MARCONI AT BOLINAS, CA, USA

FROM 1912 TO RUINS TODAY

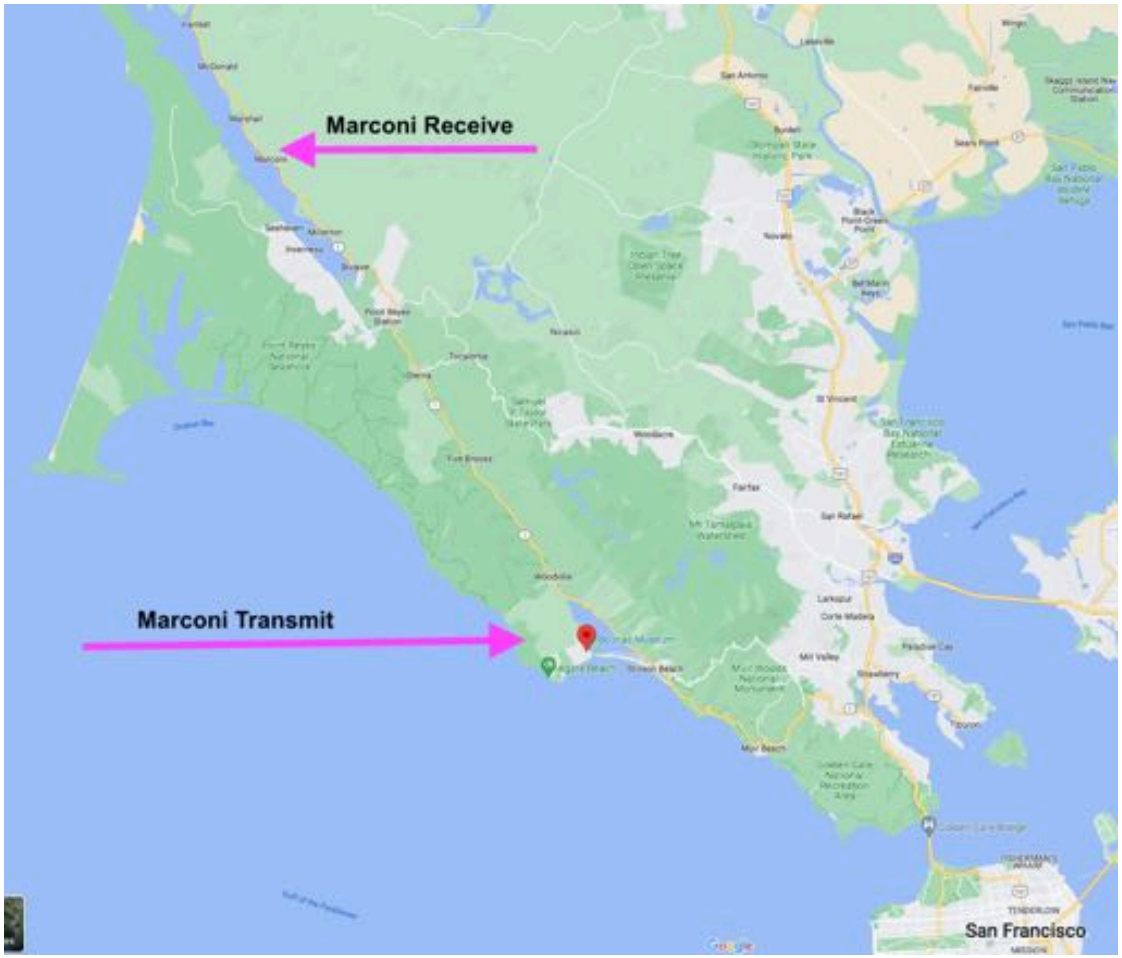
Radio Archeology
from the California
Historical Radio Society

