



MARCONI AT BOLINAS, CA, USA

FROM 1912 TO RUINS TODAY

Radio Archeology
from the California
Historical Radio Society

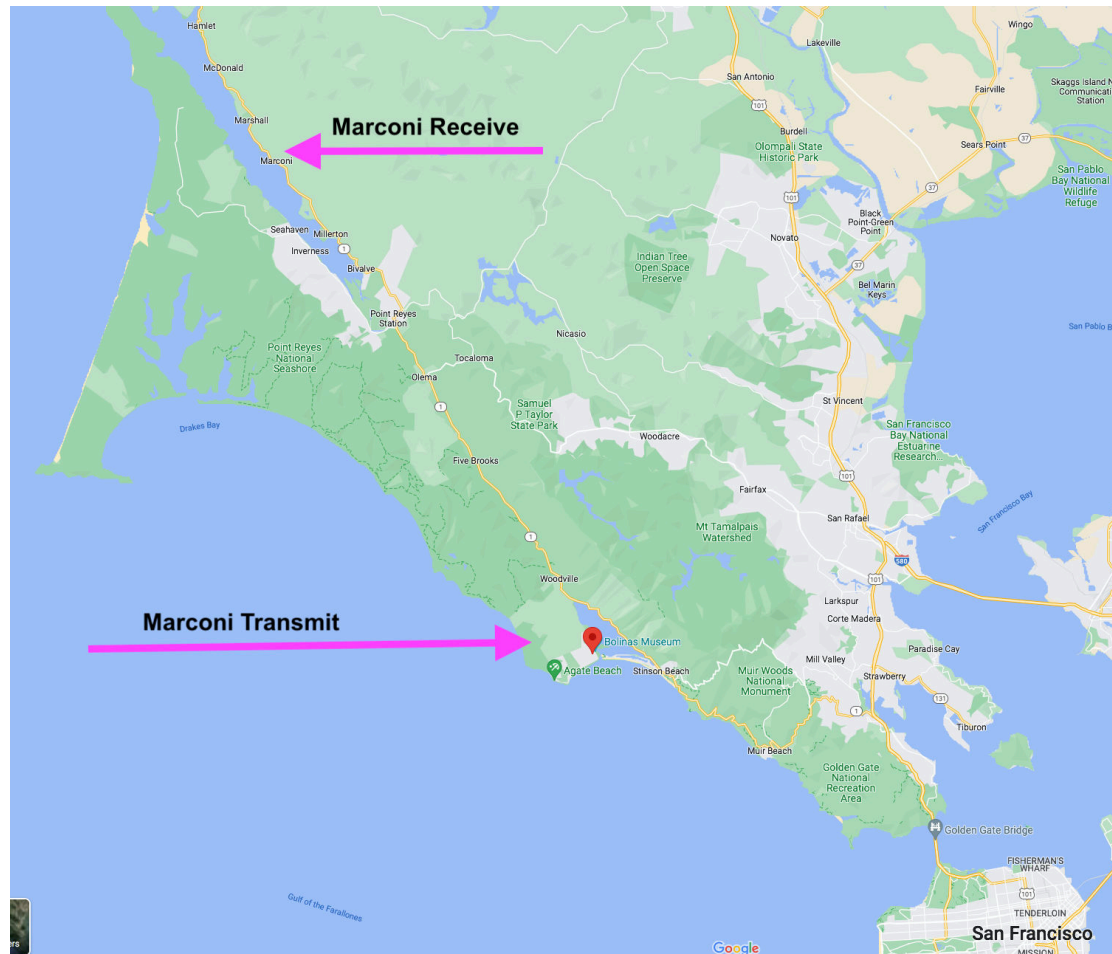
TEXT AND PIX FROM BART LEE, K6VK
CHRS ARCHIVIST & HISTORIAN
2022

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

