

The Fight on the Beaches



Barrier lines were strung across the mouth of Bolinas lagoon to check the influx of oil



A volunteer shoveled up oil-soaked straw that had been laid along the San Francisco marina



Workers spread straw on the beach at Aquatic Park to sop up the incoming mass of sticky oil

How They Defended The Lagoon at Bolinas

By Jim Brewer

Conservationists have been defending Bolinas Lagoon from assaults for nearly ten years. They did so again yesterday and waited at nightfall for another, probably stronger attack on the 1500-acre natural wildlife sanctuary. This time, the adversary was oil and its ally was the tide.

Volunteers began arriving early yesterday to help rig booms across the slender channel to one of the last untouched lagoons on the California coast.

PURPOSE
 The booms — makeshift dams — were to keep oil from coating the low tide mudflats of the lagoon where thousands of wildfowl feed daily. For a while, the battle looked lost.

They had been floated in front of the booms to soak up oil. Some of it was becoming so weighted down by oil, however, that it was bobbing under the booms.

"It looks like we're losing the battle," naturalist Clarin Zumwalt said at 3 p.m., 90 minutes after the tide had started in.

DONATION
 There were three booms across the channel — one of them donated by the Shell Oil Co. at the request of Standard Oil Co.

In minutes, there was a fourth, a hastily rigged log barrier, and all were being defended by gunnysacks, filled with hay and tied together in twos.

The emergency operation helped. More than that, the tide wasn't as high as expected — only three feet instead of five — and a brisk north wind was heading the oil off from the entrance to the lagoon.

LUCKY
 "We were really lucky," Zumwalt said at 6 p.m. "By the grace of God, we were really lucky."

"The barriers didn't hold as well as we thought, but with the tide and the wind, not much oil got inside the lagoon. Most of that which did collected at the south end of the lagoon."

The tide would return at 2 a.m. today, however, and the volunteers were preparing for it last night.

Some 100 employees of Shell Oil turned up to join the fight after nightfall.

There was Marin county equipment too, including bulldozers, working against the tide under lights to narrow the channel.

Germans Lose Another Fighter

Bonn
 The West German air force yesterday lost its 127th Starfighter in ten years in a crash in the Eifel mountains near here, an armed forces spokesman said.

The pilot parachuted without injury.

Reagan Finds A Nonexistent Silver Lining

Sacramento

Governor Ronald Reagan found a silver lining to the San Francisco Bay oil spill yesterday.

"It is fortunate," the governor told a press conference, "that if it had to happen at all, it was with crude oil." Crude oil, he said, "breaks far less havoc on wildlife than refined oil."

But Standard Oil Co. of California yesterday said the oil dumped in the bay was "bunker fuel, a lightly refined fuel oil."

The Arizona Standard, which collided with the Oregon Standard, which carried bunker fuel, carried crude oil. None of the crude oil was spilled into the bay.

Our Correspondent

Proposal for Oil-Fighting Task Force

Sacramento

State Senator John A. Nejedly (Rep-Walnut Creek) is preparing a resolution which would direct the State Water Resources Board to propose a program for an emergency petroleum-fighting force.

The special task force would be able to move in immediately to clean up oil spills like the one caused Monday by the collision of two Standard Oil Co. tankers.

Nejedly's office said that although the resolution is not yet in its final form, it is planned that the Water Resources Board will also be asked to estimate the costs of the equipment and manpower to operate the program.

The resolution would also mandate that those persons responsible for spills would have to pay for the cleanup.

The board would report its recommendations to the 1972 Legislature, next January.

Our Correspondent

Oil Is Big Cargo on The Bay

An enormous amount of oil and oil byproducts are shipped across San Francisco Bay, according to the Marine Exchange.

In 1968, the last year for which figures are available, 41,561,530 tons of such materials were shipped in this region, said exchange officials, quoting a report on United States water-borne commerce prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The figure referred to "foreign and domestic imports and exports of gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene, distillate fuel oil, residual fuel oil, lubricating oils and greases, naphtha and petroleum solvents, petroleum and coal products, and crude petroleum."

And Nick Cretan, assistant manager of the exchange, reported that oil company ships on their way to various Bay Area refineries amount to nearly 30 per cent of the ocean-going ships plying the bay.

He said that there were 5200 ship arrivals in the bay in 1969. And of these, he said, Standard Oil Co. brought in 432 ships, Humble Oil 31 ships and Texaco 45 ships.

Standard Oil, he observed, runs its ships through the Golden Gate "almost like a taxi service."

Marks Seeks Pilots On Bay Tankers

Sacramento

State Senator Milton Marks (Rep-S.F.) introduced a bill yesterday requiring state-licensed bar pilots to navigate all oil tankers in San Francisco Bay.

Acting as a result of Monday's accident in which hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil were spilled into the bay after a collision between two Standard Oil Co. tankers, Marks noted:

"The law does not require these ships to state-

licensed bar pilots. My bill will plug the loopholes in the existing regulations. . . . The people of the Bay Area are entitled to be protected, and I am determined to do all that I can to see . . . that our magnificent bay does not become another Santa Barbara."

(American ships engaged only in coastwise trade are not required by present law to be guided in and out of the bay by pilots.)

Our Correspondent

Vandals Strike In Oil Protest

Vandals threw sand mixed with oil onto the home of a San Francisco realtor early yesterday morning, apparently believing it to be the home of Otto Miller, board chairman of Standard Oil Co. of California.

Martin Lieberman told police he had purchased his home at 2965 Lake street from Miller four years ago. Lieberman said the goosy mess was thrown on one side of the house, on the front door and front steps.

He estimated it would cost between \$500 and \$1000 for removal and cleaning.

Later, at the height of the morning rush hour, eight young people smeared paint

Co. of California headquarters at 555 Market street, on at 555 Market street.

They also threw plastic bags filled with crankcase oil around the entrance to the building and dumped other bags of oil and dead fish into an outside pond.

"Standard Destroys" and "Ecology Grows Out of the Barrel of a Gun" were daubed in red and green paint on the building wall and sidewalks.

Several persons on their way to their work in the building scuffled briefly with the vandals, six young men and one young woman. There were no injuries and the vandals escaped.

Reuters

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