TEXT AND PIX FROM BART LEE, K6VK
CHRS ARCHIVIST & HISTORIAN
2022

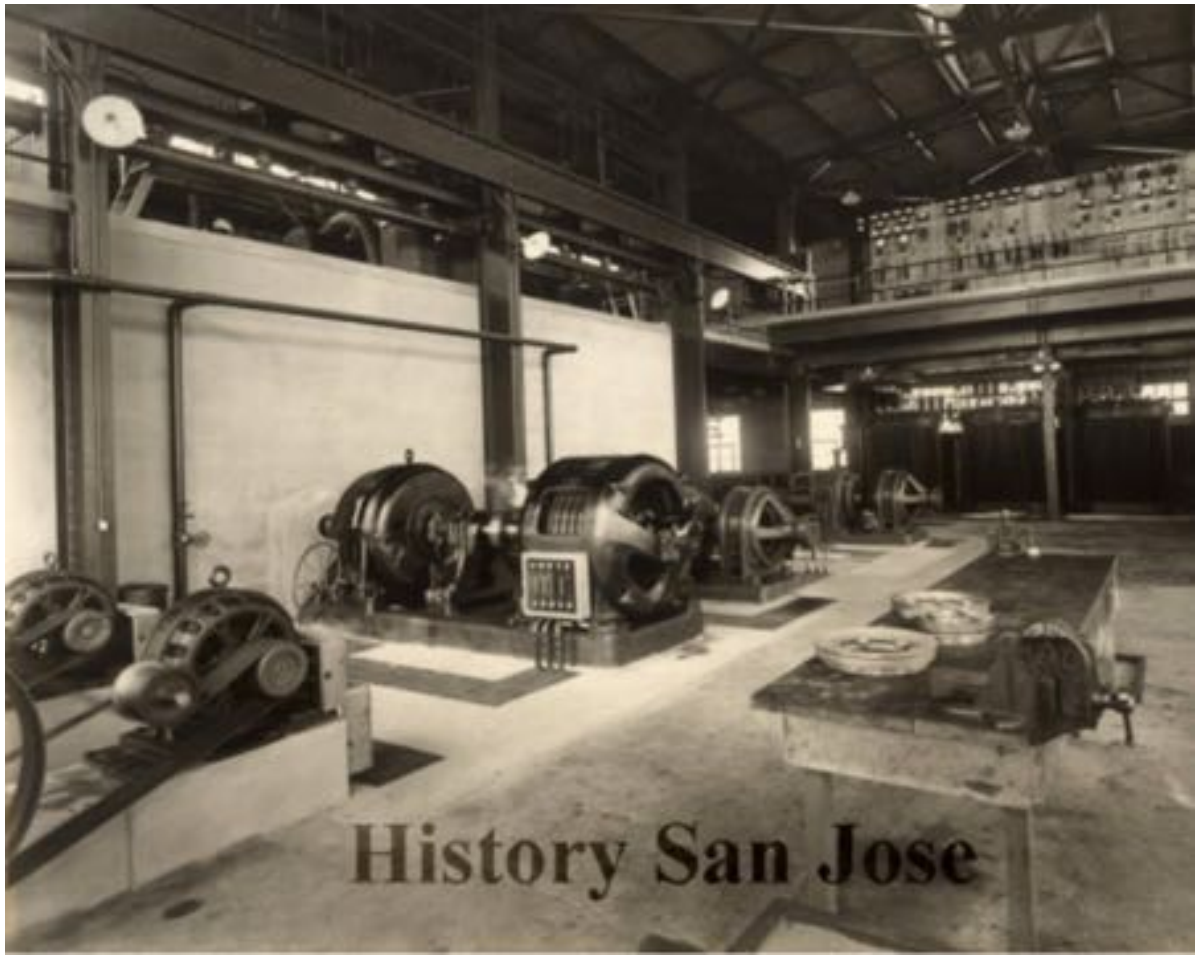
The First and Main Building, BL 1, at the Marconi Spark Wireless Telegraphy Station at Bolinas, California, initiated 1912

Photo from the Point Reyes National Seashore Museum, US NPS

The Marconi Sites, 1912 >>



BL 1, Interior, 1913



From the Perham Foundation Collections now at History San Josė (2003-1)

A “Rock Crusher” ~ 300 KW Rotary Spark Gap at ZZ Poldhu, as at Bolinas

From: http://www.marconiheritage.org/fww.html

Sound Proof (more or less) Walls, still Deafening; the Light (much UV) could Blind.

Contemporary Information (1 of 2)

from the Archives of the Society of Wireless Pioneers

EXCERPTS FROM ENGINEERING PAPER
Written by - Alexander Seidl, Engineer in Charge
Re - Trans-Pacific High Power Stations
Extracted by-W. A. Breniman

At Bolinas two transmitters, each with an input rating of 300 KW, were installed to operate on 6,700 meters (44.77 KHz) with the two transmitters being alternated in service using the call KET. The antenna was 600 feet in width and 2,700 feet in length and supported on 325 foot masts.

The California antenna, directionally oriented, was 5,000 feet in length with its 2 conductors supported on a single line of five 325 foot guyed, cylindrical section, steel masts.

Contemporary Information (2 of 2)
The Receiving System

The California transmitting station was located at Bolinas, about 20 miles north of San Francisco, and the receiving station at Marshalls, about 38 miles north of San Francisco.

