

MILL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL WALK INTO HISTORY

**TAMALPAIS HIGH SCHOOL
100th ANNIVERSARY**

Guidebook

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008

Co-hosted by Tamalpais High School

TO THE GUIDES:

This is the 31st year that the Mill Valley Historical Society has organized a Walk Into History thanks to the efforts of many volunteers working throughout the year as well as on the day of the Walk.

Guides are special volunteers with a responsibility to provide a group of walkers with an interesting, informative, enjoyable and safe experience.

Several guides have been leading these walks for many years. The fact that they continue to volunteer to be a guide is an indication of their enjoyment and commitment.

If this is your first year as a guide, we welcome you and hope you will find as much pleasure in learning and sharing the history of Mill Valley as the old timers do.

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TIPS FOR GUIDES

Thank you for being a Walk-Into-History guide. Welcome to those who are leading a walk for the first time. We hope you enjoy the experience as much as the returning guides who tell us they look forward to the experience.

To be a successful guide requires a commitment of time, energy and preparation. The objective is to provide good leadership and well-presented historical information. It is essential that you have the desire and devotion to offer your group an informative and enjoyable Walk-Into-History. The following instructions can make your job easier:

1. Read the guidebook several times to familiarize yourself with its contents. You will be better able to energize your presentation and connect with your audience if you impart the information in your own words.
2. Practice the walk several times. Each guide is required to go on two walks that are conducted by a guide trainer. You should also do one or more practice walks with a friend who can give you feedback on your presentation.
3. Be a strong leader. Keep your group together. At each stop, face the group with your back to what you are describing. Make eye contact.
4. Try to cover as much guidebook information as you can and focus on what you believe is particularly interesting at each stop.
5. Do not read from the guidebook. Use it primarily for reference only. Tell the story, show pertinent photos and encourage comments and questions. When appropriate, resort to checking the Guidebook.
6. Welcome any information that walkers may wish to contribute. Make a note of it and pass it on to the guide leader, Barbara Ford, after the walk.
7. There may be Tam High graduates in your group who have interesting anecdotes to relate. This type of discussion should generally be encouraged.
8. Try to avoid groups ahead and behind your group. Speed up or slow down by covering some information before or after the stop where it should be related.

Guides and walkers have enjoyed the annual Walk Into History for three decades. Good luck, have fun and enjoy the experience of leading a group of walkers interested in the history of Tamalpais High School.

Lead the group south along the path about 50 ft.

STOP #1 About 50 ft. from the Registration Area (near the refuse receptacle)

Start by providing an introduction and overview.

INTRODUCTION

This year marks the 31st Walk Into History sponsored by the Mill Valley Historical Society. Lucretia Hansen Little had been Mill Valley's Town Clerk and official historian. In 1977, illness forced her to retire and move away. A group of interested people established a Historical Society. Their primary goal was to make available all historical material relating to Mill Valley, including the invaluable collection of books, pictures and documents collected by Mrs. Little. Other goals established at the outset were:

1. Work for the library in all matters relating to the History Room
2. Take responsibility for the popular First Wednesday Programs
3. Continue the Oral History Program

Today we will walk through the campus of Tamalpais High School, stopping 20 times to discuss a particular aspect of its history. Fortunately, at several of the stops on our walk there are information plaques usually with a historical photograph. The time required is about 1-1/2 to 2 hours. The total distance is less than 1000 yards.

Introduce yourself and determine how many in your group attended Tam High.

OVERVIEW

The objective is to celebrate the centennial of Tamalpais High School by learning about its history. The school's first day of class was August 3, 1908. The initial enrollment of seventy students came from Mill Valley and Sausalito. There were 40 Freshmen, 21 Sophomores, 5 Juniors and 4 Seniors. The new school began its existence in a temporary four-room windowless, canvas-roofed wooden structure right here on this hill. It was quickly dubbed, "The Shack." The principal was Mr. E. E. Wood. We will hear a great deal about him during our tour.

A wing of the main building opened, unfinished, on September 21, 1908, and the students were finally settled and away from the wind, heat and dust encountered in "The Shack."

This is the oldest high school site in continuous use in Marin County. San Rafael High School is older as an institution, but it didn't assume its present location until 1924.

Today we see a campus that is truly unique, much more like a university than a typical high school. We'll try to describe how the campus developed over than last 100 years. In addition to buildings, we'll also talk about teachers and events.

Proceed further along the path to the Senior Bench

STOP #2 At the Senior Bench

Although the Senior Bench has been moved and replaced during its history, it is still painted every year by the senior class. Before Tam High, Mill Valley students went to San Rafael High School, taking the 7:45 am train.

In conjunction with construction of the school, a train stop platform was built down there on the other side of the gym, and train service began on August 5, 1908, two days after the school's first day. The 8:17 am train from Sausalito and the 8:45 am train from Mill Valley stopped at the school in the morning as did the first trains after 3 pm in both directions. When train

service ended in September, 1940, a fleet of 14 yellow busses was purchased to transport students to school. In 1954, school bus service ended except for the Bolinas/Stinson Beach run. During the late 1960s, a blue U.S. Air Force bus brought students from the Radar Station on top of Mt. Tamalpais.

