



Rescuing the Gateway to the National Seashore

The proposed Point Reyes National Seashore is a miserable hodge-podge of conflicting ownerships. I don't know if we can save it.

—Peter Behr, Chairman, “Save Our Seashore” 1969

Without realizing he would set off a speculative land boom, President John F. Kennedy in 1962 signed both the Point Reyes National Seashore and the Warm Springs Dam bills. We predicted then that cheap Russian River water would open the arid Marin-Sonoma coast, including the National Seashore, to urban sprawl.

By 1967 Audubon Canyon Ranch's purchases and the Kent Island coup had helped secure the Bolinas Lagoon as a wild and unspoiled southern gateway to the still incomplete National Seashore. The huge Bolinas marina and Mary Summer's Master Plan were dead; nevertheless, Stan Picher and I felt that the Ranch should quickly purchase as much as possible of the Bolinas Ridge to also guard the seashore entrance from development and help assure its completion. There were still the threats of shoreline and ridgeline freeways—and the importation of water.

The Galloway Ranch—Key to the Puzzle

Two wild and beautiful ranches flanked the Audubon Canyon Ranch, the Galloway Ranch to the north and the Thompson Ranch to the south. Both had frontage on the lagoon and both extended nearly to the top of the Bolinas Ridge. The Galloway Ranch also held part of the Bolinas-Fairfax Road, which was planned by the state to be turned into a steep connecting freeway between the shoreline and ridgeline freeways.

I knew both owners, but would they sell, and could we afford the prices?

The Galloway Ranch (also known as Pikes Gulch) figured in the county's

By 1962 Audubon Canyon Ranch's Bolinas Lagoon Preserve was established with headquarters in the center canyon, giving us leverage against the planned ridgetop and shoreline freeways. Our next step was to purchase the canyons on either side, plus much of the shoreline.

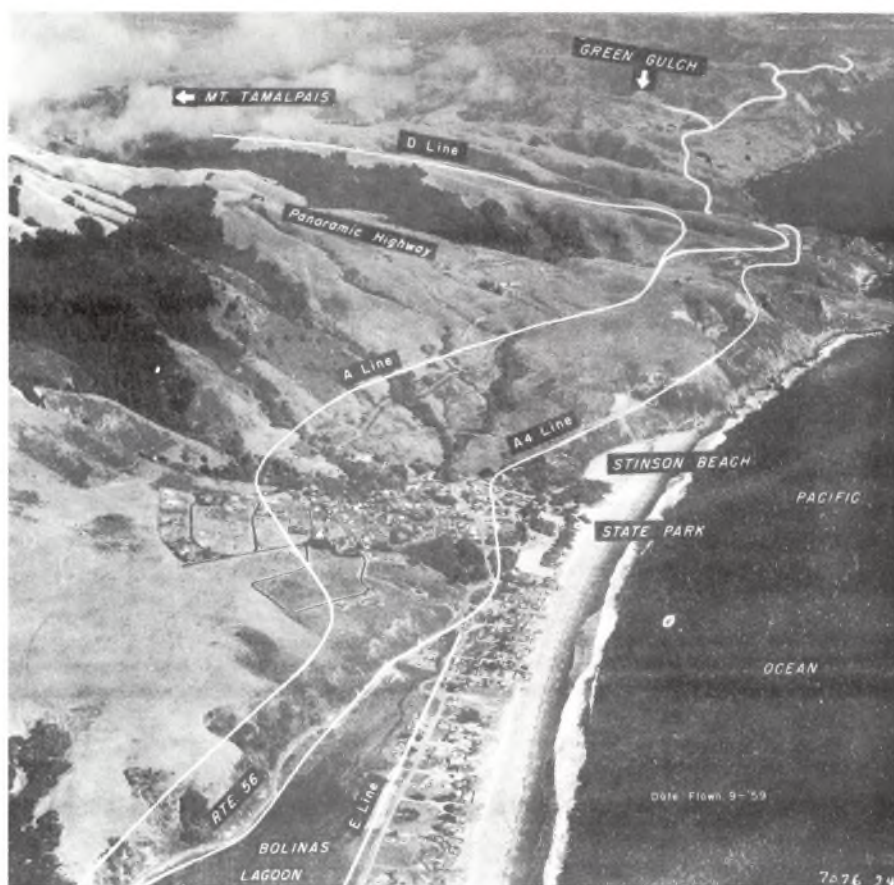
This map, obtained at state freeway hearings in 1960, shows the route north of the proposed coast freeway along the Bolinas Lagoon towards Point Reyes Station. The freeway would have increased already rampant land speculation, hastened development, and prevented the purchase of the National Seashore (left) and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (right) in 1972.



early plan that would have carved the Bolinas Ridge into ranchettes with views of Point Reyes and the Farallones Islands.

Since 1941, the Galloways had owned the Bolinas Ridge from the Bolinas-Fairfax Road south to and including the Canyon Ranch, which they later sold to Tevis. Allen Galloway, a noted geologist, created the exhibit on the San Andreas Fault in the Ranch's display hall. His wife Mary was a descendent of an old Marin family.

With Harold Summer's expansive freeway network on the Bolinas Ridge burning in my brain, I called on Mary Galloway. As a result of that first meeting, she and Allen sold us their tidelands, recognizing their importance in preserving the lagoon. Later the Ranch donated them to the county as the first units in a Shoreline Park. Next, we persuaded the Galloways to split their ranch from top to bottom, from ridge to lagoon, selling us sixty-seven acres of the southern half, which gave us more road frontage on state Highway 1. We insisted at the time of that sale that the Galloways agree to give the



The proposed freeway through Stinson Beach would have sliced through the heronry as it crossed the bluffs of Bolinas Lagoon. An expanded freeway headed south to development in the Marin Headlands past Green Gulch. The rapid growth of both counties was needed to pay for Warm Springs Dam, authorized in 1962, and PG&E's nuclear power plant in Bodega Bay.

Audubon Canyon Ranch the right of first refusal to purchase the rest of their ranch, about two hundred acres, which included part of the connector between the ridge and shoreline freeway, the Bolinas-Fairfax Road.