The antenna at Marshals was of the order of 10 miles in length, and no data is available on the length of the Koko Head antenna. As previously stated, the antenna used at Tomioka, Japan was 10.54 miles in length.

The G.E. Alternator, Successor to the “Rock Crusher” in 1922

This is the nearly identical SAQ (Sweden) Alexanderson Alternator

Another Alternator, in New York

HISTORICAL NOTES: RADIO CENTRAL TRANSMITTER

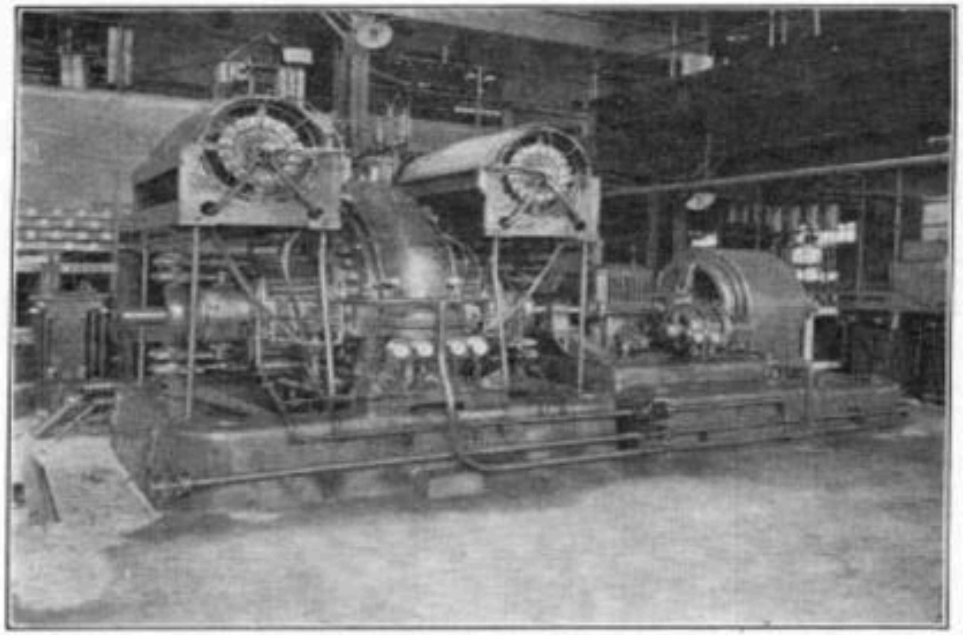


FIG. 173.—An Alexanderson high-frequency Alternator, capable of putting 700 amperes of high-frequency current into the antenna.

http://arlassociates.net/Newman%20AP%20Presentation.pdf

Antenna Tuning for Alternators, NY

HISTORICAL NOTES: RADIO CENTRAL TUNING NETWORK

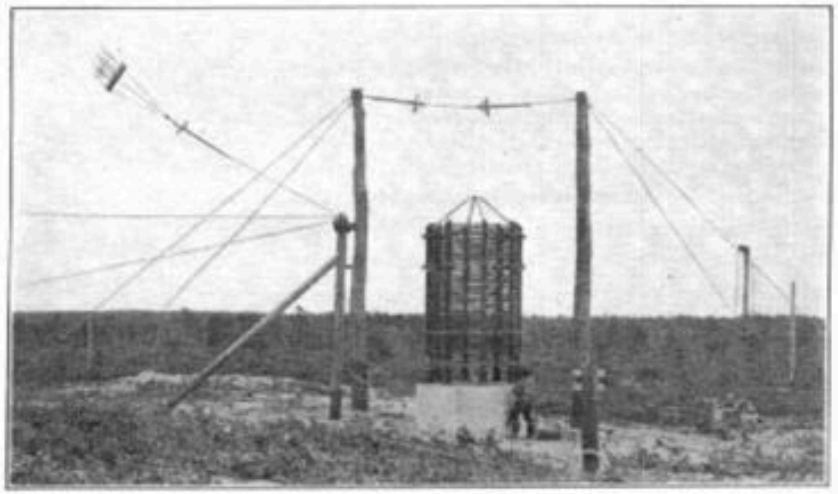


FIG. 174.—An immense transmitting tuning coil at Radio Central. Note the size, compared with the man standing at its base.

This concrete base may be found just outside BL1 at Bolinas High Power (K6VK)

Alternator Tuning Coil, NY; note base >>>

Bengt Svensson (SAQ) at Bolinas

Inductor Base for the Alternator Antenna

Bart Lee Photo 2012

The two Alternators in BL 1 used callsign KET (and KEI?)

