

# FEE

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a \$250,000 check, which the commission's required before it would start looking at the application. The commission's is one of at least 25 government permits required before the water company can begin construction on regional desalination plant.

"The pre-construction and permitting phases of any project can be very lengthy and expensive," Cal Am community relations manager Catherine Bowie told The Pine Cone.

Ironically, while more than two dozen agencies will have to approve the desal project, yet another government agency, the State Water Resources Control Board, is requiring it to be built. In 1995, the SWRCB ordered Cal Am stop pumping most of its supply from the Carmel River.

The coastal permit application submitted by Cal Am is a major hurdle for the regional project, which includes a desalination plant, pipeline and other facilities, with costs estimated by Cal Am to total \$328 million.

The application fee — and other expenses for the regional project — will eventually be paid for by the Peninsula's 40,000 ratepayers. Hundreds of hours went into completing the coastal permit application, Bowie said.

The coastal commission's staff will also spend hundreds of hours analyzing all aspects of the project and determining whether it's consistent with the Coastal Act, which regulates land use planning along the California coast.

The development project's effect on public access to the beach, recreation, the marine environment and land resources, for instance, will be weighed by the coastal commission.

Tom Luster with the coastal commission's San Francisco office said step is reviewing the application. The first staff will probably be to ask for more studies and data.

"We have up to 30 days to determine whether the application is complete or if we need additional information," Luster said.

After that, coastal commission workers will prepare a report for commissioners recommending they approve, deny or approve the project with conditions. It will then be set for a public hearing, Luster said.

Bowie said Cal Am expects a hearing to be held later this year.

The coastal commission charges \$250,000 to review coastal permit applications for projects that cost \$100 million or more. The application was jointly filed by Cal Am, the MCWD and the MCWRA.

Though the regional project permit application is a big undertaking, Luster said "it's not unusual for us to review projects of this scale or larger."

In addition to the permit for the overall project, the MCWRA applied for a separate coastal permit to construct and operate test wells in Marina that will provide data for the operation for the eventual operation of the desal plant.

The desal plant is planned to provide about 10,500 acre-feet of water per year to Monterey Peninsula residents, who are expected to pay at least double on their monthly water bills to pay for the project.

Apart from a desalination plant in north Marina, the project includes aquifer storage and recovery facilities, intake pipes and wells and a recycled water component.

The expensive application is one of a litany of costs ratepayers are responsible for even before ground is broken for the regional project.

"We expect the fees and engineering work required to obtain the necessary permits for the regional desalination project will run in the millions of dollars," Bowie said.

# ART

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Grand Tasting Tent Saturday and Sunday, April 30-May 1 from noon to 3 p.m. Her creations will also be shown at Saturday night's dinner at the Beach and Tennis Club.

Thull's studio is located at 26346 Carmel Rancho Lane. For more information, call (831) 293-8190.

## ■ Carmel Art Festival seeking volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the 18th annual Carmel Art Festival, which will be presented Thursday through Sunday, May 12-15. Specifically, volunteers are sought to help set up the festival Wednesday and Thursday, as well assisting with the cleanup effort Sunday. Volunteers are also needed work in

the festival's information booth throughout the event.

For more info about volunteering, call (831) 238-6583.

## ■ Show pays tribute to late artist

One-time Carmel artist Christine Rosamond — who died at 46 in 1994 when she was swept out to sea by a big wave near Rocky Point — will be remembered Saturday, April 30, when the Barnyard shopping center hosts a reception from 4 to 8 p.m. for a display of her work.

"She painted from the heart and appealed to a broad range of people," said Stacey Simons, the curator of exhibit and the custodian of Rosamond's work. "She never had any formal art training."

The exhibit, which will be on display until May 6, will be located in a gallery space above the Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Co. For more info, call (831) 626-8801.

## William E. Miller, Jr.

March 9, 1922 - April 9, 2011

NASA SCIENTIST, GENEALOGIST,  
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

TO UNDERSTAND the remarkable life of William E. Miller, Jr. — who died April 9 at the age of 89 in Annapolis, Md., of complications from a stroke — it helps to go back 40 years or so, to the busy house on Brewster Lane in Bowie, Md., where he and his wife, Marjorie, raised their five children. They had some memorable visitors in those days.

There was the moon rock Miller brought home from work at NASA one afternoon. A product of the Apollo 15 mission and carefully protected in a glass case, the small, dark gray stone had a lot of gravity attached to it. The family was amazed.

Leon Panetta, who would become CIA Director many years later, visited the Millers in 1970 after President Nixon fired him as head of the Justice Department's Office of Civil Rights. Miller was president of the Presbyterian Interracial Council, which honored Panetta for having the audacity to actually try to enforce them.

And then there was Amelia Boynton, who played a key role in the famed Selma, Ala., voting rights marches of 1965. Miller had been to Selma, too, helping to register blacks to vote — a dangerous thing to do in those days. When Boynton came to Washington, D.C., in the mid-1960s to gather support for her protests, the Miller family hosted her.

Considering his roots in rural Oklahoma, if Miller's career as a space engineer was a surprise, his passion for civil rights was even more so.

