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**Marin County Fish
Newspaper References**

Marin County Journal/Marin Journal (MJ) San Rafael, 1861-1948
Marin County Tocsin (MCT), San Rafael, 1890-1916.
San Francisco Chronicle (SFC), San Francisco, 1865-present
San Rafael Independent (SRI, San Rafael, 1927 to 1948.

MJ (19 July 1862) Large Trout--A few days since Mr. Fred Tann succeeded in taking from Novato creek a trout measuring 28 inches in length and weighing five pounds.

MJ (29 Nov. 1862) Salmon have commenced running up the Paper Mill Creek, and Tomales Bay is alive with them. Fishermen are busy with a seine at the mouth of the creek and taking them in great numbers....

MJ (26 Dec. 1863) An agent of J. McM. Shafter arrived in San Rafael from Lake Bigler bringing with him about 1,500 live trout which are intended to stock a lake on the Shafter ranch. We are informed that the cost of bringing these fish down will exceed \$1,000.

MJ (28 May 1864) We are under obligations to Charley Taylor, a famous disciple of Isaak Walton, for a goodly mess of speckled trout, fresh from the mountain streams of this vicinity.

MJ (15 April 1865)Lagunitas Creek, or Daniel's Creek alias Paper Mill Creek, is a considerable stream passing through it [Lagunitas] and is made up of the numerous springs issuing from the hills bounding it on either side. It abounds with trout and is a famous resort for piscatorial picnic parties. The valley is heavily covered with redwood....

MJ (14 Dec. 1867) Salmon--Since the late rains, Nicasio Creek has literally swarmed with salmon. The natives and gringos are having fine sport catching them with spears, hooks, rakes, forks, clubs, etc. One rusty resident corralled four fine ones with a bootjack. T.J. Davis took in forty...a few days ago.

MJ (15 May 1869) Large Trout--Mr. Levy of Olema one day last week succeeded in hooking a salmon trout in the Olema Creek, weighing over three pounds.

MJ (19 Feb. 1870) Preservation of Trout--Within the last few days we have been informed that for some time past certain parties have been engaged in taking trout from the mountain streams in this vicinity. There is a law upon our statute books forbidding the taking or catching of mountain trout between the 20th day of October and the 1st day of April of each year, and it is the duty of any person knowing an infringement of this law to make the proper complaint to the authorities.

MJ (16 April 1870) Big Fish--One day last week that famous disciple of old Isaak Walton, Jos. G. Wilson, caught with hook and line from the Paper Mill Creek, six trout weighing in the aggregate thirty-two pounds.

MJ (23 April 1870) Trout--an effort is being made to stock the streams on Mr. Throckmorton's ranch in this county, with spawn brought from the East.

MJ (23 April 1870) Mr. S. Taylor, proprietor of the Pioneer Paper Mill, in this county, had constructed a private pond near the Paper Mill for the raising of trout, which at high water, flow over the dam and thus replenish the supply in the creek. The notices prohibiting fishing in the pond were torn down and the place was subsequently robbed of its trout....

MJ (4 March 1871) Trout Breeding--The Piscatorial Acclimative [sic] Society of California has imported the ova or spawn of the Eastern species of trout, and are hatching the same for the purpose of distribution in the brooks in the different parts of this State. The experiment is a very foolish one, if the Society expects to keep up the pure article, for the very reason that the imported will mix with the native trout the very first spawning year. They must necessarily be placed in a stream with a flow the whole year, and this stream must have an outlet into a bay or the ocean. Every Spring the salmon trout and the silver trout ascend these streams to spawn, to say nothing of those born and bred in the streams and, in small numbers, take possession of the spawning riffles. These being much larger and stronger than the imported trout, will soon drive the latter away. When two years of age the trout spawns for the first time; the size at that period being about five or six inches. Therefore, the imported trout being small the first spawning season, will not be able to hold their own against the native and the consequence will be that the male of the former will be driven away and the eggs of that species be impregnated by the native and a mongrel breed be the result.

There are some streams in the State where the waters are obstructed by driftwood, and have been so for years, rendering it impossible for trout from the ocean to ascend the streams; and in those localities the trout are similar to the Eastern species with the exception of the pink spots which adorn the former; their habits and mode of taking the bait are precisely similar, and they are as game as any fish that inhabit our waters.

We think that the Society will learn that the imported trout--as a species--in two years after distribution in the streams in this State, will be extinct and in their stead will

be found the same kind that we now have; and that all their trouble and expense will have been thrown away. The only manner in which the imported trout can be kept pure is to place them in ponds or lakes with streams running into the same in such a manner that they cannot ascend.

