

# UNDER THE GABLES

Volume XXIV, Number 2

Fall 2020



## **Around West Marin**

Excerpts from Dewey Livingston's upcoming book

JACK MASON MUSEUM OF WEST MARIN HISTORY

Inverness Way at Park Avenue, Inverness Phone 415-669-1099 [www.jackmasonmuseum.org](http://www.jackmasonmuseum.org)

## SPECIAL EDITION BOOK PREVIEW

This edition of *Under The Gables* is dedicated to excerpts from the museum's upcoming book being written by Dewey Livingston. The much-anticipated book has been in the works for almost five years and is nearing completion. These excerpts give a flavor of the book to come, and have been selected to reflect the six main geographical areas that the book covers: the Point Reyes peninsula; the east shore of Tomales Bay; the Tocaloma and Olema areas; and the villages of Point Reyes Station and Inverness. Enjoy, and the book will be published ASAP!

## THE EXHIBIT AT THE JACK MASON MUSEUM WILL REOPEN WHEN THE LIBRARY DOES

### A Brief History of the Bear Valley Ranch

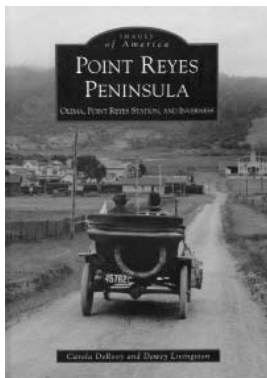
The museum committee hosted an opening reception for this new exhibit on March 8, and less than a week later our world shut down with COVID-19. The exhibit on the history of the Bear Valley Ranch will be accessible as soon as the Inverness Library opens again for indoor access. There will be limitations in order to preserve social distancing in the relatively small room. The exhibit will run for a full three months after the reopening. Watch our website for the closing date. The next exhibit will be mounted sometime next year. Suggestions for topics are always welcome. Please send them to [info@jackmasonmuseum.org](mailto:info@jackmasonmuseum.org) or call Meg Linden at 415-663-1488.

### RESEARCH IN THE MUSEUM ARCHIVES

The Archives are not open due to coronavirus. However, research questions can be emailed to [research@jackmasonmuseum.org](mailto:research@jackmasonmuseum.org) and we will do our best to help you with your questions and access to the needed information.

### IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?

If you are not sure whether your dues (museum dues are separate from Inverness Foundation dues) are up to date, please leave a message on the Archives phone number 415-669-1099. We will check and get back to you. Dues and other contributions to the Museum are tax-deductible. You can renew your membership with a secure transaction on our website [www.jackmasonmuseum.org](http://www.jackmasonmuseum.org). or by mailing your check to Box 94 Inverness, CA 94937.



### "POINT REYES PENINSULA"

Copies signed by the authors, Carola DeRooy and Dewey Livingston are available at Museum Open Houses and from the Archives for only \$20.00. The proceeds benefit the Museum.

### ON THE COVER:

*Miss Parella's class at her one room Pierce School on the K Ranch, around 1941.  
Courtesy of Theresa Parella.*

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This edition of  
*Under the Gables*  
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# Pierce School: Remote and Cozy

WITH GROWING FAMILIES on Tomales Point, including many located in cabins on the beaches along the west shore of the bay, trustees established Pierce District School in 1878. The Pierces constructed a small schoolhouse within the square-shaped ranch complex, and so the famous ranch proved to be a focal point for the surrounding area's children.

When the population on the far-north Tomales Point dwindled in the 1920s, Pierce School was moved to a new building constructed for the purpose above Laird's Landing on the K Ranch, one of the O. L. Shafter estate tenant dairies. That school closed during wartime in 1943, the population of pupils having shrunk to three. During sixty-five years, the little schools prepared a diverse group of local children for life in the bigger world.

In 1878, upon the petition of families on Tomales Point, the Point Reyes School District was divided, the new northern unit called Pierce School District, with trustees William D. Evans of J Ranch, C. S. Thompson (probably K Ranch) and A. J. Pierce. A small schoolhouse was built—or an earlier building repurposed—on the Pierce Ranch, with flagpole and blackboards, and classes commenced in 1879. Besides the ranch children, families from the coves on the bay, largely Coast Miwok, Italian, Mexican, and Filipino, attended.

There is not much on record about the early days of the school. *The Sausalito News* noted in the 1880s that teacher Miss Lizzie Ewald was currently "the accomplished and handsome teacher of Pierce school near Point Reyes," and we know that trustee Evans showed the school off when touring friends around. When Lizzie Ewald moved on to the Point Reyes School in 1889 after several years at Pierce, the News called her "one of the most



*Two pupils arrived at one-room Pierce District School on pony-back, around 1940. This was the second Pierce School on Tomales Point. Courtesy of Theresa Parella.*

successful and popular teachers in the county, and the people of Pierce district deeply regret Miss Ewald's leaving."

Miss Isabella Dearborn taught at Pierce School as of 1895. Martha Hulbe, whose father was the boatman for the ranch tenants and lived with his family for a period on Hog Island, took over the school around 1896. The *Sausalito News* reported on a Fourth of July event at the school in 1897:

*A very appropriate and interesting programme was rendered at the Pierce school house, Tomales Point, on the 5th of July to celebrate the raising of its flag which was presented to the school by residents of the district. About fifty visitors were present to witness the flag raising. Much credit is due to the teacher, Miss Martha E. Hulbe, for the training of her pupils.*

The program, performed by ten students and guests, included patriotic songs (America, Yankee Doodle, Rally Round the Flag), recitations and speeches. The students at the time were children of the ranch tenants, the Moltzens, and Indian children from the Pensotti and Gusman families in the coves below, and Flora and Lucretia Giurich, of a Croatian family.

By 1904, when detailed records become available, we see twelve children from diverse

backgrounds studying at Pierce School, from the families of Giubbini (Swiss), McClure (Irish), Moltzen (Scandinavian), Pensotti (Italian/Indian), Larsen (Scandinavian), Giurich and Mlinivirech (Slavic).

The abilities of pupils at this school varied wildly. Perfy Felix remained in first grade from age ten until she was 16 years old. Francis Pensotti was a year behind his brother Clarence despite being three years older. In 1921, eight students were Slavic—likely learning English at school—and five of Indian descent. All of these children walked to school, many at a long distance. In 1916 County Superintendent of Schools James B. Davidson and Probation Officer Thomas O'Connor expressed concerns about "school conditions" along Tomales Bay, noting that up to seventy children "do not receive proper educational advantages" because of distances to schools and lack of interest within the families.

Officials took what is seen today as a repugnant view of the local Indians. "Most of the children are of a mixed race, most of them supposed to have Indian blood mixed with Portuguese and other races," reported—or more editorialized—the *Marin Journal*. "The parents are fishermen, and their manner of living is not up to decent standard." The officials looked to the federal government, which would reportedly provide nine dollars per quarter for the Indian kids. "One difficulty is that there is no road along the west side of the bay, and that about the only way a school can be provided for these children is to either build a school on the bayshore and have the children taken to and from the school in boats, or put them



*The original one-room Pierce District School on the grounds of the Pierce Ranch hosted a diverse population of pupils, including Coast Miwok, Italian, Irish, Scandinavian, and Croatian. Jack Mason Museum.*

in some other school at no little expense." Davidson and O'Connor considered the best education for these children would be "industrial training, where they can be taught how to live properly, and to be able to earn a living."

