Message from the MVNA President:

By Susan Nine

Dear MVNA Neighbors,

I have been watching lots of movies while sheltering in place. I just loved "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" with Tom Hanks playing Mr. Rogers. I also loved the documentary, "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" about real life Mr. Rogers. I didn't get to experience the gift of watching Mr. Rogers through a child's eyes. I was too old when his show began to really appreciate him. But I was deeply moved and inspired by these films. Fred Rogers, or Mr. Rogers as many know him, made a huge impact on the lives of many children. Through his television show, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, he helped mentor and educate young children about the importance of kindness, community, and friendship.

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, " Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." -M.R.

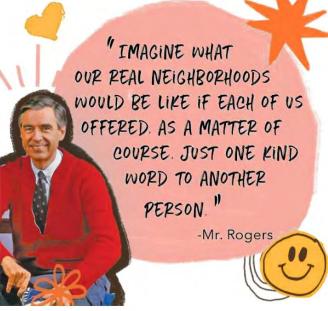
During the Covid outbreak, your MVNA Board is continuing to meet monthly and are actively involved in representing the interests of our

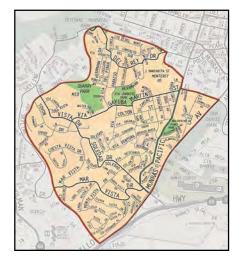
MONTEREY VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

neighborhood at City Council and other community meetings. We are using Zoom to meet and our agendas and minutes are posted on our MVNA website montereyvistaneighborhood.org

Sadly, MVNA has been forced by current circumstances to postpone our famous annual BBQ/Picnic until next year. The City does not expect to reopen the picnic area we reserve each year at Paraiso Park anytime soon. Unfortunately, this just is





The Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association (MVNA) is one of fifteen City of Monterey neighborhood associations that represent the residents of Monterey.

Our goal is to preserve and improve the quality and character of our neighborhood areas.

Our services include review and comment on selected city programs, proposed ordinances, and building designs. We provide assistance to members in resolving neighborhood concerns.

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not the time for large in-person gatherings with buffet food service. We are, however, busy thinking about alternative ways to celebrate our very special neighbors and neighborhood.

The good news is that we are rewarding your patience and understanding by waiving 2020/21 dues. That's right, free memberships on us, good until August 31st 2021! So spread the word as this applies to new members as well. The information for new members to sign up can be found on our website.

Because we traditionally ask you to approve a new slate of Board Members and Officers at the picnic, we will be sending members an email in September to cast your ballots. We have fourteen wonderful Board members lined up, including our Board officers. They happen to be the very Board members we have had this year. It is a tribute to each of them that during these difficult times they have volunteered once again

Continued on next page

Message from the MVNA President Continued from previous page

to serve.

"I hope you're proud of yourself for the times you've said 'yes,' when all it meant was extra work for you and was seemingly helpful only to somebody else." -M.R.

The Board is keeping busy working behind the scenes, problem solving and working for positive change. Two of our Board members, Bruce Zanetta and Charles Martin, **D.C.**, have been real helpers, communicating resident road construction issues to the contractors and the Public Works Department. Board member Ray Meyers, while busy keeping his business open as an essential service, finds time to research various funding options for undergrounding our utility lines and eliminating poles for the safety and beauty of our lovely forest environment. Attorney Board member Jean Rasch is chairing the Underground Utility Committee and continues as our NCIP representative with alternate Hans Jannasch, PhD in Chemical Oceanography. Hans also keeps our membership records current, maintains our MVNA website and serves as our Zoom meeting technical expert. Jeana Jett, MS international & comparative education, our outreach officer and picnic committee chair, is finding new ways to engage with the larger community. Kristin Dotterrer, MS library science, is our youngest Board member. She's also our historian and secretary, doing important research about our historic neighborhood. Michele Altman and Jeannie Ferrara are our realtors in residence who keep us up to date on real estate issues and market trends in the neighborhood. Attorney Mike Pekin is our advisor on homeless issues. He also helped save our neighborhood from 13 cell towers throughout our neighborhood. Marta Kraftzeck, MS viticulture/enology, the first woman wine maker in Monterey County, updates us regularly on School District issues and writes a wine column for our newsletter. Pat Venza, my mentor, who has been on neighborhood boards for decades, advises us as our past president. Look for her bio sketch in this edition along with that of Nickie Bach. Nickie, retired Department of Consumer Affairs Senior Investigator and high school math teacher, has so many skills. We can rely on her to do anything well, including editing my long winded letters to the City. Together, we all produce our MVNA Newsletter with the help of our wonderful editor in chief, **Arthur Simons**, who is also our resident head chef and grill master at the annual picnic.

"We all have different gifts, so we all have different ways of saying to the world who we are." -M.R.

MVNA is also currently busy planning to host a Candidates Forum to take place online September 30 so that we may all become more familiar with those vying for City Council and Mayoral positions this November. With 14 active contributing Board members, we are able to maintain a vital and active association committed to preserving the best qualities of our neighborhood, while finding ways to make

it even better. We have room for one more Board member. Anybody interested?

We encourage MVNA members to contact us with any concerns or questions by emailing us at mvneighborhood@gmail.com. Should you ever wish to visit one of our Board meetings, use our email address to request a zoom link until we return to in-person meetings.



Stay well and best wishes.

"I like you just the way you are." -M.R.

To comply with state guidelines to prevent the spread of Covid our monthly Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association board meetings are held virtually, usually the first Monday of each month on an online conference application from 6:15 to 7:45pm. You are welcome to attend any of these virtual Board meetings, or to suggest agenda items to share your concerns. Please contact a board member for more information.

Web: montereyvistaneighborhood.org Email: mvneighborhood@gmail.com

MVNA Officers & Directors	10
Susan Nine (President)	333-6882
Jean Rasch (VP & NCIP Rep)	625-3200
Charles Martin (Treasurer)	373-0649
Kristin Dotterrer (Secretary & Historian)	262-2301
Hans Jannasch (Membership, NCIP alt)	373-0872
Pat Venza (Past President)	375-8416
Michele Altman	214-2545
Nickie Bach	747-1613
Jeannie Ferrara	236-1111
Jeana Jett (Outreach)	655-0357
Marta Kraftzeck	375-2146
Ray Meyers	905-5327
Mike Pekin	905-3756
Bruce Zanetta	647-1997

Press release from the City of Monterey Fire Department, August 19, 2020

Monterey Fire Department Fully Staffed and Ready to Respond as Needed

Monterey, CA – The Monterey Fire Department wants to reassure residents that they are fully staffed and ready to respond as needed to any situation that warrants their services. The current local River Fire and Carmel Fire have both brought concerns and anxiety to residents. The Monterey Fire Department serves Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Sand City, Naval Postgraduate School, La Mesa Village and Monterey Regional Airport, and is ready in all of those areas should a need arise.