William Eldridge Miller was born March 9, 1922, in hardscrabble Stillwater, Okla., the son of an appliance salesman and a homemaker.

In the 1930s, they moved to El Paso, Texas, where young Billy excelled in high school science classes, earning himself a place in the engineering department of the University of Texas. When he graduated in 1943, two scientific honor societies, Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu, made him a member.

Back in El Paso, he had met a brilliant young lady, Marjorie Mithoff, a neighbor on Lebanon Street. A Phi Beta Kappa, she also graduated from the University of Texas in 1943. They were married January 2 of that year. A daughter, Peggy, was born in September.

Like millions of other Americans during those years, whatever plans they made for their young family were disrupted by World War II. In May 1944, Miller became a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army and was sent to Harvard, MIT and Fort Monmouth, N.J., for training in advanced military electronics and radar. The extended program meant he wasn't shipped overseas until just after V-J Day. Attached to the Signal Corps and stationed in Yokohama and Tokyo, Miller played a key role in the live radio broadcasts of Japanese war crimes trials in late 1945 and early 1946. While he was in Japan, a son, Warren, was born.

Returning to the United States, Miller took a job designing radar for General Electric in Syracuse, N.Y. But the brutal winters took their toll, and the Millers returned to El Paso as soon as they could. In 1948, he began his career in space exploration, becoming chief of the telemetry section at White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico, where this country's rocket program was just getting off the ground. Later, he became technical director of the Range Instrumentation Development Division — which meant he was responsible for tracking missiles after they were launched.

While Miller worked at White Sands, three more children joined the family: David in 1952, Paul in 1954 and Stephen in 1957.

In 1962, Miller's growing reputation in missile electronics earned him a job at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C. After a hectic cross-country journey with five kids in the family station wagon, the Millers took up residence in one of those pioneering suburban developments built by Levitt and Sons. The home would be theirs for nearly 50 years.

At work — where he developed telemetry and instrumentation throughout the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs, eventually becoming Chief of Information Systems for the space agency and earning a NASA Exceptional Service Medal — Miller was helping his country get to the moon, which required not just a host of new technology, but some completely new ways of thinking.

The same was required in the mid-1960s for the nation to break the bonds of its racist past. Miller's interest in civil rights began at his home church in an all-white Maryland suburb, but it soon took him to First Baptist Church of Selma, Ala., which was ground zero of the national effort to gain voting rights for blacks. In January 1965, Selma was 58 percent black, but only 3 percent of its registered voters were.

"Selma was chosen to break the system in Alabama because the sheriff there [the infamous Jim Clark] is such an obstinate segregationist that it presents a target which could very well provide a victory for the whole state," Miller wrote just before making a trip there to support Dr. Martin Luther King's peaceful protests.

Strategizing, marching and singing with Dr. King, Miller and five other Presbyterian activists from Washington, D.C., not only helped sign up dozens of new Alabama voters, they personally integrated a previously all-white restaurant.

"God was calling us to be participants in history, and we could not be spectators," Miller wrote.

The experience inspired the rest of his life, in which he remained fervently interested in politics, travel and history.

Retiring from NASA in 1975, those interests became the basis for a second career, as Miller taught himself (with the help of graduate-level studies at the University of Maryland) to be an expert in genealogical research. Delving into the Miller and Mithoff family roots and working for paying clients, Miller, along with his wife, traveled extensively in Europe, where they spent as much time digging through dusty old files in libraries and churches as they did touring national monuments and art museums. In 1987, Miller was elected president of the Maryland Genealogical Society.

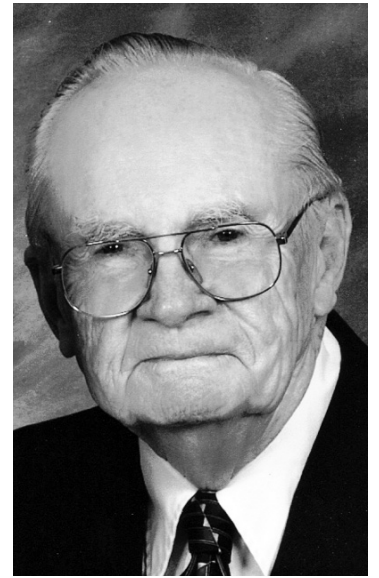
Until almost the very end, he was a faithful member of his church, serving as a Presbyterian elder for more than 50 years. Miller also took great pride in his far-flung, extended family and their diverse interests. Nothing made him happier than getting involved in fighting a new injustice, but his heart practically burst whenever he heard about the latest achievement of one of his many descendants.

"We never led dull lives," Marge Miller said soon after her husband of seven decades passed away.

William E. Miller, Jr., is survived by his wife, who still lives in Bowie, and five children: Peggy Benedict, of Laurel, Md.; Warren, of Prescott, Ariz.; David, of Brussels, Belgium; Paul, of Pacific Grove, Calif. (publisher of The Pine Cone); and Stephen, of Rockville, Md.; as well as 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Christian Community Presbyterian Church in Bowie, Md., May 28, at noon. A reception will follow in the church's fellowship hall.

"When we refuse to fight against unjust laws, God's judgment falls upon us."



## BROCCHINI • RYAN

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