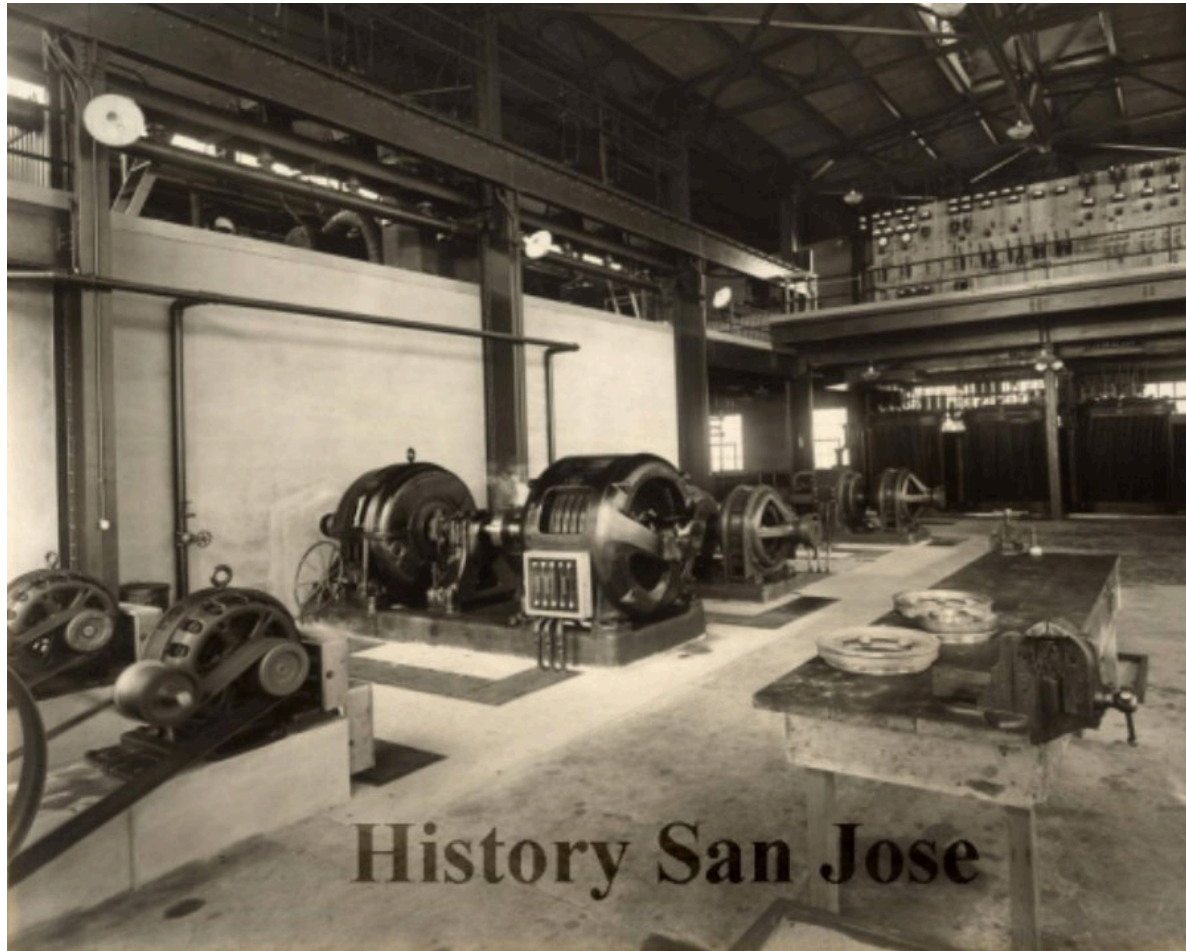


Photo from the Point Reyes National Seashore Museum, US NPS

The Marconi Sites, 1912 >>



BL 1, Interior, 1913



From the Perham Foundation Collections now at History San José (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.