The above are the views of a practical “trout-fisher,” and one who has for years made the habits of that fish a study.

MJ (17 Feb. 1872) Salmon--Large quantities of salmon are being taken from the Paper Mill Creek.

MJ (4 May 1872) Piscatorial--On Saturday and Sunday last, Lieutenant-Governor Pacheco, Al W. Stone, A.W. Baldwin, Mr. Holbrook and others from San Quintin were the guests of Mr. W.A. Lando at the Lagunitas, where they enjoyed rare sport fishing. A trifle of five hundred trout rewarded them.

MJ (20 Feb. 1873) Marin Trout in City--A beautiful salmon trout, weighing two and a half pounds, was sent in town....

MJ (16 April 1873) Angling--....Last Sunday a party of four young gentlemen from San Francisco visited Paper Mill Creek and report fishing in that vicinity exceedingly pleasant. We learn that one of the party caught a large trout, weighing very near two pounds and he says he intends having it photographed as soon as he arrives in the city.

MJ (29 May 1873) Nicasio--....The trout season has commenced and there are many good fishing grounds in this vicinity. Petalumians, San Rafaelians and people from other places are frequently met with seeking a supply of speckled trout, which abound in the creeks and streams of Nicasio....Counselor Jackson went fishing the other afternoon and caught forty fine ones....

MJ (19 June 1873) Letter from Nicasio--....At Pine Gulch, Bolinas, we visited Mr. McGowan's [McGovern] trout pond and saw two thousand hungry trout fed. The fish have increased ten fold in size and become quite tame since our visit in October. Mr. M. has succeeded in raising a number of large fish but complains that he cannot find purchasers. We believe that a little judicious advertising would clear out his pond in a few weeks at full prices. Mr. G. Grinter intends to devote his attention to fishing, if the business is profitable....

MJ (19 June 1873) Messrs. Julian and Gilligan visited Paper Mill Creek on Thursday, so famous as a resort for trouters and on their return, the tables of Mahon House were graced with plenty of those finny favorites. They caught 171 trout.

MJ (23 Oct. 1873) Up the Lagunitas [description of new dam and Lagunitas lake of Marin County Water Company]

MJ (18 Dec. 1873) As the law now stands, it is unlawful for any person to use weirs, dams, nets, or seines of any description for catching fish in any of the waters of Bolinas Bay inside Bolinas Bar....

MJ (15 Jan. 1874) Salmon are abundant in Nicasio Creek. Two Indians caught 108 one trip.

MJ (16 April 1874) The Grinter Brothers, John and George, of Bolinas, have illustrated what may be done with our tide and overflowed lands by a little experiment at the head of Bolinas Bay. A fresh water creek flows into the bay. The Grinter boys built a dike along the edge of the salt water and flooded the land from the fresh stream. After soaking it well, the water was drained off and the land left to the sun's influences for a time. This simple operation was repeated from time to time until the land was not only reclaimed, but presented a rich and generous soil that is perhaps not surpassed in the county. While creating this new territory, the Messrs. Grinter left a few low places for fish ponds and last spring they introduced some speckled trout which have grown and thriven wonderfully until they are now very abundant. These beauties are all sizes, from 12 inches down and those that were put in as tiny ones last spring show a growth of six or seven inches within the year.

MJ (28 May 1874) Mr. Steven McGovern of Bolinas has a fine trout pond from which he will sell no fish. Governor Pacheco, being over there lately, Mr. McGovern invited him to drop a hook and the Governor soon had a beautiful string of the speckled favorites....

MJ (11 March 1875) Trout--Mr. Coleman last Saturday turned about 20,000 trout from a reservoir into Lagunitas lake. They were some of them nearly two feet long.

MJ (13 May 1875) Nicasio News--There must be good fishing at Nicasio. We learn that about a week since, Messrs. Taft and Black caught a string of 150; on Friday Messrs. Taft, Church and Redding caught 233; and on Saturday Mr. Clark came in with 60, all from Nicasio Creek.

MJ (16 Dec. 1875) A few salmon are running up Nicasio Creek.

MJ (20 April 1876) Rumored Destruction of Fish--We are informed that large numbers of dead trout are to be seen in Paper Mill Creek, killed by the careless introduction of some deadly matter to that stream....