On a rainy Saturday morning in 1967, Stan, our architect, Jack Hermann, a surveyor, and I struggled up the steep hillside covered with poison oak and chaparral to set the stakes with the Galloways that would split the parcel into two parcels. We argued like school children back and forth over every rock, tree and promontory, and finally, to the profound dismay of our surveyor, agreed on a very crooked line. We paid for the sixty-seven acres with an amazing gift of forty thousand dollars from the estate of Max Lewis and Elizabeth Sprang. These were benefactors who had heard about the Ranch's work. Their will included the following wisdom:

To preserve in a wild state various and sundry places so that the present and future generations of Americans and visitors may enjoy, in part at least, nature unharnessed by man for use and profit. Such "living

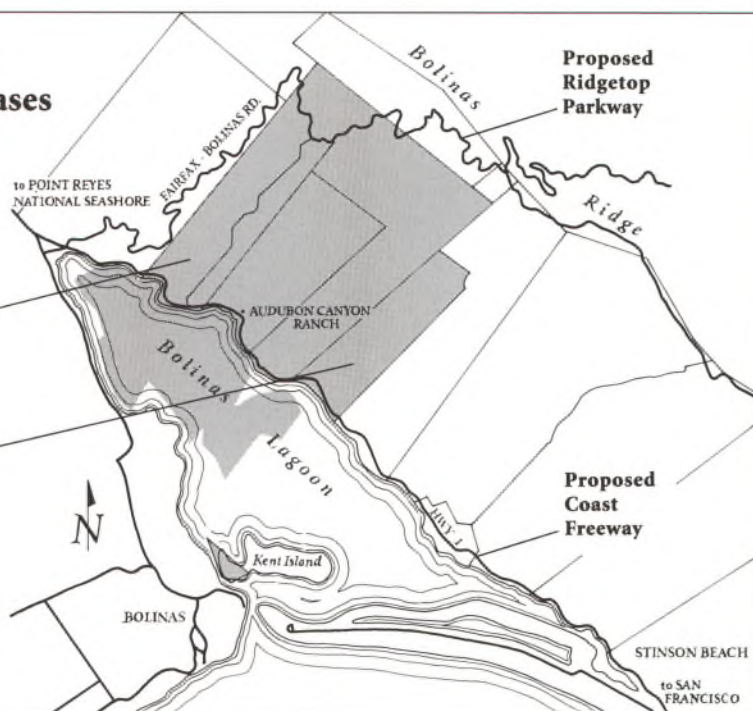
Audubon Canyon Ranch Purchases, Gifts, and Leases on Bolinas Lagoon

Phase III. Additional Purchases

Galloway Ranch,
278 acres,
1966 and 1971

Thompson Ranch,
234 acres, 1968

In 1967, the remaining 111 acres of Kent Island were purchased by the Audubon Canyon Ranch, The Nature Conservancy, and the Marin Conservation League and donated to the County of Marin.



To preserve the gateway to the proposed Point Reyes National Seashore and give us more frontage on Highway 1, the Ranch purchased the Galloway Ranch adjacent to the north and the Thompson Ranch to the south. By 1971, the Ranch had grown to 1,017 strategic acres, ending the threat of freeways, subdivisions, and marinas in the Bolinas watershed. We renamed the Thompson Ranch Volunteer Canyon after the 1971 oil spill, and named the canyon to the north of the heronry in honor of The Garden Clubs of America.

museums” are precious and irreplaceable for their scientific, educational and aesthetic values. They frequently afford the only home for a multitude of living things that might otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by civilization.

Pardow Hooper put the sale in escrow, and only then did Stan and I breathe easily. A short time later the Galloways moved to San Francisco and sold us the rest of their land for \$210,000 under the terms of our agreement. Now their wilderness ranch, where cougar sightings were common, was safe.

With our acquisition of the Galloway ranch and the Tevis ranch, the pieces of the gigantic Bolinas Ridge puzzle were beginning to lock into place. The freeway threat was fading away. The state would be foolish to attempt to condemn lands for freeways from four publicly powerful Audubon Chapters. Audubon Canyon Ranch now controlled the southern portal to the Point Reyes National Seashore.

For years now, the Audubon Canyon Ranch has leased the Galloway ranch house to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory for just one dollar per year. The Observatory carries out bird research on the Farallones Islands and many other parts of the world. Our board has deemed this a worthwhile use of the buildings, but the rest of the land remains wild.

Strange Suitors for Enid's Ranch

The Enid Thompson Ranch (the old Weeks Ranch), now Volunteer Canyon just south of the Audubon Canyon Ranch on Highway 1, was next on my agenda. It was steeply forested, had a small creek running through it, and contained a lush meadow dotted with ancient apple trees. A large grove of alders in a bog blocked the view of the land from Highway 1. A trail connected to the Griffin Trail on the Canyon Ranch and passed perhaps the largest buckeye tree in the Bolinas watershed. The Thompsons had restored the Victorian house, with windows looking out on coveys of quail and herds of deer feeding in the meadow. The land was rich in chaparral habitat and deserved to be preserved.

If it hadn't been for two elderly patients of mine from Bolinas, the Audubon Canyon Ranch would never have gotten the chance to purchase Enid Thompson's ranch. Enid was a Christian Scientist who, in the late sixties, chauffeured her two friends "over the hill" in her limousine from Bolinas to my office. We became friends, and she would occasionally ask my medical advice, rewarding me with a crate of apples from the ancient trees that thrive to this day in her meadow.

But Enid was a closer friend of Hurford Sharon, the head of the local Christian Science Church, who had a real estate office in downtown Bolinas. He lived right in town on Brighton Avenue, where he was widely known as the man who had cut down "the squawkers' trees," a row of ancient cypresses near the tennis courts where a large colony of noisy Black-crowned Night-Herons had roosted after their nightly forage in the lagoon.

Enid said that Sharon wanted her to sell her ranch, retire modestly, and donate part of the proceeds to the church building fund. But she began to switch sides after we bought the Tevis ranch in 1961.