"We understand residents' concerns and worry over the current fires happening locally," said Assistant Fire Chief Jim Courtney.

"Multiple jurisdictions from throughout the state are working hard on the two blazes, and we want to assure the community we are still at 100 percent service levels and on stand by to protect our communities."

The Monterey Fire Department encourages anyone who feels they are in danger to call 9-1-1. To stay informed of the latest local updates, we recommend:

- registering your cell phone at http://alertmontereycounty.org This is a cellular and email based notification system. This requires registration so please log-in to this website and register your information.
- watch local new stations, listen to local radio news
- follow these social media sites you do not need a Twitter account to follow this information, and Twitter is the most timely and up-to-the-minute news.
 - https://Twitter.com/cityofmonterey
 - https://Facebook.com/cityofmonterey
 - https://Twitter.com/CalFireBEU
 - o https://Facebook.com/CalFireBEU
 - https://twitter.com/MontereyCoOES
- Nextdoor app We will post information on Nextdoor to relay important information and keep the community updated.
- The City websites at <u>monterey.org</u> and <u>montereyfiredept.org</u> will be used to relay information on a developing emergency.
- The Siren at the Fire Station tested in January 2019, this siren covered a large portion of our City. Hearing this siren should alert you that there is an emergency situation in the City and you should look for information from one of the sources listed above.
- Police Officers & PA systems. Our patrol vehicles are equipped with speakers. Should we have an emergency situation, you will hear sirens and our voices over those speakers directing residents.
- Contact Monterey Fire at the non-emergency phone number if you have any questions, (831) 646-3914, or visit montereyfiredept.org

MVNA Memberships – Important update



We appreciate every resident of our neighborhood that joins MVNA as a paying member. Out of about 1400 homes within Monterey Vista, we now have 183 current household memberships. You help us fund our many activities, especially our annual MVNA BBQ/Picnic usually held in September at Via Paraiso Park. As you may have read, due to the current Coronavirus crisis we've unfortunately had to make the hard decision to cancel this years BBQ. Since this event is our largest annual expense, we've decided to extend all current MVNA memberships by one year.

Thus, memberships expiring Aug 31st in 2020 to will now expire 8/31/2021, and those who prepaid through Aug 31st, 2021 will now go through 8/31/2022. We're all sorry to have to cancel the BBQ but hope everyone stays healthy and continues to enjoy keeping up with friends while out walking in our beautiful neighborhood.

We are also offering a SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP rate through August 2021.

Just email your name(s), address and phone number to mvneighborhood@gmail.com and you'll get your first year's membership for FREE!!

While we are unable to gather for our annual BBQ this year, we invite you and your family to join us for an online celebration of our Monterey Vista Neighborhood!

Send us your stories of sheltering in, activities with your family during this time; a song, a poem, a dance or pictures you took while wandering around the hood and we will include those in our December newsletter. Please send all contributions to:

myneighborhood@gmail.com



How Vulnerable is the Monterey Peninsula to a Wildfire? By Ray Meyers

It is almost unimaginable to think of a wildfire the likes of the 2018 Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, happening on our beautiful Monterey Peninsula. But, is it naïve and wishful thinking to believe it is not possible here?

The deadly Camp Fire destroyed the town of Paradise, CA and was ignited by a faulty PG&E transmission power line. The utility filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and admitted to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter due the wildfire. Ultimately in June, 2020 PG&E as part of a complicated settlement, agreed to pay a whopping 25.5 billion dollars to the victims of Paradise and insurance companies. The fire consumed 240 square miles and 18,804 structures while taking the lives of 85 people and injuring 17 others.



Homes leveled by the Camp Fire in Paradise, CA November 2018

But is it fair to compare a coastal city such as Monterey with a hotter and drier inland forested city? Doesn't the fog and temperate climate protect us? Can a wildfire like what destroyed Paradise happen in Monterey? The answer is a bit complicated, but a qualified yes.

Argument In Favor of a Ballot Measure Y to Increase Monterey's Hotel Room Tax (TOT)

Clyde Roberson, Mayor of Monterey

Your YES vote on Measure Y to increase Monterey's hotel room tax (Transient Occupancy Tax, or TOT) ensures that tourists pay their fair share in maintaining city services, programs, and buildings. Residents do not pay for this tax increase. It is paid entirely by tourists staying in hotels and motels. Your city council unanimously placed this measure on the ballot, an action supported by your Library Board, also unanimously.

BALLOT MEASUREY: "Shall the measure be adopted to increase transient occupancy tax (hotel tax) from 10% to 12% on the cost of rooms paid by hotel guests, with 16% of proceeds allocated to the Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program, and 84% to essential services such as parks, recreation, library, emergency response, facility rehabilitation, and other unrestricted expenditures, and expanding the tax to apply to online travel companies, providing \$2.8 to \$5.6 million annually, effective until repealed by voters?"

Tourists come here for our natural beauty and history. Visitors use city buildings, streets, parks, services, and water. It is right that visitors

help pay for our valued public services and facilities used by all.

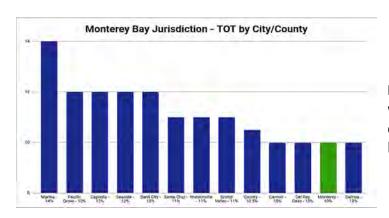
Without this small increase, the budget must be balanced by major cuts to public safety, traffic management, parks, forestry, and housing programs.

The popular Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program will be in jeopardy. Past projects include the Emergency Operations Center, Parks and Sports Center upgrades, storm drains, Library kitchen, sidewalks, traffic improvements, and fire fuel reduction. Let's continue to fund these vital programs.



This minimum increase paid for by hotel guests also can be used for ongoing improvements and upgrades to our city buildings along with roads, greenbelts, sidewalks, and affordable housing.

The hotel tax increase benefits tourists as well. Monterey has the lowest hotel tax of any city on the peninsula, well-below other California tourist areas which are 12% to 14% and more. This tax hasn't been raised in 35 years.





Monterey is a beautiful place to live, work, and visit with outstanding services. To preserve this special quality of life, please vote YES on Y to maintain our long-term financial stability.

Your YES vote on Measure Y makes sure tourists take care of Monterey with us.

Meet your Neighborhood Association Board Members...

Pat Venza

Like most people I got involved in a neighborhood association when a problem was in my "backyard." In the early-80's a developer wanted to build 300+ condos in the Casanova-Oak Knoll area. I went door-to-door with a petition to request that the city require the condos be family size units to fit in with our family neighborhood. That led to the formation of the Casanova-Oak Knoll Neighbor-

hood Association, of which I was the first president. That neighborhood had a lot of issues, besides the developer, to include the airport and fairgrounds. That neighborhood association did a lot of good things then and they still do.