In the foreground is the George Gustafson Gymnasium. To the right is the boys' locker room. Further to the right is the swimming pool. Behind the gym are portables which began to arrive in 2003, displacing parking and tennis courts to allow the start of one of the country's most significant public-school modernizations. These temporary buildings will be removed after construction of the new Keyser Hall is complete, probably in 2009.

In the far distance are the present day playing fields for soccer, baseball, softball, football, lacrosse and track. The football field and track recently re-opened with state-of-the-art synthetic surfaces. In 1917, Gerard Wendering was hired as a woodshop teacher and appointed director of physical education. The athletic field came to be known a Lake Wendering when it flooded as it often did until it was elevated in 1924.

In the far distance to the left is a 1950s development known as Enchanted Knolls. When this was a dairy ranch owned by Roque Moraes, Tam boys made a big "T" with lime on the hillside. It was clearly visible from here. Before each football game, a rival team would attempt to replace the "T" with its own letter. Tam students spent many cold and sleepless nights guarding the "T".

The gym was built in 1923 and named Wood Auditorium. Students helped build it because the School Board would not finance it. Our next stop will be at the entrance to the gym where we will learn more about its history.

While we are here, we should point out that before the Richardson Bay bridge was built in 1931, the main highway north from Sausalito through Marin County, passed between the gym and the rest of the campus. The railroad was on the north side of the gym, and the highway went past the front of the building.

Descend steps and proceed to the entrance to Gustafson Gym

STOP #3 At plaque about George Gustofson

We just crossed the sidewalk where the County Road used to be. Before the highway was rerouted, on a Sunday night at the end of a holiday weekend, cars waiting for the auto ferries at Sausalito were backed up to San Rafael. The County Road continued to be used for local traffic until the late 1950s when Miller Ave. was extended along the old railroad bed to Almonte Blvd.

This building is often referred to as 'Gus Gym.' George Gustafson coached football, baseball, tennis and swimming for 37 years starting in 1933. The gym was dedicated to him when he retired in 1971. In 1994 it was seismically upgraded. In 2006 it was renovated.

Scenes in the 1973 film, "American Graffiti" were shot in this gym. Remember the high school sock hop? Writer/director George Lucas lived in a house up on the top of the ridge behind the school at 958 Vernal Ave. in Homestead Valley. He and his wife Marcia edited the film in a

small editing room in the attic. This is where he got his start. Look where his empire is today. The tradition of an annual American Graffiti sock hop was begun in 2004. The most recent one was held in September 2007.

In 1924, students raised \$4500 in one week for an indoor swimming pool. It was built atop a barge floated in as fill. It became known as "The Tank." In the early 1940s, the pool was emptied during a high tide and the deep end rose about 3 feet like a boat. Having been built on the marsh, its own weight caused it to sink gradually. In 1957, it was condemned as unsafe and closed. Today's outdoor pool opened in 1958.

Students also constructed the tennis courts.

Proceed south along the pool building to the Memorial Garden

STOP #4 In the Memorial Garden

This beautiful garden with tables and benches was originally dedicated in 1992 to Tam Science teacher Gerald Vanoni. It is currently dedicated to Sarah Spiegelman a 17- year old student who was murdered in Golden Gate Park on March 17, 1983. A schizophrenic man was incensed that Sarah was eating lunch with a black male colleague. He shot both of them, killing her and wounding the man.

Next to us is Palmer Hall, built in 1963 and named for Raymond Palmer, Science Department Chairman from 1927 to 1959. Principal E. E. Wood's house which predated the school was right here on the County Road, the main highway north through Marin. Mr. Wood had four daughters. A redwood tree was planted next to his house at the birth of each daughter. When Mr. Wood built a new house up on the hill, the school district bought the old one and remodeled it as the Domestic Arts Building. Palmer Hall came later. The trees survive.

Mr. Wood was called "The Duke." How did he acquire that appellation? In the early years, he taught history. To illustrate a point he once said, "If Miss Keyser were the duchess and I were the duke..." From then on he was called "The Duke."

The major construction project here is for a new Keyser Hall. The original plan was to upgrade the old building in conjunction with other renovation projects approved for Tam High. Careful investigation of Keyser Hall turned up mold problems caused by its having been built on top of a spring. It was concluded that it would be more economic to demolish the building and construct a new one. At the same time, to satisfy ADA (American Disability Act) requirements, a tower elevator is to be constructed adjacent to the new Keyser Hall.

In 1924, Mr. Wood named the largest classroom building Keyser Hall in honor of Miss Elizabeth Keyser. Actually there was Lower Keyser built in 1922 and upper Keyser built in 1924. Miss Keyser was Tam's first teacher in 1908 and in 1924 she was head of the English Department. A San Francisco native and graduate of the University of California, Miss Keyser taught at Tam for 40 years. In the early years she also taught sewing, sponsored the school paper, and directed many of the senior plays. She retired in 1947, three years after Mr. Wood, and last of the four original staff.

In April 1971, a bomb went off in the boys' washroom on the ground floor of Keyser Hall, slightly injuring a sophomore girl in a French class hit by flying glass when a classroom window was blown out. It followed a bombing four days earlier at the downtown Mill Valley branch of the Bank of America. A student at the high school was later arrested for both incidents.

Continue south along the pool building past the girls' locker room to the entrance to the Ruby Scott Auditorium and Gymnasium.