I believe I may have wrecked Sharon's plans for Enid's ranch, which we feared would be subdivided. For five years I told Enid that her bountiful canyon and chaparral-covered hills, with the steep redwood and fir forests beyond, should be protected as a living cathedral. It didn't hurt that we promised to pay cash that would enable her to get out of foggy Bolinas and retire to Pebble Beach, where she had many friends. Still, we never really dreamed we would be able to afford her ranch.

On October 28, 1968, during my tenure as land acquisitions chair of Audubon Canyon Ranch, Enid called me at my medical office. As soon as I



Stately birds such as this Great Egret migrate throughout the Bay Area. For the birds' protection, ACR volunteers monitor colonies of Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets, and Black-crowned Night-Herons in seven Bay Area counties, supervised by biologist John Kelly.



If Audubon Canyon Ranch had not acted in 1961, a decade before the federal government, these rolling hills on Bolinas Lagoon could have been covered with two-acre ranchettes all the way north to the Sonoma-Mendocino border, urbanizing the north coast of California like much of Southern California.

got on the phone she turned me over to her lawyer, Aaron Cohen. "Mrs. Thompson is anxious to move to a warmer climate. She says she will offer the ranch to Audubon first. She will give you a week to see if you can swing it. She doesn't want Mr. Sharon to know until the deal is finished." This sounded great until Cohen told me her price: \$300,000 for 132 acres! That was three times as much per acre as we had paid for the 503 Tevis acres just four years before.

But the ranch was such a prize, we knew someone would buy it the minute it hit the market. I consulted with Stan Picher, Marin Audubon Society president Howie Allen, and George Peyton, our attorney; we decided to have Pardow Hooper give us an appraisal and make Enid an offer.

Paul Newell, my friend of many years at the title company, said he would handle the escrow at half price; Hooper, our real estate expert, ordered a survey of the property. To our amazement he found that the steep wooded valley and ridge was 234 acres, not 132. Fudging acreage on tax bills was not an uncommon practice to reduce property taxes in wicked old Marin.

Pardow then did a careful appraisal and came up with a price of \$210,000. We authorized him to make Enid a firm offer and on November 22, 1968, she accepted. The one condition she insisted on was that the ranch

Volunteer Canyon Named

The canyon was later renamed from Weeks Gulch to Volunteer Canyon in honor of those who helped clean up Bolinas Lagoon and its birds after the huge Standard Oil tanker spill off the Coast in 1971. Zumi helped in the dramatic bird rescue which involved blocking the Lagoon's entrance with roped-together bales of hay. Mimi's and my house on Wharf Road at the Lagoon's mouth was used as headquarters for the oil cleanup.

POR. RANCHO LAS BAULINES

See File #
 56-001
 56-002
 56-003
 56-005
 56-015
 56-017

NOTE:
 PARCELS PL 14 REFERS TO ADJACENT BOOK & PAGE NUMBER ON FILE IN MARIN COUNTY CIVIL CENTER, SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA.

THIS PAGE REVEALS	
Side	By
-	-

RESCUING THE GATEWAY TO THE NATIONAL SEASHORE 77

Before that I pulled off a financial feat that left Stan gasping. As described in Chapter One, at just about this time I had obtained a gift of four acres of Rosie's Bluff and tidelands on Richardson Bay after a visit with the owner, Harry Marshall, in Chicago. Armed with this valuable gift, I phoned Charles Callison, president of National Audubon Society, to tell him this gift was for his organization. He was overwhelmed. Then I asked the big question, "Would National Audubon make a fifteen thousand dollar gift to our Canyon Ranch education fund and extend to us a \$100,000 low-interest loan for the Thompson purchase?" He said, "Yes!" on the spot. With both deals concluded, a bench was named for Marshall's wife and placed on the Richardson Bay bluff, Enid got her money sooner, and Pardow got his commission of twelve thousand dollars (we figured he had saved us more than \$150,000). Marshall flew out for the bench dedication.

Celebrating Pardow's Skills

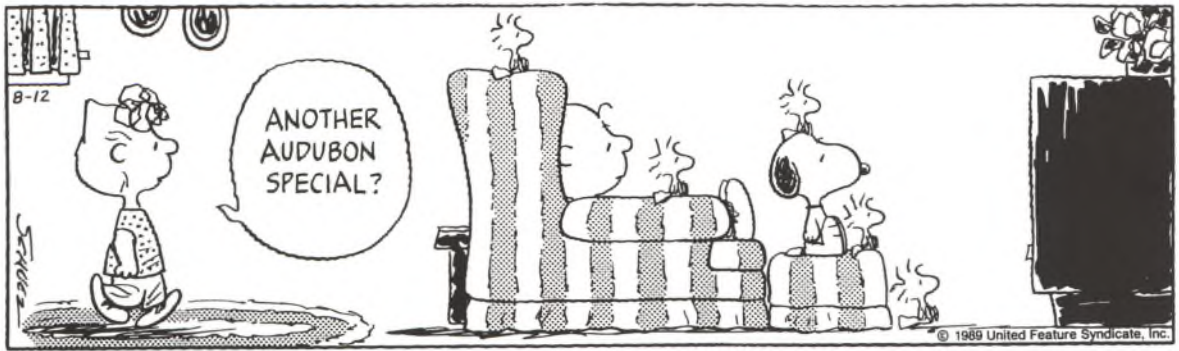
Pardow Hooper, our real estate broker, then helped us acquire two small but vital parcels on Highway 1 that had once been part of the Thompson ranch. The first was an acre with a small house on it that was owned by Mrs. Sylvia Crimmins, a tiny, eccentric elderly lady who wore a beanie with a propeller on top. She sold the property to us when she moved to Texas. With a gift from Eleanor Evans Crum, a close friend of Stan Picher, the house was moved back from the highway for use as naturalist housing.



Today rural Highway 1 is still a two-lane winding road rather than a four-lane freeway with a bridge across Bolinas Lagoon to a marina on Kent Island.

