn't make a bit of difference.

MILDRED MANCHA, a young mother at the time, remembered her daughter's family's house burned, too. In spite of their anxiety, it was a wonderful thing to witness."
William Provinfs was a young man at the time, working for the Mountain Railroad attending college. Official count of burned totaled 117. The whole Middle Ridge was nothing but a sea of fire. You'd be downtown and hear the crackle of fire. 'There goes my house,' and he'd stand there like a statue, staring. When you were 75 or more houses going up at once, it was quite a spectacle. I think around 105 were burned.

PERSON was ten years old, living in the home built on Bolsa Avenue in 1901. He still lives there today. He didn't know where else to go, so we went to Dr. Lytle's house on 221 Hillside, and we watched the fire burn house by house and as it advanced down toward Mill Valley. It was kind of a singing sight.

NGS AND LOSSES spread like fingers. Some houses burned, but not all. Houses next door were saved.

YARD KELLER, a member of the Billings family, was a young girl living in Blithedale at the time.

MILDRED MANCHA was a young mother at the time, remembered her daughter's flag.

... "The valuables from the house were taken down and put in the middle of the tennis court. Others were sunk in the water above the dam. The property was not hurt, none of it."

WILLIAM PROVINFS ...

"The fire moved so fast that sometimes a house would burn and the garage wouldn't. Or people would take their things out into the yard, and the things in the yard would burn and the house wouldn't. It was a peculiar fire and very fast moving. The wind changed; that's the only thing that saved the town."

HELEN BOSTWICK was a mother of small children and daughter-in-law of Frank Bostwick, a former Mayor of Mill Valley.

... "Unfortunately there were thieves going around under cover of darkness to steal people's possessions if they weren't watched -- people coming over from San Francisco. Everything my sister owned was stolen, all her crystal and linens and everything. Isn't that heartbreaking? Her house burned, too, so I suppose it didn't matter."

MILDRED MANCHA PICKERING, daughter of Mildred Mancha, was five years old and also recalls her flag.

... "I thought the day was the 3rd of July because I remember carrying around my little flag and my cap gun. Bao Johnboy kept asking me why, and I told him that no matter how much of the town burned, it was still going to be the nation's birthday on the 4th."

CAROL CONNOLLY BUDOS was only three years old at the time, but she still has vivid memories of the disaster.

"... "My mother had placed the Haviland china in the bathtub and filled the tub with cold water. Since the bathroom was on the second floor, I'm not sure it would have survived if the house had burned, but the house escaped, and I still have the gold and white china."

"... people would take their things out into the yard, and the things in the yard would burn and the house wouldn't."

Memories from oral histories compiled by Gene Stocking, Beth Koelker and Marilyn Geary.
Letter to The Record, July 12, 1929

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the four boys I hailed off a truck and for their assistance in helping get my crippled mother-in-law out of our house. To Mr. Graham and Mr. Stark for their help in saving a valuable trunk and an old family picture.
Sincerely yours,
R.A. HAMILTON

---

"Everything was gone. We had little glass animals. My father used to get them for us. We had a rabbit and a cat and... I did find a little rabbit later on in the garden after our new house was built. And we did find an old horseshoe, and we put that up over the back door of the new house."

Erie Herrmann was eight years old at the time. Her family home at 20 Magee (now 409) burned to the ground.

20 Magee - prior to the fire.

Chimneys stood like gravestone markers on charred Middle Ridge.

The Herrmanns visit the ruins at 20 Magee.
July 12, 1929

s my heartfelt boys I hailed eir assistance pled mother-in-
To Mr. Graham help in k and an old

Irassistance

To Mr. Graham

The Mill Valley Record, July 19, 1929

FOR SALE - Nice little summer weekend cottage, fire, water, gas, etc.; fireplace, garden, 5 min depot. $1950 terms.

669 Molino Avenue.

Fire Chief Thoney’s fire department log entries.

2004 MILL VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW
Clinton Thoney was appointed Chief of the Mill Valley Fire Department on July 1, 1929, just one day prior to the fire on Mt. Tamalpais. He had a department of three paid firefighters augmented by a volunteer firefighter force. Volunteers were paid $2.50 for each and every fire attended.