STOP #5 At plaque about Ruby Scott

On May 1, 1957, the school board dedicated this building and officially named it "The New Girls Gymnasium of Ruby Scott Auditorium." Ruby Scott taught Latin (also Greek and French) from 1913 to 1957. Until the Golden Gate and Bay bridges were erected in the late 1930s, her commute from Berkeley involved taking a streetcar from her home to the San Francisco ferry, then the Sausalito ferry and finally the train to Tam High. The commute was repeated in reverse each evening when she would correct papers on the ferry trips.

Ruby Scott made learning Latin fun by holding an annual Roman Dinner. In 1935, the two thousandth anniversary of Horace, everyone appeared in costume at the cafeteria at 4 pm, the Roman tenth hour and regular Roman dinner time. The second, third and fourth year students were guests and were served by slaves (the freshmen). As each guest arrived, a slave reminded him to enter with the right foot, a Roman custom. The banquet hall was the beautifully decorated cafeteria, at one end of which was a laurel wreath with the letters, S.P.Q.R., the symbol of Rome. The guests were served a menu of Roman dishes beginning with eggs and ending with apples. After an address of welcome and the singing of "Gaudeamus Igitur," four slaves led by a flute player walked around the tables holding high above their heads a large platter of "Avis Afra," the bird served as the main course. The guests ate their meal with a spoon—no knives or forks being allowed. Horace's Ninth Satire, "The Bore," was presented in pantomime as was Horace's Ninth Ode, "The Lovers' Quarrel."

In 1960, the building was renovated to improve gymnasium equipment and to provide an upgraded stage and a large seating capacity for shows and meetings.

Ruby Rowena Scott (1890 – 1977) was indeed a remarkable teacher. Her evenings at home involved preparing lesson plans for the next day with personal dedication to each student's paper. Excellence was appreciated and rewarded when she found it in a student, and excellence was demanded of herself, by herself. The many years of such dedication became a way of life. After her retirement she spent time in her Berkeley home enjoying music and books. Former students wrote and called from all over the world. It was not unusual to receive a letter starting, "I did not realize until now what a great influence you have been on my life." One student upon hearing that she had terminal cancer offered to pay all her medical expenses should she need assistance. However, the offer was not necessary—she was cared for in her own home, as she wished, by her family.

Turn right and proceed up hill past the Science Building, Palmer Hall and the new Daniel Caldwell Theater to the Mary Baker Student Union Building

STOP #6 In front of the Student Center

Tam's drama conservatory, the Ensemble Theater Company (ETC), was formed in 1976 by former student and teacher Dan Caldwell. ETC expanded its presence to include Redwood High School and Drake High School in the mid 1980's. The new Daniel Caldwell Performing Arts Center features a new 10,000 square foot multi-use theatre building as well as significant upgrades and renovations to Ruby Scott Auditorium. The Center was completed in 2006. ETC was renamed the Conservatory Theatre Ensemble (CTE) in 1994. CTE is an award winning theatre education program that spans a four year sequence of training in all aspects of theatre. 350 students are enrolled in ten Drama classes where they learn that success is the result of effective collaboration, or ensemble, of actors, directors, technicians, backstage crew, playwrights, guest artists and teachers.

The student center was completed in 1972 and dedicated to Mary Baker, who spent 40 years at Tam, as a student (class of 1932), teacher of English, History and Girl's Physical Education, Dean of Girls, and finally Assistant Principal. The building includes a cafeteria and offices for various student and sports activities. It also serves as a place to hang out. Before the student center was built, lunches were served at a snack bar on the side of the Ruby Scott Auditorium. The original cafeteria was located on the first floor of the main building, now Wood Hall.

Mary Baker (1915 – 1972) was the daughter of Alex and Mary McCurdy who were both born in Bolinas. They moved to Hill Ranch in Homestead Valley in 1921. Alex McCurdy (1875 – 1936) became Mill Valley's town marshal in 1925 and then chief of police until 1935. Mary McCurdy (later Baker) and her brother, William McCurdy grew up on the ranch.

Bill McCurdy (class of 1933) was a track star at both Tam and Stanford. He frequently ran in the Dipsea Race—he had the best time in 1941. During WW II, Captain William McCurdy scored a record-breaking 692 out of a possible 700 points in the army's physical efficiency tests. He went on to coach track and field at Harvard University from 1949 to 1982. After his retirement, Harvard dedicated McCurdy Track, its new track facility in 1985.

Proceed up hill to the old bus barn

STOP #7 In front to the bus barn

In the 1970s, this bus barn housed school busses. Before that, there was a house on the site which fronted on Homestead Blvd. The house had originally been on the County Road below Keyser Hall. It was a residence for the school custodian who could observe the campus at all hours. In 1945, Ralph Hoetger and his family moved into the house. After having worked in the Sausalito shipyards during WW II, Ralph got the custodian's job at Tam which required him and his family live in the house. Later on he became the first Director of Maintenance and Operations for the whole school district. He oversaw construction of Drake in 1951 and Redwood in 1958. He retired in 1966 and the house was torn down in 1970.

Two daughters and a son grew up in the house. Conrad, who later became a teacher at Tam says, "The house was a wonderful place to grow up. The backyard was the school campus. I played and hung out at the athletic fields, gyms and pool all the time. It kept me out of trouble."