MJ (21 Dec. 1876) Sacrifice of Fish--We received a communication from Paper Mill Creek, too late for our last, stating that something had caused a fearful loss of fish in that stream, and asking the attention of the Fish Commissioners to the case. The stream for more than a mile was filled with dead fish, mainly trout, and those that were not dead were hopping about in a strange manner....Our correspondent says the water from the Paper Mill was of a very blackish or dark blue color. He urges the Fish Commissioners to investigate the matter, and we earnestly hope they will do so. The loss of such a body of

fish is very serious, and certainly where they lie dead or dying in such numbers, it would not be hard to ascertain the cause.

MJ (11 Jan. 1877) Salmon fishing is all the rage....went to Russian River after salmon. We made five hauls [of the seine] and caught 319 besides some culls which we threw out. The last haul we caught 176....The fish were remarkably fine and of the silver skin variety. We caught them about one-half mile below Moscow, the terminus of the North Pacific Coast Railroad.

MJ (25 Jan. 1877) Complaints reach us about the fish ladder at Paper Mill dam. One gentleman tells us it is not set up and fish have no way to get above the dam.

MJ (6 Dec. 1877) Bolinas--....A gentleman in San Francisco who is identified with the natural history and culture of the salmon, says that the first run of salmon is found in the mouths of the numerous small rivers and creeks that flow into the Pacific from the coast range of mountains from Carmel River, near Monterey, north to the boundaries of Oregon. The grilse make their appearance about the middle of October, followed in November by the adult fish. These remain at tide water, waiting for the rise caused by the winter rains. With these fish comes a large species of trout, known here as the salmon trout, which have similar habits, and return to the sea about the same. time. Now these latter fish, when enabled to do so by the rise of water, enter Pine Gulch Creek and follow its course towards it head. They are frequently taken from the stream, however, by the youth of the village and others, and in the very unsportsmanlike manner of "hooking" with a large hook fastened to the end of a stick....

MJ (10 Jan. 1878) Olema Items. Fishing with Seines--Complaint is made that the Italian fishermen spread their seines entirely across the lower part of Paper Mill Creek, extending at low tide down as far as Miller's Point and completely prevent the ascent of salmon trout. We are told that for the last two years scarcely any of these fish have been found in that stream and if measures are not taken to leave the channel open to them, an important interest will be sacrificed. The same custom prevailed at Bolinas some years ago, but a law was passed entirely prohibiting fishing with seines in that bay and there are plenty of salmon trout, both there and far up in the stream emptying into the bay. People of Olema will circulate a petition to the Legislature for such a law applicable to Paper Mill Creek....

MJ (25 July 1878) Troutng by Hand--Sportsmen have drained the streams on the line of the Narrow Gauge so that few fish are left. Yet a very short distance above Duncan's, trout are so plentiful that a stick run into a shady hole in the creek will start out hundreds. They are so thick that they may be scooped up in any sort of dish, and they are not the little fellows taken lower down but run up to three or four pounds each.

MJ (12 June 1879) A young lady angler caught a twelve and a half pound salmon trout a short time ago in Paper Mill Creek. Her skill suffers from the fact that the fish had been shot before she hooked it.

MJ (19 Feb. 1880) Illegal Fishers--Two Italians were arrested on the 9th instant for taking fish in Paper Mill Creek contrary to the law by stretching nets more than one-third across the stream....

MJ (17 March 1881) A Finny Beauty--We received last week from Miss Helen F. Lamb of Olema Station a silver trout about 18 inches long, which was one of the most delicious fish we ever tasted. Miss Lamb and her mother caught seven such beauties in one short stay on the banks of Paper Mill Creek and she tells us the stream is full. They were caught in tide water near Olema Station.

MJ (7 April 1881) Stock Fish--The Fish Commissioners are stocking many streams with Cloud [McCloud] River trout and with salmon which is the best substitute for the game fish. Mr. S.P. Taylor has made application for salmon spawn for stocking Paper Mill Creek, which will be supplied in the fall when any party wishing can obtain stock for our streams.

MJ (21 Dec. 1882) Olema Notes--Great numbers of salmon are to be seen in Paper Mill Creek, awaiting a rise in the lesser streams before going up to spawn.

MJ (29 Jan. 1885) Fishermen are having grand sport these days. Moore hooked thirteen salmon trout weighing 138 pounds...last Saturday in Tomales Bay.

MJ (17 Dec. 1885) Fishing--The streams of Marin now afford good salmon-trout fishing. Salmon, Olema, Paper Mill, and Corte Madera creeks are noted for salmon-trout when the fish begin to ascend the creeks from the ocean. Several large salmon-trout were taken in Petaluma creek last week....

MJ (21 Jan. 1886) It is reported that the refuse chemicals dumped into Paper Mill Creek from the paper mill are destroying all the fish that approach within two miles. A gentleman, who recently took a trip up the stream, reports seeing hundreds of trout and salmon lying dead on the banks....