Instead, it took a gifted teacher to make a difference, even for only a year. Helen Smith, newly trained daughter of San Rafael's city clerk, was hired that July to teach at Pierce School.

Helen Smith's experience teaching at Pierce School was recorded by National Park Service historians. She told of riding the Northwestern Pacific Railroad to Hamlet across the bay, taking a launch to White Gulch below the ranch

buildings. There in the gulch she boarded with the Hammel family, who lived in the two-story hunting clubhouse facing the cove. She hiked up the hill to the schoolhouse, and was paid \$65 per month with an additional five dollars for janitorial duties. Within a couple of months she moved up to the ranch and boarded with the tenants, Joseph and Zena Mendoza. "My schoolroom was a long narrow building wide enough for two rows of desks," she recalled. "The room was heated by a wood stove in the back and had a cloak room beyond." Her students reflected the diversity of the area, and all lived in primitive conditions in the coves on the bay. Miss Smith recalled:

*Four families supplied the students. Two of the families were Slavonian fishermen. The Cosmis lived in a small cove on the shore of the bay, and a short distance from them, the Smith family, also Slavonians, and fishermen. The Smiths had five children in school, Gaspar, Lucy, Katy and two others [Elizabeth and George]. The Cosmis' Lena was in the first grade. The*

two Pensotti families lived on the bay farther down. Grandpa Pensotti was raising three children: Theodore, Virginia, and Rosie. Tony Pensotti's family had four: Francis, Andrew, Clarence, and Tony Jr. The Pensottis were half Italian and half ... Indian.

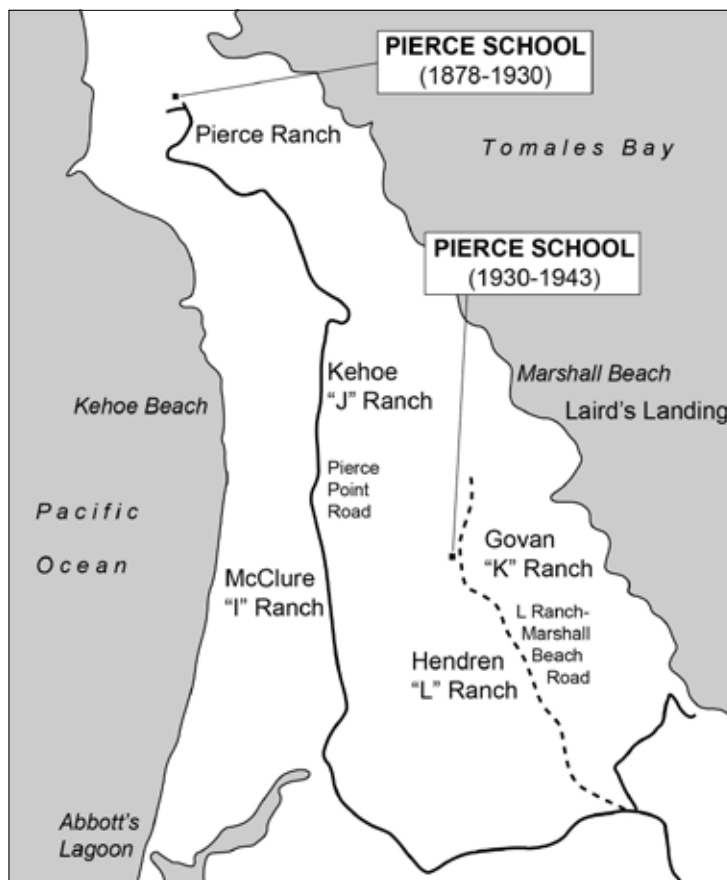
It is interesting to note that during the time Miss Smith spoke of, there were no children from the local ranching communities. Smith often visited the families in the coves, "and they always had a candy bar or something for the teacher," she recalled, "and they were so thrilled to have me come down there and see them."

Miss Smith taught English to the Mendozas' Portuguese ranch hands after dinner.

Attendance sank during the 1920s, and by 1928 only five students showed up at the school. The fishermen's families in the coves moved to land across Tomales Bay and the Pierce ranch did not have more than a couple of children at a time. There were more families with children in the southern part of the district, and so it was decided at the end of the 1929 school term to build a new, "modern" school at a different location, to serve twelve eligible children. Trustees chose a site on the K Ranch, on the ridge above Laird's and Sacramento landings to the east and the McClure and Kehoe ranches to the west. The school would now serve the families of ranches H through N and more.

Trustees Jim Kehoe of J Ranch and Jim McClure of I Ranch both had children, and the new location was more convenient to their families. Edwina Codoni recalled to Jack Mason how she applied for a teaching job at the new Pierce School: "We would dress up in our best clothes, gloves, hat and all, and walk through the manure to talk to a school trustee who happened to be in the milking barn."

The new one-room schoolhouse was built on the old route from Inverness to Pierce Point. Across the road was the busy K Ranch dairy, rented from the O. L. Shafter Estate by the Govan family, Irish immigrants. The school faced Tomales Bay and had large windows for light, a blackboard and a woodstove for heat. A redwood picket fence surrounded the small schoolyard, but on the windward side trustees erected a solid plank fence to



Map by Dewey Livingston

deflect the strong Point Reyes gusts. Eventually, a swing set graced the grassy yard.

Students traveled to school by many means: the Campigli, Pensotti, Friscia and Pozzi children, all from Coast Miwok families on the bay, walked about a mile up the hill; the Kehoe and McClure students arrived by car; and it was not unknown to ride a horse or pony to school. The teacher boarded at one of the nearby ranches.

The first class in the new schoolhouse, under new teacher Alice Longanecker, numbered eight: Bertha Morse, Dolores Friscia, Eileen and Gilda Pozzi, and Frank Gusman, all from the coves to the east; Theresa and William Black from a nearby ranch and Robert Kehoe from the J Ranch. The Gray and Cunningham children arrived the next year. Most of the dairy children were from Irish families. Rebecca Cooney succeeded Miss Longanecker, who lasted only a year.

The Govan family's arrival at K Ranch in 1932 brought a new era to the school, as their children would populate the school for a decade. The 1933 class had eleven children, half of which were Indians and half Irish. The Hendren family moved

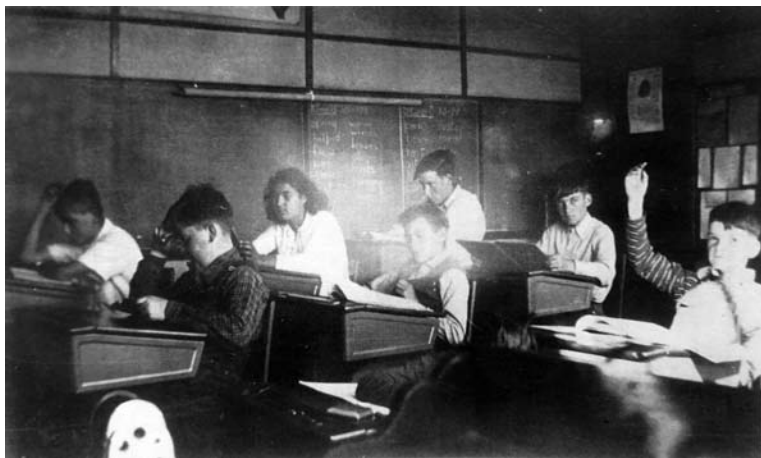
from Occidental to the L Ranch in 1934 and their three children were welcomed. That year, Point Reyes native Edwina Codoni became the teacher. By 1936, 11-year-old Elizabeth Campigli was the only part-Indian child at the school. The school population hovered around ten through most of the 1930s.