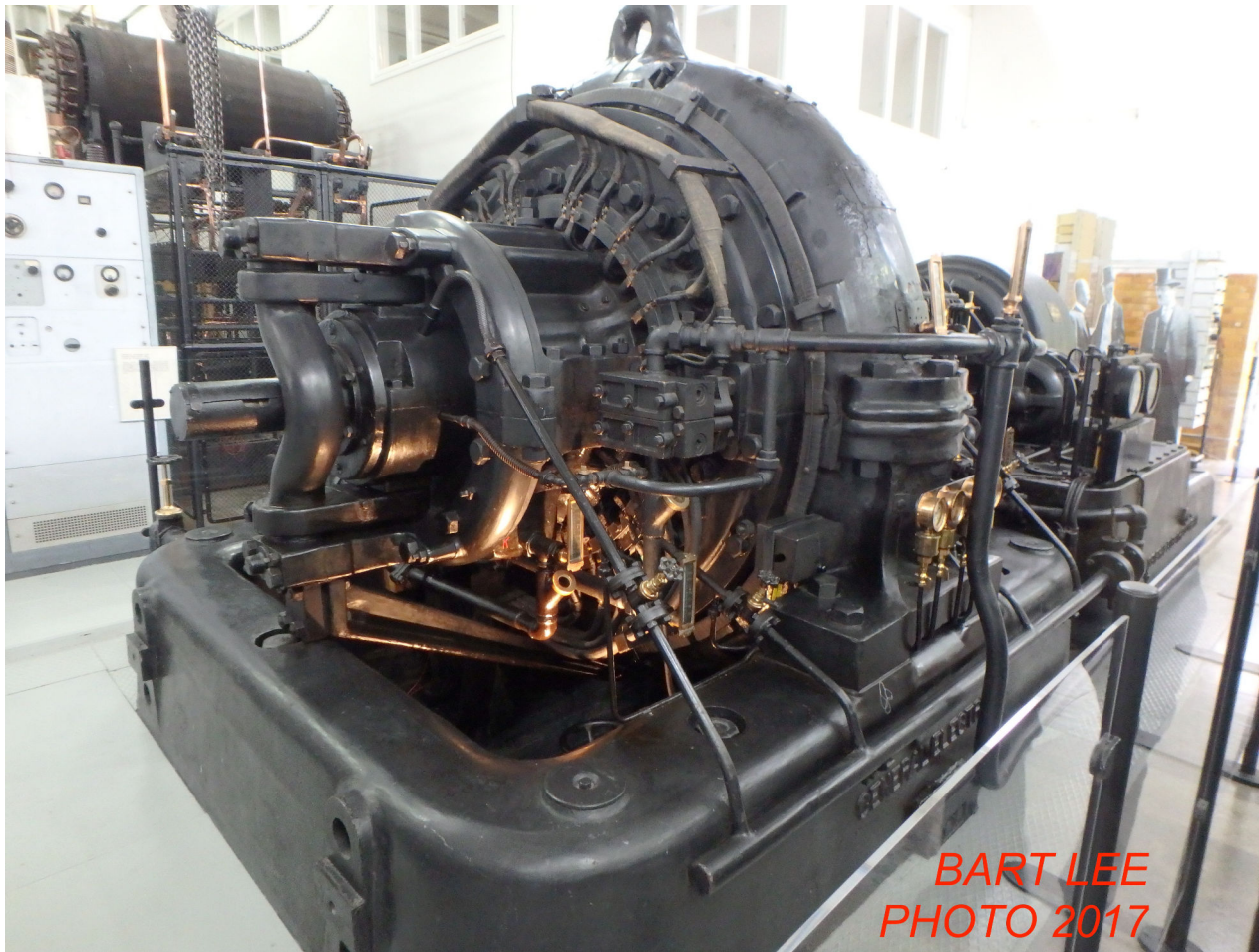
Contemporary Information (2 of 2)

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 Marshalls 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