Because of that association, and all the time spent at City Hall on issues, I was appointed to the Architectural Review Board which I served on for a couple of years.

In 1989 we moved to Soledad Dr., here in the Monterey Vista neighborhood. At that time I had a teenage daughter and a job as the Privacy/FOIA Administrator for the Defense Manpower Data Center. I traveled every couple of months and got away from my activities with local issues.

Instead I became the swim coach for the Special Olympics of Monterey County. Besides coaching I, along with friends, did picnics, Holiday parties, and parades with the athletes. It was a very rewarding 20 years.



It wasn't until I retired in 2012 that I got involved in the Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association. I worked closely with Hans Jannasch as vice-president. Hans had been doing so much for MVNA for many years and knew so many people and issues that when it was time to become President I felt OK to step in. Right then was when the cell towers in our neighborhood was the big issue. Luckily for me many people stepped in to help and get involved.

I so enjoy living in the Monterey Vista neighborhood. I am so lucky to have deer walk through my yard everyday, to look out at my lovely oak trees and enjoy walking in the area. Everyday I count my blessing and hope I can give back just a little to the community I love so much.

Nickie Bach, Beyond Lucky...

Regarding my background, my husband and I didn't retire in Monterey out of the blue. I've been coming to the area annually ever since I was a little girl. When I was very young, my grandparents would rent a house in Carmel for 3 months, and I was lucky enough

to be farmed out to them.



My mother was a mathematics teacher, so every December my family would come down for the CMC conferences at Asilomar . . . lucky again. When I became a Math teacher, I continued to attend the CMC conferences. (I made my own luck. Winking smile)

Then after I married, each spring, my husband's golf group held small tournaments at Monterey area courses. We made vacations out of those. So, again lucky.

I've always loved the ocean; I always looked forward to our trips to the Monterey area, and I can say with confidence that for at least 50 years it was my dream to be able to retire here. Then in 2016 the stars aligned & my dream was on its way to becoming real (still once again, lucky), and we moved here in 2017 (beyond lucky!)

Even though we're fairly recent transplants, our hearts have been here for a very long time!



Melodie Chrislock has been the Managing Director of <u>Public Water Now (PWN)</u> since December 2018. During Measure J she was PWN's communications director. She is a principal, along with her husband Phil Wellman, of marketing agency WellmanAd, which played a major role in winning the Measure J campaign.

Jeana: What's happening with the Cal Am buyout?

Melodie: When Measure J passed, it mandated that the <u>Monterey Peninsula Water Management District</u> (<u>MPWMD</u>) pursue the acquisition of Cal Am's local system "if and when feasible." That process is underway, but it has many steps and will take time.

First, MPWMD had to hire consultants to analyze and advise them on the question of feasibility. In November of 2019, MPWMD announced its consultant's findings and concluded that the buyout was feasible.

Right now, they are in the process of certifying the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the buyout. Once that is complete, LAFCO, the Local Agency Formation Commission, has to approve the buyout and some minor boundary changes. That won't happen until early 2021 due to LAFCO's schedule.

Jeana: When will MPWMD make Cal Am an offer?

Melodie: I don't know, but it could be anytime after the LAFCO approval. Their consultants are doing further research to determine what a realistic offer would be. If the Coastal Commission does not approve Cal Am's desal plant the price would be consid-

erably less than the \$500 million estimate that was found to be feasible. That estimate was a worst-case scenario.

Jeana: Will eminent domain be required?

Melodie: If Cal Am refuses to sell, MPWMD will buy Cal Am's local system through eminent domain.

But before MPWMD can begin the eminent domain process, its seven-member Board must

pass a Resolution of Necessity. To pass, it would require a supermajority vote of 5 to 2. At this time, it appears that not all the MPWMD Board of Directors agree that a buyout should move forward. Directors Gary Hoffman (Carmel/Carmel Valley), Dave Potter (Carmel-By-the-Sea) and Jeannie Byrne (Pacific Grove/Pebble Beach) would most likely vote against a Resolution of Necessity.

Despite the fact that this was a public mandate, these three directors appear to oppose the buyout. If Measure J is to achieve its goal, the public needs to elect MPWMD directors that will proceed with the buyout. That's why November's election for the Carmel / Carmel Valley and Pacific Grove /Pebble Beach seats on the MPWMD board is critical. Carmel Mayor Dave Potter is not elected to the MPWMD Board; he is appointed by the six Peninsula Mayors and has no term limit on the MPWMD Board.

Eminent domain would begin with a bench trial to prove that a buyout of Cal Am is in the public interest and that it is a public necessity. Consultants hired by MPWMD who specialize in this have already been building a case.

Once public necessity is proven, a jury trial will determine the cost to buy Cal Am's local system. Cal Am will argue for a high price, MPWMD will argue for a low price, and the jury will decide.

Jeana: How does Cal Am's corporate model impact our water bills and the buyout?

Continued on page 7

Measure J and the Cal Am Buyout Continued from page 6

Melodie: The Peninsula's water costs are the highest in the nation and rising.

Cal Am's corporate motivation is a 9.2% return on its capital investments for American Water shareholders. It has no motivation to keep costs down since it is a monopoly. And if it fails at a project, it passes those costs on to us. It's a model of corporate freedom and profit with no risk because the government protects its bottom line.

This is the problem of privately owned water systems. That's why 87% of the people in the U.S. get their water from public municipally owned water systems. They are generally more cost-effective because there is no profit involved, and they are accountable to the communities they serve.

Cal Am makes money on capital investments in its system, not on water. So whether or not we need a \$329 million desal plant (that will cost us \$1.2 billion over thirty years), Cal Am is motivated to build it. And what's even worse is it ignores or blocks less profitable, more cost-effective solutions like the Pure Water Monterey Expansion. The CPUC is supposed to regulate Cal Am, but for the most part, it just protects Cal Am, not ratepayers.





can all expect to see massive increases in our already outrageous water bills to pay for this desal plant. People need to speak out on this at the Coastal Commission in September. Their meetings are virtual now, so it's easy for the public to speak.

To stay informed I hope your readers will consider joining Public Water Now http://www.publicwaternow.org. Major water supply decisions that affect us all will be made in the year ahead.

Jeana: When will the buyout be completed?

Melodie: No one can say when that will happen. All we know are the steps before us. Missoula, Montana got through the eminent domain process in about three years.

Of course, we hope that Cal Am will accept a fair price and sell without proceeding to eminent domain. But that would be a miracle.



Monterey City Council members' statements...

The following statements are provided as public service. The Monterey Vista Neigborhood Association does not endorse any particular candidate for office.