Theresa Parella came to teach at the school in 1939. A resident of El Cerrito, she had newly finished the four-year teacher's course at San Francisco State and headed to Point Reyes to get experience in a rural school. At that time, El Cerrito was relatively rural: "We had a dairy here," she recalled, "and my uncle knew of someone who knew [school board president] Jim Kehoe so they arranged for me to come out and meet him." Miss Parella signed a contract that stipulated \$1,350 a year in ten installments, with the summer off.

"It was out in the sticks, and also they were all dirt roads when I was there," she said. Miss Parella traveled to school in her own car. "I lived with the Kehoe family during the week, and then I came home for weekends," she said. "I would leave here about seven every Monday morning, drive right on to the [Richmond-San Rafael] ferry, and get to Point Reyes about nine. The kids couldn't come to school before 9:30 because they had to milk the cows before they went to school."

A schoolroom full of kids of different ages and learning skills was a challenge. "There were things that we did together, but usually I had to group them according to their abilities. I had no experience in first grade or seventh or eighth grade, but as I say, you either sink or swim, out there!" Some of her students were typical Irish pranksters. Bud Hendren "was a character, he was always playing tricks on me; he put a frog in my desk once, things like that. Parent Jim McClure was a kidder; he just was waiting for me to get stuck in the mud in the winter. Sometimes Skip [Kehoe] would ride his horse to school."

A typical school day started with firing up the wood stove on cold mornings. With electricity there was no need for oil lamps like many of the rural schools. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the pupils studied math, reading for the younger



*A rare picture of the interior of Pierce District School with students, taken by the teacher. Courtesy of Theresa Parella.*

students, social studies combining the whole class, and science. "For science we used to go out on field trips and gather wildflowers and whatever," said Miss Parella. During wartime the students tended a registered Victory Garden and shared the fresh produce around the community. There was a swing in the yard, and the kids enjoyed playing baseball in the cow pasture next to the schoolhouse. Class usually ended at 3:30.

"We always had a Christmas program, it was quite a nice deal," recalled Miss Parella. "We had some kind of a play, sang the Christmas carols, and gave gifts. At the end of the school year we always had a picnic, and parents would come, too."

In early 1942 the National Education Association of the United States (NEA) asked Miss Parella to participate in a national radio broadcast about what schools were doing to help the war effort. The NEA chose Pierce School as an example of a small, rural school to contrast with a large school. "I went to the Palace Hotel for the broadcast and it was a coast-to-coast radio," she said. Her speech detailed some of the school's activities:

*Some people may wonder what a small school can do, and if what it can do is worthwhile. We think we can help, and feel that however small our contribution may be, taken together, they are important. We've planned our campaign to help with the war and the peace. We are pooling home and school resources. The "Food for Freedom" program is an accepted challenge for rural people. In accordance with plans formulated at school, the boys in each family have undertaken at home, the care and feeding of one or more calves. Experimental plots of barley, oats and vetch are planted right on the school grounds.*

Miss Parella told of the healthy living the Point Reyes children followed, as well as recycling, thrift, and saving to purchase Defense Stamps. “Two boys are riding a horse to and from school to save rubber and fuel,” she read to the live audience. “They computed the number of miles per month the family car would be operated for this purpose and it was found to be two hundred forty miles—and that’s a lot of rubber!”

After the broadcast she was a minor celebrity. “I got fan mail from different people who listened to the broadcast!”

Many of the students were memorable to Miss Parella, even after almost eighty years had passed. Elizabeth Campigli was born at Laird’s Landing on the bay in 1925 and spent her full eight grades at Pierce School. Her mother was a Coast Miwok named Bertha Felix and her father the black sheep son of a Swiss dairyman. “When I first came there she was in eighth grade and she didn’t like me; she was obstinate, and I thought, oh my goodness take care of this,” recalled Miss Parella. “I decided that I was just going to ignore her, and that was the best thing I could have done because we became pals after that, she would even dress like me, in the same colors. She was very stubborn, I guess she didn’t know how to take another teacher.”

The Simondi family were Italian truck farmers. “The Simondi kids didn’t speak any English so it was a good thing I could understand the Italian and respond. It was not long before they were speaking English, when they mingled with the other children.” Mrs. Simondi “would bring me artichokes.”

“Every month each of the families would have me out for tea after school,” she remembered fondly. “When I went to the Hendrens it was always scones, and she would make the scones when I arrived and serve them.”

“I liked the people,” she said. “I used to look forward to going back [to school] after a busy weekend, going back there to the peace and quiet, and my school looked out on the Tomales Bay, and it was in the middle of a cow pasture, really; it was peaceful.”

But Miss Parella also missed her home, so after



*Student activities at remote Pierce School on Tomales Point included baseball in the windy cow pasture, and tending a Victory Garden in support of the country during World War II. Courtesy of Theresa Parella.*

three years on Point Reyes she went back. Her three years at Pierce School were some of the best of her life, the only three of her 102 years that she didn’t live in the home she was born in. She took a job teaching in Richmond, at the height of the wartime shipyards with their hundreds of children from all over the country. It was “havoc,” and quite a change from little Pierce School. Her time at Pierce School never left her:

*I loved teaching. It was a challenge, I had to learn by trial and error, but I think it was good for me. I was fortunate to have such a congenial bunch of people to work with, and [the students] were very cooperative; the teacher was always right in those days.*

The 1942 school year had five pupils under Miss Parella, her last. The next year, with new teacher Alice Clarken, there were three: Marcella Gomez, Kenneth Kehoe, and Ronald McClure. The school closed on June 16, 1943, with the remaining students sent to Inverness School. The schoolhouse was used as a residence on the K Ranch until it burned down in 1971.

# OTT CAMP

THE BANKS OF Lagunitas (Paper Mill) Creek saw many uses, from extractive ones like logging and gravel mining to recreational uses like the visitors to the great Tocaloma Hotel experienced as they fished and hunted in the area. One of the unique and interesting activities was the small camps that clustered the willow banks in the vicinity of Garcia, a flagstop on the railroad that traversed the creek towards Point Reyes Station.

Garcia took its name from one of Rafael Garcia's sons, who at one time owned the land west of the creek between Tocaloma and Point Reyes Station. In the late 1920s a San Francisco dentist named Douglas Hare settled into a campsite on the west shore of the creek, creating a room out of willow sticks and furnishing it with a fireplace and basic furniture. In 1930, the Ott family arrived, befriended Dr. Hare and built their own camp nearby for summer use.

Frank Ott worked as a draftsman at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo and enjoyed long weekends due to Depression-era work schedules. He enjoyed hiking and taking his wife, Elsie and son, Gareth on driving trips, which one day took them to the Olema area. It isn't known how he found this fine spot on the creek, but he and his family staked out a campsite next to Dr. Hare and started a five-year family tradition. Gareth recalled construction of the Ott's camp by his father, who he called a "compulsive builder":

*Since willow trees of the 3- to 4-inch diameter size were in abundance, he proceeded to build a stockade, which I recall to be about 12 feet by 8 feet high with a swinging front door and the sky as a ceiling. Inside were a homemade table, camp chairs, a place for washing dishes, apple and orange crates as shelves for kitchen utensils and army cots for beds with straw filled ticking as mattresses.*

The family had a 50-gallon drum for warming fires on foggy days or after "night time skinny dips." Jack and Gareth built dams on

the creek and set up a water filtration system; they fought yellowjackets and skunks. Gareth admitted that he occasionally raided a cornfield on the nearby Gallagher ranch, even took some melons. The family swam, fished, hiked Black Mountain, and walked the railroad grade in every direction. "My first experience of placing a copper penny on a railroad and seeing the results, after that first train wheel distorted Lincoln's face," recalled Ott, "happened at Garcia."

