

the reactor

By Paul Azevedo



It's time we honored the Indians who lived in this area for thousands of years. As an added dividend, we can quit referring to the place where the City Council meets as "the second floor of the Sewer Treatment Plant."

Dr. Mike Moratto of SF State's Anthropology department has been kind enough to furnish me with a copy of a chapter on coastside history. He prepared it early this year, as his part of an environmental impact report.

THE WHOLE chapter I find fascinating. I hope that the Tribune will be able to publish it in its entirety at some time in the future.

Moratto and his sources mention the area of "Aramal," which is said to have encompassed the area from Lake Merced to Pedro Mountain.

Villages "at Aramal" included Pruristac, (which is considered the most important) and Vehtaca, both in Pedro Valley, and Titiyu and Timihatac in the Calera valley (Rockaway — Vallemar).

THE CHILDREN of a local couple, Yucutch and Eymesig, are recorded as being baptized at Mission Dolores.

I suggest we name the council chambers "Aramal Hall." The name referred to the entire area of Pacifica and more.

We will be building a new, permanent Sanchez library soon. It will honor Francisco Sanchez, whose 8000-acre rancho was granted him a number of years after removal and disease did in most or all of the local Indians.

The community room of this library might appropriately be called "The Pruristac Community room," to honor the most important village of Pedro Valley, the people of which shared their pinole rations with the Portola expedition when Portola's men were close to eating their mules.

THE DECOR might be based in some manner on these peaceful people and

their culture.

Today that culture is gone, except for the dedicated efforts of anthropologists like Dr. Moratto. We cannot restore it, but we can restore, albeit in a small way, a name that was important to them. Then at least, something of these people will still be alive.