

10-13-76
the reactor

By Paul Azevedo



One hundred years ago this area was a remote backwater, with few people, and some of those weren't considered worth the trouble to list by name.

"Colonies" of foreign immigrants farmed and dairied in the area. They were mostly men. They were mostly single, and often if they were married, their wives spent long years in the old country while the husband earned passage money.

Portuguese, Irish, Italians, Chinese, they grew the crops and milked the cows. When the census taker came, he couldn't speak their language. Thus we have census records that list Italian number one through Italian number 40, all living on one ranch. The men are grouped by age, lumping all the ones who appeared to be about 40, then 35, and so on.

CHINESE would be listed as "a colony of Chinese fishermen," sometimes living on a remote group of fishing

boats out on the bay, "Chinese number one through Chinese number 38."

Of those people who spoke English and had names there were the Caseys, the Comerfords, the Rohtes, Robert Inches and son, pioneer famers in Sharp Park long before it was Brighton or Salada Beach.

THE FAHEYS, the Morrisseys, and other families were residents.

The big landowners were the Tobins, the Irish family who ran the Hibernia savings and loan, later the Hibernia bank. They owned huge tracts in the area, and had a summer home in the Linda Mar area, though they were not residents.

OTTO FRAHM'S ranch of the late 19th century is now the Pitto ranch where 4-H club kids are doing their thing, along with Laguna Salada students and others.

This piece of land is identifiable on maps from before 1894. Part of the east boundary of Pacifica runs along the eastern boundary of the Sharp Park golf course properties near Skyline college. The same line can be traced back to the 1870's.

The southeastern boundary of Pacifica is coincidental with the southern boundary of the San Pedro land grant, granted in 1839, confirmed in the early days of the civil war. The Sanchez family, so important then, is now remembered mainly by their adobe home.

I'm tempted to call the Tobins, prominent in San Francisco. Their family memorabilia might be a real contribution to Pacifica history.

Skyline Dean Will Talk to TN Parents

Jim Wyatt, dean of students at Skyline College, will be the guest speaker at senior parents' night, Tuesday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terra Nova high school cafetorium.

Wyatt will speak on the student's role in preparing for college, Skyline's two-year program, and transferring to a four year college.