The Mill Valley Fire Department had two pieces of fire equipment: the first was an older DeMartini hose truck; the other piece of equipment was the 1924 American LaFrance pumper engine. A hose truck only carries fire hose – no water and no pump. The pumper had a two hundred gallon water tank and the ability to increase pressure to 1000 gallons per minute.

The fire was attacked primarily with hand tools, back pumps and forestry shovels. These hand tools are still used today, as are the techniques of backfiring and pre-treating with water ahead of the fire. A small fire hydrant system was in place, but the hydrants did not have much water in them at the time. According to Chief Thoney, “the 2-inch hydrant system was pumped dry in 20 minutes and then only mud came out.” Water to fight the fire was scarce. The water main system was limited, and the fire equipment could not create sufficient water pressure to compensate for elevation increases and friction loss due to long fire hoses.

When the 1929 fire began, an urgent call went out to all the surrounding Marin fire agencies. The Golden Gate Bridge was not completed until 1937, so the San Francisco firefighters and apparatus were transported by ferry to Sausalito where they were unloaded and continued their response. In 1929, firefighters were called to the fire by telephone, siren and bell. They arrived on foot, by train and by automobile. A car on Mt. Tamalpais was also used.

As the fire closed in on the town, firefighters were directed to place the fire engines around the edge of the area and wet everything down that was in the path of the approaching flames. This final effort was made to control the fire and save the town. The fire burned for three more days on the mountain. On October 5, 1929, the fire was extinguished, 2,500 acres were destroyed, 2,500 homes were lost with a cost in estimated dollar loss of $1,045,000.

Today the Mill Valley Fire Department has twenty-four firefighting staff and six volunteers. Firefighters are better prepared to respond to a vegetation fire.
and pre-treating with water ahead of small fire hydrant system was in place, hydrants did not have much water in time. According to Chief Thoney, hydrant system was pumped dry in and then only mud came out."

Though the fire was scarce, the fire equipment was limited, and the fire equipment created insufficient water pressure to pump for elevation increases and friction on long fire hoses.

1929 fire began, an urgent call went to the surrounding Marin fire agencies. In Gate Bridge was not completed in 1929, firefighters and were transported by ferry to Sausalito where they were unloaded and continued their work. 

In 1929, firefighters were called to the phone, siren and bell. They arrived on foot, by train and by automobile. The gravity car on Mt. Tamalpais was also used to shuttle personnel and equipment back and forth.

As the fire closed in on the town of Mill Valley, firefighters were directed to place themselves and the fire engines around the edge of the city to wet everything down that was in the path of the approaching flames. This final effort, and most importantly, the wind's change in direction, saved the town. The fire burned uncontrolled for three more days on the mountain. On July 5, 1929, the fire was extinguished. In all, 117 homes were destroyed, 2,500 acres and an estimated dollar loss of $1,045,000. If the same 2,500-acre fire were to happen today, about 850 homes would be lost with a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Today the Mill Valley Fire Department has twenty-four firefighting staff and eight active volunteers. Firefighters are better trained and prepared to respond to a vegetation fire. Two-way radios, cellular phones, dispatch centers, and mutual aid systems enable firefighters to respond in a matter of minutes. Aircraft are used for fire suppression. Helicopters and planes are used to make water and retardant drops on or near a fire line for extinguishment and pre-treating the fuel.

Modern-day fire apparatus has also enabled firefighters to produce greater volumes of water and increased pressures, as well as respond to rural areas much faster. The Mill Valley Fire Department now has three Type-1 engines, one Type-3, one ladder truck and two command vehicles. Mill Valley’s Type-1 engine carries 2000 feet of supply hose, has a 900 gallon water tank, 57 feet of ground ladders, as well as attack lines, breathing apparatus, and a variety of hand and power tools. It can carry up to four firefighters.

The Type-3 engine is the designated vegetation fire (wildland fire) response engine. It has a...
Today the Mill Valley Fire Department has twenty-four firefighting staff and eight active volunteers. Firefighters are better trained and prepared to respond to a vegetation fire.