Dan Albert

Four years ago, my desire to run for the Monterey City Council was motivated by a strong commitment to public service and the protection of our quality of life and economic vitality. Serving as a council member has truly been an honor and privilege and I have enjoyed working with the current Council to make progress on various projects, such as:



- Street and road repairs in residential areas
- •Amended City code to require new utilities to be placed underground
- •New affordable housing developments: Garden Road and Downtown Monterey
- Re-zoned residential/commercial areas for mixed-use in the Downtown Business District
- •Support for the Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program projects
- •Adaptive signaling on Del Monte and Lighthouse corridors to reduce traffic congestion
- •Sensible solutions to keep city employees safe (COVID-19) while managing a budget crisis
- •ecured 125 Acres of Open Space: Old Capitol site.
- •Completed renovation of the Monterey Conference Center.
- •Continued support for the Community Development Block Grant, and more.

Today, safeguarding our city's delicate balance between economic stability and quality of life has become even more challenging due to the unprecedented issues brought on by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic. No one could have predicted its impact to our city budget and way of life. As we find ways to navigate through these difficult times, our city council members need to continue working collaboratively and with input from residents, businesses, education, community and military partners to arrive at policies that are inclusive, balanced and fair to all.

Continued on next page

Alan Haffa

I appreciate this opportunity to connect with my MVNA neighbors. Arlene and I have lived in Monterey Vista since 2003 and we love the neighborhood. We moved here from Phoenix when I got a job as a Professor of English at MPC and Arlene got a research job at MBARI. Our son and daughter went



to Monterey High School and we were active in the Band and Cross Country Booster clubs. In 2004 MPUSD was in crisis and I was appointed to the board where I served until 2007. For the last 8 years I've served on city council. During my term we have made progress on paving streets and sidewalks, improved traffic with smart lights, created the Community Action Team in the police department and implemented the Obama Eight Can't Wait police policies, added two traffic enforcement officers, incorporated the airport fire station into our Fire Department to improve response times, and much more. Open, transparent and participatory government is essential and to that end I initiated the campaign finance ordinance that limits political donations to \$500 or less so that the voices of big money special interests do not drone out the voice of residents. People can't participate if they don't know what is going on so I post council agenda highlights on my Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor accounts and appreciate the feedback you provide there.

I'm especially proud of what our caring council has done in response to growing homelessness and this is an area I have championed. We helped rehabilitate condominiums at Fort Ord with the Veteran's Transition Center to make 16 beds for homeless veterans; helped Safe Place add 12 beds for runaway and homeless youth; helped Interim renovate a building for homeless people exiting; participated in the Homeless Challenge of \$1/resident that helped fund programs like IHELP for Women, Gathering for Women, One Starfish, and provided bus and hotel vouchers to Salvation Army. I represent Monterey on the board of Community Human Services and we have worked in partnership with Gathering for Women to open the first shelter on the peninsula for homeless women and families, Casa de Noche Buena, which will open in Seaside this November. While these efforts have not "solved" the homeless problem, they are positive efforts that are making a difference for hundreds of

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Dan Albert Continued from previous page

When shelter in place restrictions are lifted and revenues return to the city, we must ensure safe re-opening procedures are in place and that city programs and services are fully restored to the Sports Center, Library and community centers. From my career in Educational Leadership, I have learned that the key to an effective governance team is each individual's willingness to compromise for the greater good. I have been very impressed with this council's collective goal to make this city the best it can be by "getting things done" and I have every confidence that we will continue to make progress.

I am proud to be a native and resident of the Monterey Vista neighborhood. I am a product of the local school system and attended Monte Vista Elementary, Walter Colton Junior High, Monterey High School and Monterey Peninsula College. I attended college at San Jose State University where I earned my Bachelor's degree to become a teacher for Monterey Peninsula Unified School District shortly after graduation. In 2000, I became the Principal of Monterey High School, and acquired my Master's degree in Educational Leadership. After seven years at the school site, I entered District Office leadership and retired from the position of Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services in 2016 to run for the Monterey City Council.

Over the course of my 31-year career as a public school educator and administrator, I gained valuable experience from serving the diverse needs of families in our community. I worked with institutions of higher learning, military partners, faith based institutions, private businesses and community organizations and learned the importance of "collaborative, effective and balanced leadership." As your council member, you can count on me to use this approach to tackle important issues, such as: reopening our city without compromising the health and safety of our residents and workers. Additionally, I will focus on city projects that will address multiple issues such as affordable housing, traffic congestion, homelessness and safe parks, roads and streets.

I deeply care about the future of Monterey and am committed to preserving and protecting our quality of life and economic vitality. Monterey will always be my "forever home" that I share with my wife, Sharon, who is a community college administrator of Career Training and Workforce Development and serves on the board of the Monterey History and Art Association. Together we

have a daughter, Ava, who graduated from Monterey High School this year and is attending San Francisco State University in the fall to study Computer Science. My son, Brice, currently lives in Los Angeles county, and is working as a land surveyor for a private company.

Alan Haffa Continued from previous page

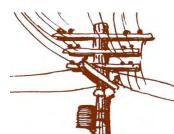
people. Finally, keeping people in homes is the best way to avoid seeing homeless people on our streets and it is very costly and difficult to rehouse people once they become homeless. That is why I was proud to support our council in offering emergency rental assistance to those who lost income due to Covid 19.



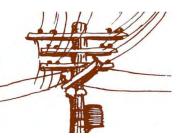
6450. COLTON HALL, MONTEREY (PIRST STATE CAPITOL OF CALIFORNIA)

You may be asking: why should I care if I own my home and have no fears of being homeless myself? I won't cite religious or moral reasons though for those of you who care about your neighbor as you care about yourself, it should be clear why this issue matters. But practically speaking, economic forces are decimating people in our area where salaries have not kept pace with the cost of housing. The number of homeless people in Monterey county tripled in 2009, a direct result of the Great Recession, and those numbers have remained high ever since. Now Covid 19 will no doubt amplify this already serious problem. It is very difficult to "police" your way out of this problem. You can drive people out of a particular encampment but they will merely move to another part of town or to a neighboring city. In time we will have to use police resources again to move those folks or the neighboring city will push them back here where they started. So even if you aren't moved by compassion, if you don't want to see people camping outside in your community or panhandling near the mall, we have to assist people in need to find jobs and homes.

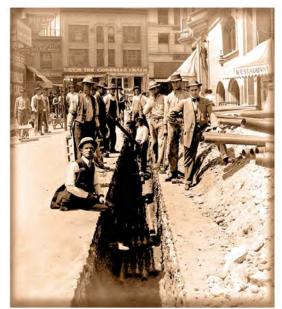
And housing that is affordable is the crux of the challenge. The lack of affordable housing is a direct cause of our homeless problem. It's also contributes to our traffic issue because 87% of the people who work in Monterey, do not live here. The congestion we experience during rush hour on Highways 1 and 68 and on Del Monte, Lighthouse, and Fremont are a result of this work-housing imbalance. Another negative impact is that all that commuting contributes to our Carbon gas output and Climate Change is going to cost Monterey hundreds of millions of dollars in the coming decades based on a city study of ocean-level rise. This council is committed to making progress on housing and we can do so in a way that doesn't contribute to problems associated with density by focusing that new housing in our commercial districts, near transit lines. Ideally, this kind of redevelopment creates affordable housing near where people work and without altering the quality of life in our residential neighborhoods. We are seeing this approach work on Alvarado Street, which before the Pandemic had become an exciting and vibrant area to live and shop. We can make progress on these critical issues while maintaining the small town feel and sense of community that makes Monterey a great place to live.



