

# HISTORIC RESOURCE STUDY FOR GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA IN SAN MATEO COUNTY



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HISTORIC RESOURCE STUDY  
FOR GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL  
RECREATION AREA  
IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

SWEENEY RIDGE

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*RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA*  
(AND THE MONTARA LIGHTHOUSE STATION)

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MORI POINT

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PHLEGER ESTATE

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MILAGRA RIDGE

San Mateo County Historical Association  
Mitchell P. Postel, President  
2010

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**About the cover:**

**The historic discovery of San Francisco Bay by Captain Gaspar de Portolá on November 4, 1769, by Morton Kunstler. The original painting is now in the San Mateo County History Museum's "Nature's Bounty" gallery. The discovery was made from Sweeney Ridge, now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.**

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## PREFACE

The National Park Service, San Francisco State University and the San Mateo County Historical Association have undertaken this Historic Resources Study of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) holdings within San Mateo County. These parklands include three sites within the City of Pacifica, Sweeney Ridge, More Point and Milagra Ridge, plus *Rancho Corral de Tierra* south of Montara Mountain, and the Phleger Estate north of the town of Woodside. Unless otherwise noted, Mitch Postel, President of the San Mateo County Historical Association, was author of this study. For the National Park Service, Park Historian Stephen A. Haller served as the project's supervisor. Lee Davis of the faculty of San Francisco State University, with her student interns, gathered background information for the piece.

The goal of the study is to provide a resource to help the National Park Service plan, manage, conserve and interpret its holdings within San Mateo County. It is also written with the hope that the interested public will utilize and enjoy it. This study strives to place GGNRA lands within historic context: that is how the story of these segments of the San Francisco Peninsula fit into larger themes of California and United States History.

Thus while the study presents each property separately, it places each in historical perspective according to the times during which it most influenced outside events or during which outside events most influenced it. A look at the table of contents will show the reader how the study is organized in more detail.

Sweeney Ridge is addressed first. The Ohlone Indians were here, and had occupied land for thousands of years, when the crucial discovery of the San Francisco Bay was made in 1769, at the start of *Alta* (upper) California's recorded history. This is arguably the most important discovery achieved by the Spanish during the eighteenth century in regions we now call the United States. Near Sweeney Ridge a mission outpost, established in 1786, continues the thread of the role of the Native People. Importantly, the outpost made the success of the mission at San Francisco possible. The winning of land grant *Rancho San Pedro*, which included Sweeney Ridge, by Francisco Sanchez (among the most prominent *rancheros* of his day on the San Francisco Peninsula) represents an important piece of the Mexican California saga. Other themes developed in the Sweeney Ridge section include Sanchez's role in the early American period, the Peninsula's significant dairy industry that lasted into the mid-twentieth century, the development of water resources for San Francisco, the presence on the Ridge of the United States Coast Guard during and after World War II and the placement of a Nike missile radar control site there during the Cold War.

The story of *Rancho Corral de Tierra* comes next. Here the National Park Service has acquired a good portion of one of the original Mexican era *ranchos* - intact and, more or less pristine. The life of the *vaquero* and the history of this *rancho* are explored. The experience of its owner, Francisco Guerrero y Palomares, is suggested as the principal historical theme. The site of his adobe home is on GGNRA land. Later agricultural uses of the property are also depicted. The original land grant extended west of the park's holdings to the coast and included today's unincorporated communities of Montara, Moss Beach, Princeton by the Sea and El Granada. Contextual information is presented about these places. In fact the oldest native California artifact of the Peninsula was found (a 5,500 to 8,000 year-old tool) near Moss Beach. Other themes that are developed about nearby places with relationship to GGNRA holdings include the accounts of neighboring land grants, coastal whaling, shipwrecks, defense projects of World War II, big wave surfing at Maverick's (near Pillar Point) and environmental conservation along the San Mateo County coastline. As the Montara Lighthouse Station is within the original boundaries of the land grant, and that it is now part of the GGNRA, its history is included in the *Rancho Corral de Tierra* section of the study.

Third comes Mori Point. An Indian village might have been located here, and during Spanish times a limestone quarry was developed to help with building projects at San Francisco. In this section the succession of farmers of coastal San Mateo County, that started with American, Irish and Chinese pioneers who were augmented by Portuguese, Italian and Japanese growers, is discussed. At Mori Point the Ocean Shore Railroad had prominence; thus a description of the San Mateo County Coastside's struggle to break its isolation through a variety of transportation schemes is documented. The isolation of the coast is also a cause for its law enforcement problems during and immediately after Prohibition. The story of the Mori family is entangled in this history. Mori Point's quarry story is revived during the 20th century. Finally nearby Sharp Park and its World War II internment camp is discussed as a contextual subject.

Fourth is the Phleger Estate. This is the only GGNRA holding located on the Bayside of the coastal mountains. During the Gold Rush era, the site of the Phleger Estate saw the development of a portion of the important logging industry of San Mateo County. Agricultural pursuits on and near the estate are discussed. The progression of suburban development on the Peninsula is described, starting with large estate owners such as Herman and Mary Elena Phleger. Because the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad (which of course ran through San Mateo County) was the first commuter railroad west of the Mississippi, the history of California's suburbs have important roots here. The Phlegers themselves are treated as historical characters, and, because of their important interest in conservation, there is depicted here the Peninsula's long struggle to preserve its environment.

Finally there is the story of Milagra Ridge which has an interesting agricultural history of its own, but whose major story focuses on national defense - first, the seacoast emplace-

ments of World War II and then, during the Cold War era, a missile launching site for protection against nuclear attack. This last story is intertwined with the Nike radar control site on Sweeney Ridge.

Taken together these five properties tell not just a local story. Native habitation, Spanish discovery, Franciscan missionaries, important *rancho* families during the Mexican period, early American exploitation of natural resources, agriculture and the diverse ethnic groups that were involved, shipwrecks and coastal isolation, railroad building and the earliest suburban communities of the West, the strategies to defend the West Coast by the United States military, and environmental preservation - all these and more are encapsulated within the properties of the GGNRA in San Mateo County. All of these and more have importance to larger themes of American History.

## How to Use this Study

The histories of the five GGNRA locations in San Mateo County described in this study have a rich variety of topics associated with them. This reflects the eclectic nature of the history of the San Francisco Peninsula. In a variety of ways understanding the Peninsula's overall story is crucial for interpreting the past of these GGNRA parks. Therefore, the study team has included in this work developments that occurred in vicinities immediately surrounding the park lands. Contextual information is also included to help throw light on how the histories of the GGNRA's San Mateo County holdings fit into the larger themes of California and American History.

This study is intended for a variety of readers. Some will want the fuller picture of the Peninsula's relationship with the five properties. Others will want to get to the nuts and bolts of the GGNRA's actual holdings. Some will want to read the study in its entirety. Others will look to it as a reference for a singular focused reason.

Therefore, the study team has organized the work in a way to help readers access the information they want. The Table of Contents is the principal finding aid. If a sub-heading has the parenthetical word "Contextual" along side of it, this means that this particular subchapter is one that has information that is associated with a GGNRA holding, but not specifically so. For example, in the introductory chapter, under I. B. "Native People" (which is labeled "Contextual"), there is general information about Ohlone Indians and not a specific narrative concerning those natives living on National Park lands. Subchapters not carrying the "Contextual" indicator are more focused on the GGNRA parks. For those seeking the fastest answers, they might go directly to Chapter VII, "Recommendations and Conclusions" which lists the findings of this study according to the property.

Unless otherwise indicated, illustrations are from the collections of the San Mateo Historical Association.

Our team wishes our readers success in utilizing this study for understanding the general story of the National Parks' holdings in San Mateo County and/or for ferretting-out particular information to assist with interpretive endeavors or other specific functions of the GGNRA.

## INTRODUCTION

### PHYSICAL SETTING

San Mateo County is situated on the San Francisco Peninsula. About 10% of the Peninsula at its northern tip is the City and County of San Francisco. The rest, from Daly City to Año Nuevo on the Coastsides and Brisbane to East Palo Alto on the Bayside, is San Mateo County. Its highly scenic values are enhanced by outlooks on the Pacific Ocean on the west and San Francisco Bay on the east. It covers 553 square miles, with 448 of those land and 105 miles bay water. The Coastsides are longer than the Bayside, with 55 miles of coastline compared to 34 miles of bayline.