The Ott's came for weekends, and sometimes for longer periods in the summer. Driving in their 1931 Buick on the two-lane roads, they left Platform Bridge Road down a narrow dirt driveway and parked near the creek. Then they had to get across to the camp:

*The usual "log across the creek" was our bridge access to our campground. Food, gas lamps, gas stove, bedding (no sleeping bags in those days), clothing and other items were transported by foot over the bridge and then over a manmade trail to our camp site, a distance of about 75 yards.*

Ott recalled that Dr. Hare was not only hard of hearing but also a "naturist" and so his father always walked ahead to alert the good doctor with shouts that his family was on its way—giving Dr. Hare time to put on a pair of pants.

Other families camped nearby, including a large group from Petaluma. They were all squatters, not even knowing who owned the land, and were never disturbed. The Northwestern Pacific Railroad tracks ran directly west of the camp, although by then the trains were few; service to Point Reyes Station ended in 1933. All in all, it was a jolly scene. It didn't last; the Ott's started to go to warmer Sonoma County but returned in 1945 to purchase the now-abandoned acre from the railroad company with plans to have a summer retreat. It didn't happen, and Ott's Garcia camp is all but forgotten.

# Foresters Hall: For the People of Point Reyes

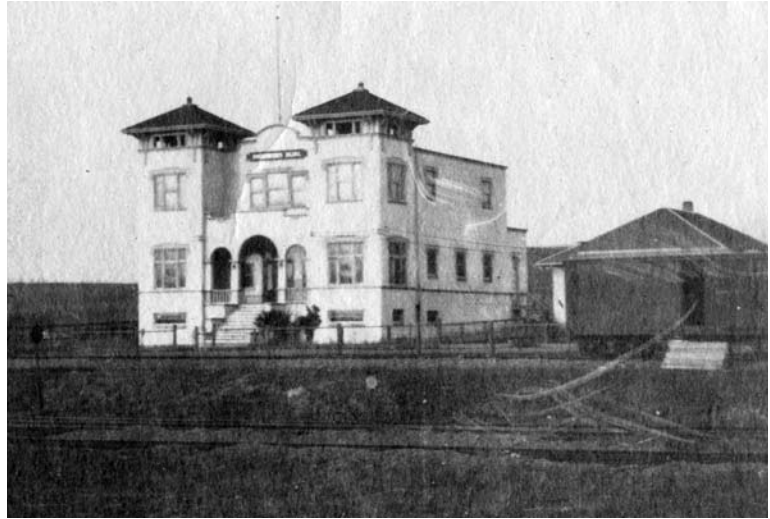
THE STATELY TWO-TOWERED BUILDING ON Mesa Road past the creamery was a monument to civic engagement and pride. The Foresters of America, a national association of men and women (although the women's section was separate), did good deeds for their towns and counties. Foresters Hall in Point Reyes Station served as the de facto community center for more than a generation.

The local chapter was founded in 1905 as Court No. 219. Male members (called Rangers) comprised the "Court" while the women's auxiliary—officially the Point Reyes Circle No. 1018—was called the "Ladies' Circle." Prominent men from out of town came to meetings, while most who remember those days recall that the women did more of the good deeds than the men.

Long before they had their own building, the Foresters held meetings in the two-story building south of the old Point Reyes Hotel. The place, decorated on the façade with the Foresters symbol, had a meeting room upstairs that served as a dance hall for Foresters and other activities. The men participated in local events and funerals; for instance, a troop of Foresters teamed with the Druids to march in the funeral cortege for deceased member Joseph Martella in 1908, the line stretching three quarters of a mile from Olema to the cemetery.

After more than a decade operating in Point Reyes Station, the Foresters saw the need for their own building and in 1916 hired architect Thomas O'Conner of San Rafael to design their hall. The group let a building contract to Olema carpenter Resfo Silacci, whose bid came in at \$4,750 for a grand two-story building with fine architectural flourishes. The leaders at the time were Quinto Codoni, Peter Scilacci and Domingo Locatelli, who, with their fellow Foresters, pitched in labor during the building of the hall.

That August the F of A held a "grand ball and



*The newly built Foresters Hall faced the railroad tracks.*

barbecue" that would raise funds for the building at \$1.50 per ticket that included dinner (non-dancers could indulge in the barbecue for only 75 cents). "There will be music from the city," reported the *Marin Journal*, "and everybody is invited to participate." Twenty-one Foresters organized and worked the party, with 43 members of an "honorary committee." We don't know the location of the event, which would have been too big for the current rented hall.

The "Foresters Building" as it was officially known, was completed by the end of 1916. It could be considered the finale to the "boom" that Point Reyes Station experienced from 1914 to 1916, with the Grandi Building and creamery expanding the town from both ends during those years. The building featured a main hall or ballroom on the first floor with lodge meeting rooms upstairs, and a large basement with a kitchen where dinners were held. Two Belvedere-type towers offered 360-degree views of the surrounding country, even down to Tomales Bay and Inverness. Community meetings, dances with live music, and celebrations—the opening of the new highway and bridge into Point Reyes Station in early 1930 drew over 300 people—as well as "moving picture shows" and variety entertainment were the main

uses of the building. Before the town had electrical service, the movie projector was powered in a novel way. Ed Mossi told the story to Jack Mason fifty years ago:

*I got in free [to the Thursday night movies] by setting up the benches and cleaning up afterwards. A Mr. Peterson leased the films from Hollywood with exclusive rights for the little coast towns. Electricity for the light bulb in his projector was generated by a dynamo of his own devising. It was connected to the drive shaft of his Oldsmobile parked outside. ... One such night, fooling around outside the hall, I reached in Peterson's car, depressed the accelerator and blew out the fifteen dollar bulb in his projector. He ran out and collared me, mad enough to kill me. Later he had a few beers with my father and agreed to settle for only seven fifty since it was an old bulb.*

Mossi, speaking of the late 'teens, told more to Mason. "Mrs. Peterson collected admissions at the door. If the picture starred a big name like Charlie Chaplin or Harold Lloyd, then the price went up from twenty-five cents to forty and nobody got in free."