WIRELESS & UNDERGROUNDING NEWS



We're all walking our beautiful neighborhood more than ever before. On your next walk, look up. How frequently do you see utility wires in too close contact with tree branches? How many of those branches are dead or dying? Do you lie awake worrying about this, like I do? It doesn't help that the State Bar just wrote a scathing expose that I just read on the litigation against PGE for their blatant negligence in maintaining the safety of our state's electrical grid. The settlement was something like 13 billion for all the victims. Not enough, in my book. Would you like to participate in lowering our risks of being part of the next catastrophe?



An MVNA committee has for 3 years struggled for an answer to the exhausting efforts to halt small cell tower placement in residential neighborhoods, to optimize fiber placement, and to decrease the risk of fires from downed electrical wires. All we have to do is underground our utilities, folks! We are working with a project manager counseling us, to learn the steps. With support from our great City Council and staff, we successfully achieved the first step, that of updating our city General Plan and codes to allow undergrounding in residential neighborhoods (yes, it was not allowed, don't even ask) and to bring undergrounding codes into parity with other remodeling codes in the city (infrastructure must be placed from the street to the home for all new construction, which definition includes 50% or more remodels).

As you read about this progress ask yourself: what would it be worth to you to decrease the chance of fire by undergrounding our utility wires? And might the cost be offset by your peace of mind, as

well as the increased value of your home and the increased beauty of any area that is undergrounded? Estimates from our project manager are that costs at the street are \$1,500,000 per linear mile. That's \$284 per foot. Then add on the cost of an electrical panel update, if needed at your house (\$3,000), and add the cost of the conduit placement from the street to your house. (\$7,500?, \$10,000?). So for a street frontage of fifty feet, that's \$14,200 for the street and around \$10,000 on top of that. For a hundred foot lot, that's \$28,200 plus \$10,000.

Might these costs be manageable for you over a 30 year bond paid over time on your tax bill? Is the peace of mind and increase value of your home worth what would be \$300 or \$400 a month on your tax bill, transferable to a new owner at sale of the home? Or payable in full at the onset, if you chose? Think about it. We will ask your opinion as we consider options. -Jean Rasch



How Vulnerable is the Monterey Peninsula to a Wildfire? Continued from page 4

Let's start by looking at Monterey County's wildfire history and the fire that raged in Pebble Beach and threatened our very own Monterey Vista neighborhood, among others. Some of us remember it all too well, although it happened back on May 31, 1987. The fire started in the late afternoon by an illegal campfire in the S.F.B Morse Botanical Reserve in Pebble Beach, but due to rainfall

totals being down 60 percent in 1987, vegetation was very dry. The fire quickly raced up the steep (56 percent grade) north-west facing hill heading to Highway 68, Community Hospital, Skyline and Monterey Vista neighborhoods. By 5:00 PM an air tanker and three helicopters with water buckets were deployed, along with a bulldozer. The battalion chief on the scene called in three additional engines and two ground crews to setup to protect the closest homes on Los Altos Drive.

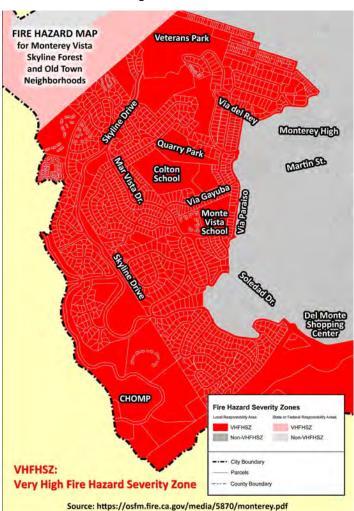
Official evacuations began by 6:45 PM and just fifteen minutes later the fire had become a firestorm, a fire so intense that it draws in its own wind, as it raced throughout the area. By the time of containment at midnight, the fire known now as the Morse fire, had burned 160 acres



Firefighters battle the Morse Fire in Pebble Beach 1987

and destroyed 31 structures. Later investigations reported that the fire was exacerbated by dry conditions, excess fuel (dry vegetation) and winds coming off the coast fueling the firestorm. Keep this description of the cause in mind when you read further about wildfire risk factors.

Ten years earlier, the Marble Cone fire in Monterey County which burned almost 178,000 acres of land was caused by a lightning strike. It was the third largest fire in California since 1932. Monterey County now has had 15 large wildfires (300 acres or more) since



1999 alone. And, that does not include the estimated 25,000 acres that are burned annually from wildfires in the Los Padres National Forest!

On July 22, 2016 the Soberanes Fire began as an illegal campfire located in Garrapata State Park in Monterey County. Fed by winds and dry unmanaged vegetation from several years of extreme drought, the fire quickly spread beyond the park to threaten lives, homes, property and the environment across more than 132,000 acres of Monterey County. The fire would ultimately become the 18th largest fire on record in California, and costliest firefight in U.S. history. For over three months it would disrupt the people, communities, and economies of the Central Coast.

Much of the Monterey Peninsula, including a significant part of Monterey Vista neighborhood is classified by Cal Fire as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). Areas with this highest designation are the most likely to experience wildfire. These zones are based on topography (slope of the land), vegetation density, and other factors such as weather. The following is among the criteria that goes into the fire risk classifications:

- **Topography.** The greater the slope of the land the greater the wildfire will spread. South-facing slopes will take more solar radiation, which will make them drier and more likely to increase the wildfire intensity.
- **Fuel.** The type of vegetation is among the most important factors in the spread of wildfires. Some plants will simply burn easier and hotter. Overgrown or dense vegetation increases what firefighter call "fuel load", which is simply the material to fuel the fire. This fuel is made worse in times if drought (exacerbated by global climate change) due to the low moisture content of both the living and dead plant material.

How Vulnerable is the Monterey Peninsula to a Wildfire? Continued from Previous page

• Weather. This is a variable factor that can change daily. PG&E now employs a cast of experts in their fields to evaluate the conditions every day during the fire season to determine if they need to shut off the grid (Public Safety Power Shutoffs) in an area to avoid a repeat of the scenario that causes downed power lines from igniting wildfires. They now monitor temperature, humidity and wind speed with computer precision to assess the risks. Any combination of high temperature, low humidity and strong winds will trigger the conditions that lead to the likelihood of a wildfire, either due to a downed power line, lightning strike, or a careless person with a match.

