

8/25/76
the reactor

By Paul Azevedo



Do you remember when Pacifica was incorporated? Were you in the thick of the fight, for or against? Nick Gust was there. Ralph Barkey was there.

But 37 or 38 thousand of our present 42,000 population wasn't here for the big event. Many Pacificans who were have died, moved on, been transferred, gone a multitude of places for a multitude of reasons. They've come. They've gone.

How many persons have been here long enough to be Pacificans, then gone on to other places? At a very rough guess, somewhere between 100,000 and 150,000.

ALL OVER the world, former citizens of Pacifica know of our community and remember it. From Alaska to Florida, it's likely that there are former Pacificans. Babe Evans of Alaska was in our fire

department. Eureka police chief Ray Shipley was in our police department.

I have met Pacifica residents who were born (or have lived) in Alaska (an Aleut), Vietnam, China, Italy, Germany, France, England, Hungary, India, Spain, Canada, and many other countries.

THE NUMBER of Pacificans who were born or brought up in my home town, Santa Rosa, Calif. continues to amaze me.

The Rotary club alone has three or four Santa Rosans in its ranks, including Bob Watt and Dr. Nile Porter.

PACIFICA is a popular way point for San Franciscans on their way out to the suburbs. Lots of people have left San Francisco for Pacifica and many have moved on, some out to Montara, others to Burlingame. San Mateo, San Jose and other points south.

Some Pacifica businessmen who formerly lived here now commute in from places like Hillsborough, San Anselmo, and other waypoints.

A LARGE percentage (I believe more than half) of our teaching staffs in grade and high schools live outside Pacifica, some as far as Hayward.

People move away for the same reasons they moved here. They are transferred. They are promoted. They are able to buy a better home, or a larger one. Bill and Mary Henderson (he was on the school board in the early '60s) have bounced around the midwest and south since leaving Pacifica.

If we added up the number of places present Pacificans have lived in, and former Pacificans have moved to, it would make a great geography lesson for the 14 or 15,000 Pacifica children who weren't born when it got here, only yesterday, 13 years ago.

Did someone say something about a passing parade?