This event in 1920 garnered a lengthy write-up in the *Marin Journal*:

*The masquerade ball given by the Foresters of America on New Year's Eve was a huge success. There were many original costumes and a large crowd was in attendance; prizes were given to the most original and the most comical characters. Those who received the prizes were: ladies, most original, Mrs. Ed. Bean, Jr.; most comical, Miss Mamie Meyers; gentlemen: most original, Milan Eaton; most comical, P. J. Allan. Mrs. Bean's was a Harem costume. Miss Meyers impersonated a colored girl; Milan Eaton impersonated Dante Muscio, the well known feed dealer; and P. J. Allen wore the costume of a Scotch Highlander. The judges were Dr. S. P. Cavanagh and A. J. Cavalli. The impersonation of Dante Muscio, the local merchant, was complete in every detail and was well acted. A prize waltz was held also. The prizes were awarded to: first prize, J. T. Hall and wife, of Hamlet; second prize, Manuel Soares and Mrs. Katherine McGrath of San Rafael. The judges were Mrs. F. Eaton, Mrs. J. Codoni, Mrs. P. A. Magistretti, J. McIsaac, and C. Cotta. The music was furnished by Bobba's Accordion Orchestra of Oakland.*

In 1924 the Foresters honored the wedding of local doctor Frank Cannon with a party at Foresters Hall, with the Muscio Orchestra composed



*Local members built the stately Foresters Hall in 1916. Top, pouring the concrete foundation, and bottom, the finished building.*

of members of that veteran Point Reyes family. Five years later found Jim Alberigi showing Clara Bow in "Wings" (the first winner of an Academy Award), followed by a dance.

Not only the Foresters used their hall, but also it was open to public uses and by other organizations. The Sir Francis Drake Lions Club 1932 Fourth of July Celebration featured "a grand ball" at Foresters Hall followed the next night by a dance "beginning at 9 o'clock sharp." Two years later Rossini's Orchestra of Bodega gave a dance at the hall.

Jack Mason wrote about the weekend dances at the hall in 1929, telling the sad story of Adam Kelly (See *Point Reyes Historian*, Volume 1, pp 8-9 et seq.). "The air vibrated when Adam walked in," Mason wrote. "No-one could dance like the little Irishman. It took a few drinks to fire him up—for Adam was shy—then he would be in the center of the floor, dancing, clapping and playing to the crowd."

"There were many Irish in and around Point



The "ladies' auxiliary" was most active in the local Foresters of America chapter.

Reyes... [and] they praised Adam wildly, calling him back again and again to do numbers from his repertoire of Irish jigs. The crowd backed off and lined the walls applauding and laughing. When he finished, three or four glasses of whisky would be poured and waiting for him." And this was during Prohibition! (The "sad" of the story is that one night, drunk after a night of dancing, he fell asleep on the railroad tracks across the street and lost his legs when a train passed over him.)

Betty Adams Koenig sang in the choir with her mother and sister and another dozen vocalists during Protestant services held upstairs in Foresters Hall in the 1940s. Betty's sister Charlotte played piano "and was very good," Mrs. Koenig recalled. Betty May Hendren sang the solos.

Foresters Hall played a huge role in the social life of Point Reyes Station. Adults in the town hosted card parties, whist, bridge, penny ante, Pedro. According to Mrs. Koenig, the whist parties were usually held at Foresters Hall. The players took the game very seriously, she said, "if you won you got things from the merchants, a five-pound bag of sugar or something like that." She and her sister helped by punching scorecards, and told a story about her sister filling in a card wrong and "she was bawled out, she never played again or helped keep score."

Local men led the Court by appointment, and were watched over by officials from the larger organization. Auditors came on a schedule to check the books in a formal ceremony that required practice by the local men in preparation. The carefully planned floor work—rituals, initiating new members, recording, how meetings were held, and other

formalities—was taken seriously. The official visits were followed with banquet in the basement.

There were "a lot of good cooks" in Point Reyes Station, said Mrs. Koenig. The downstairs kitchen had a "very crude big stove" and people sat on benches at the large wooden tables.

Two- or three-piece bands accompanied dances, and later the young people danced to a jukebox that had been installed. "The dances were supposed to stop at midnight," recalled Mrs. Koenig, "but nobody wanted to, they would pass the hat for more time for musicians." Local musicians included Louis Bloom and his family from Olema, and the Muscios from B Street, both family ensembles. Dance steps included the jitterbug, waltzes, and foxtrots, eventually evolving to modern, said Mrs. Koenig. "There were good dancers out in the country, they came from the ranches. There was not a lot of drinking, nothing got out of hand, but her parents insisted that neighbor Oliver Grandi would escort her and her sister and bring them home.

During World War II, Foresters Hall became an equipped and ready hospital, "with everything in readiness to receive injured in case the war reached our side of the Pacific," but was rarely if ever used.

The male side of the Foresters disbanded before the war. The women, having been the movers and shakers anyway, continued to offer the public uses, sprucing up the building and adding safety features. In 1948 the *Baywood Press* claimed the building was "one of the best equipped spots for large public affairs." But around that time, the local Lions Club acquired the old railroad engine house and within a few years converted it into a public venue, considerably larger and better equipped than the old-fashioned hall with basement banquet room.

In 1960 the Marin County Planning Commission considered a plan to convert the Foresters Building into an eight-unit apartment house. Instead it was purchased by Bill and Jean Booras, who converted the old social hall into an art gallery they called "The Sandcastle" in honor of its fanciful architecture. Noted artist Sam Francis bought the building in the 1980s and remodeled the interior. More recently, it has been owned and restored by Steve Marshall and converted to apartments and work spaces.

# Bear Valley:

## *Ancient Forests and a Bewitching Brook*

THE LOVELY AREA known as Bear Valley is blessed with scenic beauty, a multitude of activities, and plenty of history. Here was the first European settlement in the Olema-Point Reyes area; a noteworthy dairy ranch; a playground for the common and the wealthy; and now the headquarters for Point Reyes National



Seashore. It is a magnet, a focal place for visitors to Point Reyes, and has been such a magnet for almost two centuries.

Located west of Olema, Bear Valley is composed of two watersheds: it extends from near the head of Tomales Bay deep into the heavily wooded folds of Inverness Ridge, and, curiously, it extends further, over the low pass in the ridge—called Divide Meadow these days—and down to the Pacific Ocean south of Drakes Bay. There are two Bear Valley Creeks, each heading the opposite direction from Divide Meadow.

It is likely that the Bear Valley corridor acted as a route to the ocean for the local Coast Miwok people at Olema and beyond. The woods were full of bears—hence the name, of course—and mountain lions, as well as most of the species of animal and bird that we see today. Of bears, Harold French wrote, in 1909, that “now only their memory lingers, for the last survivor was shot near by in 1895.” Mountain lions were hunted into the 1930s, possibly 1940s. With the extirpation of

the bears and big cats, it became a vast hunting preserve, but also much more.

Bear Valley acted as a boundary between two of the major Point Reyes landowners, Charles Webb Howard having the best of it, and James McMillan Shafter and his son Payne the forested land east of Bear Valley Creek. The Shafter family allowed friends and family to construct rustic cabins along the creek. Howard opened the land to visitors—as long as they behaved—and soon after the arrival of the North Pacific Coast Railroad in the vicinity in 1875 the woods and dales became a popular destination. One could leave the train at Tocaloma and catch a stage that would bring guests out the Bear Valley road (today’s Bear Valley Trail) to the ocean, with picnics and side trips along the way. If you were fortunate to have connections with the Howards or Shafter family, a stay at Howard’s Camp or one of the cottages along the trail might be attained.

J. K. Orr, a prominent San Franciscan who married into the Shafter family, built “a neat rustic

six-room cottage in the beautiful Bear Valley, for summer use" in 1881. The cabin, located a short distance from the ocean, proved to be a popular gathering spot for Orr's family and friends, as well as hikers who passed by. Known as "Bugville" for a time, the cabin was eventually removed. Another friend of the owners, Robert Menzies, built a picturesque cabin in the 1920s not far inside the woods from the ranch. Menzies was an amateur botanist—no relation to the famed botanist Archibald Menzies—and planted numerous trees of interest, including a flowering dogwood and, in the late 1940s, a rare Chinese dawn redwood. The Menzies' family cabin was purchased for the national seashore and torn down in the early 1970s.