Based upon this criterion, the areas of greatest concern for a wildfire to ignite will be in our "urban forests" such as Skyline or Monterey Vista neighborhoods. But, don't think you are safe because you happen to reside outside of these high-risk zones. When a fire

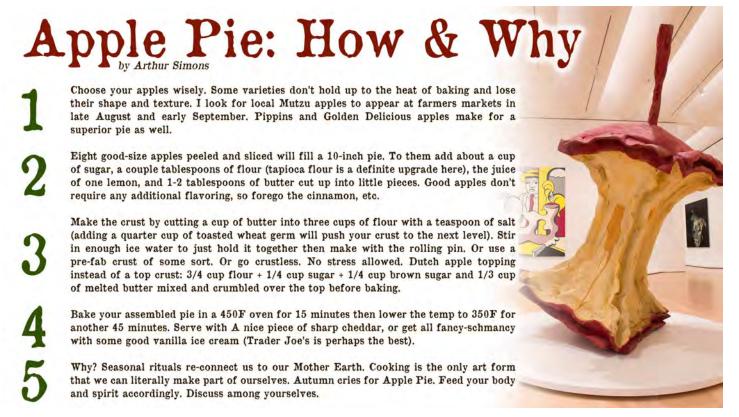


starts in one of the high-risk zones it will quickly spread to include more developed communities, including city homes and commercial buildings. That means Old Town Monterey and the Presidio will also be at high risk.

We may be able to greatly reduce the likelihood of one type of ignition of these wildfires, by relocating our power lines underground, starting with the most high-risk areas. Many recent devastating wildfires have been the result of power lines coming down and sparking the abundant dry vegetation. We should continue to reduce as much of this dry vegetation (fuel) as possible, understanding that fuel reduction alone is not a long-term solution.

It is hard to face up to this reality, but as a society we will ultimately need to make difficult long-term investments in improving the conditions that are caused by and causing global climate change, resulting in the droughts that fuel these fires. We may also need to think hard when building homes in high risk wilderness zones. In the meantime, we will need to get serious about not only acknowledging man-made global climate change, but actually taking immediate steps to mitigate it.

Look at the evidence of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and our history of wildfires. It clearly shows that under the right conditions and in the most vulnerable places, our homes can be taken by the ravages of a wildfire. Please factor the cost of losing our precious and beloved peninsula when debating the costs of a long-term solution. Protect your home by making it less vulnerable to fire. Support elected officials who understand we must do something now about global climate change. Consider driving an electric car. Support an effort to underground utilities. Install solar panels. Together we must do our part.



Carrying on a MVN Tradition: Plein Air Artist and MVNA Member Mark Farina

by Susan Nine

Nationally known and acclaimed artist, Mark Farina and I bought our home in the Monterey Vista Neighborhood eleven years ago after a long search for just the right location. Mark was drawn not only to the beautiful forest surroundings and panoramic hillside views, but also because many of his favorite Early California artists once lived and painted in this very neighborhood; such as Charles Rollo Peters, Armin Hansen, and E. Carlton Fortune. A Steinbeck fan, he was also drawn to the house we bought because the original owner was Tony Berry, the skipper of the Western Flyer, the boat chartered by John Steinbeck and "Doc" Ricketts to take them to the Sea of Cortez. The trip was documented in Steinbeck's book, The Log from the Sea of Cortez.

Berry (right) was a character in the book as were crew members "Sparky" Enea and "Tiny" Colletto (left)





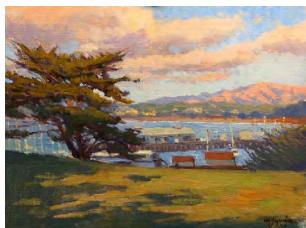


Mark painting "The Lodge" at the Bruguiere Gates on Colton St.

Mark maintains his Studio/Gallery at the Barnyard in Carmel and is a prominent Artist Member of the Carmel Art Association and the California Art Club. He is a Signature Member of Oil Painters of America, the American Impressionist Society and Water Color West. His works are featured throughout the Com-

munity Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and in many private collections. You may see more of his work at https://www.mfarinaartstudio.com

Mark can be seen around the neighborhood and throughout the Peninsula, painting scenes on location in the historic California Impressionist style with his faithful canine companion, Skippy.



Monterey Wharf Overlook Oil on Linen Mounted On Board 12" x 16"



Along The Grapevine Oil 9" x 1

Light Shed on the Bruguiere Gates

By Kristin Dotterrer

The <u>Summer 2019 MVNA newsletter</u> contains an article ("Monterey's Prince of Darkness" on Page 9) about the renowned bohemian artist, Charles Rollo Peters (1862-1928). If you haven't read it, <u>I urge you to access it here.</u>

Peters lived in MVN briefly on his 30-acre estate. This was the origin of our neighborhood's two sets of Peters Gates. Peters made a lasting impact on Monterey and the art world. But what is the story behind the larger stone-and-wood gates framing Colton St. near Monterey Circle? Contrary to what many people inaccurately call them, those gates are not Peters Gates and they were located outside of Peters' acreage. But like Peters Gates, they likely marked the boundary of an estate owned by another wealthy, artistic, and colorful San Francisco family of Peters' time— the Bruguieres.



Emile Bruguiere's passport application photo, 1915

Like the Peters, the Bruguieres only lived in Monterey for a few years, but their entertaining social lives, particularly of the husband, Emile Bruguiere (1876-1935), regularly intrigued Monterey residents. Today, most Monterey Vista residents have never heard the name "Bruguiere" with respect to the neighborhood, and unfortunately the origins of the Bruguiere Gates, just after the turn of the century, still need some unearthing, particularly with respect to their designer and builder. The presence of these approximately 115-year-old gates serves as a focal point in reopening Bruguiere's story.

Emile Antoine Bruguiere, Jr. was the son of wealthy parents, a banker father of the same name and Josephine Sather of another banking family. The famous Campanile and Sather Gate at UC Berkeley were dedicated to Emile's maternal grandfather, Peder Sather. Emile's mother died tragically while returning from France in 1915, when her ship, the Arabic, was torpedoed by a German U boat.

In 1904, Emile married Adel Vesta Shortridge (1886-1916), who was the daughter of California Senator Charles Shortridge. Their wedding was modest, taking place in probably Carmel's Pine Inn where they were staying, in "a little Monterey hotel parlor, to which any neighboring farmer might bring his wild rose to be wedded . . ." according to the San Francisco Call. Emile was already a successful composer of operas and had just returned from the East Coast. The article states that he was building ". . . a chateau for himself and his bonny bride". That likely referred to their house near the top of Martin St.