In 1926, landscape architects laid out the grounds. The head gardener, Mr. Ferrario, made the campus a garden showcase. He was succeeded by Dick Luoni and then Pietro (Pete) Casagrande, who worked for Ralph Hoetger. Pete was famous for strictly enforcing the previously established rule of not allowing students to walk nor sit on the grass. Gray Line tours on the way to Muir Woods would stop at Tam to view "the most beautiful campus in California." The 1949 PAI was dedicated to Pete Casagrande and Jimmy Milani, another caretaker of the grounds.

Continue on past the portable and the back of Woodruff Hall on the right to Mead Amphitheater

STOP #8 At the Mead Amphitheater Plaque

Tam's unique Greek Theatre was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1936. It is reportedly the largest amphitheater of its kind on any high school campus. Note the brass plaque in concrete next to Mead Amphitheater plaque.

It is named for Ernest E. Mead (1873-1954) who was president of the board of trustees of Tamalpais Union High School from 1921 to 1941. He had gone to MIT, been in the coast guard, fought in Cuba during the Spanish American war, and was a project engineer at Marinship during WW II. Mr. Wood felt that he was one of Tam's most loyal supporters. The theater was built over an old creek bed which angled down through the campus and under the Student Center. The seating capacity is about 2500 students.

Commencement exercises have taken place here for over seventy years. Graduates usually sat in the front row. When it came time to receive their diplomas, they walked up and across the stage one by one.

The wooden stage which was used for over 50 years was torn down in 1975 because of dry rot damage. The Tam High Alumni Association plans to rebuild the stage when their fund raising drive is complete. Two mural panels, 13 ft. x 6.5 ft. were mounted on either side of the

stage. The artist was William Jurgen Hesthal (1905-1955) of the WPA Workers on Art project. Depicted were laughing and sad drama masks. The panels are stored in a building on campus. A fund raising effort is underway to restore them as well as the stage.

Benefield Hall is named for Glidden Benefield, athletic director and head of Boy's Physical Education department. The building once housed Drafting and later Photography. It became the home of the Drama department in the mid-nineties, but is no longer in use.

Proceed up hill to Woodruff Hall

STOP #9 At Entrance to Woodruff Hall

Woodruff Hall, built in the late 1920s, is named for Mrs. Margaret Swan Woodruff, head of the history department and founder of the Honor T Society. She retired in 1950 to see history rather than teach it; she and her husband went on a trailer tour of North America. The building is now home to the Math Department.

The original high school district was formed by the union of the Sausalito and Mill Valley Elementary School Districts. Mill Valley representatives on the Tamalpais Union High School District Board of Trustees were John Newbegin, Michael O'Shaughnessy and Clinton Folger. The first meeting was held on September 20, 1906. The board selected a site for the school in March 1907 and subsequently hired principal/teacher, Mr. E.E. Wood, and three other teachers: Elizabeth Keyser (English, Commercial), Grace Pack (Science) and Shone Kurlandzik (French, German, Latin).

In a conference between the school board and the principal in May 1908, the board expressed the desire to have as practical a school as possible. Mr. Wood agreed with the board on this point and explained his theory that every course should be linked up with some practical problem of the day. Mr. Wood had no trouble fulfilling their expectations. He was born in a covered wagon as his New England parents crossed Kansas. After his father died, he supported his mother and himself by building stone walls and doing carpentry work. His two most cherished possessions were his carpenter's union card and the Phi Beta Kappa Key he received from The University of California.

Mr. Wood was an outstanding principal in many respects. In 1928, a Stanford professor made an in depth study of all the financial and operating data of the school from 1909 to 1927. His conclusion was, "Tamalpais High has been exceptionally well managed in matters of finance and business management."

Proceed up hill to Automotive Technology Building

STOP #10 At the Automotive Technology Building

In 1914, an automobile shop opened to repair cars for faculty and students. This was an integral part of the vocational training that boys could receive. It all started in 1911 with the establishment of a school within a school, the Tamalpais Union Polytechnic High School. Classes began in 1912 in bricklaying, cement work and carpentry. In 1913, an electric shop was built with ten forges for blacksmithing—it is now Phoenix Hall which we will see later.

In the summer of 1908, it became apparent that the original building would not be ready when school opened on August 3, 1908. Therefore, Mr. Wood himself supervised two carpenters and quickly erected the four room shack we mentioned at our first stop. On September 16th it commenced to rain, so the school moved into the new building, though the carpenter work and painting were not finished until a few days later.

Mr. Wood believed that students learned by doing and he encouraged them to do so. Both boys and girls were prepared upon graduation from Tam to enter their field immediately. There were courses in drafting, printing, machine shop, cosmetology, auto shop, horticulture, brick laying, concrete work, carpentry, wood shop, electricity, and blacksmithing.

After a bond issue failed in 1909, Mr. Wood decided to put up a small building for mechanical work. Boys helped build the back of the commercial building, now Hoetger Hall.

From 1910 on, boys built furniture and other equipment for the school. From 1912 on, girls in Domestic Science classes did the cooking for the cafeteria. The Drawing department which had 10 courses designed articles for the shop to make. All sketches and blueprints used in the construction of the buildings were prepared by the Drawing department. Every art course was connected with practical use. Fashion shows every year featured dresses designed by the girls. The Commercial and Printing Departments did a great deal of work for the school.