MJ (27 Dec. 1888) Fish Ladder at Last--....a first class fish ladder has been built at the Taylorville dam....Mr. Stephen Steidman was the builder and the responsible man behind him, or who paid the bills, was Dr. C.D. Dean, formerly of San Rafael but now of San Francisco, a gentleman who enjoys many sporting trips to this county. The ladder is built of 3-inch plank....It has a rise of one foot in four, but this has no terror for the fish as many have already been seen to make the ascent. It cost about \$250.

MJ (7 March 1889) Olema--Sportsmen are busy catching the finny tribe from the waters of Paper Mill Creek and Tomales Bay.

MJ (14 March 1889) Very large salmon trout abound in San Anselmo Creek between the Junction and Fairfax.

MCT (5 March 1892) The run of salmon in the small streams has been unusual this year. Many have ascended the Las Gallinas Creek and have been speared far up towards the Nicasio divide. There have been a number taken also from the Phoenix Gulch stream. It will be interesting to note what effect the numerous salmon will have on the trout fishing this year.

MCT (30 July 1892) A large invoice of small Eastern trout was shipped from the hatchery at Bear Valley last Wednesday for distribution in the Lagunitas Creek. The youngsters were turned out in grand order and anglers on that stream may be on the lookout for the new breed nest season. The Bear Valley Hatchery has now somewhat over half a million small trout, all of which will be planted in streams around the Bay.

MCT (3 Sept. 1892) The Fish Commission has caused the arrest of Mr. W.P. Taylor, manager of Taylor's Mills, on a charge of polluting the waters of Lagunitas Creek with the chemicals used in the manufacture of paper.

MJ (23 Nov. 1893) The Country Club; A Full Description of the Club's Headquarters; The Beauties of Bear Valley; Comfort and Luxury Among the Wildest Surroundings; The Best Preserve in America--Nowhere in the world can be found such a shooting preserve as that of the Country Club on Point Reyes....[long description]

If one desires to fish there are three lakes near at hand, one of which is stocked with land-locked salmon from Maine, another with New Hampshire trout, the third with black bass. Near the club house is situated the State Fish Hatchery, which has been wonderfully successful in hatching out fish to place in lakes and rivers all over the State....

Blue Lake *Advocate* (5 June 1897) S.O. Hardman passed through Blue Lake, having in his care 8,000 small brown German trout. They came from the U.S. fish hatchery at Hoopa and will be planted in Lagunitas Creek, Marin County. Mr. Hardman is chief warden and superintendent of fish culture for the Country Club of San Francisco, whose extensive grounds are located in Marin County.

MJ (7 April 1898) Trout Fishing--....The Lagunitas, as it is called above Camp Taylor, and the Paper Mill, as it is called below that point, has no superior as a trout stream, considering the number of anglers that constantly visit it. It is thronged from the opening till the closing of the trout season, yet still continues to produce good baskets of fish....

MJ (20 April 1905) Big Fish Landed Near Point Reyes--On Wednesday, Robert Shipp of Inverness took three steelheads out of the White House pool. One weighed eight pounds, another eleven, while the third weighed 17 pounds.

SFC (2 April 1906) First Day on the Trout Streams, photo with caption: "Walter Mansfield, an Expert Fly Caster on Stony Brook." Anglers Return with Few Fish--...Fifty-six rods were counted on Paper Mill Creek, between Lagunitas Station and

Nicasio after the arrival of the morning train from Sausalito....The handlers of the ground worm, who had learned to know the creek and its feeders and who fished Devil's gulch, Taylor's creek and School House creek, all tributaries of Paper Mill Creek, met with some success....

SFC (15 April 1906) Trout Fishing Is Improving Daily--[Lagunitas Sportsman's Club located near headwaters of Lagunitas Creek; fishermen caught 6 pound steelhead, a 5-pounder, and saw a Quinnat salmon, estimated to be 40 pounds in a pool; 30 trout taken from Narrows near Point Reyes.

SFC (11 May 1906) Anglers Seek Streams Again--[trip to Paper Mill Creek, enjoyed an excellent day's sport on the stream between Jewels and Tocaloma] Mr. Wells said, "A number of deep pools on the north side of Tocaloma, which were in evidence prior to the shake, are now as level as the creek bed and new pools have appeared in spots that heretofore were sparkling riffles."

The anglers were informed that the famous "White House" pool, which always carried from three to eight feet of water in the spring of the year is now almost dry and scarcely recognizable. The upheaval in that vicinity was very severe.