Emile had flirted with Monterey before his marriage. He was good friends with a well-known local family, the Sargents, and in 1902 was renting the Sargent cottage on Cass St. with bohemian artist Charles Dickman. The young men gallivanted around town on horseback and were, of course, frequent Hotel Del Monte guests. A 1902 article a month later describes Emile's enviable collection of saddles and horses: "Emile Bruguiere, in whose actions the inhabitants of this lovely burg take an intense and thrilling interest, is practising [sic]



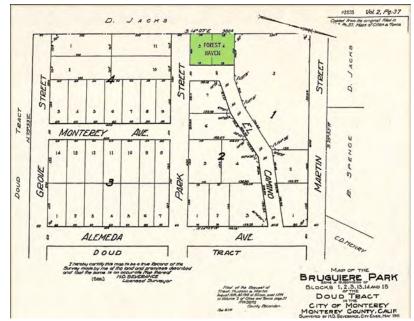
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rough riding and will soon astonish natives with his expertness in 'wild west' stunts."

Emile's three brothers led interesting and artistic lives as well. Brother, Francis Bruguiere (1879-1945), for example, was a famous experimental photographer. Other than music, Emile heeded other callings. The S.F. Call referred to him as the "clubman, composer, wine agent, and society man" in 1910. Emile was also referred to as a painter and a writer on some documents.

Mrs. Vesta Bruguiere told a darker story when she sought divorce. A 1910 newspaper headline read, "Emil Not Always Angelic." She sued for divorce on the grounds of extreme cruelty and



described the details of how Emile "hurled vile epithets at her." He had left years ago for France, she said, and their parting was "most unpleasant." The defense did not attempt to refute her claims. A 1909 article in the S.F. Call announcing the lawsuit carried the subtitle, "Action for Divorce Started By Playwright's Better Half No Surprise." The paper claimed, "It has been whispered loudly in Monterey . . . that both husband and wife have succeeded in finding more congenial companionships outside of the family circle." They had one child, Emile Antoine Bruguiere (the third), born in 1906, and after Monterey, Vesta intended to take him with her on an around-the-world trip.



"Artist Rowena Meeks Abdy paints a favorite spot in 1912: the view of Monterey Bay through the Bruguiere Park Gates, at what would become the intersection of Colton and Alameda Streets. The tile roofline of the adjacent stone cottage parallels the wooden roof spanning the stone pillars, and the cupola of Pacific Street School is visible through the foliage at left"

- Burton-Carvajal, Artists' Honeymoon, 2015

Bruguiere's land, like Peters' land, was originally a part of the southernmost portion of town, known as the Doud Tract. After the Bruguieres divorced, the Bruguiere Company sold the family's land and created a subdivision known as Bruguiere Park. The subdivision's rectangular boundaries were Grove St. and Alemeda Ave. (perhaps misspelled) and Martin St., and what would become San Bernabe Dr. which was then the boundary of David Jacks' land before it became one of the Monte Regio subdivisions. On the "Map of the Bruguiere Park" surveyed in 1911, Park St., before it was renamed Colton St. in 1917, divides the subdivision, with a curved El Camino on one side and a linear Monterey Ave., before it was Monterey Circle, on the other. A 1913 newspaper ad read, "In Beautiful Bruguiere Park you can find either acreage or lots to suit. Splen-

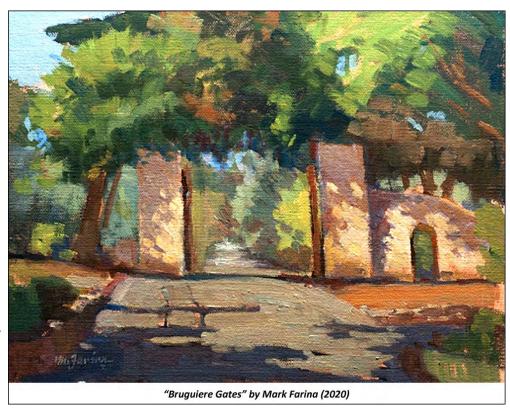
Light Shed on the Bruguiere Gates Continued from previous page

did oaks; unsurpassed views; shelter from winds; nice people; reasonable prices. What more could one ask for a residence location?"

The 5000-square-foot blue house at 817 Martin St. is perhaps not the original Bruguiere house unless many alterations have been made. More research is still needed, but that house at least sits upon the approximate site of Bruguieres' house. Realty websites date 817 Martin St. to the 1940s, but even then the property has seen many changes over the decades. Kate Madden, who grew up on Monterey Cir. in the 1950s-60s, remembers visiting the house when Albert Gallatin Powers and family lived there, walking through the unlocked kitchen door to play with the kids. She remembers the lot as larger than it is today before it was subdivided further. The Powers family owned one of Monterey's most upscale restaurants, Gallatin's, in the Stokes Adobe. The author's mother, Jonina Sutter, remembers riding her bike over to this house as a child just to see the donkey in the yard, which had been a gift to the Powers' young son. Later the Gunias owned the house. So many noteworthy residents have lived in the Doud Tract, near and on Bruguiere's former land, that subsequent articles will surely continue their stories, including the Henrys on the opposite of Martin St. who would become the in-laws of U.S. President Hoover.

The stone wall connected to Bruguiere Gates that stretches down Colton around the corner perhaps originally spread further around the property. The large balconied house beyond that wall at 700 Colton St. is actually not associated with the Bruguieres or the gates. It was designed and built by Walter Snook for Mrs. Walter Thompson and her daughter Marian Thompson in 1930. The architectural style was a true "Monterey type", which combined elements of the Spanish type with American Colonial. The wall that likely bordered the Bruguiere land was already referred to as "old" in 1930, as the newspaper article announced the Thompson house was "beautifully situated behind the old stone wall."

On the corner of Colton and Alameda there is a smaller structure that likely does date back to the Bruguieres. During the construction in 1912 of the recently sold red house further up the road at 92 El Camino, the original owners of that home, the Abdys, took many photographs of the area. In several of their photos they pose near the "Bruguiere Park Gates" and near this small stone structure, which they called "the Lodge." They nicknamed their house at 92 El Camino "Forest Haven." Their story is documented in the book, Artists' Honeymoon, by Julianne Burton-Carvajal. Does this nickname, "the Lodge," provide a clue that the building was used

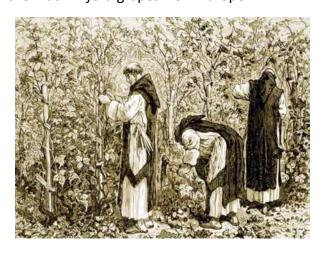


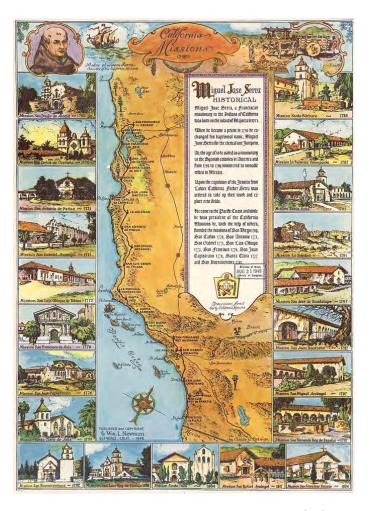
as Bruguiere's guest or servant lodgings? More research is needed here, too. Although Bruguiere Park is now fully developed, these historical structures will continue to inspire residents, visitors, and artists.