Second, to our astonishment, Pardow researched a parcel that bordered a large bend in the old county road parallel to Highway 1. The Thompsons had sold this property years before to the State Highway Department with a condition that if the highway was moved the parcel would revert to them. The bureaucrats were dismayed when Pardow proved from old deeds that this parcel had now reverted to Audubon Canyon Ranch. The parcel gave us more strategic frontage on Highway 1 to fight the freeway, plus room for a beautiful parking lot lined with alder. We celebrated Pardow's skills at a large party in his honor.

The Ranch now owned four of the eight canyons on the southern Bolinas Ridge, all bordering Highway 1. The only remaining threats to the ridge were the Knox Finley and Leonard ranches. But without water, sewer,



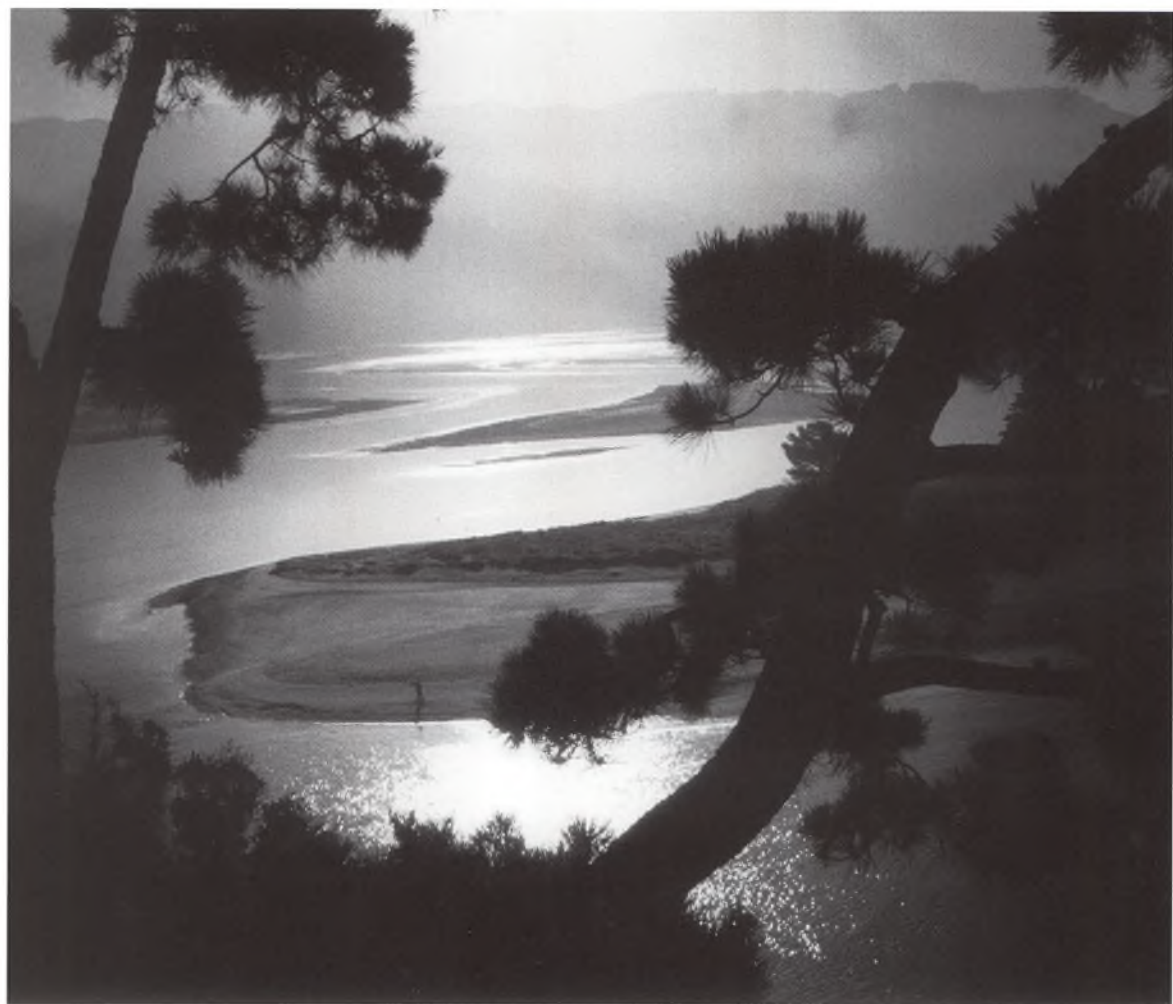
freeway or marina, subdivisions there were impossible. Eventually the Golden Gate National Recreation Area acquired these parcels and today the Bolinas basin, lagoon, marshlands, and ridge are secure. I often wonder what the area would look like today if the Audubon Canyon Ranch had never been created.

The Ranch's land purchases and the defeat of the Harbor District made possible the scientific management plan for the Bolinas watershed from ridgetop to ridgetop that was developed by the Conservation Foundation of Washington D.C. in 1968. This study is still being used as the basis for watershed management plans for the Bolinas Basin.

However, there were a few other serious threats that needed attention in this part of West Marin. The shooting of eagles and hawks and logging on the Bolinas Ridge had to be stopped. The continued dumping of raw sewage into the Bolinas Lagoon was intolerable, as was the senseless cutting of peely madrones for firewood.

Stopping the dumping of garbage into Bolinas Lagoon took many years. Finally, in 1994 the remnants of the Stinson Beach dump were removed and the channel dredged with great community fanfare, reflecting a profound change in the environmental ethic of West Marin in the years since Audubon Canyon Ranch was purchased and the southern gateway to the Point Reyes National Seashore was secured.

The National Audubon Society has grown from a small group of bird guardians to an effective national advocate of ecosystem preservation with chapters in many states and countries. Its participation was critical in saving Mono Lake. Recently it created Audubon-California to preserve large wildlife corridors including the 12,000 acre Mayacamas Mountain Sanctuary in the Russian River headwaters.



Zumie—The Sage of Audubon Canyon Ranch

The people most likely to make a success of saving the planet will not be found in large international bodies, but in small grassroots organizations caring for their own lands and water.

