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the reactor

By Paul Azevedo



Name anomalies have always intrigued me. Like the fact that Mount Shasta is in Siskiyou County, while Mount Lassen is in Shasta County. (I have no idea what mountain is in Lassen County.)

Laguna Salada school district has a Cabrillo school, but the Cabrillo school district of Half Moon Bay does not. Cabrillo school is on Crespi drive, Crespi school is on Fassler, and Ortega school is a long way from Ortega court, which is just around the corner from Cabrillo school.

Fairmont school is the one that straddles the San Andreas fault, not its neighbor, San Andreas school.

PACIFICA high school is over in Pittsburg, Contra Costa County, while we have Terra Nova and Oceana. Oceana I can understand, but where did they get the name Terra Nova? Perhaps they named it after Oceana administrator Frank Terranova, but I doubt it.

Pacifica, which is so proud of its association with Don Gaspar de Portola of Balaguer, has not named any streets or public places for him. On the other hand, an obscure Mexican governor of California, Pio Pico, is honored with both Pio Pico way and Pico terrace, one in Park Pacifica, one in Sharp Park.

PORTOLA Freeway 380, a suitable honor for Don Gaspar, will probably remain a paper street, like so many others in this area.

This community grew up as a bunch of places, so it's not surprising that the patterns of street naming should be a jumble.

Bob Verdeckberg has pointed out that Pacifica has very few streets. They are: Bruce, Copeland, Hill, Shell, Short, Spring, Surf, and Waterford. Otherwise the town is a bundle of avenues, terraces, roads, drives, ways, (Pacifica has many, many ways), a few vistas, a lot of courts (but no resident judges), some boulevards, circles and places.

Montara has many more "streets" than Pacifica.

Linda Mar street names run heavily to the Spanish flavor, and the early conquerors. Crespi, Anza, Ortega, Fernandez, Duran, Alicante are there, as well as Flores, Escalero, La Mirada, Solano, Rosita, Monte Verde, Hermosa, Serena, and Corona.

WHEN THEY called the area Park Pacifica, Challenge tapped ready-made names in Yosemite, Banff, Big Bend, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Glacier.

One name that intrigues me is Troglia terrace in Rockaway. It's probably a family name, but I always envision troglodytes, digging deep in their caves.

MAITLAND road in Rockaway was named after Maitland Cline, the president of the subdividing company in the early 1900's.

I always expect to hear "Indian Love Call" as I drive through Vallemar. The soft musical names, Amapola, Nataqua, Wawona, Verona, Ramona, Juanita, Angelita, Minerva, Bonita, Naomi, Orinda and Hiawatha are brought up short by the jarring gutturals of Reichling and Franz Court.

Most of the streets in Sharp Park are inherited from the early boom days of the Ocean Shore railway. Vallejo, Santa Rosa, San Jose, Carmel, and Francisco are there, but others, like Fresno boulevard, Visalia terrace, Hanford terrace and Merced terrace are gone with their namers.

The mists and rolling low growth of Westview must have reminded some postwar developer of Scotland, hence names like Glasgow, Inverness, Lomond, Southmoor, and Heather.

Names ... they are fun!