The History of Wine in Monterey County Part II: From the Missionaries to Prohibition

by Marta Kraftzeck

In the 1700's Father Junipero Serra and other Franciscan missionaries founded missions throughout California. Father Serra founded the Carmel Mission and Mission San Antonio in 1770 and Mission Soledad in 1790. Grapes did not thrive at Mission San Carlos being so close to the ocean, but Mission Soledad had horses, cattle and sheep but 20 acres of vineyard. There were wild grapes growing in along the rivers in California, species such as *Vitis californica* and *Vitis girdiana*, and the Indians ate them, but they did not make good wine, as did the *Vitis vinifera* grapes from Europe.





The first clear reference to grape growing in California was at Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1779 with the very first "California" vintage reported in 1782. Father Serra agonized, in a letter from October 1782, that a barrel of wine from Mission San Gabriel that had been headed for Mission San Carlos fell off a mule during transport and had broken open, losing all the wine! Mission San Gabriel was considered to be one of the largest Missions at the time with 170 acres of vineyards producing roughly 35,000 gallons of wine per year (roughly 15,000 cases).



In 1821 Mexico gained its independence from Spain however the Mexican government did not have the same allegiance to the missions and by 1833 all of the California missions had become secularized with the missions and their vineyards abandoned.

Then in 1848 gold was discovered in California. It was estimated at the time of the discovery of gold that California had 14,000 inhabitants, exclusive of Native Americans. Yet just 4 years later the population had grown to over 224,000 people! San Francisco grew from 1000 people to 25,000 people in just 2 years. This huge influx of population spurred not only a boom in vendors, selling picks and shovels needed in the search for gold, but also a demand for grape growing, winemaking and wine.

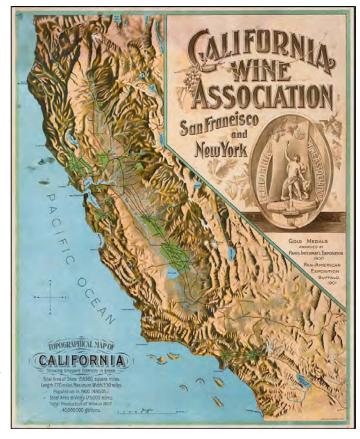
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The History of Wine in Monterey County Continued from previous page

The earliest documented commercial grower in the Los Angeles was Joseph Chapman who planted 400

<u>V.vinifera</u> vines in 1826. Soon after, in the 1830's, a Frenchman, Jean Louis Vignes, moved to Los Angeles and was very enthusiastic about his vineyard prospect encouraging his family and friends to immigrate to California to plant vines. By 1850 Vignes was the largest wine producer in California producing over 1000 barrels per year (roughly 60,000 gallons or 25,000 cases) and was shipping wine to the ports of Santa Barbara, Monterey and San Francisco.

California joined the United States as the 31st state on September 9, 1850. By that time there were more than 100 vineyards in the Los Angeles area. There was an abundance of wine and it sold very cheaply, 15 cents a gallon, and was often served free with meals. When Mark Twain left California for NY in 1866 he took California wines with him with the idea of promoting wine in the east. Some of his enthusiasm must have helped for by 1867 the shipments of California wine to NY had increased to 750,000 gallons annually (over 300,000 cases). In the 1870's there were so many grapevines that Los Angeles was nicknamed "City of Vines".



Also in the 1850's wine started to be produced in Northern California. Joining in the quest for gold was a Hungarian immigrant, Agoston Haraszthy who crossed the country to California with the dream of planting a vineyard. Haraszthy ultimately acquired over 5000 acres and imported over 100,000 grapevines from Europe, which included approximately 1400 different varieties! By consensus he is considered to be the "Father of California Viticulture".



By the early 1860's there were over 8 million vines in California but soon devastation arrived in vineyards throughout California and worldwide by an insect called Phylloxera. Phylloxera is a sap-sucking insect, related to aphids that feed on the roots and leaves of grapevines. In the 1850's many avid botanists imported American grape varieties as novelties to Europe and in doing so brought along this soil borne pest. It has been estimated that between 1860 to 1890 roughly three quarters of all European vineyards had been destroyed by the Phylloxera infestation

Many remedies were tried, from planting a live toad under each vine, to drowning the vineyard with water or poisonous chemicals. The French government offered a reward to whoever might discover a cure for the blight, the equivalent of \$5 million today, but that reward was never paid. Ultimately it

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was discovered that grafting European varieties onto Native American grape rootstocks, which are resistant to Phylloxera, was what saved the vineyards.

Just as the California wine industry was coming to terms with how to deal with Phylloxera they were dealt another blow. Starting in the 1880's a disease that would later become known as Pierce's disease began to decimate vineyards in Los Angeles. Insect vectors, such as the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter, spread Pierce's Disease. When the insects feed on an infected plant they pick up the bacteria and can transmit the disease to uninfected plants, similar to Malaria transmission by mosquitos in humans. Between Phylloxera and Pierce's disease most of the grapevines in Southern California were wiped out by the beginning of the 1900's and urbanization removed the rest.



By the 1890's California had over 200,000 acres of grapes and the wines were sold cheaply without much regard for quality. In 1894, in an attempt to raise prices and stimulate trade, seven of California's largest wine merchants banded together to form the California Wine Association and quickly established a near monopoly on California wine production. By 1902 the CWA controlled the output of over 50 wineries producing over 30 million gallons of wine annually.



Then on April 18, 1906 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck San Francisco and 10 million gallons of wine flowed through the streets of San Francisco. After the earthquake destroyed their headquarters in San Francisco the California Wine Association built a 47-acre plant on Molate Point near Richmond, California called Winehaven. By 1910, less than 4 years after the earthquake Winehaven had grown into a company town, with housing for hundreds of employees and a capacity of 12 million gallons of wine.

Less than 10 years later Prohibition would bring all this wine production to an end.

Next Newsletter: Prohibition to the Present

The Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association (MVNA) & Old Town Neighborhood Association (OTNA) invite you to a Monterey City Government

Virtual Candidates Forum



Submit questions for candidates and register to attend by sending an email to mvneighborhood@gmail.com. We will reply with the link to join the Zoom Webinar.

Remember to send us your stories, songs, poems, images, etc. for our December newsletter's *In The Hood* section!

Please send all contributions to: mvneighborhood@gmail.com