San Mateo County can be divided into at least five micro-climates. In a 1968 study, the San Mateo County Planning Department identified them:<sup>1</sup>

*Zone A is located in the uppermost elevations of the county's hilltop and ridge-top areas. The zone receives the maximum amount of annual rainfall for the county, generally in excess of 50 inches. Due to its high elevation, the zone has the lowest temperatures, frequently in the twenties in winter, and it also has the largest range in annual temperature. Although seasonal patterns are marked, the zone does not have severe winter cold or enervating humidity. The zone is exposed to wind and gale force winds which occur in winter. Fog frequently arrives at ground level and blots visibility.*

*Zone B denotes the cold-winter valley floors, canyons and land-troughs in the Coastal Ranges where, due to the fact that cold air sinks, it collects in pockets. The moderating effect of marine air on this inland area is of occasional influence in regards to temperature, but it does generally keep the humidity fairly high.*

*Zone C denotes a coastal climate where the ocean influences the climate approximately 85 percent of the time and continental air influences it the remaining 15 percent of the time. Most of Zone C gets a regular afternoon wind in summer when the wind blows from early afternoon until shortly before sunset. Piercing, cold north winds may blow for several days at a time in winter. At other times during the winter, fog may arrive and stay for hours or days. The fog generally is at ground level at night and rises to 800 feet to 1,000 feet by the afternoon. Summer daytime temperatures are high when the sun is not obscured by clouds or fog.*

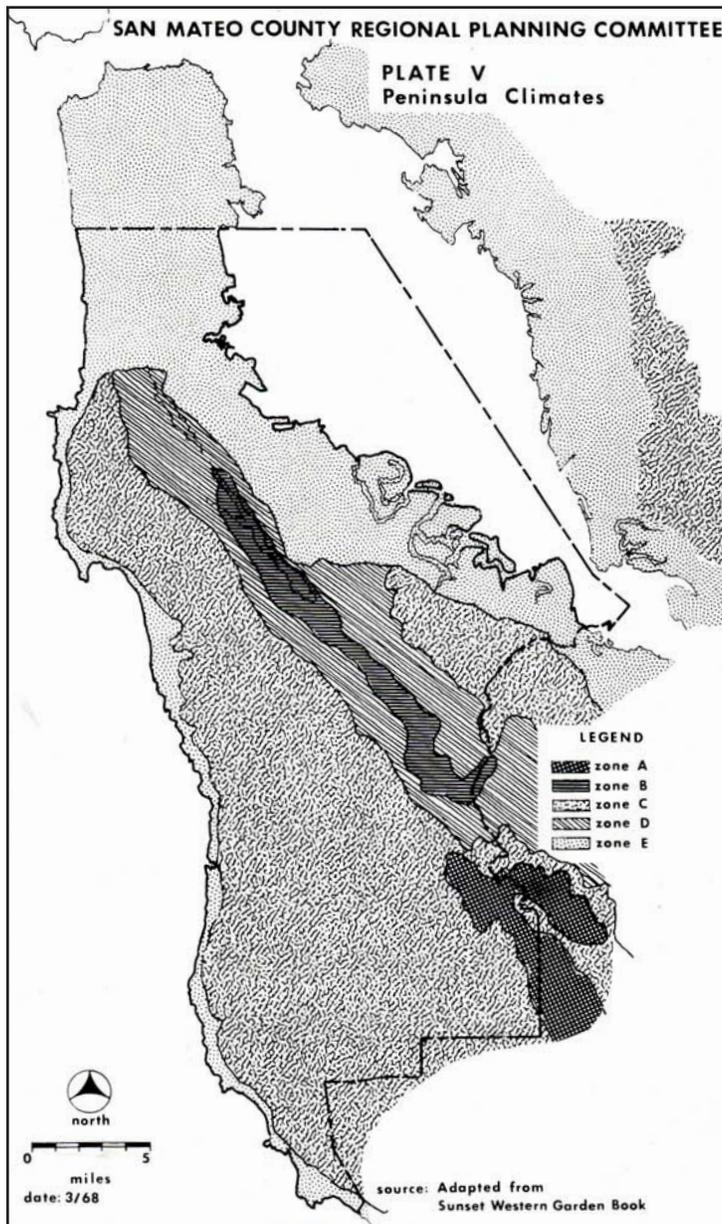
*Zone D is also a coastal climate with approximately the same percentage influence from the ocean and continental air as Zone C. Zone D consists of the ther-*

*mal belts (slopes from which cold air drains). The zone gets more heat than Zone E and also has warmer winters than Zone C.*

*Zone E is dominated by the ocean influence about 98 percent of the time. The climatic features are created by a close proximity to salt water. Winters are cool and wet. Summers are cool with frequent fog or wind. Fog tends to arrive at higher elevations thus imposing a screen between the sun and earth to reduce the intensity of light, the amount of sunshine but not humidity.*

These zones are identified by the map below. Please note that for purposes of this study, Sweeney Ridge can be considered in Zones D and E settings, Rancho Corral de Tierra as C and E, Mori Point as E, the Phleger Estate as B and Milagra Ridge as E.

**Fig. 1.1: Micro-climate zones of San Mateo County**



In general, the County experiences dry, mild summers and moist, cool winters. The annual mean temperature is about 57 degrees. During winter a few morning frosts may occur in December, January and February. January is usually the coldest month of the year, but temperatures seldom get below freezing. About 74% of the total annual precipitation occurs during the winter, between December and March. During the summer, days are usually sunny and warm, especially on the Bayside of the County. Temperatures seldom reach above 90 degrees.

The 1968 study speaks to the geological history of the Peninsula:<sup>2</sup>

*The more significant aspects of the regional earth form surrounding San Mateo County were influenced by three major features: (1) an up thrust movement producing mountain ranges, (2) the erosion action of a river system, and (3) an increase in the earth's ocean water volumes as a result of glacier thaw. The first significant mountain range is the Santa Cruz Range which forms the*

*backbone of San Mateo County at an average height of 1,200 feet. Two hundred miles inland, the granite up thrust of the Sierra Nevada Mountains rise 10,000 to 14,000 feet into the atmosphere to intercept the eastern moving moisture-laden ocean winds. The mountain barrier forces the air to deposit rain and snow on the mountain slopes. This tremendous runoff joins together to form a large river system which cut a channel to the sea through the Carquinez Straits and the Golden Gate long before San Francisco Bay was formed. The melting glaciers at the end of the Ice Age caused oceans to rise, flooding these two river gorges and the inland valley to form San Francisco Bay.*

*There are a few break points in the Coastal Range which borders the Pacific Ocean for the length of California. The most significant one is the Golden Gate gap which extends inland through the coastal Santa Cruz Mountains, through the Diablo Mountain Range just east of the Bay, and across the Sacramento Valley up to the Sierra Nevada Mountains.*

*Of lesser significance to the region, but very influential on the environment of San Mateo County, are two other gaps. San Bruno gap (the historic route of El Camino Real) is higher and narrower than the Golden Gate gap but provides a corridor for sea breezes and fog movement influencing the climate of the cities of South San Francisco, San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame and San Mateo. The Crystal Springs gap, a high valley corridor slicing through the mountains from the ocean, was partly created by the San Andreas Earthquake Fault. It serves as a corridor influencing climatic conditions on the southeast bayside of the county. . .*

Topographically, the County is extremely varied. The Santa Cruz Mountain Range (or the Sierra Morena) runs through the center of the County and has an average height of 1,200 feet (getting as high as 2,500 feet at the southern end). At its northernmost extent it turns toward the Bay in the form of San Bruno Mountain. Eight types of landforms have been categorized that include (1) ocean beach, (2) coastal terrace, (3) coastal foothills, (4) mountains, (5) upper valley, (6) Bayside foothills, (7) Bayside plains and (8) Bayside marsh and flatlands. See the accompanied drawing.<sup>4</sup>

For purposes of this study, Sweeney Ridge can be considered as (3) coastal foothills and (4) mountains. *Rancho Corral de Tierra* is (2) coastal terrace and (3) coastal foothills. Mori Point is (1) ocean beach and (2) coastal terrace. Phleger Estate is (4) mountains and (6) Bayside foothills.

County planners identified 34 drainage basins.<sup>5</sup> For Sweeney Ridge, it is drained by Calara Creek and San Pedro Creek on the west and Crystal Springs reservoirs to the east. *Rancho Corral de Tierra* is drained by San Vincent Creek, Denniston Creek,

and *Arroyo de en Medio*, all going to the ocean. Mori Point is drained by Milagra and Calara Creek. The Phleger Estate is drained by Crystal Springs reservoirs and Milagra Ridge by Milagra Creek.