BART LEE
PHOTO 2017

This is the nearly identical SAQ (Sweden) Alexanderson Alternator

Another Alternator, in New York

HISTORICAL NOTES: RADIO CENTRAL TRANSMITTER

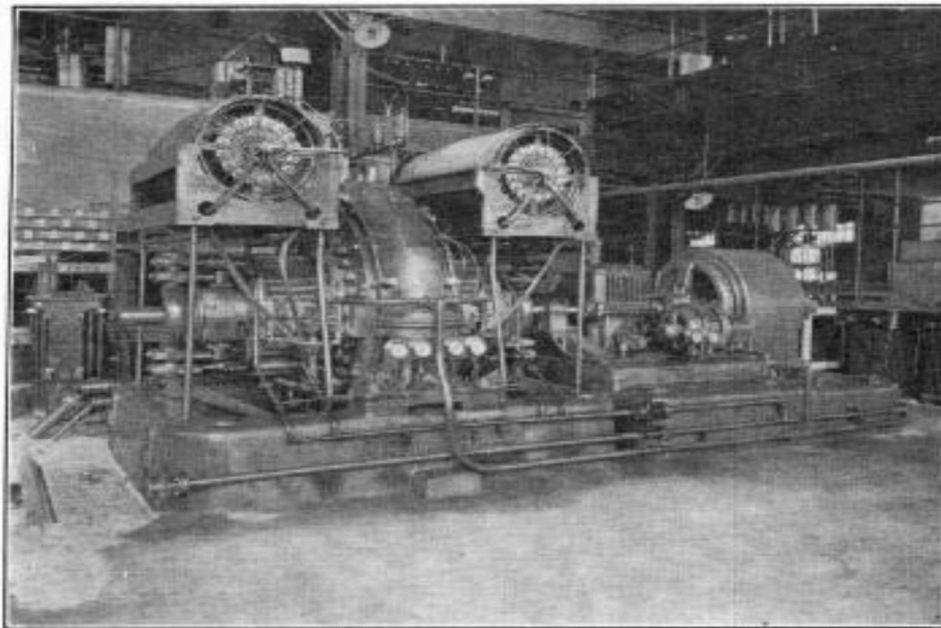


FIG. 173.—An Alexanderson high-frequency Alternator, capable of putting 700 amperes of high-frequency current into the antenna.

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

Antenna Tuning for Alternators, NY

HISTORICAL NOTES: RADIO CENTRAL TUNING NETWORK

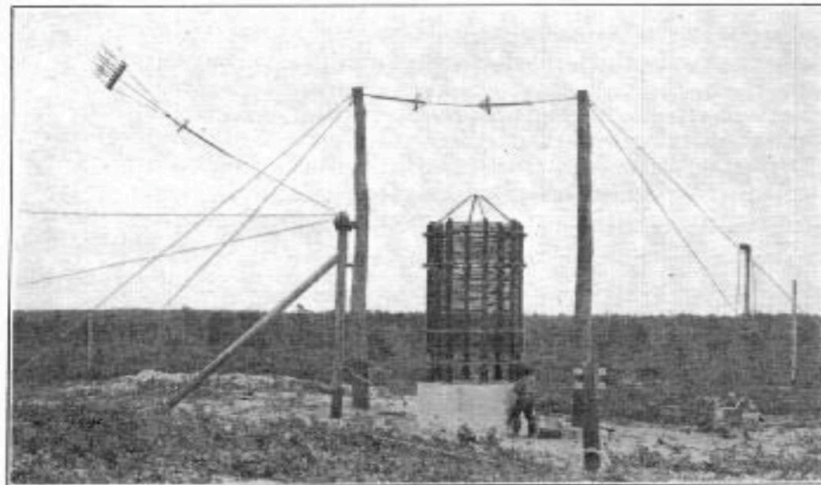


FIG. 174.—An immense transmitting tuning coil at Radio Central. Note the size, compared with the man standing at its base.