SFC (5 June 1906) Trout and Bass Fishing--....Although Paper Mill Creek raised four feet in one day, it fell almost as suddenly and was quite clear on Thursday last above its confluence with Nicasio Creek. There are plenty of eight and ten inch trout in the stream, which will afford anglers nice sport during the present month. On Friday two well-known disciples of fly fishing fished the Paper Mill between Lagunitas Station and Camp Taylor and caught a limit of fifty each. Some trout taken measured twelve inches. All of the coast trout streams are now in fine order....The San Gregorio, Pescadero, Los Gatos and Boulder creeks are in fine condition for fly fishing at present....

SFC (16 June 1906) Good Catches on the Truckee....[fishing on Sacramento and Truckee]....Among the local rod wielders who fished the Paper Mill creek with fair results during the past week were George Walker, W. Kennedy, Dr. Edwards, James Fowler and Jack Rudolph.

Salmon Creek is still running out well, and as the trout in this stream are large in comparison with other coast streams, the anglers who visited "the lagoon" have had exceptionally good luck. The trout take a fly in dashing order.

Anglers who have whipped the Lagunitas Lake since the season opened on June 1st report having had good sport.

SFC (10 July 1906) Anglers Enjoying Fine Bass and Trout Fishing--....Steelhead anglers will be pleased to learn that the earthquake has played a good part in removing the immense pile of sand that had been deposited at the mouth of Russian river, which stopped the flow of water to the ocean in the fall of the year when steelhead were on a mission of propagation....

Trout fishing in the Paper Mill and Lagunitas creeks is about over for this season....

MJ (10 Jan. 1910) Four large cans of trout fry averaging five inches in length from the State fish hatchery at Sisson were taken in charge by a keeper of the Country Club at Point Reyes Station. The fry were doubtless placed in a small stream that meanders through Bear Valley....

MJ (20 Aug. 1914) State Fish Commission Plants 170,000 Trout in Marin--....Marin was given an allotment of 137,000 steelhead, 30,000 Lock Laven and 2,000 eastern brook trout, which [were] distributed as follows: 15,000 steelhead, Muir Woods and tributaries; 37,500 steelhead and 30,000 Lock Leven trout, Lake Lagunitas; 45,000 steelhead, Paper Mill Creek; 2,000 eastern brook trout near Tocaloma; and 30,000 steelhead, Olema Creek....

MJ (21 Feb. 1924) Marin County Steelhead in Big Aquarium--Reports were received yesterday by Game Commissioner W.B. Sellmer that the two large steelhead trout furnished by him some days ago to the Steinhart Aquarium in Golden Gate Park were flourishing and in fine condition....The two now on exhibition are the largest specimens of the trout family. They weigh about 8 pounds each. Sellmer obtained them in the Lagunitas Creek below the Alpine Dam....

SRI (1 July 1927) Trout to be Planted in Streams of Marin; Eighty-Nine Cans of Fry Provided by Commission to be Distributed--Eighty-nine cans of trout fry provided by the California Fish and Game Commission are to be planted in streams of Marin County within the next few days....

The creeks in which the fry will be planted and the number of cans allotted to each are as follows: Mill Valley near mouth, 2 cans; Big Lagoon near county road, 4 cans;...Steep Ravine above road, 1 can; Bolinas, above and below road, 10 cans; Lost Lake, 2 cans; San Anselmo near state highway, Kentfield, 5 cans; San Geronimo near town of Lagunitas, 4 cans; Lagunitas above bridge, 10 cans; Big Carson...; Paper Mill, 10 cans; Devils Gulch above dam, 1 can; Bowman above and below road, 2 cans; Novato near mouth, 3 cans; Nicasio in Lucas Valley, 2 cans;...Miller below state highway...; Salmon...; Olema near White House Pool, 10 cans; McClures near Pt. Reyes school house, 1 can; Inverness, 1 can.

MJ (28 June 1928) Trout Numbering 334,000 to be Planted in Marin County--Captain Walter B. Sellmer of the State Fish and Game Commission has applied to the state for permission to plant 334,000 trout of various species in the lakes and streams of Marin County.

This is larger by 104,000 than was planted last year in this section. Of the total number ordered, 28,000 rainbow, 45,000 steelhead and 26,000 German brown trout will be planted in lakes Alpine, Lagunitas, and Phoenix. The remaining 235,000 steelhead will be planted in the smaller streams of the county....

MJ (23 April 1931) [J.P. Cuenin began writing a regular column called "Rod & Gun" with information about streams, fish, and fishing, as well as hunting]