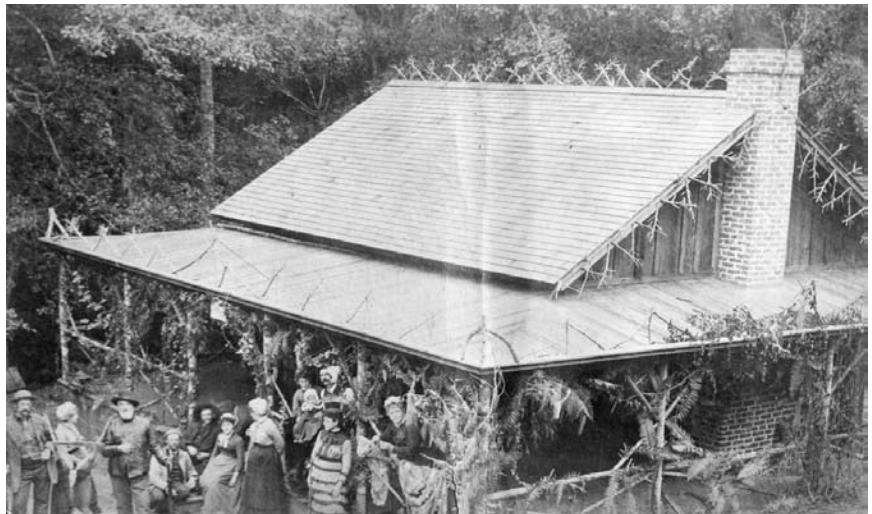
The San Francisco and Marin County newspapers featured profiles of Bear Valley that waxed poetic, extravagant yet not exaggerated, such as this passage in the *Marin County Journal* from August 1880:

*But whilst speeding over the loveliest road ever traveled by your nature-loving correspondent, that beyond Olema, we were not unmindful of the picturesque and beautiful scenery bordering it on either side; the sylvan dells, so softly suggestive of faun and fairy; the moss clustered boughs of aged trees, embowering the most charming of rippling streams that 'bickers down the valley,' with all the music of its own free fancy; the stately alder trees, with their white trunks and shimmering green leafage, the sweetly scented plume-blossomed buckeye, fragrant laurel, and gnarled oak, all unite their umbrageous branches in forming a continued shade over nearly the entire route after leaving Olema. Here and there, like a diamond sparkling in the twilight, bright rays of warm sunshine glint upon the laughing streamlet, and as soon disappear as we ride rapidly on. Or again the wilder cheer of dashing little waterfalls, receive a more enchanting charm from the scintillating glance of sunny beams. And the gracefully waving lady ferns flutter to the wanton zephyr's fickle caress, then dip their luxuriant tresses in the silvery stream that mirrors their beauty in its depths, and vies with the soft moss that encircles the Fern Queen's feet.*

And that was just the beginning of the essay! The writer went on to extol the butterflies, birds, squirrels, picnic site, poison oak, ocean views, sunset ("The king of day was robing for his departure, and having donned his gorgeous raiment of scarlet and gold..."), flowers, and geological wonders.

It didn't take too long for certain members of the public to abuse the privilege of access to this beautiful private park. By 1886 we saw notices like this:

*This grand drive was once open to the public at large, but, to the discredit of human nature, the ghouls and*



"Bugville" was the name of this rustic cabin in Bear Valley, not far from the ocean. A handful of cabins lined the Bear Valley Trail. PRNS Archives.

*vandals of tourists soon despoiled the work of nature to such an extent that Mr. Shafter was compelled in self defense to erect gates and only allow those to pass who were authenticated as possessing decent instincts.*

Yet public passage through Bear Valley continued on and off for decades. In 1909 the popular hiking writer Harold French published details about a trip to Bear Valley: "Think of a forest 20 miles long and averaging three in width, still in an almost primeval state, yet within three hours of the city, by boat, train and trail!"

For walkers, the trip was like this: train to To-caloma, walk to Olema—where provisions could be bought for a picnic or overnight—and walk west on the road towards Inverness (today's Bear Valley Road). In half a mile turn left at Howard's ranch, occupied by a friendly tenant/ranch manager such as W. H. Abbott or Wilbur Skinner. Passing to the left of the imposing ranch house, where one could get directions, travelers crossed Bear

Valley Creek and headed south through pastures and hayfields and soon entered the forest. Here the many exclamations of beauty were made, such as this one in the *San Francisco Call* in April, 1890:

*The first object which attracted attention after entering the woods was where the two sides of the canyon came close together. Years ago an immense sequoia (sic: Douglas fir) on the hill above fell, the base of the tree resting on one hill while the top lodged on the other, making a span of some 80 feet, under which is the roadway. Divested of all its branches and covered with a heavy growth of moss, it presents a striking appearance as one passes under it.*

Continuing south and ascending gradually, a hiker would, after 1891, pass the state fish hatchery, and come to a small dairy ranch at Divide Meadow operated by Shafter tenant Charles H. Goodhue, where one could imbibe in “copious draughts of pure, rich milk.” This was replaced in 1890 by the Country Club, which operated into the 1930s. Then the trip was all down hill, reentering forests of fir and oak and buckeye and following the creek, passing two private cabins on the left. Nearing the ocean, the woods

gave way to open grasslands and the creek deepened into a cleft before exiting into the ocean at Arch Rock, a popular geological attraction. Parties could, from here, head northwest along the coast road, or return to Olema the way they came.

Beachgoers also were attracted to the many caves on the rugged shoreline. A popular attraction around 1890 was “a most peculiar specimen of erosion” called Citadel Rock or Cupola Bluff, a “square tower, in the neighborhood of 100 feet high, partially detached from the headland, and surmounted by a conical cap....” The feature known as Arch Rock developed slowly since the



*The Country Club (top) occupied a favorite hikers’ picnic spot in Bear Valley called Divide Meadow. The Rapp family, owners in the 1920s, dammed Bear Valley Creek to form a recreation pond, bottom photo.*

1890s as the tunnel underneath a prominent point of rock expanded; it collapsed in 2017, killing a hiker.

The popular and “picturesque” Bear Valley brought hikers, riders, hunters, and buggyists into nature for nine decades before it was established as a public park. For almost a century and a half writers and artists have sounded praises for Bear Valley. “The country is in magnificent condition for outdoor enjoyment,” wrote one correspondent in 1891, “and the weather yesterday could not have been more pleasant for such a jaunt.” And so it continues today.

## The Hills Are Alive...with the Paganetti Family

ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR settings for a ranch is overlooking Tomales Bay, and the old Paganetti ranch is perhaps the most awesome of all, perched on a windy hillside above the Straus and Zimmerman ranches. The history of the ranch is highlighted by the presence of the storied Paganetti family.

"The ranch...has a spectacular view to the north of rolling hills to St. Helena, and to the west a view of Tomales Bay, the Point Reyes Peninsula, and on a clear day the Farallon Islands," longtime Paganetti friend Georgia Marino wrote. "The weather can be almost unbearable during winter storms to breathtakingly beautiful in the spring and fall months."