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)



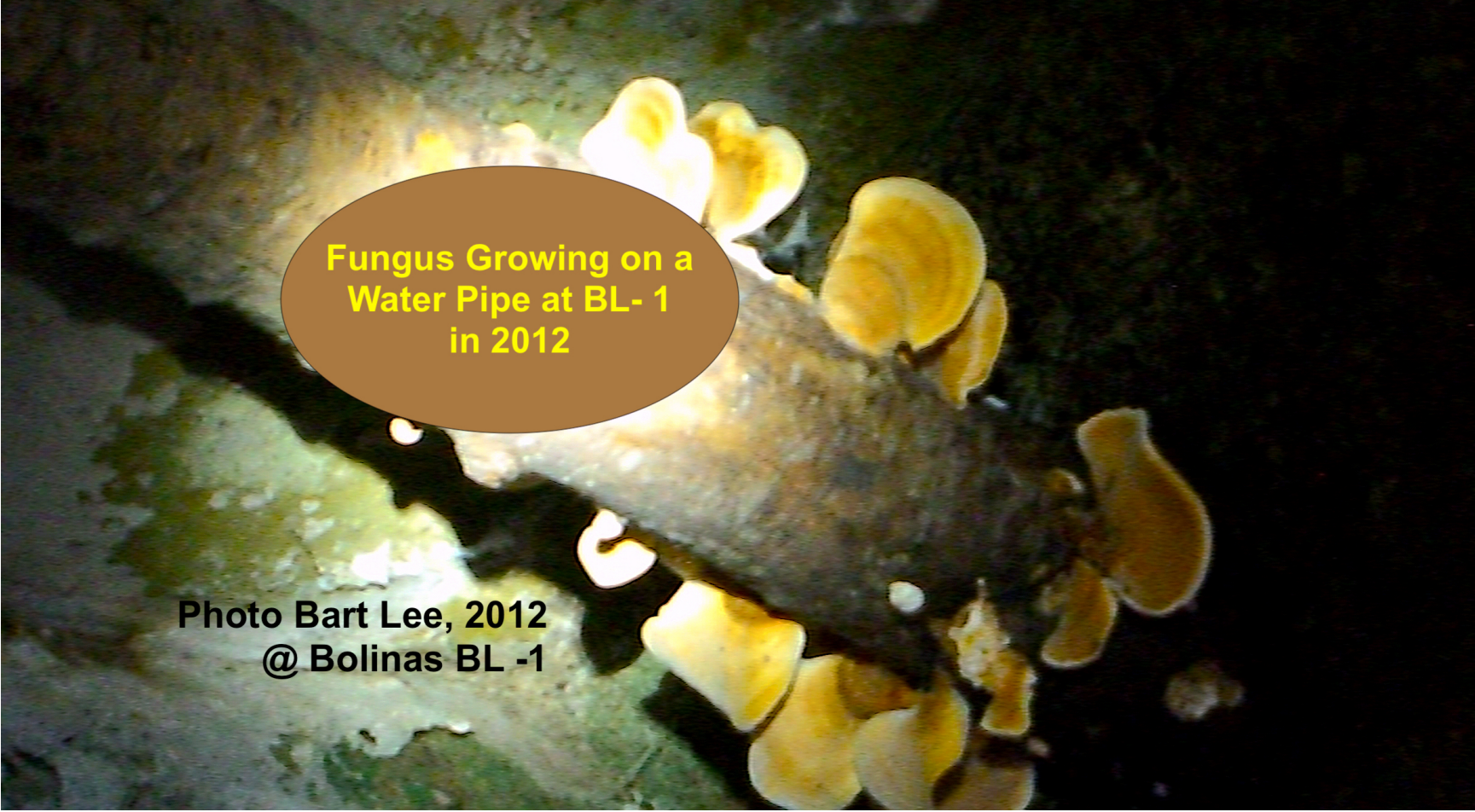
The Chains
Remain

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

MARCONI AT BOLINAS, CA, USA

FROM 1912 TO RUINS TODAY



Radio Archeology from the California Historical Radio Society

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