—Barbara Crossette, *The New York Times*, 1992 Rio Conference

It's amazing that I wasn't drummed out of the Marin Medical Society for proselytizing my patients to work for, donate funds to, or serve on the board of Audubon Canyon Ranch. Everyone who came through my office was assessed for their potential to "help save Bolinas Lagoon." Clerin Zumwalt was my greatest success. *Zumwalt* means "to the forest," and Zumie fit his name: compact build, tanned face, capable hands, reliable. Zumie reminded one of an articulate oak. Moreover, he was a forester.

When I first met Zumie, he was a Western Regional Chief of the US Forest Service in charge of range analysis for the California region, and stuck in an office in downtown San Francisco. Every work day he was subjected to the daily grind of commuting, with thousands of others, from his home in the suburban tracts of Greenbrae. He told me then that he longed to work again in the wide open spaces of Utah or Colorado, or even California. Besides being an expert naturalist, wildlife photographer and raconteur, Zumie, I learned, was one of the nation's experts in soil science, forest, grassland, and wildlife management. He had spent twenty-three years with the US Soil Conservation Service.

What good fortune! When we bought Audubon Canyon Ranch, it was a soil scientist's dream—or nightmare. It sat on an unstable, eroding ridge on a moving fault. The forests had been overcut, the meadows overgrazed, and the creeks were sliding into the lagoon. Once Zumie visited he was hooked; he saw his life's work cut out for him.

His wife Alis was also a patient of mine, and I had a consultation with

This peaceful inlet of Bolinas Lagoon barely escaped plans by the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge it for a marina and build a rock jetty into the Pacific Ocean. This would have eliminated the sandspit where the rare Snowy Plover lays its eggs.

them together. “Zumie,” I said, “is having some chest pain, and it would be best if he didn’t commute any more. If he must, perhaps he could stop somewhere and relax until the traffic has cleared.” Alis, a beautiful, flaxen-haired, exuberant woman was alarmed. “Never in your life!” Then I made my point. I suggested that Zumie take early retirement at age fifty-two and come to work for the Ranch as our first paid naturalist.

Thus began Zumie’s association with Audubon Canyon Ranch, which



Snowy Egrets, and one Great Egret, feed in this fifteen-acre marsh by Redwood High School. It was one of the few marshes to survive the bulldozers in eastern Marin.

lasted for more than three decades. During this time Zumie also served as land manager for the Marin Municipal Water District, expert witness for the Ranch, teacher, photographer, historian, and consultant for land-use studies of both Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay. He served on the Ranch board for more than twenty years. And after he took the Ranch job in 1965, thousands of people enriched their lives by walking along the Bolinas Ridge and Bolinas Lagoon with Zumie, a man carved by wind, sun, and the morning fog. What Zumie gave them was a love of

nature so pure, so cultivated, so filled with humor and wisdom that he himself became a treasure. He trained hundreds of docents to be valuable teachers and leaders in wildlife protection.

But when Zumie first came to work at the Ranch, there were pressing problems to resolve: eagle shooting, logging, erosion, and the cutting of peely madrones. Taking advantage of his talents, I immediately engaged Zumie in three skirmishes on the Bolinas Ridge that I had for years wanted to confront head-on.

The Last Great Eagle Shoot

Dead eagles and hawks nailed up on fences with their wings outspread were a common sight in West Marin when we purchased the Canyon Ranch. Some of the ranchers, especially those who raised sheep, considered these birds lamb predators and shot them on sight.

The Bolinas Ridge and the headlands overlooking the Golden Gate are on one of the great raptor routes of California. In the fall, thousands of birds of prey migrate south along this route and cross San Francisco Bay near its narrow mouth. Sharp-shinned, cooper, and redbtail hawks go by in great numbers, as does the occasional Golden Eagle.

In the late sixties, the Bald Eagle, our national symbol, was threatened

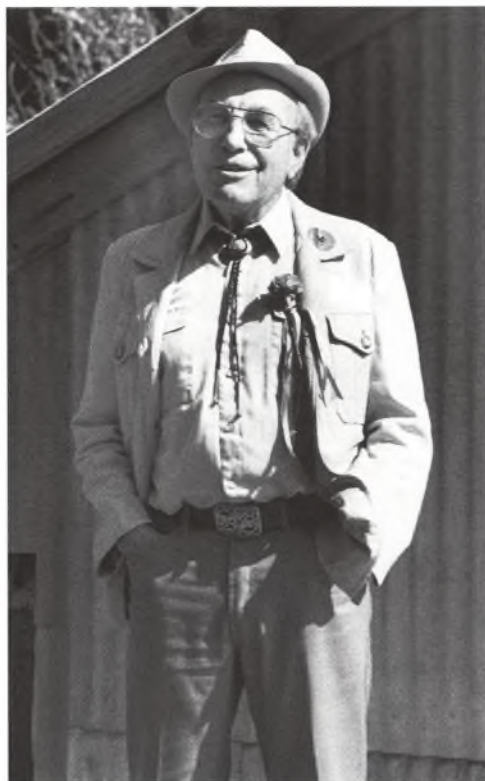
with extinction. In the United States they were down to four hundred pairs, and the federal government listed them as an endangered species. At statehood a century earlier they had nested along the water courses of Marin County, but loggers and farmers cut down most of their ancestral nesting trees or shot the birds on sight.

In 1965, Leroy Martinelli had the dubious honor of shooting two eagles, one apparently the last Bald Eagle reported in Marin. This shooting occurred on his father's sheep ranch, high on the Bolinas Ridge on the east shore of Tomales Bay. Leroy was hauled into federal court for shooting the national emblem without a permit but was acquitted with the help of lawyers from the powerful Wool Growers Association. Two years later, he again spotted several eagles feeding on a lamb carcass. He called Loren Parcher of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, who obliged and gave him a permit to shoot three. Leroy promptly shot one bird with a six-foot wingspread and called the newspaper. His photo with the dead Golden Eagle, wings outspread, appeared on the front page.