Antennas for the Alternators, here at SAQ; same at Bolinas, Long Gone

Photo from SAQ

Inside BL 1 in 2012 (1 of 3)

Bengt Svensson Inspects

An Abused Ruin

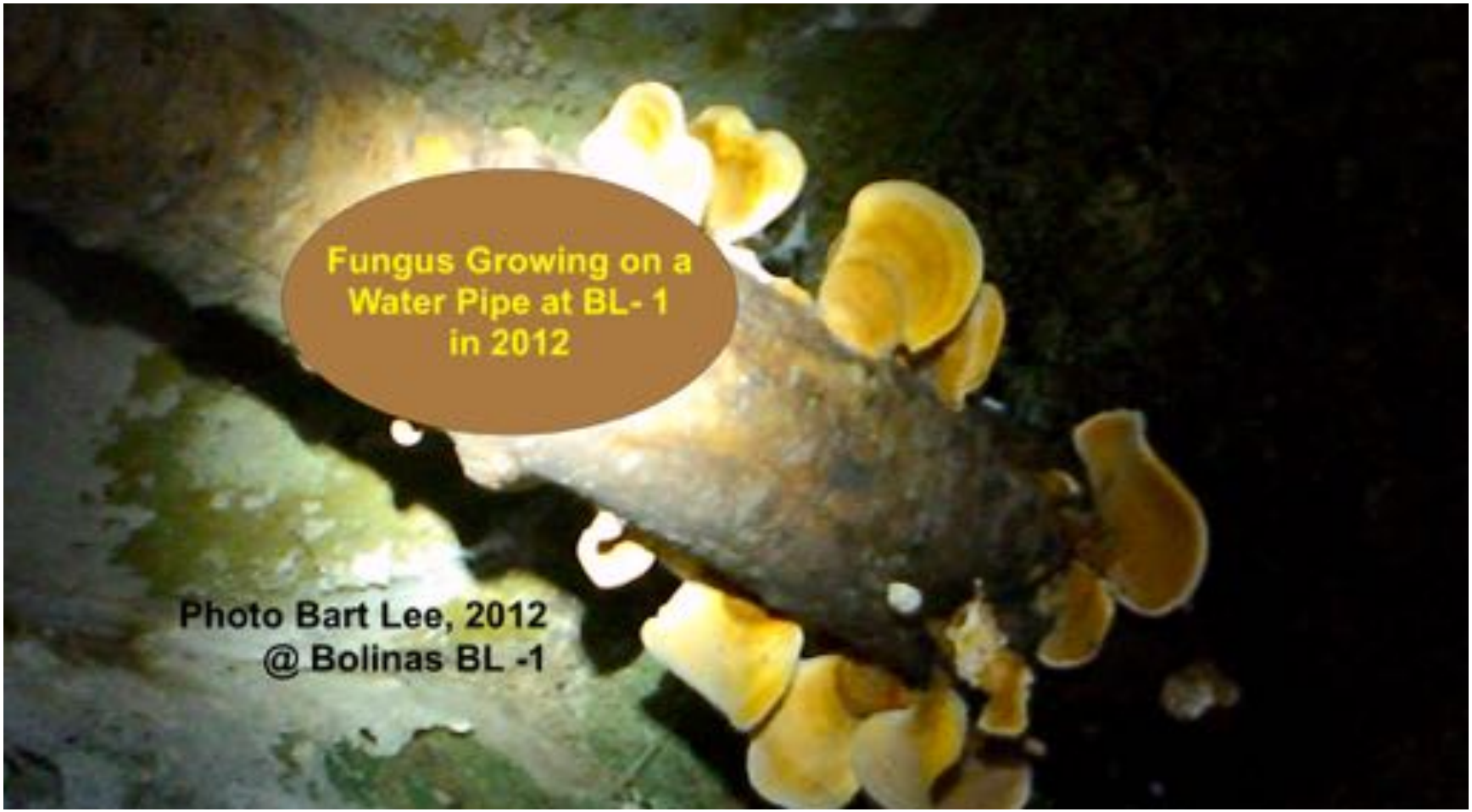
Inside BL 1 in 2012 (2 of 3)

The Chains Remain

Inside BL 1 in 2012 (3 of 3)

A Long Abandoned Control Booth?

The End >>>


Fungus Growing on a
Water Pipe at BL- 1
in 2012
Photo Bart Lee, 2012
@ Bolinas BL -1

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Presented by Bart Lee, K6VK, Archivist and Historian,
With Special Thanks to Bengt Svensson, SM⊙UGV,
A Principal at Station SAQ in Sweden.

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