By 1968, the County had identified four earthquake faults that included San Gregorio, Seal Cove, Pilarcitos and San Andreas<sup>6</sup> (see map). Earthquakes have certainly played a part in the history of San Mateo County. Sweeney Ridge is just east of the San Andreas Fault. The Seal Cove Fault is within *Rancho Corral de Tierra*. Mori Point is close to the Pilarcitos Fault, as the Phleger Estate and Milagra Ridge are near San Andreas Fault.<sup>7</sup>

The 1968 study identified seven different vegetation types, three of which are pertinent to this study. Sweeney Ridge is largely chaparral as are *Rancho Corral de Tierra*, Mori Point and Milagra Ridge. The Phleger Estate is comprised of broadleaf forests and conifer forests, of which “the most significant of San Mateo County’s plant resources. . . the Coastal Redwood”<sup>8</sup> is included.

The northern boundary of San Mateo County was fixed in 1856 when the State of California created it out of San Francisco. At first, most of what we call San Mateo County was part of San Francisco County, an original county from the time of California statehood in 1850. The state separated the two for a variety of political reasons. The southern-most boundary of the new county reached San Francisquito Creek, on the Bayside, which remains the border with Santa Clara County today. San Mateo County’s Coastside originally only reached San Gregorio Creek, but in 1868 the state allowed for it to extend down to a little pass Año Nuevo, the current boundary with Santa Cruz County.<sup>9</sup>

San Mateo County can be divided into four zones of human activity. Beginning east to west there is the bayshore with some tidelands still intact; most of the low lying Bayside has been developed for residential, commercial and industrial utilization. West from these urban areas are hills that are mostly given over to residential subdivisions. Continuing west are mountain regions that are predominantly rural lands that include several lakes, artificially created in the nineteenth century to give San Francisco an adequate water supply. Finally the coast features hills, valleys and shoreline which are largely used for agricultural purposes or are undeveloped.

Historically, people of the Peninsula have recognized that there are two very distinct geographical parts of the County, with the Santa Cruz Range of Mountains separating the less accessible Coastside from the more developed Bayside. While transportation through San Mateo County has never been an overwhelming problem on the Bayside, on the Coastside, Montara Mountain and Devil’s Slide block San Mateo County from San Francisco in the north,<sup>10</sup> and mountains have a similar effect south of Año Nuevo at the Santa Cruz County line.

In fact the isolation of the coast has had dramatic historical consequences. The flatlands on the Bayside not only facilitated good ground transportation (stage roads, railroad tracks and highways for automobiles were all among California's earliest), they also allowed for small craft to sail safely along the bay and into the meandering tidal sloughs.<sup>11</sup> In contrast the Coastside's land transportation was not only blocked by mountains to the north and south and the coastal range to the east, but the Coastside's many valleys were separated by steep ridges, making even the shortest local excursions difficult. Moreover, the ocean on the west provided no solution. Perilous cliffs, heavy surf, unpredictable currents, numerous reefs and periodic dense fog discouraged attempts to break the isolation by ship. Only during the 1960s was a safe harbor finally completed at Pillar Point.

Certainly the isolation of the Coast slowed development until recent times. At present a variety of public agencies and non-profit land trusts work to protect much of the coast from further changes brought on by human utilization and habitation.

Nevertheless the coast's environment has experienced tremendous transformation. Its native grasses were largely destroyed by the cattle introduced during the Spanish and Mexican periods. Early farmers planted Monterey cypress, Monterey pine and eucalyptus trees as wind breaks that radically altered the landscape. Growers replaced the original chaparral with food crops like artichokes, while floriculture also became an important part of the Coastside's economy.<sup>12</sup>

### **NATIVE PEOPLE<sup>13</sup> (CONTEXTUAL)**

When the men of Captain Gaspar de Portolá's party of 1769 climbed up Sweeney Ridge and looked to the east, they were struck by several things, including sighting "a large arm of the sea"<sup>14</sup> (the San Francisco Bay) and the "smokes"<sup>15</sup> of many campfires indicating the large native population present in what we now call San Mateo County. The tribal world of the Peninsula's bayside was thus first viewed through Spanish colonial eyes. The people living on the Peninsula probably numbered more than 1,500 men, women and children. They were Ohlone people whose total population was about 17,000,<sup>16</sup> and lived between Contra Costa County and Monterey County. The Ohlones were among a large California Indian presence of approximately 300,000. In fact Central California had the densest population of native people north of Mexico.

The oldest evidence of human habitation in San Mateo County is a 5,500 to 8,000 year old crescent shaped scraper found in 1994. Archeologist Mark Hylkema<sup>17</sup> discovered the stone tool at Seal Cove within Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, once part of *Rancho Corral de Tierra*. Radio carbon dating was employed to estimate the tool's age. Other scrapers like this one have been found in California and some are thought to be at least 10,000 years old. This one was made of Franciscan chert, existent in areas east of

the San Andreas Fault. The piece is now on exhibit at the San Mateo County History Museum in Redwood City. The person(s) who used the scraper were here before the Ohlones. The oldest remains of an Ohlone person in San Mateo County was discovered at Coyote Point in 1987 and dates back about 4,000 years.<sup>18</sup> Those first people distinguish themselves from Ohlones by following migratory waterfowl and large game relatively great distances for food. They did not have the village-life that the Ohlone people knew. Much about the Ohlone culture is not known. They had no written records. An Ohlone spokesman of the San Francisco Bay Area recently repeated an ancestral tradition which recalls a great flood of the San Francisco Bay separating the Ohlones from the Miwok people to the east. Some recent cultural inquiries confirm similarities between the two peoples.<sup>19</sup>

The Ohlones (also referred to as the Costanoans<sup>20</sup>) arrived in California about 5,000 years ago as a group of people known as the Penutians. The Penutians are considered to have been, among others, the Walla-Walla, Nez Perce, Yakima, Chinook, Coos, Cayuse, Klamath and Modoc, of the Northwest, and the Ohlone, Miwok, Yokuts, Maidu, and Wintuu of Central California. Ohlones are classified as a group of California Indians because of language similarities among the people that inhabited lands from Contra Costa County to Monterey County. At least eight languages and dozens of dialects actually existed. The people themselves would have never called themselves Ohlone. Instead of seeing themselves as a tribe of 17,000 people, they affiliated themselves with much smaller groups made-up of dozens, not thousands, of people. Formerly the term “triblet” was used for a unit of these people, but this usage has been judged demeaning by some California Indian people who prefer the use of the term “local tribe.”<sup>21</sup> The word Ohlone may have been derived from a village on the coast called Oljon; it could be a Miwok word for “western people.”<sup>22</sup>

The first written description of the Ohlone people who lived in today’s San Mateo County came from Franciscan Padre Juan Crespi.<sup>23</sup> He was with the Gaspar de Portolá expedition of 1769, the first land party to study the *Alta* California coast for purposes of colonization. On October 23, he wrote that at White House Creek (what the Spanish called *Casa Grande*):

*...we stopped close to a large village of very well-behaved good heathens, who greeted us with loud cheers and rejoiced greatly at our coming. At this village there was a very large grass-roofed house, round like a half-orange, which, by what we saw of it inside, could hold everyone in the whole village.*<sup>24</sup>

This reference to a large house is a curious one. Portolá reports at the same time that the village numbered 200 people.<sup>25</sup> For 200 people to gather in one structure is remarkable for California Indian construction on the San Mateo Coast.

Crespi continues by speaking about the generosity of the people:

*These heathens presented us with large black and white-colored tamales: the white tamales were made of acorns, and they said the black-colored ones were very good too. They brought two or three bags of the wild tobacco they use, and our people took all they wanted of it. One old heathen man came up smoking upon a very large (and well carven) Indian pipe made of hard stone. The Indians almost all carry tall red-colored staffs, some with many feathers; they presented four of these staffs to Sergeant Don Francisco Ortega, who was the one they knew best because he had been the one who had explored this place with other soldiers.*

Crespi described the appearance of the men: “They all go naked and bare-headed, and are all of them well-featured, stout and bearded.”