The outraged public demanded a permanent stop to eagle killing, but there was no action. Incredibly, no one had inspected Martinelli's ranch to see why it attracted so many Golden Eagles, which migrate south from the Eel River each winter looking for food. These great birds, with golden headfeathers glistening in the sun, search the land below for rabbits and ground squirrels. They are in fact the farmer's best friends for keeping rodents under control.

On December 23, 1967, I persuaded Clerin Zumwalt to visit the Martinelli ranch with me to inspect the pasture there. At the time, I was chairman of the Environmental Health Committee for Marin County. Martinelli's father, whom I had met at an inspection of his landfill dump the year before after a complaint of pollution in Tomales Bay, agreed to let me inspect. I reminded him that his cousin Rod was our attorney at the Ross Hospital.

Without knowing what he was getting into, Zumie agreed to go. Being plucky but not foolish, we asked Constable McLean of the small town of Point Reyes Station to go with us. We found Leroy in his pickup truck with a rifle in the back window. We met his father on the top of a hill behind the



Clerin Zumwalt, a soil scientist, was our much-loved Ranch naturalist and sage for thirty years. Hundreds of inner-city schoolchildren who had never been in the wild before were transformed by rambling with Zumi along the trails of Audubon Canyon Ranch.

dump. Sheep were everywhere.

Zumie discovered that Leroy had the impossible task of looking after four thousand steep acres and eighteen hundred ewes, and seldom could go on the range where lambing took place. Instead, he had been checking his lambs by long-distance from the road. On further questioning, Zumie learned that the nine hundred ewes on the adjoining ranch were losing many

of their lambs because their owner had only been showing up once a week during the lambing season. Zumie deduced that dogs and inadequate feed, not the eagles, were the main killers of both the adult sheep and the lambs. All the delectable carcasses littering the two ranches were attracting goldens as well as vultures, he concluded.

Zumie also noted that the condition of the range was less than ideal; he saw overgrazing and erosion. He pointed this out tactfully to the elder Martinelli, who said, "Look, we're getting out of the sheep business in a year or two. And I promise you that no more eagles will be shot on this ranch."

"How about hawks?"

"No hawks either!"

All of us, including Leroy, shook hands. This proved to be a turning point for ranchers in the area, since the Martinellis and McLean were well known.

In case they reneged, Zumie and I then formed a committee to "Protect the Soaring Birds of West Marin." We held three or four meetings, received a lot of publicity, and then disbanded since the killing had stopped. Two years later, to our joy, a Bald Eagle was spotted flying over Tomales Bay.

Today, there are probably no Bald Eagles breeding in Marin County. However, the nationwide count in 1993 was 4,016 pairs, along with several thousand juveniles. Many more eagles than that live in Alaska. With this comeback, the Bald Eagle is being reclassified not as endangered but as threatened, a less serious category, so the 1973 Endangered Species Act has worked for Bald Eagles as it has for gray whales along the Pacific Coast.

Golden Eagles were never on the endangered list. Occasionally, an individual bird has marauded the egret heronry and killed the young there, sending the heronry into decline.



Rancher Leroy Martinelli displays a Golden Eagle shot on his father's ranch on Tomales Bay. When this photograph appeared in the local paper, the public outcry marked a turning point in county sentiment. The shooting stopped and some of the ranchers' wives later became Ranch docents.



When Zumie and I were running around the county trying to save eagles, madrone trees, and salt marshes, the Pacific Sun labeled me the “nature doctor.” Here Zumie (left) and I are explaining to Frank Miller (center), Trustee for the Tamalpais School District, why this marsh should be cleaned up and saved for the Redwood High School students’ biology classes.

Illegal Logging on the Bolinas Ridge

To protect the Bolinas Lagoon watershed from erosion, we had to stop the logging that was planned for Dr. Ethel Righetti’s ranch on the Bolinas Ridge in 1969. This bitter fight came just two years after we had given Kent Island and its perimeter to the county as a park. Because the county now controlled the lagoon, all five county supervisors, led by Peter Arrigoni, came into this battle with guns blazing. They assigned Doug Maloney, our astute county counsel, and county planner Sol Silver, to lead the battle against ridgetop logging. Their work led to a new Logging and Quarrying Ordinance for all of Marin County, one of the first of its kind in the state and a regulation that became a model for other counties.

Dr. Righetti’s heavily timbered property sat above the Olema Valley, which was created by the unstable San Andreas fault. Because the ranch straddled the valley’s divide, half of it drained southward into Bolinas Lagoon three miles away and the other half drained northward to Tomales Bay, seven miles away. If the logging weren’t stopped, silt from erosion could partly fill the two bays we were fighting to save. Clerin Zumwalt and Howie Allen, Ranch chairman, were assigned to represent the Ranch.

For \$500,000, Dr. Righetti had quietly sold the logging rights on her ranch to the Matthews Walker Timber Company of Coos Bay, Oregon. In April 1969, that company set up two portable sawmills and started cutting

furiously, planning to take ten million board feet from the property. They did a sloppy job and started a fire. Sol Silver nailed them because they had no permit for a sawmill, and the supervisors promptly enacted a ninety-day freeze so they could write a new ordinance. Before this, however, two hundred West Mariners held a funeral march for the trees. Some lay down, blocking Highway 1, and several, including Planning Commissioner Mel Harris's son, went to jail.

The logging firm fought back. They hired Dr. Paul Zinke of the University of California Department of Forestry, who stated, "This is one of the *best* logging operations I've ever seen." The county retained Bob Burge, also a UC forester, who stated, "This is one of the *worst* logging operations I've ever seen."

Arrigoni asked Zinke, "Won't all the churned-up soil go into the Bolinas Lagoon?"

"Sure," said Zinke, "And so will all of Mr. Tamalpais and the Bolinas Ridge. It's natural for the lagoon to fill up with silt."

Arrigoni countered, "Well, let's not accelerate it."

Finally, the case went to trial in Alameda, where Dr. Righetti lived. Maloney, noted for his jugular approach, filed criminal charges against Dr. Righetti and the loggers. The most important expert testimony on the soil erosion question was that of Clerin Zumwalt, who, according to Maloney, won the decision for Marin County.