Until the 1940s, only a small percentage of the graduates went on to college. Most went to work upon graduation from Tam High. Mr. Wood made sure they were prepared and in many cases highly trained for a specific trade.

Proceed up the ramp on the left to the Print Shop

STOP #11 At the Print Shop and Greenwood Music Hall

When a one room wooden building was put up on the hill in 1927 for the use of the music department, the janitor, Mr. Albert Binns, who was quite a wag, started calling it a "band box" which was what one called a hat box or something used to carry cleaning. The building was later moved to a site below Woodruff Hall where it became Tam's Cosmetology department. The new "Band Box" is part of the building constructed in 1940 that also houses Graphic Arts/Photography and the Auto Shop. In 1996, the "Band Box" was officially designated the Robert Greenwood Music Hall, after Tam's long-time Music director.

In July 1980, members of the Tam orchestra competed in the annual Youth in Arts competition in Vienna, Austria. Their skill and concentration were rewarded with a first-place win.

The Print Shop printed the first issue of the "Tamalpais Daily" in 1910. This was followed by a weekly, and in 1917, a semi-monthly paper. By 1927, the students produced the entire publication by linotyping.

In 1925, the yearbook was printed in the Print Shop, and later on, both printing and binding were done in the Print Shop. The yearbook is called the PAI, taken from the penultimate three letters in Tamalpais.

One of the most finished pieces of work to be produced was the little literary magazine, “The Focus”, put out by Miss Keyser’s journalism classes, beginning in 1925. In 1930, 900 copies were printed. The magazine consisted of 50 pages and sold for ten cents a copy.

Proceed to the top of Mead Theatre

STOP #12 At the top of Mead Amphitheater

From this vantage point we can get an idea of what the view of the stage would have been like from the top row during performances and graduation exercises. At graduation, students wore cap and gown, white for girls and black for boys.

In 1923, girls by an overwhelming vote adopted a uniform. It consisted of a pleated blue skirt, a white middie with a blue collar and a black tie—seniors wore a red tie. In the 1930s, they adopted a blue slip-on and a blue tuxedo sweater, either of which was acceptable. Girls wore the uniform daily, with the exception of once a month when, if they had a good excuse, they could wear “civilian clothes.”

Mead Theatre is at the edge of the campus. The homes on the other side of the street are in the unincorporated community of Almonte. The street, Homestead Boulevard, dates to the last half of the 19th century. It’s main use was a milk run. Dairies in the hills to the west shipped milk by horse drawn wagons down to the train stop and thence to Sausalito and on to San Francisco by ferry. The Tamalpais Land & Water Co, Map No. 3, 1892, shows Homestead Boulevard beginning behind the high school at Almonte Blvd., formerly the County Road which we talked about earlier. On the west end, Homestead Blvd. is now Amaranth Blvd. which ends at Sequoia Valley Road. Today, most of Homestead Blvd. is an impassible paper street overgrown with vegetation. It is the boundary between the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the unincorporated community of Homestead Valley.

Before 1908, a roadhouse was built at the junction of Homestead Boulevard and the County Road. It was called The Canteen. Motorists stopped there for refreshments such as hotdogs, hamburgers, cokes and milk shakes. It later became a lunch time hangout for Tam High students who liked to smoke. It had a bad reputation. “Nice” kids wouldn’t be seen there.

Students living on the hills of Mill Valley often used steps, lanes and paths to get down to the train stations and bus stops to get to Tam. For example, those coming down from the Middle Ridge would take the Madrona Steps or the Barnard Steps to get to the depot. Some kids could walk directly to the school. Across Homestead Blvd. from Mead Theater is a path leading up to Morningsun Ave. and then on up to California Ave. which leads to Five Corners high up on the ridge. Who knows, perhaps George Lucas walked down from his home on top of the ridge at 958 Vernal Ave. to Gus gym where he was directing the filming of American Graffiti.

Proceed past the Wood Shop on the right, turn left and pass the Ceramics Building on the left, then go down the ramp past Phoenix Hall to Freshman Court

STOP #13 in Freshman Court

The Wood Shop is a treasure of classic woodworking equipment. The Ceramics Building was once the Metal Shop. The area just behind it was occupied during World War II by a rotating "flight cockpit simulator," which was used to train pilots.

The building called Phoenix Hall was originally an electric shop built in 1913. Students carried such projects as installing cables under the county road to provide electricity for the swimming pool pumps. In 1928 there was an indoor rifle range behind the electric shop.

In the 1960s Phoenix Hall was an art metal shop. The building now has two classrooms. In the 1980's, a new program was created to help students who were struggling academically and emotionally. Students were selected for this program because they seemed to honestly want to help themselves. The program was called The Phoenix Program to acknowledge the "rebirth" of these students. The building came to be called the Phoenix Building.

Racial tensions during the 1960s are part of the history of Tam High. Things reached a climax on Tuesday afternoon September 24, 1963 with what was reported to be a race riot. There had been a fist fight on campus on Monday between a white and a black student, and another such fight on Tuesday morning. Tuesday afternoon, fifty students fought across the street in the Safeway parking lot. The brief but violent fistcuffs were quelled by faculty and police. Ten students were suspended. Principal Robert Prather said that the incident was a reflection on campus of national racial tensions.