In general, the early Spanish observers were impressed by the friendliness and generosity of Ohlones. Portolá’s party, and others later on, depended on the natives for food and directions. They are repeatedly described as gentle and good natured, but also poor. The Ohlones had no wealth in the European sense of material possessions or precious metals. They also seemed to lack any centralized governance. Therefore, despite their peaceful openness, the Spanish looked down on Ohlones as backward people without written language, without metallurgy and without agriculture. They paid little attention to the Ohlones’ complex relationship with nature, their rich religious beliefs and their generally successful way of living for thousands of years.

The Spanish recorded that Ohlone villages were normally located close to fresh water creeks. Shell mounds (in part, their garbage heaps) surrounded such sites. Padre Francisco Palóu noted that there were different times of the year for harvesting the various plants, seeds and acorns consumed by Ohlones. As these food sources were located in different areas of the Peninsula, the people were encouraged to move “their village from place to place.”<sup>26</sup> This was done in rhythm, according to the changing seasons, and was also influenced by the migratory patterns of fish and game birds.<sup>27</sup>

The tribal life of the Ohlones seemed to have been well-structured. Gender roles, community restrictions and child rearing were all based on ancient tradition. Typically the chieftain of a village was chosen because of that person’s abilities as a provider and his willingness to share. The leader was charged with maintaining balances. Ohlones felt they pretty much lived in a perfect world, so their chieftain’s main responsibility was to keep things that way - - to maintain balances with the other local tribes to attempt to live without war, to guarantee that balances were maintained within the local tribe to insure that family lineage would continue, and to maintain balances with the natural gods that surrounded the men, women and children of the village.

They believed in witchcraft, sacrificed to a variety of deities and paid homage to shaman (medicine men) who were believed to have the power to work miracles such as

curing diseases. However, their beliefs also focused on respectfulness. When a tribal member died, friends, relatives and trading partners would come from neighboring local tribes for religious rites that might last a month. Mourning ceremonies included weeping and wailing. During the ritual, all of the deceased's possessions would be burned. It was thought by doing this, the dead would be able to use the items in the afterlife.

They lived in a spiritual world. Hunters appreciated the spirit of animals they killed for their place in nature. When presenting a killed animal to the village, many times a hunter would not eat the animal's meat out of respect for the sustenance the creature would give to his people. Their religion was based on reverence for the natural world.

This belief system led to an intimate knowledge of the environment of the Bay Area. Ohlone children learned about the plants and animals all around them. They were taught that at certain times burning chaparral encouraged edible grass and seeds and also allowed for more pasturage for the deer, elk and antelope they hunted for food. Ohlones achieved an admirable relationship with their environment by taking only what they needed and by practicing birth control by periodically separating men and women through religious tradition and even, at times, through abortion.

The children gained a strong sense of values from their parents and other people of the village. Selfishness was considered a terrible vice. Prestige and power came with generosity.<sup>28</sup> Working to make the entire village happy and strong was a spiritual imperative. Everything had its place. The ritualized chores of everyday life and even the tools that were utilized had places in their supernatural world. Animals had unseen powers too and were respected and even worshipped.

Interaction with surrounding local tribes was part of life. While most Ohlones traveled about in a very limited space, they did trade and make alliances with their neighbors. The people were encouraged to marry outside of the local tribe, which assisted with the maintenance of good relationships between communities.<sup>29</sup> Wars did occur,<sup>30</sup> but they were limited affairs continued only until someone was hurt and, on occasion, killed. As in all parts of their lives, contact with other local tribes was ritualized, involving music, food, dancing and trade.

European reference to Ohlones as a "poor" folk does not credit these Indian people with their commitment to living a generous life. Furthermore, their lifestyle, which was mobile, did not encourage accumulation of things. While Ohlones had not the riches that would have been judged important by Europeans, they felt themselves wealthy in family relations, in village life and in their spiritual world. In fact, by burning a person's possessions after they had died, it precluded the handing down of

wealth from generation to generation, thus encouraging a life of generosity and not of accumulation of material items.

While not having great technology, Ohlones were skilled in the arts and crafts that mattered to them. The men made tools and weapons of wood, shell, bone and stone. The women succeeded in creating intricately designed baskets of grasses and reeds.

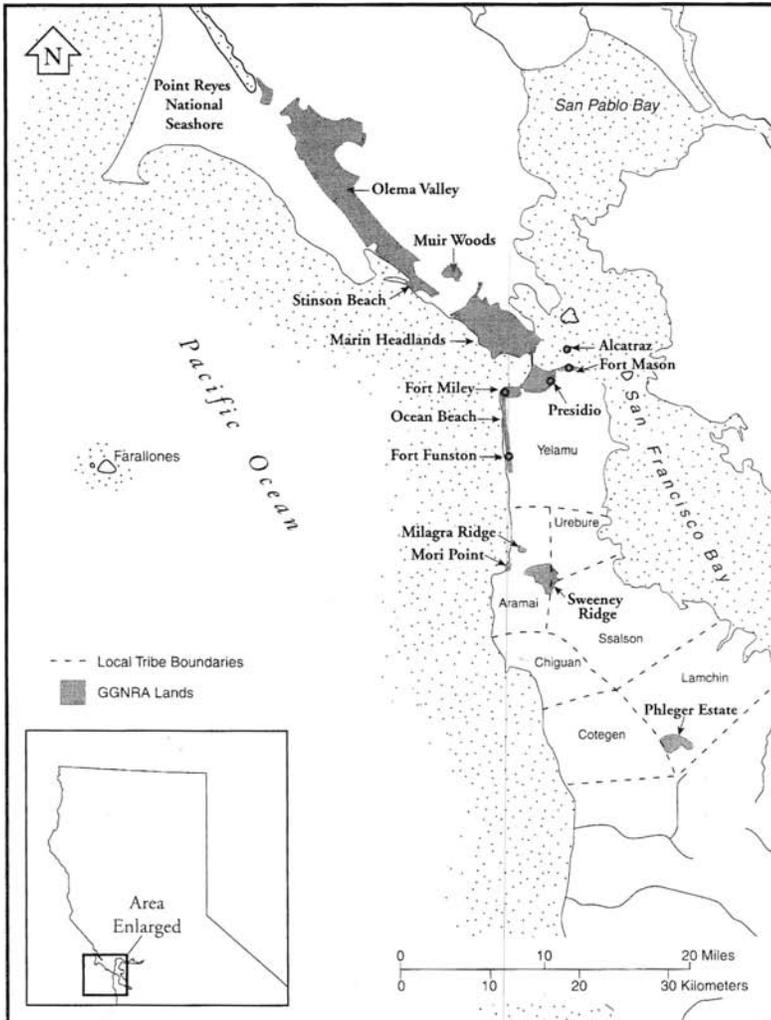
They loved music, and made whistles, rattles, flutes, clapper sticks and drums. They sang and made music for spiritual and medical reasons. They also performed after victorious battles, to celebrate marriages and to simply pass the time in an enjoyable way.

They may not have had agriculture in the formal sense, but their hunting-gathering food sources provided a varied and nutritious diet that was actually superior to that of the Spanish, who were afflicted by scurvy (a disease resulting from vitamin C deficiency) when they first arrived on the Peninsula. As mentioned, Ohlones trekked from harvest to harvest. When one food source came into season or ripened, the Indians would collect it and, in some cases preserve it by drying or smoking it. Then they would move onto the next food source location.

Acorns were the mainstay of their diet. They were gathered from tan bark oak, black oak, valley oak and coastal live oak. Trees that also provide nuts included buckeye, laurel and digger pine. Fruits gathered included huckleberries, strawberries, blackberries, elderberries, gooseberries, madroneberries and wild grapes. Seeds from grasses were consumed as well as wild onion, wild carrot, mushrooms, roots and shoots.

Men hunted, trapped and poisoned large grazing animals and bear. Added to the diet of coastal people were washed-up whales, seals, sea lions and otters. Smaller animals that were hunted included rabbits, squirrels, rats, skunks, mice, moles, snakes and lizards. Fowl were on the menu, and geese, ducks, doves, robins, quail and hawks were consumed. From freshwater streams came steelhead trout, salmon, sturgeon and lampreys. From the ocean and bay were harvested shellfish like abalone, clams and oysters. Some types of insects rounded out many meals.