In his best Kansas drawl, Zumie told about the men who had cleared these forests for logs and firewood a century before, and about the Irish potato farmers who had plowed the land straight up and down. He showed photos of land slides from previous logging operations. His story, entirely scientific, was so entertaining that the court was spellbound,

and the judge ruled for the county.

Later, Maloney took the logging battle to the state and got it to change the "outrageous" logging rules that had been made by owners of timberlands themselves. Commercial logging never resumed in Marin County.

Anarchy in Fairfax

Fairfax lies on the eastern side of the Bolinas Ridge and is reached from the west by a steep road starting at the Canyon Ranch. It is a rustic town



Tenacious women, young and old, are why Marin County has preserved its open space, bay lands and farm lands. The old milking barn, now Zumwalt Gallery, displays the history of West Marin and Audubon Canyon Ranch.

with steep narrow streets and spectacular views of Mt. Tamalpais and its tree-covered ridges. Today its citizens are outspoken environmentalists, but that was not so twenty-five years ago. News of our success in stopping eagle shooting spread, and a year later I dragged Zumie into another confrontation. Frank Egger, a Fairfax councilman, had called to tell me that Fairfax Mayor Sousa had marked forty-two madrones in the Fairfax City Park for felling because they had “peely bark.” This is a natural condition, but County Agricultural Commissioner Allan Ballard had pronounced the trees “dead or dying.” Egger also told me that the trees were to be cut by relatives of the mayor for firewood.

Nothing raises my blood pressure like the cutting of a ruddy bark madrone, one of California’s most beautiful native trees and essential for insect and bird habitat. I rose to the bait, picked up Zumie, and off we went to the Fairfax Park where a chainsaw was already whining on a yellow-ribboned tree. Zumie inspected the trees and pronounced them healthy. The tree cutter, an unemployed electrician, admitted that peely bark was normal. He said he would go with us and talk to the mayor. Mayor Sousa wasn’t in, but Egger was there, and said, “I’ll convey the wonderful news to the mayor that all the trees are healthy.”

Zumie and I then wrote to Mayor Sousa on our impressive Ranch stationery, laced with the names of well-known attorneys and citizens, and sent copies to Ballard and some county agencies. We urged that tree cutting be halted and that the native trees along the creek be preserved. It turned out that Sousa had intended to cut bay trees there also, and to straighten out the stream.

We had the letters hand-delivered to key people and urged the recipients to phone Sousa that evening. The strategy worked. Sousa, angry as hell, stopped the cutting and referred to us in the press as “anarchists.”

For more than thirty years Clerin Zumwalt exemplified the spirit of Audubon Canyon Ranch. He was known as the “Sage of Marin County” and helped upgrade its environmental ethic through his scientific knowledge and engaging style. Like Bugs Cain and many other naturalists I’ve known, he was an unabashed protector of wildlife and wild places. Zumie died on Earth Day, April 22, 1996, at age eighty-five. A memorial service was held in Volunteer Canyon where his friends and family gathered to celebrate his life. His ashes are scattered near Alis’ Tree, a century-old Douglas fir named for his wife.



The Ranch has always fed its volunteers well, whether at our annual Mother’s Day barbecues, periodic fundraisers, board meetings, or special events like this 1969 dedication of the Ranch as a National Landmark.



Training the Troops

Recruit and train your troops to carry on when you wear out.

—State Senator Peter Behr of Marin County

Audubon Canyon Ranch was originally concerned with purchasing ranches, establishing wildlife preserves, educating the public, and fighting freeways. But it soon became apparent that our preserves on the Bolinas Lagoon, and later on Tomales Bay, could end up as isolated islands of beauty in a sea of mediocre sprawl so typical of urban California. To prevent this nightmare the Ranch adopted in 1968 a radical shift in policy as yet untried in California: recommending that the entire watersheds of Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay (and later the entire county) be managed to protect their ecological quality. To do this it was necessary to train people who could influence county and state agencies and political bodies on the ecosystem approach to land management practices.

I jumped headlong into the county planning process as chair of the county's Environmental Health Committee for West Marin and a member of the county's new Environmental Quality Committee whose intent was to develop a new Marin Countywide Plan based on ecology.

To help accomplish these ambitious goals, the Ranch created two strategically complementary training programs: first, the Docent Program in Nature Education; and second, the more politically oriented Environmental Forum of Marin. The latter was the first effort in the state to actively train leaders in environmental advocacy and environmental health.

From these two training programs have emerged some nine hundred citizen planners who have become wildlife educators, guides, political leaders, county supervisors, state health officers, agency directors, naturalists, and Ranch board members. Both courses teach the students that ecological quality and sound land-use planning are essential for human health and a healthy environment.

Stan Picher was a genius at securing funding and new talent to greatly

Audubon Canyon Ranch naturalist Ray Peterson trains and entertains Ranch docents in the magnificent outdoor classroom of Volunteer Canyon.



Each spring, students and Ranch visitors can view the mating and nesting behavior of egrets and herons from the Henderson Overlook. In the distance is Kent Island, Bolinas, and the Pacific Ocean beyond. Natural history is taught by trained Docents, Guides, and Ranch Hosts—all volunteers.

expand the Ranch's training programs. On March 18, 1969, at the dedication of the Audubon Canyon Ranch as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service, we took the opportunity to launch our new docent program.

We held a chicken barbecue behind the cowbarn in the Ranch yard for three hundred distinguished guests. There, after the Park Service dedication, it was my privilege as chair to announce that the Junior League of San Francisco had granted \$44,608 to the Ranch for a training program for Ranch docents. "Stan Picher" I said, "will be supervising the three year program." The crowd went wild with applause.

Behind us, the heronry that had made this wonderful gift possible was in full display with stunning white egrets descending into their nests in the redwood grove.

Stan then explained to the crowd in his crisp and excited manner, "In addition to operating the sanctuary, the Ranch's other mission is education. Last spring there were twenty thousand visitors to the Ranch, with many classes of school children. This great expansion of visitors has created a need for a high quality interpretive program."