Freshman Court was previously called the Sundial court. The sundial was dedicated in 1939 as a memorial to faculty members who had died either while still teaching or shortly after retirement. On Halloween in the mid-1960s, the sun dial mysteriously vanished. On Halloween 1985, it was delivered to the school office in a package with no return address.

During the 1970s and 1980s, when attendance reached 1800 students, two classroom trailers occupied the spot. Freshman Court was renovated in 1993.

Go to the east side of Freshman Court, descend the steps down to the alley, turn left and go through the iron grill gate and proceed to Hoetger Hall on the right

STOP #14 At Hoetger Hall

This building was built in 1909, right after the main building. It was initially called the Commercial Building or the Business Building. It is now named after Conrad Hoetger who made his imprint at Tam first as a basketball star in the late 1950s and later as a well-liked and respected teacher from 1967 to 1997. His father had been the custodian-campus supervisor during the 1940s and 1950s. Conrad grew up in the house on campus which we talked about at our stop at the old bus barn.

In 1912, there were seven departments: Commercial, English, Math, Modern Languages, Manual Training, Physical Training and Domestic Science. In 1917 there were 330 students, 9 departments, 30 courses and 17 teachers.

In 1923, the Tamalpais Union High School District, which encompassed only the Sausalito and Mill Valley School Districts, expanded to include the following school districts: San Anselmo, Fairfax, Ross, Kentfield, Corte Madera, Larkspur, Belvedere, Tiburon, and Bolinas. Students in these elementary school districts had been attending San Rafael High School. In 1921, the state had passed a law mandating elementary school districts to tie with a high school. Citizens in those districts voted, mostly by overwhelming majorities, to tie with the Tamalpais Union High School District rather than with the San Rafael High School District. The result was a large increase in both Tam's student body as well as its tax assessment base. By 1926, there were 952 students, 15 departments, 98 courses and 47 teachers.

"The Special", a five-car school train picked up students from Manor in Fairfax through the Ross Valley to Corte Madera. Busses brought students from Belvedere and Tiburon and from Bolinas and Stinson Beach.

A second abnormal increase in enrollment occurred in the 1940s. The war effort brought thousands of workers to Marinship in Sausalito. Black families from the south settled in Marin City and sent their kids to Tam High. The result was not only more students, but a change in the ethnic composition of the student body.

Proceed to Jean's Fountain in Orange Court

STOP #15 At Jean's Fountain in Orange Court

Sometime before World War I, four orange trees were planted in this court—only one has been replaced. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed the fountain in 1937. The workers named the statue, "Myrtle." Note the frogs and the fish sculptures.

In 1960, the fountain was dedicated to Jean Compton. In 1947 Jean, a popular 15-year old straight A student, contracted polio and spent months in an iron lung. A picture of her in an iron lung was used as a symbol for the March of Dimes. After becoming able to part company with the iron lung, she lived with her aunt in Santa Barbara, became an avid reader and took correspondence courses. In 1950, she received her graduation diploma from Tam High.

From here we have a good view of the Clock Tower which along with the Arches at street level provide a magnificent picture-perfect view of Tam High from Camino Alto. The original tower had Stars near the top on three sides. The clock in the tower of the original building was conceived and partially funded by the class of 1946 to honor Tam alumni who lost their lives in World War II. A plaque at the base of the tower which we will see later lists their names.

The Arches were designed and built in 1910 by the Shop students under the direction of Mr. Guillou, the Mechanical Drawing teacher.

Note the arches in many of the windows in Wood Hall. These were designed by students under the direction of Gerald T. Wendinger, head of the Mechanical Drawing Department who was responsible for designing many of the buildings at Tam.

Proceed to the southwest corner of Orange Court and enter Wood Hall, turn right, then right again to the Track and Field Records Panels

STOP #16 At the Track and Field Records Panels

These panels are the work of Mr. Bruce Grant, a social studies teacher and passionate track coach in the 1960s and 1970s. His class room was across the hall from the plaques. The plaques were originally hung in the Student Center.

Athletics has played a big role in the education of Tam High students, both boys and girls. Tam has competed in the Marin County Athletic League (MCAL) since the League was established in 1959. The MCAL is a member of the Marin-Sonoma-Mendocino Conference of the North Coast Section (NCS) of the California Interscholastic Federation. Four Tam coaches have been recognized as Honor Coaches at the North Coast Section: Bruce Grant (girls track, 1982); Janis Wood (girls track, 1985); Beth Juri (boys volleyball, 1997); and Don Smith (softball, 2003).

The MCAL currently offers competition in 21 sports including baseball, cross country, football, softball, swimming, track and field, and wrestling. Separate teams for boys and girls compete in basketball, golf, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, volleyball, and water polo.

Recent State and North Coast Section championships:

- * Varsity Football- MCAL State Champions 1994
- * Boys Track - North Coast Section Champions, 2006
- * Boys Basketball - State Champions in 2000
- * Boys Soccer - North Coast Section (NCS) Champions, 2000
- * Boys Water Polo - North Coast Section Champions, 1994
- * Girls Cross County - North Coast Section Champions, 1975

Football used to get a lot more attention than it does now. During the 1920s, bonfire rallies were held annually the night before the Big Game against San Rafael High. Football halftime shows would feature Tam's Marching Band (all male until 1937), the Tamettes Drill Team, and the Tam mascot, an Indian dressed in full feathered headdress with a tomahawk. In 1990, the Indian mascot was changed to the Hawk.