The amount of trade accomplished by Ohlones is remarkable. They bartered shell and shell beads through a network that reached as far as the Great Basin of Nevada. Other desirables they used for barter included salt and dried abalone. In return they sought obsidian, a crucial material used in making arrowheads and other weapons. Obsidian came from trade with the eastern and northern California native peoples.<sup>31</sup> Pinon nuts and a variety of exotic foods could also be obtained in trade. In fact, several hundred items have been documented as trade objects among the California Indians. Some scholars believe that trading was such an important part of Ohlone life that the name



**Fig. 1.2: Map of the San Francisco Peninsula showing county boundaries, early local tribe areas, and key Golden Gate National Recreation Area properties.**

Ohlone, itself, actually meant not just “western people”, but “western traders” among other California people.<sup>32</sup> The map below shows local tribal areas and how they relate to Golden Gate National Recreation Area lands.<sup>33</sup> Note that the Indians of Sweeney Ridge, Mori Point and Milagra Ridge were Aramai. At the Phleger Estate they were Lamchin. *Rancho Corral de Tierra* is not shown, but the people there were Chiguan. In each of the following sections dedicated to the major GGNRA holdings, these three local tribes will be discussed and, to some extent, their relationship with the neighboring local tribes.

**SPANISH AND MEXICAN ERAS (CONTEXTUAL)**

In most ways San Mateo County’s early history is a microcosm of the coastal California experience. There was a significant native presence going back thousands of years, a Spanish colonial period, that began with the Gaspar de Portolá’s expedition of 1769, and a

Mexican period after that country gained its independence from Spain in 1821.

When Spain finally got around to planning for the colonization of *Alta* California, it did so after 277 years of experience in the New World. The Spanish crown wished to live down a dark legacy that had followed Spain from the West Indies, to Mexico, to South America - - one in which native peoples were ruthlessly conquered and then enslaved. The days of *conquistadores*, like Hernán Cortés who brought down the Aztec Empire, were at an end. Spain wished for itself a new image - - one that had the best interests of the native people in mind. Led by Franciscan Padre Junípero Serra, the vision was one of gifting a utopian Christian community to the California Indians.<sup>34</sup> In the meantime, the Spanish wished California to be saved from non-Roman Catholic interlopers like England and Russia. Instead of destroying the California Indians, Spain sought to make them part of its colonial empire. According to the plan missions would be created to teach these people Catholicism and the Spanish language.

Instruction in Spanish culture would follow, and, within ten years, the Indians would be ready to govern themselves. Native priests would replace the missionaries and the mission lands would be returned to the Indians as they would now be good subjects of the crown. The process was called secularization.

Spanish occupation of *Alta* California began with Gaspar de Portolá's "Sacred Expedition"<sup>35</sup> of 1769. A mission and *presidio* were established at San Diego and a second settlement was to be founded at Monterey. However, Portolá did not recognize Monterey when he marched through the area. He kept pressing onward up the coast and, quite by accident, discovered the San Francisco Bay from Sweeney Ridge within today's San Mateo County.

While Portolá himself was not much impressed, others in the expedition were. Following orders like a good soldier, the next year, with Padre Junípero Serra, he founded a mission and a *presidio* at Monterey. At this time he allowed his second in command, Pedro Fages, to lead another expedition exploring the East Bay. Fages' band discovered the opening to the Bay at the Golden Gate. Now the geography of California began to take shape for the Spanish, including the realization that the Golden Gate had strategic importance. In 1776, Juan Bautista de Anza brought pioneers from northern Mexico to settle at San Francisco, and a *presidio* and mission were established there.

As in all of the mission communities of *Alta* California, the intention at San Francisco was to have the missionaries Christianize the natives and then, through secularization, make them subjects of King Carlos III of Spain. What the process meant for the Ohlone Indians was the surrender of their rights and the end of their former way of life. Once they accepted baptism they were treated as if they had "taken an eternal vow."<sup>36</sup> They could not leave the mission to which they were assigned. If they attempted to run away they were forcibly returned by Spanish soldiers. Whippings and shackling were common. The people were given Spanish names and not allowed to speak their native language or participate in their old religious traditions. Their activities were rigidly controlled. Working life was strenuous. The women combed wool and then spun and wove it into cloth; they washed clothes and prepared meals. The men tilled the soil, planted crops, butchered cattle and learned some manual skills like carpentry, blacksmithing, tanning, turning tallow into soap and making adobe bricks. In some places this included mining rock. Mission Indians operated the calera at Mori Point to produce lime from limestone. Unmarried females and males were mostly separated. Girls and single women were not allowed to go out alone at night.

The conditions of the bay region missions encouraged diseases of which the Indians had no immunity. Close quarters resulted in staggering death tolls. Hundreds might die within a few weeks of the outbreak of measles, mumps, influenza, whooping cough or small pox.

As stated, before the coming of the Spanish there were an estimated 17,000 Ohlone. By 1810, all had been brought into the mission system. By 1832, the native population of the Ohlone area had been reduced to 2,000 people, and of these many were from groups of people (not Ohlones) brought in to repopulate the communities.<sup>37</sup>

For the Spanish, their occupation of the tip of the San Francisco Peninsula was of crucial importance. Guarding the Golden Gate meant the presidio had to be garrisoned. The presence of the soldiers necessitated the existence of a mission to feed and provide other essentials for the troops. However, the Mission San Francisco de Asís had challenges. The sun never seemed to shine, the soil was sandy, stands of trees for lumber were scarce and worst of all, a good supply of fresh water was lacking. By 1786, the padres had reached the decision to create an agricultural outpost down the peninsula. They chose the site of the Aramai village of Pruristac within the San Pedro Valley on the coast, just to the southwest of the “Discovery Site” at Sweeney Ridge (the site of the outpost is situated at San Mateo County’s Sanchez Adobe Historic Park). Here was the first place south of the mission that a creek produced fresh water all year round. Until 1792, this assistance farm served the San Franciscans well, providing them food that allowed the mission to survive. After the first agricultural outpost was established, a second outpost, this one at San Mateo, became the Franciscan’s most important resources provider.<sup>38</sup> The cattle and sheep that roamed what became San Mateo County and the crops grown at the outposts were crucial to the success of Mission San Francisco de Asís into the new Mexican period of California History.

Mexico achieved its independence from Spain in 1822, and by its constitution of 1824, California became a territory (not a state) of the new nation.<sup>39</sup> It was not until the early 1830s, that the process of secularization finally began, but it did not proceed the way the Spanish had foreseen, with a redistribution of the lands to the Indian people. Instead, the Mexican governors of California granted the land as favors to former soldiers of the old regime and other political friends. By the end of the Mexican period about 500 of these grants were issued to individuals who established large *ranchos* upon the former mission properties.

This process ignored any territorial rights for the mission Indians. Many native people simply went with the awarded properties. They now served new masters - - the *rancheros* - - the recipients of the huge land grants.

In what would become San Mateo County, Mexican governors of California issued 17 of these land grants.

As for today’s Golden Gate National Recreation Area properties, *Rancho San Pedro*, granted to Francisco Sanchez, formerly occupied three of its holdings - - Sweeney

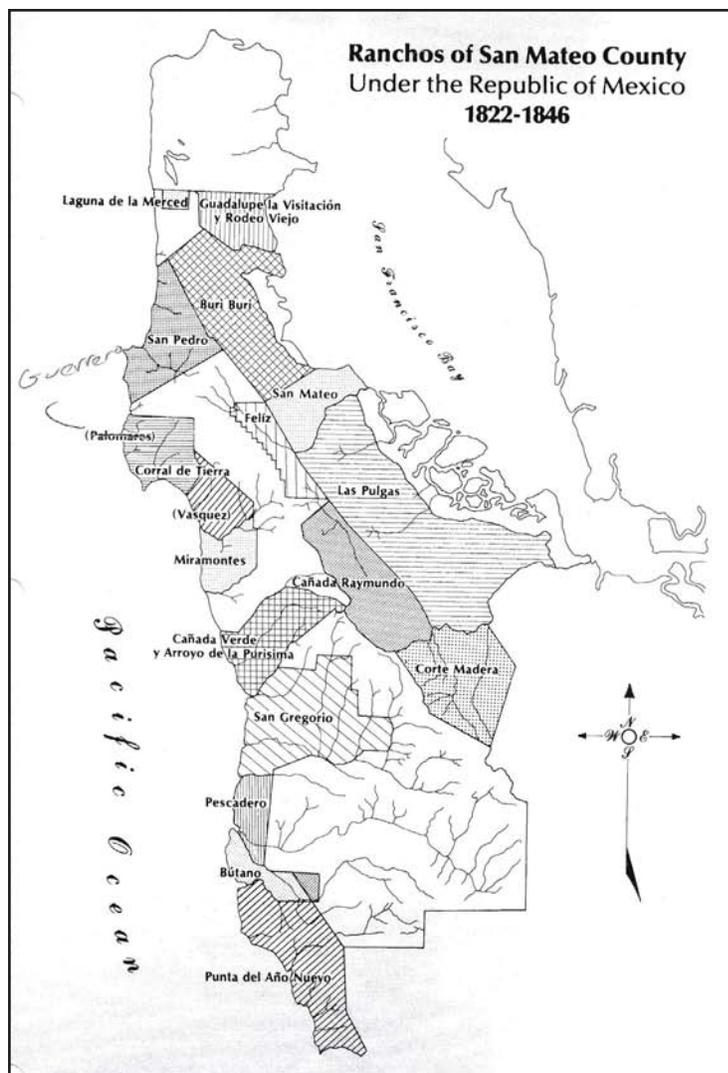


Fig. 1.3: Map of the San Francisco Peninsula showing ranchos in San Mateo County under the Republic of Mexico.