The 397-acre ranch, which spreads from the Tomales Bay side over to Walker Creek, had a handful of owners from 1850 to 1916. That year, Swiss immigrants Tranquillo and Lena Paganetti bought the property for back taxes owed by the Marshall family. The couple arrived with five children (Theresa, Rico, Edith, William and Harry) and had five more while at the ranch: Irene, Anita, Peter, Tranquil (Terry) and Herman. A neighbor to the north, delivered the babies. The big family filled the eight-bedroom house, occupying a full 73 years on the place.

Tranquillo hailed from San Nazzaro and his wife from Magadino, Switzerland. He arrived as a stonemason, but the couple ran a dairy near Fallon for six years before coming to Tomales Bay. When they arrived they found the house in disrepair, having been knocked off its foundation ten years earlier by the 1906 earthquake.

The Paganetti children attended Halleck School, a short distance below the ranch. The school registers illustrated the growth of the family, as almost every year a new Paganetti child arrived for first grade. Not long after the

last of the children graduated, the school closed for lack of students.

Lena was a gifted singer and Tranquillo played the piano and organ, and so the Paganetti household was a musical one. "Aunt Edith remembered him playing music and her singing, and laughing, laughing," recalled their granddaughter. All of the children learned to play instruments and the family played music together in the big parlor. "All the kids played an instrument



*Photo courtesy of the Paganetti family.*

at one time or another," recalled granddaughter Pattie Grey. "Our mom played the saxophone, Uncle Terry played the clarinet, Uncle Rico played the guitar, a very musical family. There was always music in the house, and they had a Victrola in those days. They were a jolly bunch."

The Paganetti dairy supplied cream to the Tomales Creamery. The family also kept chickens and grew potatoes, which were shipped out on the Northwestern Pacific Railroad out of the Blake's Landing or McDonald flagstops. Mrs. Paganetti kept a large garden to feed the big family. The Paganetti deer camp, which hosted friends during hunting season, provided fresh venison, and an upstairs hall was given over to aging sausages (and laundry). "The Sunday barbecues where family and neighbors would spend the day together on top of the hill, watching sailboats in the bay will long be remembered," wrote Mrs. Marino.

Tranquillo, known to be a poor driver, died in a wreck in 1939, when he drove his new Ford V8 pickup truck off the road north of Marshall. The family called Rico back to the ranch, and he kept the dairy going for many years. The family finally sold the ranch in 1989. The picturesque property remains a showplace among Tomales Bay ranches.

# Seahaven: Inverness's First Suburb

THE RIDGE NORTH of Chicken Ranch Beach was used for decades as cow pasture for Charlie McConnell's dairy, located in the valley behind the beach. The open grassland gave way to oak and bishop pine forest at its upper elevations, and at the top was a view of the ocean. The first generations of Inverness residents walked a trail through the pasture to get to popular Shell Beach, crossing the cattle fence on a wooden stile.

After the O. L. Shafter Estate sold its vast ranch holdings to real estate investor Leonard David in 1939, he kept these picturesque hills facing Tomales Bay for private development. David's plans set off an alarm in Inverness, which directly led to the creation of Tomales Bay State Park. However, the mile of waterfront south of Shell Beach was developed as residential tracts. The first of these was called Seahaven.

Leonard David proposed the subdivision in 1941, two years after he bought the property. His ideas changed with the winds, seemingly. He retained the veteran San Francisco real estate firm Umben, Kerner & Stevens and marketed large lots to city people. Prices were low: in 1942, a two and a half-acre lot with bay views went for \$600. A three-acre lot was more than twice that—\$1,350—but it had its own "exclusive sandy bathing and boating beaches"; a classified advertisement noted that the lot would make an "ideal small weekend or year round country estate" where one could "raise vegetables, gardens, chickens, etc." By 1943

## Million-Dollar Resort Plan for Tomales Bay

SAN RAFAEL, July 27 (AP)—Plans for a million dollar privately owned resort on Tomales bay in northwest Marin county were disclosed today.

Lloyd Kilkeary of San Francisco, spokesman for a group he called Indian Yacht Club Ltd., said construction would not begin for at least a year. He said the club plans a hotel and golf links on a scale similar to the former Del Monte resort near Monterey.

A property deed was filed in the county recorder's office last week recording the sale of 1000 acres to the group. The former owner, according to the deed, was Leonard David of Tomales bay, who sold for \$550,000.

The new resort would be centered north of Inverness on the

the developers had roughly carved out a road system but progress was stalled by the war and no houses had been built.

In 1947 a group of businessmen associated with David incorporated the Indian Beach Yacht Club Ltd., with home base in Reno, Nevada (likely for tax purposes?). The initial plans included a 1,000-acre resort with golf course, hotel, private beaches, and luxury housing. San Francisco real estate broker-investor Lloyd G. Kilkeary,\* who

had a major role in developing the Marina District in the city, led the endeavor. Kilkeary promised a resort that would rival the famous Del Monte at Monterey.

To cost \$1,500,000 of capital raised on the East Coast, it was described by Kilkeary in 1948 as "a 180-unit resort with four private beaches, riding trails, golf courses and yacht harbor." The land in

question, a pie shaped-parcel on the north side of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. as it ascends Ottinger's Hill, had been under consideration for inclusion in the new Tomales Bay State Park, but this acreage ended up as private development land.

The Indian Beach Yacht Club development foundered, perhaps for lack of funds. A year after the ill-fated announcements of a grand coastal resort the landowners, again through Umben, Kerner & Stevens, filed a survey map with the county

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\*Not to be confused with Joe Kilkenny, whose name remains on a beach farther north.



Plans for a 1,000-acre private resort north of Inverness never succeeded. Part of the property, seen in a 1943 aerial photo, was developed into Seahaven in the 1950s.

for what was called Seahaven Subdivision 1. The plans called for a small 49-lot subdivision taking up only the lower part of the David property, most of which was grasslands; by that time, adjacent Shell Beach had been brought into Tomales Bay State Park—after a short time as a county park—and a ruler-straight boundary line marked the north side of Seahaven. The county planners had a few concerns, and mandated that the road to the popular beach be of sufficient width for easy public access—gone were the days of hiking through McConnell’s cow pasture.

Planners pointed out that major RCA power line ran through the tract westerly towards Point Reyes, interrupting some planned lot boundaries, and also were concerned about an adequate water supply. David’s representative Harry Smissaert assured that the owners would comply with whatever the commissioners wanted. The Seahaven Water System was created in early 1950, drawing from a 130-foot well.

Upon county approval, the roadways were graded and paved, given Spanish-California names like Camino Del Mar—which led to the beach—and Via Del Vista (now commonly called Via de la Vista), which reached the high point of the subdivision. Perhaps the first to build, in the spring of 1950, was Dr. Elizabeth Whitney of Berkeley, who had bought the old chicken ranch and an adjacent parcel from David in 1939 (which was not part of the formal subdivision). Dr. Whitney was a direct descendant of Oscar L. Shafter, and so bought into her great-grandfather’s former rancho almost eighty years after his death. Her son Peter lived out his life at the old chicken-farm ranch house.