The Tam Marching Band was featured in the Woody Allen movie "Take the Money and Run." Tam teachers Dan Caldwell and Don Michaelion played a prison guard and a prisoner. In 1956, the rather large viewing stand at the football field, Chapman Stadium, was torn down and replaced by bleachers.

Proceed down the hall to the Library

STOP #17 At the Library

The library dates back to 1925 when this building was enlarged. Later on it expanded into what was the original Assembly Hall. Ruth Seymour (Mrs. Harry Close) a 1913 graduate started the library and oversaw its growth until her retirement in 1950 when it was one of the largest of any high school in the state. Today, the library has 20,000 books, 60 current magazines and 3 newspapers as well as the usual reference materials: encyclopedias,

dictionaries, atlases, textbooks, etc., and every yearbook (The PAI) from 1909 to 2008. Students interact with computers to access the online catalog, data bases and the Internet. There are 15 desktop computers plus 40 wireless laptops that have access to a color laser printer via the library network.

In the 1930s, two large WPA project murals were hung in the library. One 38 ft. x 8 ft. mural entitled "The Golden Hills of Marin," was painted by Maurice Del Mué, a French artist who lived in Kentfield. Another of his works was the design of the Hills Brothers coffee tin. In 1961 when the library needed more shelf space, the murals were removed and put in storage. The Mué mural has since been restored. Remodeling plans for the library may allow hanging the mural there once again.

Tamalpais High School's team won the 2005 National High School Mock Trial Championship held in Charlotte, North Carolina. Tam won the State championship in 2005 and took second place in 1998 and 2007. As of 2007, the mock trial team had won the Marin County championship twelve years in a row. In 2007, they received second place in the California state competition against Sacramento County. This was the third time that the team had made it to the final round since the competition started.

The library can probably take some of the credit for the fact that over the past 100 years, students who took college preparatory courses were admitted to four-year universities throughout the nation.

Go down the stairs to the Display Case near the exit of the building

STOP #18 At the Centennial Display Case

The case on the right shows various mementos of the Theater Arts and Sports.

The case on the left displays photos of historical interest:

Top Row

The "Tam Special" and Gus gym, late 1920s
Orange Court with tiny orange trees, before WW I
Girls' basketball team, 1926
Class of 1913, photo taken in 1909
Faculty and graduating class, 1910

Next Row Down

Lake Wending
Indian patches

Next Row Down

1935 PAI and 1937 PAI

Bottom Row

Orchestra, 1926

Tam High School Song, Mary Lucas in 1926

Quote from Tamalpais High School Song:
Tamalpais, Tamalpais. Hail Red and Blue
In our hearts you are enshrined
We all love you.

Many graduates feel this way.

Tamalpais High School was a recipient of the California Distinguished School Award in 1999 and 2005.

Exit Wood Hall and turn right

STOP #19 At Wood Hall Plaque and World War II Memorial
Note the plaque and memorial to the 55 Tam students who died in WW II.

Appendix I is Wikipedia's list of notable Tam High alumni of which there are:
16 entertainers including actresses Eve Arden and Courtney Thorne-Smith
15 musicians including John Cipollina and Tupac Shakur
12 athletes including Sam Chapman, Matt Hazeltine and Romeo Bandison
5 journalists including Martha Mendoza
1 scientist, Peter Shor, theoretical computer scientist famous for Shor's Algorithm
1 artist, Tom Killion, woodcut and lino prints, hand-printed books

Guides are encouraged to mention other alumni that they believe are particularly notable, whether or not they are on the list.

The first name in Appendix I is William L. Patterson, class of 1911. Will Patterson was one of the original 21 sophomores who entered Tam in 1908. He lived with his mother, who had been a slave on a Virginia plantation. She was a single parent in the summer of 1908 when she was hired as a live-in cook for a wealthy Sausalito lady and her daughter. Will was a freshman at Oakland High School. While at Tam High, he was on the baseball, football and track teams. Under the tutelage of Miss Keyser, he started the first paper, "The Tamalpais Daily", a single sheet posted on the bulletin board which evolved into a several page weekly. Three of his poems appear in the 1911 yearbook. In his autobiography, he states that Tam High introduced him to progressive thinking through contact with two teachers: Miss Keyser and the manual arts teacher Mr. Guillou. When Will would describe the prejudice he encountered on the athletic fields, Miss Keyser told him to keep his chin up and fight back. Mr. Guillou recognized Will's sensitivity and often talked to him about a form of society in which skin color would play no part. He gave Will a copy of *Capital* by Karl Marx. William L. Patterson went on to obtain a degree from Hastings College of Law. He became a successful attorney, famous civil rights activist, communist and close friend of Paul Robeson.

Proceed to the front of Hoetger Hall above the Senior Bench

STOP #20 Above the Senior Bench

Conclude the tour, by pointing out that E.E. Wood, the principal who welcomed the first students in 1908, was instrumental in developing this great high school.

