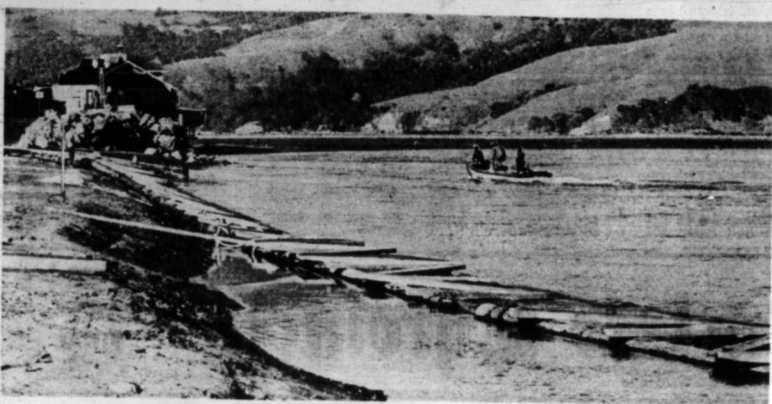


Big Boom Guarding Bolinas



The 1400-foot long boom consists of logs laced with beams

Residents Struggle to Save Lagoon

By Jim Brewer

More than 100 young Bolinas residents struggled last night to launch a huge boom made of heavy logs to protect the Bolinas lagoon from the threat of the great oil slick.

The boom is 1400 feet long and weighs 300 pounds per linear foot and consists of huge logs laced together by a criss-cross of sturdy four-by-four beams.

The young volunteers and engineers had confidence in the sprawling contraption and they were able to launch it despite the fact that they lacked bulldozers and power boats needed to maneuver it and control it in the swift tides.

The trouble, it seemed, was that Standard Oil decided the threat of the oil slick invading the lagoon had diminished, and the company had withdrawn its support from the project.

WONDER

The lagoon is considered an ecological wonder, a feeding ground for birds and a spawning ground for various fish, crustaceans and lesser forms of sea life.

"We got together on a plan," said John Armstrong, designer of the boom, "and half way through it Standard Oil backs off."

Another volunteer, Russ Rever, had expressed confidence that the Bolinas group could launch the boom but added that "it would be a lot easier with cooperation from Standard."

Philip Brubaker, a Standard Oil clean-up official, said the company joined in the plan to build the boom a week ago when the lagoon appeared to be in great danger of oil pollution.

THREAT

But then the threat diminished, he said, and it appeared that the huge logs would present a danger to shipping or to the pilings of homes along the Bolinas lagoon.

Pierre Joske, director of the Marin department of parks and recreation, said he was inclined to agree with Standard on Sunday but that he has since changed his mind about the need for the boom.

"Sunday, I thought Standard Oil was right. Now, I think the kids are right," Joske said.

Joske said he will recommend to the Marin Board of Supervisors that some kind of long-range protection for the lagoon be provided.

"The oil washes but at night but has a way of washing back in," Joske said.

The boom was tried out Sunday night, but for lack of launches powerful enough to control it, it broke loose.

The volunteers, aided by perfect weather, feel that one good storm will be enough to prove the boom's value.

To a man, they fear the return of gooey globs of bunker oil that could quickly destroy the lagoon as a natural preserve.

After launching the boom last night, the volunteers agreed to defend it as a community effort and not call again on Standard Oil.

Government 'Watchdog' Formed

New Oil Damage Agency

Several State and Federal agencies involved in the oil clean-up operations announced the creation of a joint task force here yesterday to deal with damage assessment and restoration.

The federal-state task force, formed after a meeting in San Francisco, will survey all areas affected by the spill to identify damage and "to assure all public interests will be served in the clean-up operations," a Coast Guard spokesman announced.

Participating agencies include the Environmental Protection Administration (whose San Francisco office will be the group's headquarters), the Coast Guard, the State Department of Fish and Game, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

AREA

During the day, a Standard Oil boat cruised a wide area south of the Golden Gate Bridge checking reports of a heavy accumulation of emulsified oil suspended under the surface.

But the company discontinued night operations, both onshore and offshore, for the first time since the clean-up started because "recoverable oil accumulations became increasingly difficult to locate."

The various agencies, at their meeting, also decided to explore coastal beds to measure the amount of sticky bunker oil which has adhered to the sea bottom at low tides.

Coast Guard Commander Gordon E. Dickman, who surveyed the beaches and waterfront areas by air yesterday, told the group that clean-up work "was progressing extremely well."

Standard Oil said work today would concentrate on mop-up operations in small coves and other relatively inaccessible points.

"There's so little recoverable oil remaining offshore," the company's clean-up coordinator said, "we just can't locate it at night."

Some 16 oil skimming boats were in operation yesterday. The company estimated that 41,000 gallons of oil — nearly half of the 940,000-gallon spill — have been recovered.

The Army Corps of Engineers reported that over the weekend its debris-collection fleet — which normally clears the bay's surface of tidal drift — picked up 100 tons of oil-soaked hay and took it to a dumping site at Fort Barry in Marin county.

Meanwhile, an ecology-

activist group calling itself the Earth Army announced plans for a protest demonstration outside Standard Oil headquarters, 555 Market street, at noon tomorrow.

Spokesmen for the group, which helped organize the immense volunteer effort to clean beaches and rescue birds, told a press conference the demonstration would be a "people's trial" of Standard Oil, whose tankers were involved in the collision.

"The purpose of the demonstration," a press release said, "is to emphasize that the oil spill was not an isolated event, but rather an inevitable occurrence, given the

way Standard goes about its operations."

Mayor Joseph Alioto told his press conference yesterday morning the greater blame for the oil spill should be attributed to state and federal governments.

Standard Oil, he said, "appears to have done a great deal to repair the damage and the greater fault for an accident of this kind lies with the failure of the state and federal authorities to enact tougher laws on ship movements."

The mayor's call for more stringent legislation was echoed in several measures introduced at yesterday's

Board of Supervisors' meeting and referred to committee.

Last night, the Coast Guard reported that "traces of an emulsion mixture" were still being cleaned up by a skimmer boat off Bolinas Bay, and booms were still up protecting Bolinas Lagoon.

"Spots and streaks" of oil were reported three to five miles southwest of Rocky Point, and also a mile west of Fort Cronkhite. Another patch ran from a mile south of Seal Rock, north to Mile Rock, then east to Fort Point — from the surf line to a mile offshore.

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Sunday only . . . \$1.75