Shorter wheelbase and higher angle of approach, departure and center clearance. It is also four-wheel drive and has the ability to pump and roll. Many fire engines pump, but many cannot pump water and be driven at the same time. The Type-3 has a hydrostatic pump that is independent of the drive train. This makes it well suited to fight a moving vegetation fire. The Type-3 has a 500 GPM pump and a 500-gallon water tank. This engine also has 600 feet of supply hose, attack lines, breathing apparatus, as well as a variety of hand and power tools. It can carry up to five firefighters.

Mill Valley’s ladder truck is called a “quint.” As the name implies, it has five key features: water, pump, ground ladders, aerial ladder and hose. The ladder truck has a 1500 GPM pump, 500-gallon water tank, 75-foot aerial ladder, 160 feet of ground ladders, as well as a complement of hand and power tools. It is designed for fighting fires mostly in the business district of Mill Valley and restricted to areas with few power lines and lots of access.

Two four-wheel drive vehicles are used by the department’s battalion chiefs as mobile command centers. Numerous firefighters and suppression equipment are brought together for an incident through a mutual aid request system. One very important component of modern day firefighting is the Incident Command System (ICS) which provides span of control, personnel and equipment accountability, common terminology and communications.

The Mill Valley Fire Department has never fought a fire and not learned something from it. Every fire is not only a battle, but also a tremendous learning experience. Since the fire of 1929, many efforts have gone towards the increased prevention of fires and the ability to rapidly and effectively extinguish them. Although aircraft is available, and fire apparatus, communications and coordination of resources have been greatly improved, it is important to remember that fires are not entirely preventable. They will and do continue to occur.

Sources for this article:
- “The Story of the Mill Valley Conflagration” by Chief Fred J. Bowlen
- Mill Valley Historical Quarterly, Fall 1979

Volunteer firefighters of the 1929 all walks of life. Roger Kent was the son of U.S. Congressman and conservationist William Kent, who donated 295 acres of redwood forest to the Federal Government in 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt this land – Muir Woods – a national park.

ROGER KENT describes how he, his friends and others helped stop the fire.

“...I met up with brother Bill and Albert, and old Ben Dibblee and a few Italian workers, and one of them I idea: ‘...let's get to the top of the mountain, and start a backfire going back do Mill Valley’... so that as the fire was burning to the east, maybe we could catch it. It was burning to the west.

“We had this fire – about ten o'clock, and there was a vacant space.
Numerous firefighters and equipment are brought together for mutual aid through a request system. The Incident Command System is the important component of modern day fire fighting, providing control, accountability, common strategy and communications.

Mill Valley Fire Department has never been in such a crisis and not learned something from it. It is not only a battle, but also a valuable learning experience. Since the fire of 1929, efforts have gone towards the prevention of fires and the ability to effectively extinguish them.

Aircraft is available, and fire apparatus, locations and coordination of resources greatly improved, it is important to ensure that fires are not entirely preventable. I and do continue to occur.

Volunteer firefighters of the 1929 fire came from all walks of life. Roger Kent was the youngest son of U.S. Congressman and conservationist William Kent, who donated 295 acres of redwood forest to the Federal Government. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt declared Muir Woods a national monument.

Roger Kent describes how he, his brothers, friends and others helped stop the fire at the top of the mountain.

"I met up with brother Bill and brother Albert, and old Ben Dibblee and two or three Italian workers, and one of them had the bright idea: let's get to the top of the mountain and start a backfire going back down towards Mill Valley – so that as the fire was coming up that steep ridge, maybe we could hold it with the backfire. It was burning to the west – more from the east to the west.

"We had this fire – about ten or twelve of us – and then there was a vacant space, and we had our backfire going for about an hour, an hour and a half, and then the fire came up the ridge.

"I'll never forget the fire just coming roaring up the ridge. We had our backfire here – and particularly my brother Albert and old Ben Dibblee – dropped right down, and the fire went right over them. I don't think I had to drop on the ground to get out of it – we had it back far enough so that we were not burned.

But anyway, we stopped it right there – bang – just like that. The whole line just stopped, and no more fire. It didn't go beyond that point. And that was after we'd been fighting fire – which was not unusual for the rural folk in those days – I mean, we'd been on the line for mostly twenty-four hours."

Source for this oral history:
Our friendly little mountain, "The Guardian of Marin," became an early magnet for hikers. On March 6, 1885, the following entry appeared in East Peak's first climber's register:

Henry S. Baechtel was a member of the Baltimore and Frederick Trading and Mining Company. The company's leaders arrived by steamer in San Francisco on September 10, 1849, then operated a sawmill in Baltimore Canyon. Baechtel served as a Marin County Supervisor from 1852-1853.