Ridge, Mori Point and Milagra Ridge. *Rancho Corral de Tierra* was split in half between the Vasquez family toward Half Moon Bay and the Guerrero family toward San Pedro Mountain. All of the Park Service land is within the latter Guerrero properties. The Phleger Estate exists on a portion of *Rancho Cañada Raymundo*.<sup>40</sup> See the Sweeney Ridge portion of this study for more on the Sanchez family. The Guerrero family is discussed in the *Corral de Tierra* section and a description of *Cañada Raymundo* is contained in the Phleger Estate section.

During Mexican times about one thousand “foreigners” came to live in California of which some 700 were from the United States. At least 50 of the men were living in present-day San Mateo County when the Mexican-American War began in 1846.<sup>41</sup>

## THE AMERICAN PERIOD BEGINS (CONTEXTUAL)

California’s days as a remote territory of the new Mexican nation came to a

dramatic conclusion when in rapid succession foreign (mostly American) residents rose in revolt (the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846), the Mexican-American War commenced (1846), Mexico ceded California to the United States through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848), the newcomers discovered gold (1848), many more newcomers came here with the resulting Gold Rush (1849-1852) and the federal government recognized California as the 31st state of the United States (1850).

While conditions for the California Indians continued to deteriorate under yet another new regime (the special census of 1852 counted only 140 Indians left in the San Francisco and San Mateo County areas<sup>42</sup>), for the former Mexican citizens, the new American government made promises that seemed to guarantee their rights and properties. Through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, they were automatically made citizens of the United States. The document also established that the new government

would respect and protect their property rights. Nevertheless, the enormous population growth of California due to the Gold Rush forced changes.<sup>43</sup>

Americans from the states back east, who had given up searching for gold and wished to settle in the new land as farmers and ranchers, were stunned by the enormity of the ranchos. They felt that much of the property was not being used to its fullest potential and simply settled or “squatted” on *rancho* lands. At first the new American legal system sided with the *Californios* and helped expel the settlers, but in 1851 a land commission was organized that made it mandatory that the land grants of the Mexican era be legally proven in court. While most of the grants prevailed, the land rich, cash poor *rancho* owners had to pay fees for attorneys. They also had to provide for various property taxes. Many mortgaged their places and lost their land to the banks. Others sold off their property to meet expenses.<sup>44</sup>

On the highly desirable Peninsula, most of the *rancho* families were rendered landless within fifteen years. For example, the Sanchez family’s *Rancho Buri Buri*, that included the south face of San Bruno Mountain, South San Francisco, San Bruno, Millbrae and the northern portion of Burlingame, was broken up to the extent that the family owned but 5% of it by 1866. Among the exceptions was Francisco Sanchez at his *Rancho San Pedro*. As contrasted to what happened to his extended family just over the hill, he managed to hang on to his Coastside land until he died in 1862.

By the end of the 1850s, the Peninsula’s American population had grown six-fold, to about 3,000. The number of Mexicans, meanwhile, decreased.<sup>45</sup>

During the decade stagecoach highway construction began over old Indian foot paths, Spanish trails and Mexican ox-cart roads. The Bayside had better transportation routes from this time onward and became more desirable to the new settlers. The *Californios* naturally tended to congregate on the more remote Coastside. In fact the County’s first town formed at Pilarcitos Creek where the Vasquez and Miramontes *ranchos* met. The land grant families called their community San Benito. People from over the hill called it Spanishtown, because everyone there seemed to be Spanish-speaking. Today it is known as Half Moon Bay.<sup>46</sup>

During the 1850s, public schools were established at Woodside, in the heart of the important lumbering operations, at West Union, near the National Park Service’s Phleger Estate property, Redwood City, which became the county seat, and Colma, which referred to all of north county. At the beginning of the next decade, nine school districts were organized for the County’s children. During the 1860s, churches and library associations were also established,<sup>47</sup> and by 1864 the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad was built through the County.

This early railroad was the second constructed in the state<sup>48</sup> and the first commuter railroad west of the Mississippi.<sup>49</sup> It allowed for the West's first rail suburban communities to develop along both sides of the tracks. The new commuters were the elite of San Francisco's new business community, who, like their contemporaries on the east coast, desired to use the railroad to move their families out of the squalid conditions of a nineteenth-century industrializing city. These captains of industry, mining, commerce and transportation could afford to purchase lavish estates down the Peninsula and create a "country lifestyle" emulating the aristocracy of the "Old World," while being uniquely Californian at the same time.<sup>50</sup> Their presence might encourage one to think that rapid development of the Peninsula followed, but instead, San Mateo County was the slowest growing county in the Bay Area. The estates actually put a damper on growth by taking up the best land near the railroad and hemming in little villages like Burlingame, San Mateo and Menlo Park. Redwood City was the only community to resemble a town from its beginnings.<sup>51</sup> By 1900, the population of San Mateo County stood at only 12,000.<sup>52</sup> Into the early years of the twentieth century, more elite suburbanites moved to the "country" including Herman and Mary Elena Phleger at their *Mountain Meadow* Estate, much of which is now National Park property.

Politically, San Mateo County became a county in 1856. It was carved out of San Francisco County as a result of a compromise between city reformers on one side and the established political clique that ruled San Francisco on the other. The reformers wished to have just one local government - - a City and County of San Francisco - - to look after and keep free of waste and corruption. The clique demanded that a new county be created to guarantee its political power base into the future. Thus the rural nine-tenths of San Francisco was cut-off and made a fledging political entity, entirely subjected to the corrupt influences of the bosses to the North. Only the advent of the famous San Francisco Vigilance Committee of 1856 chased this clique out of California and gave San Mateo County a new chance at self-government.<sup>53</sup>

For both counties, the historical ramifications have been important. For San Franciscans, they would soon be forced to create a water supply in San Mateo County, to use the new county for a place to bury its dead, and, later on, to build an important airport there. The City's ability to expand in geographical size and tax base subsequently was limited to the very northern tip of the Peninsula.<sup>54</sup>

For San Mateo County, the implications were also great. Its slow growth was, in part, a result of the bulk of local economic activity focusing on the great metropolis to the north.

Still worse, as San Francisco's sparsely populated neighbor, San Mateo County became burdened with the reputation as a place where if you couldn't "get away with it" in "wide-open" San Francisco, you could come down to the "country" and do so. In

1859, when former California Chief Justice David S. Terry and United States Senator David Broderick had their attempt to settle their differences by dueling blocked by officials in San Francisco, they crossed the county line near Lake Merced and shot it out. In later years, when dog-racing, horseracing and prizefighting became illegal in San Francisco, facilities were established in San Mateo County.

Problems with illegal alcoholic beverages had a long history down the Peninsula. Stills, present in the County since the 1830s, became most numerous during the Prohibition years (1919-33). In fact the amount of illegal activity was appalling.

On the Coastsides, at one time or another, nearly every large structure served as a speakeasy (a secret club where alcoholic beverage was made available), including Francisco Sanchez's old adobe home. Powerful criminal organizations had their "rum running" ships and boats make routine landings on the beaches and then trucked hundreds of thousands of gallons of "hooch" from coastal roads into the City. It is no accident that the hard-to-reach coast harbored its share of illegal and illicit activity. The rugged coastline and mountain barriers ensured a relatively police-free criminal livelihood, and Mori Point was well-known as the site of a speakeasy and other unlawful enterprises.

In fact, the entire history of the coast is one in which its isolation plays a prominent role. After the Mexican-American War, foreigners from the United States, Ireland, Portugal and China, who were joined later in the nineteenth century by Italians and Japanese, looked to the growing demand for farm products in San Francisco as an opportunity. They produced grain, potatoes, dairy goods and truck crops, but their ability to market these products was hampered by the lack of transportation.