Henri Boussy, Tam art teacher and historian, wrote, "When E.E. Wood retired in 1944, Tam ended an era that could never be duplicated and bade farewell to a man whose love of learning, imagination, vision and affection created a high school that was among the best. He played the game square and won."

Invite questions.

Advise the group that they are free to wander around the campus and visit open buildings such as the Daniel Caldwell Theater and the gymnasium.

Mention that they may wish to return to the registration area where there are videos and various publications for inspection and sale.

APPENDIX I TAM HIGH NOTABLE ALUMNI (WIKIPEDIA)

CLASS OF 1911 TO CLASS OF 1957

William L. Patterson 1911 – Attorney, civil rights pioneer
Eve Arden (Eunice Quedens) Tam 1926 - Actress (Our Miss Brooks)
Sam Chapman 1934 - Athlete (Philadelphia Athletics & Cleveland Indians)
George C. Cory, Jr. 1937 - Composer (I Left My Heart in San Francisco)
Robert Miller, 1937 - First to cross Golden Gate Bridge May 27, 1937
Richard H. Dillon, 1941 – Historian, Librarian (California State Library)
Art Schallock 1943 - Pitcher (Yankees, 1953 World Series)
Pat Paulsen 1945 - Statesman; comic (Smothers Brothers Comedy)
Joe DeMaestri 1946 - Shortstop; A's, Browns, White Sox, Yankees
Anton Szandor LaVey (Howard Stanton Levey) 1947 - Church of Satan
Karl Olson 1948 - Outfielder (Red Sox, Senators, Tigers)
Glen Robinson 1950 - 1st black U.S. Marshall to head California office
Matt Hazeltine 1951 - Linebacker, 49ers
Dan Caldwell 1952 - Actor; drama teacher
Willie Hector 1957 - Athlete (Los Angeles Rams)
Rob Nilsson 1957 - Actor; film writer & director (Northern Lights)

CLASS OF 1962 TO CLASS OF 1968

Elmer Collett 1962 - Athlete (49ers, Baltimore Colts)
Vicki & Judy Denterlein (Denton Twins) 1963 - ice skaters (Ice Follies)
George Duke 1963 - Legendary jazz pianist
Charlie Kelly 1963 - Mountain Bike Hall of Fame

Rob Moitoza 1963 - Musician (The Opposite Six)
Goldie Rush (Carole McLaughlin) 1963 - Rock impresario (Grateful Dead)
John Cipollina 1964 - Musician (Quicksilver Messenger Service)
Bill Champlin 1965 - Musician (The Opposite Six, Sons of Champlin)
Honor Jackson 1966 - Athlete (Dallas Cowboys)
Charlie Cunningham 1967 - Mountain bike pioneer
Jeffrey Stott 1967 - Asst/exec producer (Seinfeld, Alex and Emma)
Bill Gibson 1968 - Musician (drummer for Huey Lewis and the News)
Peter Laufer, 1968 - Journalist, broadcaster, documentary filmmaker John Anthony Lennon
1968 – Composer

TAM HIGH NOTABLE ALUMNI (WIKIPEDIA)

CLASS OF 1970 TO CLASS OF 1979

Larry Lee Holman Tam 1970 - Musician (Old Gray Zipper)
Toby Byron Tam 1971 - Documentary producer/director/writer
Michael Goldberg Tam 1971 - Music journalist, Rolling Stone
Sean Hopper Tam 1971 - Musician - (Clover, Huey Lewis and the News)
Tom Killion Tam 1971 – Artist (woodcut and lino prints),
Ben "King" Perkoff 1971 - Musician (Novato Frank Band)
Joe Breeze 1972 - Mountain bike inventor
Mario Cipollina 1972 - Musician (Huey Lewis and the News)
Kathleen Quinlan 1972 - Actress (American Graffiti, Apollo 13)
Karlene Crockett 1976 - Actress (Dallas)
Peter Kaufman 1976 – Producer/screenwriter/cinematographer/ director Cassandra Webb
(Cassandra Politzer) 1976 - Actress (Starship)
Birgit Wiegandt O'Connor 1976 - Watercolor Artist
Merritt Butrick 1977 - Actor (Kirk's son, David Marcus (Star Trek))
Peter Shor 1977 - Mathematician, MIT Prof, MacArthur Fellow
Patti Weiss 1977 - Bluegrass musician, neuropsychologist
Signy Coleman 1978 - Model, Actress (The Young and the Restless)
Alex Horvath 1979 - Journalist
Ann Killion 1979 - Sports columnist, San Jose Mercury News

CLASS OF 1980 TO CLASS OF 1990

Bryan Price 1980 - Pitcher (California Angels), Pitching Coach
Adam Seltzer, 1981 - 2003 Mars Exploration Rover Systems Lead, JPL Martha Mendoza,
1983 - AP reporter
Cintra Wilson, 1984, Writer
Brian Murphy 1985 - Radio personality, KNBR
Courtney Thorne-Smith 1985 - Actress (Melrose Place, Ally McBeal)
Chris Chaney 1988 - Musician (Jane's Addiction, The Panic Channel)

Romeo Bandison 1989 - Cleveland Browns; Washington Redskins
Tupac Shakur 1989 - Rapper, actor
Snatam Kaur 1990 - Musician