Baechtel's entry is our first documentation of a "dollhouse" fire lookout.

Lincoln Fairley in his classic Mount Tamalpais: A History, describes the erection of our "dollhouse" fire lookout...

"The Marine Observatory, erected there in 1901 by The San Francisco Examiner, was used as a fire lookout beginning in 1921. Then, in 1935-1936, the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) moved that building out of the way and erected a much more substantial structure."

"The lookout site, commanding a 360-degree view, presented two major problems to engineers: insuring stability against winds that sweep the peak at speeds up to 110 miles per hour, and getting massive concrete to the site."

"The first problem was solved by building stone and concrete with a structural steel skeleton for the building. Part of the new lookout was named in honor of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) that put one million young men and adults to work during the Great Depression of the 1930's and 1940's in the United States."

"At different times the fire lookout site of the San Francisco Examiner, a mile from Baltimore Canyon, to the efforts of Gardner, his deputy assistants that the fire was kept from as far as a roadbed of the old Mount Tamalpais Forest Fire District. We played a crucial role in the 1929 fire."

"Gardner was at the scene of the fire at the lookout site on Tuesday afternoon until after Saturday night the fire warden was made to go to bed at 11 o'clock."

"The new lookout was named in honor of Burroughs Gardner, first chief of the Tamalpais Forest Fire District. We played a crucial role in the 1929 fire."

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"Gardner was at the scene of the fire at the lookout site on Tuesday afternoon until after Saturday night the fire warden was made to go to bed at 11 o'clock."
Fairley in his classic Mount Tamalpais: his early magnet for hikers. On first climber's register:

Marine Observatory, erected there in 1921, was used as a lookout beginning in 1921. Then, in 1929, the Civilian Conservation Corps moved that building out of the way and erected a much more substantial structure. Lookout site, commanding a 360-degree view, presented two major problems to insure stability against winds that sweep the peak at speeds up to 115 miles per hour, and getting massive construction materials to the summit of East Peak is a roadless wilderness of jagged rocks. The solution was to construct a "highline" — an overhead cable powered by a gasoline engine — running a thousand feet up from the roadbed of the old Mountain Railway (closed in 1930). The cable was rugged enough to bring up stone blocks weighing as much as a ton.

The new lookout was named in honor of Edwin Burroughs Gardner, first chief warden of the Tamalpais Forest Fire District. Warden Gardner played a crucial role in the 1929 fire.

From The San Rafael Independent, July 6, 1929...

"At different times the fire came within three-quarters of a mile of Muir Woods and the same distance from Baltimore Canyon, and it was due to the efforts of Gardner, his deputies and assistants that the fire was kept from spreading to these wooded areas. Gardner was at the scene of the fire from Tuesday afternoon until after Saturday night. Thursday night the fire warden was so exhausted that he was made to go to bed at the home of his sister, Mrs. John Burt, but was back at work again Friday."

"Mrs. John Burt was actually Edwin Gardner's cousin."

Lincoln Fairley describes the new lookout...

"It is not only structurally sound but has all modern conveniences — electric lights, telephone and running water. To get water up there, CCC workers built a stone pump house nearby and laid all the pipes. When they had finished the lookout station and the fire breaks, they helped fight fires on the Mountain and elsewhere in the county.

"The lookout is manned throughout the summer months of maximum fire danger. Resident fire spotters, working with other spotters on Mt. Tamalpais, use the surveying technique of triangulation to pinpoint the location of a fire and phone the information to headquarters — an invaluable method of early detection."

In recent years, our lookout has been manned by volunteers, including Jacqui Phelan, a three-time U.S. national bike champion.

"Lookout Marin! The eyes of Gardner are upon you!"

Marilyn Geary, Denise Livingstone and Gwe Stocking added monumentally to this article.

"I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work... more important, however, than the material gains will be the moral and spiritual value of such work."

Franklin D. Roosevelt
March 9, 1933
If Hawaii's calling, visit www.maui-nanapalirentals.com or call Stephanie for a local perspective on Hawaii real estate.

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