The hope that this isolation could be broken rose in 1905 with the organization of the Ocean Shore Railroad which intended to lay track from San Francisco to Santa Cruz along San Mateo County's coastline. Sadly, the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake did considerable damage to it especially at Devil's Slide, which is just south of Mori Point and north of Rancho Corral de Tierra. A 26-mile gap between Tunitas Creek in San Mateo County and Swanton in Santa Cruz County was never finished. The railroad did serve the Coastsides from north of Tunitas Creek beginning in 1907, but stopped service in 1920.

The story on the Bayside was decidedly different. By 1928 the San Francisco Bureau of Governmental Research could report:<sup>55</sup>

*Industrial development . . . is centered along the bayshore immediately south of San Francisco, at South San Francisco and at Redwood City. . . The bayshore plain is traversed by the Southern Pacific Railroad, Market Street Railway elec-*

*tric lines, El Camino Real. . . , and the Bayshore Highway all providing transportation along the bayshore plain to and from San Francisco. The development of these means of transportation has brought about the recent urban growth in San Mateo County. . .*

With an eye to the future the Bureau stated: “Tidelands along the entire bayshore have potential capacities for future industrial growth,” and “as transportation methods improve, a still greater urban growth can be expected.”

As the decades passed the words of the Bureau came to realization on the Bayside. However, out on the Coastside, Devil’s Slide continued to live up to its name and hinder automobile highway improvements as it had the Ocean Shore Railroad. The problem of transportation limited suburban growth and industrial enterprise, so that pristine vistas of the Coastside’s mountains, cliffs and beaches and views of the ocean were mostly left untouched. The upshot from the perspective of those visiting National Park Service properties in San Mateo County is that four of its five properties (Sweeney Ridge, Milagra Ridge, Mori Point and *Rancho Corral de Tierra*) were not substantially developed because of this historic land-use story and are now available for utilization as parkland.

### **INTO THE MODERN ERA (CONTEXTUAL)**

Much of the character of today’s San Mateo County is associated with its suburban development. Its original suburbanites came after the building of the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad in 1864. “Down the Peninsula” they built their “summer places”<sup>56</sup> that later became permanent residences. They were the “movers and the shakers” of western America’s business elite.<sup>57</sup> They included such notables as William Ralston (Bank of California, who lived at Belmont), John Parrott (real estate investments, who lived at San Mateo), James Flood (silver mining, who lived at Atherton), James Folger (coffee, who lived at Woodside), Antoine Borel (international finance, who lived at San Mateo), Darius Ogden Mills (Bank of California, who lived at Millbrae) and *Filoli’s* William Bourn (Spring Valley Water Company.) Bourn provided *Mountain Meadow*, later the Phleger Estate, to his water company manager.

A streetcar line from San Francisco to San Mateo was completed in 1902; that and the advent of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake combined to create new “middle class” suburban communities in San Mateo County. Before 1900, the only incorporated towns in the County were San Mateo and Redwood City. With the streetcar making the commute more affordable and more convenient, the Earthquake’s refugees moved to the Peninsula and in quick succession, between 1908 and 1927, initiated the creation of ten towns: South San Francisco (1908), Burlingame (1908), Hillsborough

(1910), Daly City (1911), San Bruno (1914), Atherton (1923), Colma (1924), San Carlos (1925), Menlo Park (1927) and Belmont (1927).<sup>58</sup>

The population of the County which had been 3,200 in 1860 was still only 12,000 in 1900. However, its number of people more than doubled during the first ten years of the new century to 27,000 and in the next 30 years grew more than fourfold to 112,000 by 1940.

As is the case with California on the whole, World War II and the post-war period witnessed substantial growth for the San Francisco Peninsula. Throughout the County, defense projects were plainly visible at and from places like Milagra Ridge and Sweeney Ridge. On these ridges and all up and down the Coastside, the armed forces constructed seacoast fortifications and other installations. Looking east from the ridges, one could see ship building at South San Francisco, the supply dump at Tanforan Race Track and the substantial build-up of San Francisco Airport. After the War many veterans, who had seen California for the first time on their way to overseas deployment, decided to settle in San Mateo County. They went to school on the GI Bill, married, produced “baby boom” offspring and bought their newly built tract houses all along the Bayside. Agricultural lands and open space shrank as this development spread from the traditional town centers. The substantial growth was made possible by the increasingly affordable and popular automobile.<sup>59</sup> Most of the resulting population increase occurred on the Bayside. Between 1940 and 1950, the County’s residents more than doubled in number to 236,000. By 1960, the population nearly doubled again to 444,000, and the 1970 census listed the population at more than 557,000.

The Coastside did experience some of this activity; particularly in the north, in the western portion of Daly City and in the City of Pacifica (which incorporated in 1957), could one witness the building of housing tracts and shopping centers.

As artichoke fields, greenhouses and dairies gave way, an environmental backlash began. Malvina Reynold’s protest song about “Little Boxes” was actually written about Daly City housing tracts. The new movement helped give impetus to coastal preservation, statewide, with the passage of a protection act by the voters in 1972 which established a Coastal Commission. Its authority was made permanent in 1976. Locally, a variety of slow/no-growth measures were additionally adopted to save the Coastside from further development. Also hindering growth further down the coast was the limited availability of water, sewers and other ingredients necessary for development.<sup>60</sup>

Some of the Peninsula had already been set aside. The 23,000 acre San Francisco watershed with its Crystal Springs, San Andreas and Pilarcitos dams hosts a variety of habitats and supports the highest concentration of rare, threatened and endangered species in the Bay Area. The watershed was originally protected by the Spring Valley

Water Company, a private corporation in business to sustain San Francisco's water supply in the nineteenth century. San Francisco purchased the system in 1930 as part of its Hetch Hetchy project.<sup>61</sup>

In 1969, the federal and state governments with San Francisco and San Mateo Counties created easement agreements to preserve the watershed. The accords concentrated on 19,000 acres that include Upper and Lower Crystal Springs Reservoirs, San Andreas Lake and watershed lands east of Montara Mountain. Another scenic and recreational easement includes 4,000 acres southwest of the reservoirs. The National Parks Service's GGNRA manages these easements.<sup>62</sup>

San Mateo County has also been active in preserving open spaces. It opened its first park on July 4, 1924; Memorial Park was dedicated in honor of World War I veterans from San Mateo County. Today the County Parks Division operates 17 separate parks, three regional trails and numerous other trails encompassing 15,680 acres. They are located throughout the county and represent a wide variety of natural settings including: a coastside marine reserve, a bayside recreational area, coastal mountain woodland areas and urban sites.<sup>63</sup>

In addition, California State Park holdings in San Mateo County include (in alphabetical order): Año Nuevo, Bean Hollow, Big Basin Redwoods, Burleigh Murray Ranch, Butano, Castle Rock, Gray Whale Cove, Half Moon Bay State Beach, McNee Ranch, Montara State Beach, Pacifica State Beach, Pescadero State Beach, Pigeon Point Light Station, Pomponio, Portola Redwoods, San Bruno Mountain and San Gregorio State Beach.

With the Bayside nearly "builtout" and the Coastside mostly protected from urbanization, the rate of population increase slowed. Between 1970 and 1980, the number of residents in the County rose only 5% to 587,000. In the next 20 years it grew 17% to 707,000 (2000 census).

Preservation of the Coastside allowed for opportunities to invite the National Park Service to open some of the protected properties to the public as part of its GGNRA. Efforts to include Sweeney Ridge and Milagra Ridge succeed in the 1980s. Congressman Tom Lantos authored legislation that added 1,300 acres of the Phleger Estate to the Park in the early 1990s; and a decade after that, Lantos introduced yet more legislation to include another 900 acres in Pacifica. In April of 2002, the Congressman, GGNRA officials and local environmental leaders dedicated Mori Point when it was added to the Park.

Most recently, on December 20, 2005, President George W. Bush signed into law authority for the GGNRA to purchase 4,262 acres of the *Rancho Corral de Tierra* from

the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). POST had begun purchasing the properties in 2001. In three phases, with the aid of the California Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board, it raised a total of \$29,750,000 for the acquisitions. Outdoor enthusiasts hailed this effort as it provided public lands that linked the congressionally designated Bay Area Ridge Trail with the California Coastal Trail. In other words, the purchase filled a gap between what had been disconnected federal and California parklands. The federal legislation was authored and championed by Congressman Lantos.<sup>64</sup>

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## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Regional Planning Committee, San Mateo County Planning Department, *The Physical Setting of San Mateo County*, May 17, 1968, pp. 21, and plate V.