Stan never did things in a small way. He continued, "These activities will

require trained docents, who will become part of the Audubon Canyon Ranch Volunteer Council, to lead tours at the Ranch and staff the office, a nature store, a display room, and a heronry overlook. School children and teachers will be educated by docents with slide shows in their own classrooms before they visit the Ranch. In addition, volunteer docents trained in nature education will be placed in cooperating conservation organizations, sanctuaries, and parks.”

The Ranch hired Mrs. Rembert (Remmy) Kingsley, a well-known environmental educator, to develop the course. Notices of the course were sent to the media, and out of seventy applications, forty qualified people were selected. Thus was born the first annual docent training course of the Audubon Canyon Ranch Volunteer Council. Over twenty-five years, some four hundred women and men have been trained. Many of these volunteers have become strong supporters of the Ranch programs, have contributed to its funding, and have served on its board and committees. They also provided a powerful constituency intent on saving Marin County.

Docent training programs are now alternated between the Bouverie Audubon Preserve in Glen Ellen and the Bolinas Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch. Here is the schedule of the first docent class:

- Lecture 1*—Ecology of Bays and Lagoons, Harold Gilliam
Field Trips: Kent Island Salt Marsh, Bolinas Lagoon
- Lecture 2*—Concept of an Ecosystem
Field Trip: San Francisco Bay Tour
- Lecture 3*—Natural History of Herons and Egrets of Bolinas Lagoon, Clerin Zumwalt
- Take-home Examination*

By 1997 the course had expanded to twenty training sessions and field trips led by experts in their field and coordinated by graduates Cia Donahue, Betsy Stafford, Jeni Jackson, and Patti Blumin.

Skip Schwartz—CEO

As proof of the quality of the Ranch’s docent training course, an early graduate, Maurice “Skip” Schwartz, has become one of California’s foremost



Edris Cole (left) was our only paid office staff in the early years, running the day-to-day operations and later the bookstore for thirty years. Skip Schwartz (right) and his late wife Karen were both graduates of the Ranch’s docent training program. Skip has been our Ranch Manager since 1974.

wildlife sanctuary administrators. For more than two decades he and his family have lived in the historic Bourne house, from which he has overseen the growth of Audubon Canyon Ranch's educational and scientific programs. The annual budget has grown twenty-fold; his staff now numbers fourteen, including three full-time naturalists, and the Ranch endowment fund is growing to ensure long-term fiscal responsibility.

Skip has made sure that the wilderness areas and wildlife habitats in his care are protected, that necessary property is purchased, historic structures are restored, and new ones are constructed in a manner that befits the purpose of Audubon Canyon Ranch and preserves natural habitats.

Skip has overseen the many committee and board meetings that are needed to make a complex organization of this size succeed. He has established effective relations with the community, other environmental groups, and with the four Audubon branches that are the sponsoring backbone of Audubon Canyon Ranch.

In 1996 the Ranch celebrated its 35th anniversary with a formal party where ACR president Len Blumin, Skip, Zumie and I were all dressed in tuxedos, a far cry from our early years.



Debbie Ablin and Nancy Barbour have been active on the Ranch Board since 1962, providing long-term stability and common sense. Their husbands were my medical colleagues.

Creation of The Environmental Forum of Marin

During the battle for Tomales Bay we decided that every county needs an Environmental Forum, whose purpose is to give people the scientific edge and political training needed to defend their environment. Since its founding in 1972, The Environmental Forum of Marin has selected and trained more than 550 citizens to be effective and influential spokespeople on environmental issues that are usually political in nature.

The need for The Environmental Forum was obvious to Stan Picher and me. At crucial Tomales Bay hearings, we couldn't rally our troops to speak; they didn't know the issues. However, we still urged them to attend as "noddors and frowners." It often boiled down to only a few people who could square off with our opponents, which included some nasty supervisors and developers.

The Environmental Forum of Marin was born at a meeting of Audubon Canyon Ranch board members Stan Picher, Mary Belle Van Voorhees, Howie

Allen, Clerin Zumwalt and me. Miraculously, the Junior League of San Francisco *again* granted the Ranch \$44,000 for three years. Entirely separate from their nature education grant, these funds enabled us to employ Remmy Kingsley again. She developed and taught the first course, assisted by Ginny Havel, Nona Dennis, Kathy Cuneo, Phyllis Faber, Maggie and David Cavagnaro, and Ray Peterson. The latter three became full-time Ranch naturalists, Ray for fourteen years. Phyllis later became a founder of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust, chair of the North Central Coastal Commission, and editor of the California Native Plant Society bulletin, *Fremontia*.

Later, the Forum became independent of Audubon Canyon Ranch in order to give it freedom to take political action. For its first three years, the Forum concentrated its training on the Tomales Bay watershed, with field trips using the new Countywide Plan and the new environmental studies of Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay by the Conservation Foundation. Ian McHarg's book, *Design With Nature*, was required reading.

I was the first beneficiary of the Forum course when I ran for director of the Marin Municipal Water District in 1973, and Pam Lloyd of the first Forum class was my campaign manager. She succeeded me on the water board and later became a director of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Many other graduates have had effective environmental careers, and some have been elected to office, including Senator Barbara Boxer. Karin Urquhart became the president and later the executive director of the Marin Conservation League, retiring in 1995. She was succeeded by Jerry Edelbrock, a professional planner and educator. In 1997 the Forum celebrated twenty five years of making environmental history in Marin (*see Appendix*).

Today the Forum course is self-supporting, operated by volunteers who train thirty students a year. The Forum publishes a quarterly bulletin, holds graduation ceremonies, and has an active four-hundred-person phone tree. Every trainee is expected to become an expert in one area of conservation. Zumie and I were made honorary lifetime members in 1992.

The troops are also reaching out to start forums in other counties. Marin Supervisor Harry Moore and his wife, Callita, both graduates, along with officers Julie Grantz and Karol Raymer, helped create a similar model in Sonoma County in 1995 focusing on Russian River water supply issues, which concern both counties.



Ray Peterson (left) and John Kelly are professional, well-trained naturalists and scientists. Ray manages the education program at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve, and John heads the ACR scientific program with headquarters at Cypress Grove Preserve.