

the reactor

By Paul Azevedo



If you pick and choose your subjects carefully enough, you can use a feature like this one to give the impression of being fairly knowledgeable.

However, my pools of ignorance being as deep, wide and murky as anyone's, I'm going to use this space to ask a few questions. If you know the answers, please share them with me, so I won't be quite as ignorant as I am currently.

CAN SOMEONE tell me more about that resident blackbird flock I see on Lindar Mar lawns from time to time? Are they really blackbirds? Where do they roost for the night? Are they a year-round group or do they migrate away part of the year?

I've never seen them in my back yard. They spend their time on front lawns, mostly. Perhaps they are starlings. I'm not sure.

DOES ANYONE in the area have an established rugosa rose hedge? Ever since I read that rugosa roses make good hedge material, that they thrive in salt spray and the fruits (rose hips) are very rich in vitamin C, I've wanted to see an established planting. No luck so far. They're very big on the Atlantic coast, I hear.

THINKING about alternatives to "Sewer Treatment Plant" for our council's home, I've come up with Higgins Hall (after the pioneer real estate broker), Tobin Hall, (a well-known name now in disuse), Danmann Hall, and Sharp Hall, after Honora Sharp.

But the ideal name, in my opinion, would be that of a Costanoan Indian from this area. If not an individual, then the name of the local tribelet which ate the mussels, abalone and clams of our shore, stalked the deer in our hills and honored their dead for, who knows, 30,000 years or more?

DOES THE daily log or diary of Portola mention a name? Do the records of the Mission Dolores asistencia formerly on the site of the Adobe give any clues? Or have the people whose lands we now claim as our own left so little trace that we cannot even honor their names?

If you have answers, perhaps we can get something going.

DOES ANYONE have a candidate for the oldest tree in town? Where is the area's biggest Eucalyptus? Where is our biggest Monterey Cypress?

Is Short street the shortest street in town with a house on it?

IS IT possible to walk through the old Ocean Shore tunnel south of Shelter Cove?

If so, perhaps Margot Patterson Doss could have a tour and get permission to go through for her Chronicle column?

How many horses are resident in Pacifica, apart from those at Coastside Corral and the corrals at Vallemar?

WHO WAS Honora Sharp? Where did she live, and what was the source of her wealth? Why did she leave it to the city and county of San Francisco? Who was her husband, presuming she was married, and do any of her descendants live locally?