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The Reactor

by Paul Azevedo



City's Hidden Streets

The big streets of a town do most of the business, you might say. They carry the traffic. They have most of the residents. They are best known.

But in Pacifica, and most towns, there are a lot of little streets, some of them just stub ends going nowhere, some of them connectors between neighborhoods, some little cul-de-sacs that no one visits except to see a resident, or by sheer accident.

Some of them are delightful accidents, discoveries you didn't know were there even though you've lived in town for years.

FOR EXAMPLE, in Edgemar, just off Nelson avenue is a delightful little butterfly called Hibbert court. Hibbert looks, on the map, like it has wings. It goes off from its entry way in both directions, then stops abruptly, as if it had changed its mind.

Clark court, on Manor drive, on the other hand, is just a stub, going nowhere, signifying nothing. Celestial court, off Sheila, seems the same.

VALLEMAR is a beehive of half-hidden discoveries in streets. Orinda avenue, curving from Verona to Naomi, with one residence, is a gem. So is Dardenelle, so steep you need pitons and rock hammers.

Valleamar is best known to me as the place where you're never sure what street you're on because the street sign is across the creek and out of sight.

In Valleamar you'll never get to Piedmont avenue

without first going up Reichling, then over the connecting stub called Ivy avenue. For some reason the part of Piedmont south of Ivy is called Woodlawn avenue, an imposing title for a street about 100 feet long with no houses.

ONEONTA AND Vespero avenues are sparsely settled semi-paper streets in Valleamar, but Fern avenue, nestled in the hills on the south side of Calera creek, is a delightful discovery.

Pedro Point, of course, has similar discoveries. Blackburn terrace, hidden behind the shrubbery at lands end, Belfast avenue, perched high above Safeway, the little paper street called Laurel way, all are what you'd expect from Pedro Point. That is, they are independent, individualistic, and unique. So are the residents.

SOME HOUSES in Pacifica are back of long driveways, getting their privacy by lack of visibility from the street. These exist on Banyan, Buffalo court, Oddstad boulevard, Lerida way, and so on.

There are groups of such homes, disguised by a driveway that looks like to go nowhere. It must be ideal to live where the traffic is mute, salesmen do not intrude, and motorcycles do not roar (unless your neighbor has one, worse luck.)

If you buy right, it is possible to have a degree of solitude right in the middle of town.



Letters to the Editor

pockets...Laguna school district cuts tax rate 5 cents...Sewer use fee—still only "suggested"—inspires lot of political heat...City Hall gets some rebuilding termite and dry rot problems, building is estimate good for another five or 10 years.

20 YEARS AGO

Aug. 8, 1956

Daly City mayor charges North Coastside corporation is part of a plot to interfere with gar trucks to the Mussel Rock dump...New law spread bond repayment, eases school taxes by 38 cents per assessed valuation...Pacific Manor shopping center parceled up for sale as owner-partnership is dissolved...Luxury motel's first 25 units, restaurant and are expected to start construction behind Pacific Manor shopping center in 90 days...Reporters are excluded from an anti-incorporation meeting in the Rock Beach firehouse...Incorporation leaders start a v registration drive.

30 YEARS AGO

Aug. 8, 1947

San Francisco newspaper's fun with the dispute (the sign on the Sharp Park post office seen as often to local residents...San Francisco supervisor's proposal to annex part of San Mateo County is labeled a grab...Sharp Park volunteer fire department debating moving the 1,000 gallon tank off "Old Betsy" to a new chassis.



the column

by R. A. Verdeckberg

Would you believe politics involving the president of the United States in 1980 and 1984 is having an impact on the conduct of the local elementary schools, fewer than 6,000 K-8 students? The connection is direct than you think.

Starting at the bottom of the totem pole, the Latino district in need of...