Seahaven proved popular with RCA technicians like Irl Reid, Bill Meloney, Troy Everhart, and John Gray. The RCA facility on Point Reyes was relatively close to Seahaven, and the prices affordable for the underpaid radiomen. The Meloneys—Dorothy a descendant of Point Reyes pioneers—built a modest house on Camino Del Mar in 1950-51, and Irl and Susie Reid followed on Drake Way shortly after. John Gray, one of the first lot buyers, built a popular Cliff May-designed



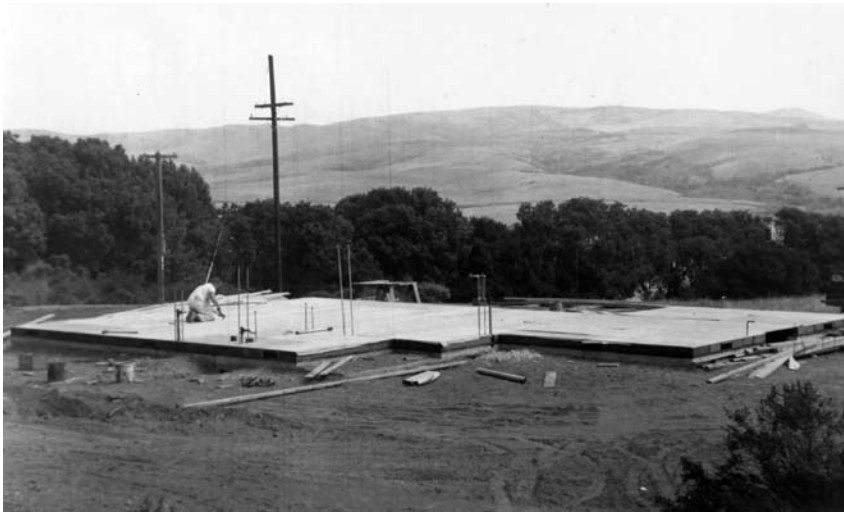
*The 1949 announcement of the new Seahaven development brought concerns from county planners. (Newspapers.com)*

kit home at the corner of Camino del Mar and Via Del Vista in 1956. Larry Marks, who owned the Inverness water system in the late 1950s and figured in the contentious Chicken Ranch Beach litigation on the early 1970s, raised a family there. Other early residents included Joe O’Leary, a tugboat operator; Sam Mostovoy, a retired Coast Guardsman who raised his two grandsons as wards; James and Enid Grant, who both worked at the Hunters Point shipyards, commuting daily to San Francisco; and Mabel Mundo, the local librarian. By the end of the 1950s most of the lower elevation lots were occupied by modest houses.

Having been built on a sloping cow pasture, most of the new houses at Seahaven featured fine views of Tomales Bay and the hills beyond, but as trees grew, many of those scenes disappeared. And, as the years went by new homes were built farther up the hill in the already-existing bishop pine forest. The Grant family bought a wooded lot on Escondido. “We spent the summer with axes and two-man saw—no chainsaws—and we cleared the lot for the house,” Jim Grant remembered about that summer of 1958. “The lot next door was



*The original Seahaven subdivision included 49 lots on the lower part of today’s Seahaven neighborhood. (Marin County Records Office)*



Houses started to fill the large former pasture at Seahaven beginning in 1950. At top, Irl and Susie Reid's house enjoyed a view of Tomales Bay, as did John and Enid Gray's, bottom. The Grays' was a Cliff May kit home. (Courtesy of Kate Levinson and Steve Costa, top, and Michael Gray, bottom)

pretty empty, so we would drag our slash from the downed trees over to the empty space and burn it. It wasn't a big deal. There weren't many people around to complain when we were doing that."

The Seahaven Water Company, owned by developers Umbsen, Kerner & Stevens and managed by prominent San Francisco realtor Harry Smisnaert, was plagued with problems as early as 1953. The well was located on the former O'Connell dairy ranch and produced polluted water, sometimes brown and smelly, and staining porcelain fixtures in the new houses. It had to be pumped uphill and the system occasionally broke. The Marin County Health Department reacted with expensive demands that the system be upgraded.

Instead, another water source was found uphill from the subdivision, on the Parkinson property, providing clear and clean water.

One section of Seahaven was its own private neighborhood: Teachers' Beach. Here in 1954, twelve families from the Stockton area, led by Bill and Ruth Mitchell and including Fred and Micky Graeser of Oakland, bought an eight acre parcel with its own private beach and formed a small association to develop their own summer homes, on twelve parcels and a 3.2-acre riparian area with beach. Some Seahaven neighbors objected, citing—again—water shortages, and noting that, according to the *Independent-Journal*, "there is insufficient assurance that the homes to be built are of good quality." One commenter encouraged county planners to deny a permit and "bring under control development of this character." The association had no such plans to create an undesirable development, and the subdivision was approved in May of 1955. It was eventually expanded to seventeen lots, some not appropriate for building, including a preserve in the canyon leading to the beach.

The nine houses eventually built were not, by any means, of poor quality, and the diminutive "sub-neighborhood" is composed of dedicated full-time and part-time residents.

By one account the place was named for an Inverness schoolteacher who preferred the solitude of its small cove to the oft-crowded Shell Beach, but Inverness old-timer Elizabeth Dempster Stahr disagreed: "It has always been my understanding," she wrote to Jack Mason in 1976, "that Teachers' Beach was named for the ten schoolteachers from San Francisco who built Ululani on the [Edgemont] bluff in 1898. They used to row there frequently and sit on the sand with lunch and cards." Mrs. Stahr continued, "My aunt used to park on



Michael Gray and his brother enjoyed the wide open spaces of early Seahaven. (Courtesy of Michael Gray)

that road and we would walk down through that moss-covered forest and have a most private and delightful day swimming and picnicking."

Early residents remembered the new Seahaven neighborhood as "idyllic" and "bucolic." The streets weren't busy and the place was surrounded by open space. Kids walked to Shell Beach, or up the hill and over into the Point Reyes ranchlands. "It was rural, open, and when I stepped out the door and went anywhere I felt free," recalled Jim Grant. "You could just go wherever you wanted, so you had freedom, open space, safety." He continued, "During the summer you said goodbye in

the morning and no one worried about us as long as we came home by supper we were good."

Following the development of Seahaven and Teachers Beach, the upper—and larger—portion of the David lands were divided and put up for sale, with Via Del Vista extended a mile to the top of the ridge. This included some of the finest lots at the summit of the ridge, with ocean views, all part of the old Indian Beach Yacht Club scheme. Unlike the tidy layout of Seahaven, these lots were of all sizes and shapes, apparently depending on the lay of the land and the buyer's desires. While it was still relatively empty, Jim Grant recalled that, as a boy, there "didn't seem to be anyone there." Grant remembered builder Jack Stockstill, who owned much of the property, "racing up and down in his little Corvaair truck...as a kid I was scared at how fast he went!" This area, called Upper Seahaven or New Seahaven, developed slowly during the 1970s and after.

Today, Seahaven is largely populated by full time residents, who are organized over issues like fire safety and water supply (it's now within the Inverness Public Utility District). With the growth of trees around houses on Charlie McConnell's former pasture, most Seahaven houses have lost their unimpeded bay views, but the homeowners enjoy its quiet and beauty. The biggest problem to the neighborhood is the growing popularity of Shell Beach, where even on weekdays residents will find dozens of cars parked on narrow Camino Del Mar as the tiny state parking lot is inadequate.

	<p><b>Marshall Tavern 1971 50 years ago</b></p>	<h2>Where were you 50 years ago?</h2>
	<p>Photographs by Lee Sims</p>	<p>It was a special time on Tomales Bay. The gentle ambiance of the Marshall Tavern in the Summer of 1971 is captured in over fifty photographs by long ago <i>Light</i> photographer Lee Sims with contemporary comments on that time.</p>
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## Bear Valley Ranch

The exhibit can be enjoyed  
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reopens to the public.