

## **Incense Burner, 1888**

Bronze

Courtesy History San Jose

The 1906 earthquake could be felt as far south as Los Angeles and as far north as Oregon. This incense burner survived intense shaking in San Jose's Chinatown, which was located approximately 50 miles south of San Francisco.

## Vessel, 1888

Ceramic

Courtesy History San Jose

This vessel survived the 1906 earthquake at the Ng Shing Gung (Temple of the Five Gods) in San Jose's Heinlenville Chinatown. Heinlenville, one of five Chinatowns in the city, was a center of Chinese-American business and cultural life through the early 20th-century.



# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Map of San Francisco, May 1906

Reproduction

Courtesy Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, Historic Maps of the Bay Area Collection, G4364.S5 1906.U5.

This map shows the area destroyed by the fires that broke out following the 7.9 earthquake. The Chinese Camp is also shown on this map, marked by the number “3” in the northwestern part of the Presidio Military Reservation.

# **Collapsed Apartment Complex in Canoga Park, 1994**

Photograph by Kris Tacsik and Michael Swift

Courtesy California State University Northridge,  
University Library Map Collection, NEPCo70.

The Northridge Earthquake caused multiple buildings to collapse. This apartment building in Canoga Park collapsed on top of its understructure parking area, crushing the cars on the ground level.



## ***Santa Cruz Sentinel Article, Oct. 23, 1989***

Courtesy Santa Cruz Public Library

After the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, many Watsonville residents chose to remain in Callaghan Park, an unofficial encampment. The article details multiple reasons for this, including distrust of the government, fear of aftershocks, and proximity to schools and businesses.

# **The Hihn Building in Santa Cruz, late 1989**

Photograph by Alexander Lowry

Courtesy UC Santa Cruz University Library, Digital Collections, Alexander Lowry Photographs

Originally built in 1894, the Hihn Building was home to medical and dental offices in downtown Santa Cruz. The building was decimated by the 1989 Loma Prieta quake.



## Chinatown in Ruins, 1906

Photographer Unknown

Courtesy Chinese Historical Society of America

Here, residents of San Francisco survey the earthquake's destruction of Chinatown. Clouds of smoke from the fires that followed the quake are visible in the distance.

# Stereoviews of the 1906 Earthquake

Photographers Unknown

Courtesy Exhibit Envoy

These stereoview photographs depict the destruction caused by the 1906 Earthquake and its subsequent fires in downtown San Francisco.

Stereoviews are designed to produce the illusion of a 3D image when viewed through a stereoscope.



# ***San Francisco and Vicinity: The Story of the Great Disaster, 1906***

Written by Wilbur Gleason Zeigler

Courtesy Exhibit Envoy

After the 1906 earthquake, a number of publications capitalized on public interest in the disaster. This booklet includes not only stories of “The Great Disaster,” but also fold-out photographs and illustrations.

## AIDS-Related Pins, c. 1980s

Courtesy Ken Yeager and BAYMEC Community Foundation

Pins were a popular way to raise awareness of and show support for people living with HIV or AIDS.

One of these pins references ACT UP, or AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power. Founded in 1987, this international, grassroots political group continues to work to end the AIDS epidemic.



## No on 64 T-Shirt, Sign, and Pins, 1986

Courtesy Ken Yeager and BAYMEC Community Foundation

California's LGBTQ+ activists and allies fought against the homophobic Prop 64, which would have required mandatory HIV testing and public reporting. In Silicon Valley, the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) led the charge against this initiative. These objects were used by Ken Yeager, a BAYMEC co-founder and the first openly gay elected official in Santa Clara County.

## AIDS Awareness Stamps, 1993

Courtesy Ken Yeager and BAYMEC Community Foundation

In 1991, artists from the Visual AIDS Artists' Caucus selected a ribbon as a symbol to show support for people with AIDS and their caregivers. Though initially conceived as a yellow ribbon, the color red was instead chosen for its "connection to blood and the idea of passion – not only anger, but love." The U.S. Postal Service issued this set of stamps in 1993 to bring awareness to the crisis.



## Newsweek Issue, June 6, 1977

Courtesy Ken Yeager and BAYMEC Community Foundation

Singer Anita Bryant became the face of anti-gay activism in the 1970s. In 1977, she founded the “Save Our Children” campaign in Dade County, Florida with the goal of repealing a local ordinance protecting LGBTQ+ rights. Her campaign marked the first organized opposition to the gay rights movement, and was successful in repealing the law. Bryant’s work spawned similar anti-gay efforts in California on both local and state levels.

# Influenza Quarantine Sign, undated

Courtesy Exhibit Envoy

Health officials posted signs like this one on buildings occupied by quarantined influenza victims. During 1918-1919, the Spanish Flu epidemic killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide. By the end of 1918, more than 675,000 Americans had died from the flu, most between the ages of 19 and 42.



# Farmers' Bulletin about Foot and Mouth Disease, 1938

Courtesy Exhibit Envoy

Originally issued in 1915 and revised in 1938, this bulletin gave farmers important information about Foot and Mouth Disease. As written inside by John R. Mohler, the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, “only the most prompt and vigorous measures are of any value in eradicating” the highly-contagious disease.

# Masks worn during the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020-2022

Courtesy Amy Cohen

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Californians faced a shortage of PPE (personal protective equipment). Some people sewed their own masks at home, like the two fabric masks seen here, or wore makeshift face coverings like bandanas. Now, there are few issues finding professionally-made N95 masks.



# Foot and Mouth Disease Checkpoint, c. 1924

Photographer Unknown

Courtesy California Historical Society, General Subjects

Photography Collection, PC-GS\_00351

Men inspect automobiles at a Foot and Mouth Disease checkpoint. At right, a man bends over and washes off his boots to prevent the spread of the virus. People could transmit the disease to livestock through contaminated footwear or clothing.

# iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test, 2022

Courtesy Exhibit Envoy

In November 2020, six months after California's shelter-in-place began, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization for the first at-home, diagnostic test for COVID-19. In early 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration purchased one billion at-home tests to distribute to Americans for free.



## **Camp Cuesta Murals, c. 2022**

Reproductions of mural artwork created by Cuesta Conservation Camp participant Cecil Yahtin, provided by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Cecil Yahtin, a self-taught artist and Cuesta Conservation Camp participant, painted these murals in the camp's dining hall to honor firefighters past and present. These works reveal the realities of fighting fires in California from a firefighter's perspective.

## Marin Pipeline near San Rafael Bridge, c. 1982

Photographer unknown

Courtesy Marin History Museum, P1999.866

When the 1976-1977 drought dried up reservoirs and surface water resources, Marin County had trouble supplying water to its residents. In June of 1977, an emergency pipeline was built across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, visible in the background here. The pipeline supplied parts of the county with water from the Delta.



# Rescue Reports from Yuba City Flood, 1955

Courtesy Sutter County Museum

When the Feather River's Gum Tree Levee collapsed, a 21-foot wall of water rushed into Yuba City. While a number of families fled their homes, others remained stuck in place. These handwritten reports gave rescue teams important information about where to search for stranded individuals in a pre-cell phone era.

## Bible, undated

Courtesy Sutter County Museum and Dan Christensen

This Bible survived the 1955 flood in Yuba City. Although the pages appear waterlogged, much of the text is still readable inside.



## Rubber Boots, 1955

Courtesy Sutter County Museum and Orlin Schuler, Jr.

The Red Cross provided Orlin Schuler, Jr. with these black rubber hip boots during the 1955 flood in Yuba City. Schuler was 15 years old at the time of the flood.

## Rubber Stamp, 1956

Courtesy Sutter County Museum

Natural disasters and epidemics often impact essential government services, including mail delivery. This rubber stamp was used on documents damaged by the 1955 flood in Yuba City. Its counterpart stamp, not displayed here, read “Delayed by Yuba City Flood.”



## Can of Drinking Water, 1986

Courtesy Sutter County Museum and Ida Philpott

Corporations can play an important role in disaster recovery and relief efforts. During the 1976-1977 drought, Anheuser-Busch's Fairfield brewery halted its beer production to produce cans of emergency drinking water. The company also supplied similar cans to Porterville residents in 2015. This particular can was produced after a 1986 flood in Linda, CA.

## View of Sacramento City, 1850

Reproduction of a lithograph by George Casilear and Henry Bainbridge

Courtesy Center for Sacramento History, McCurry's Collection, 1973/003/1369.

The Great Flood of 1861-1862 was not Sacramento's first flood. This lithograph depicts a similar event in January 1850. As the authors wrote, "the rise of the River [occured because of] heavy rains and the melting of Snow from the Mountains was about 20 feet."



## Boats in Downtown Sacramento, c. 1862

Photographer Unknown

Courtesy Center for Sacramento History, *Sacramento Bee* Collection, 1983/001/03960.

After the Great Flood in Sacramento, people traveled by boats to visit businesses and friends.

# Flooding in Downtown Sacramento, c. 1862

Photographer Unknown

Courtesy Center for Sacramento History, *Sacramento Bee* Collection, 1983/001/03955.

During the Great Flood of 1861-1862, 10 feet of brown, debris-laden water covered the city of Sacramento. Here, the water level is only a few feet away from the second floor balconies of many buildings.



# Flooding in Sacramento, 1862

Photographer Unknown

Courtesy Center for Sacramento History, 1972/009/004.

This photograph shows the aftermath of the Great Flood on Sacramento's J Street, looking east from the levee. The point-of-view of this photograph makes it easy to imagine yourself as the photographer, sitting in a boat of your own.

# Rescue Boat during the Yuba City Flood, Dec. 24, 1955

Photograph by Floyd Winters

Courtesy Sutter County Library

In the wake of the Yuba City Flood, rescue workers mobilized to find and retrieve stranded community members. Here, a rescue boat picks up survivors of the flood. The man in the back of the boat cradles a small, blanketed bundle, perhaps a baby or a pet.



## Promotional Pin, c. 1970s

Produced by Marin Municipal Water District

Courtesy Marin History Museum

In the face of an extensive drought, the Marin Municipal Water District launched a water conservation media campaign. This pin reminded Marin County consumers to save water.

# Water Conservation Pamphlet, c. 1970s

Authored by Marin Municipal Water District

Courtesy Marin History Museum

Although the drought was a serious topic, some educational materials used humor to address water conservation. Drippy the Water Robber is accused of “commonly posing as a dripping faucet - even the slowest drip will rob you of 20 gallons per day...All kidding aside, water is a valuable natural resource and should not be wasted.”



## ***Marin Life Line Newsletter, 1977***

Produced by Marin Municipal Water District

Courtesy Marin History Museum

Marin Municipal Water District newsletters shared information about the emergency pipeline, groundwater sources, and reclaimed wastewater, among other topics. This newsletter highlighted rainfall statistics for 1975-1976 (22 inches) in comparison to a normal year (52 inches).

## ***Marin Independent Journal*, Jan. 28, 1978**

Courtesy Marin History Museum

After the 1976-1977 drought, the *Independent Journal* published a special retrospective issue highlighting the effects of the disaster. Articles explored how residents conserved water, the drought's negative impact on dairies and ranches, and even how outdoor athletic activities suffered as sports fields fell prey to the drought.