<sup>2</sup> San Mateo County Planning Department, *General Plan*, 1986, pp. 14-15.

<sup>3</sup> San Mateo County, *Physical*, p. 24.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, plate I, also see “San Mateo County, California History,” [http://www.Californiagenealogy.org/San\\_Mateo/index.htm](http://www.Californiagenealogy.org/San_Mateo/index.htm) page 1.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, plate VII.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, plate XIII.

<sup>7</sup> Barclay Mapworks Incorporated, *San Mateo County Street Guide and Parcel Atlas*, 2006.

<sup>8</sup> Regional Planning Committee, *Physical*, p. 89.

<sup>9</sup> Alan Hynding, *From Frontier to Suburb: The Story of the San Mateo Peninsula*, Star Publishing Company, Belmont, California, 1982, p. 142.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>12</sup> Madge Caughman and Joanne S. Ginsberg, eds., *California Coastal Resources Guide*, California Coastal Commission, State of California, Berkeley, California, University of California Press, 1987, p. 171.

<sup>13</sup> As this study was being written (2009-2010) Randall Milliken, Laurence H. Shoup, and Beverly R. Ortiz were finishing up their study for the National Park Service, *Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today*. Thus the 2007 draft of this work and the 2009 final version were used extensively, as cited, in this presentation. The finished document is regarded as the most thorough study about the Peninsula’s native peoples yet produced.

<sup>14</sup> Frank Stanger and Alan K. Brown, *Who Discovered the Golden Gate: The Explorers Own Accounts*, San Mateo County Historical Association, San Mateo, CA, 1969, p. 100.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 98.

<sup>16</sup> Randall Milliken, Laurence H. Shoup, and Beverly R. Ortiz, *Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today*, National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California, (draft) 2007, pp. 64-65.

<sup>17</sup> Mark G. Hylkema, *Seal Cove Prehistory: Archaeological Investigations at CA-SMA-134*, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, San Mateo County, California, 1998.

<sup>18</sup> Mitchell P. Postel, *San Mateo A Centennial History*, Scottwall Associates, San Francisco, CA, 1994, p. 1.

- <sup>19</sup> Mary Ellen Ryan, "A Well Looking, Affable People". Online at <http://www.santacruzpl.org/history/articles/253> (Accessed October 15, 2003).
- <sup>20</sup> The word Costanoan is derived from the early Spanish who called the people Costenos - - people of the coast. Later English speaking people mispronounced this as Costanos. Finally, the compromise word Costanoan was adopted. Descendents of these natives prefer the term Ohlone, which is now utilized in most scholarly and public presentations.
- <sup>21</sup> Milliken, *Ohlone* (2007), p. 5.
- <sup>22</sup> Malcolm Margolin, *The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco/Monterey Bay Area*, Heyday Books, Berkeley, CA, 1978, pp. 1-3.
- <sup>23</sup> Not only were the Spanish the first to write about Ohlones, but their diarists provided the most comprehensive accounts existent: hence this study's heavy reliance on them.
- <sup>24</sup> Stanger and Brown, *Who*, p. 88.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 87.
- <sup>26</sup> Margolin, *Ohlone*, p. 52.
- <sup>27</sup> Gary S. Breshini and Trudy Haversat, "Rumsen Seasonality and Population Dynamics," in Lowell John Bean, *The Ohlone Past and Present: Native Americans of the San Francisco Bay Region*, Ballena Press, Menlo Park, CA, 1994, pp. 183-197.
- <sup>28</sup> Margolin, *Ohlone*, p. 91.
- <sup>29</sup> Milliken, *Ohlone* (2007), p. 5.
- <sup>30</sup> Chester King, "Central Ohlone Ethnohistory," in Bean, *Ohlone*, p. 221.
- <sup>31</sup> Breschini, "Ramsen," p. 196.
- <sup>32</sup> To better understand the scope of historical scholarship about Ohlones, Lauren Teixeira's *The Costanoan/Ohlone Indians of the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Area, A Research Guide* is a recommended source along with the already mentioned Randall Milliken, Laurence H. Shoup, and Beverly R. Ortiz's study, with its extensive bibliography, in the recently completed *Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today*. Both of these sources can be found in the bibliography of this work.
- <sup>33</sup> Milliken, *Ohlone* (2007), p. 3.
- <sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 159.
- <sup>35</sup> James J. Rawls, Walton Bean, *California: An Interpretive History*, McGraw Hill, New York, 9th edition, 2008, p. 36.
- <sup>36</sup> Margolin, *Ohlone*, p. 162. Quote comes from the writings of Jean de La Perouse, French visitor to the missions in 1786.
- <sup>37</sup> Robert F. Heizer, volume editor, *Handbook of North American Indians: Volume 8, California*, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, 1978, p. 486.
- <sup>38</sup> Mitchell P. Postel, *San Mateo County: A Sesquicentennial History*, Star Publishing Company, Inc. Belmont, CA, 2007, p. 78.
- <sup>39</sup> Rawls, *California*, pp. 58-59.
- <sup>40</sup> See Map showing Mexican period land grants of the San Francisco Peninsula. This map was taken from the files of the San Mateo County History Museum. Note the owner of *Rancho Corral de Tierra* is listed mistakenly as Palomares instead of Guerrero. An explanation for this confusion is explained in the *Rancho Corral de Tierra* section of this study, under sub-heading "Two Land Grants."
- <sup>41</sup> Hynding, *From*, p. 47.
- <sup>42</sup> Milliken, *Ohlone*, (2007), p. 183.
- <sup>43</sup> J.S. Holliday, *The World Rushed In*, Simon & Shuster, New York, 1981, p. 26.
- <sup>44</sup> Rawls, *California*, p. 144.
- <sup>45</sup> Hynding, *From*, p. 51.
- <sup>46</sup> Mitchell P. Postel, *Peninsula Portrait: An Illustrated History of San Mateo County*, Windsor Publications, Inc., Northridge, California, 1988, p. 25.

- <sup>47</sup> County of San Mateo Historic Resources Advisory Board, *San Mateo County: Its History and Heritage*, in cooperation with the San Mateo County Division of Planning and Development, Dept. of Environmental Management, January, 1983, p. 73.
- <sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14.
- <sup>49</sup> Postel, *San Mateo County*, p. 112.
- <sup>50</sup> Mitchell P. Postel, *History of the Burlingame Country Club*, Burlingame Country Club, Hillsborough, California, 1982, p. 11.
- <sup>51</sup> Hynding, *From*, pp. 61-62, 89-91.
- <sup>52</sup> County of San Mateo, *San Mateo County*, p. 18.
- <sup>53</sup> Postel, *Sesquicentennial*, pp. 4-25.
- <sup>54</sup> Postel, *Peninsula*, p. 33.
- <sup>55</sup> San Francisco Bureau of Government Research, *The San Francisco-San Mateo Survey*, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco, 1928, p. 10.
- <sup>56</sup> Frank M. Stanger, *South From San Francisco, San Mateo County, California Its History and Heritage*, San Mateo County Historical Association, San Mateo, CA, 1963, p. 95.
- <sup>57</sup> Postel, *Sesquicentennial*, pp. 115-116.
- <sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 128.
- <sup>59</sup> T.H. Watkins, *California: An Illustrated History*, Weablisvane Books, New York, 1973, p. 458.
- <sup>60</sup> County of San Mateo, *San Mateo County*, p. 32.
- <sup>61</sup> Postel, *Sesquicentennial*, pp. 196-197.
- <sup>62</sup> San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, *A History of the Municipal Water Department and Hetch Hetchy System*, San Francisco Communications and Public Outreach, PVC, 2005, p. 17.
- <sup>63</sup> Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett, *San Mateo County Parks: A Remarkable Story of Extraordinary Places and People Who Built Them*, San Mateo County Parks Foundation, Menlo Park, CA, 2001.
- <sup>64</sup> Peninsula Open Space Trust, "On December 20, President George W. Bush signed the GGNRA boundary expansion into law," *Peninsula Open Space Trust News*, December 20, 2005, and in the same publication, "U.S. House of Representatives Approves GGNRA boundary extension to include POST's Rancho Corral de Tierra," December 6, 2005.



