

# Reactor

by Paul Azevedo



If I were to offer a prize for the most consistently misspelled name among Pacifica streets, the winner hands down would be Humboldt court. Dead end Humboldt court, with that tricky "DT" on the end, runs from Yosemite drive, across from Frontierland Park, to the San Francisco watershed.

The last time I checked, the city's street sign was spelled Humbolt, as was the city's official map and the Chamber of Commerce map.

H.M. Gousha, the big mapmaker, practically makes it unanimous.

**BARON ALEXANDER** Von Humboldt, the German scientist and explorer whose name also graces Humboldt county, California, and the desert-like Humboldt Sink in Nevada, died in 1859 at approximately 90 years of age, so presumably he is past caring.

The most consistently mispronounced name in town, in my opinion, is Esplanade, the half-mile street that parallels the beach in Pacific Manor.

The word means a public walk or drive. In Pacifica well over one thousand residents live at an Esplanade address, mostly in apartments.

The nature of apartments being short stays and high turnover, probably 5000 people have lived on Esplanade in the past five or six years, and most of them have called it Esp-La-Na-da, Es-Pluh-Naid, or something similar.

**ALL TOGETHER NOW.** It's "Es-pluh-Nod".

Candidate for most unlikely residential street in town is Elder lane. There are three or four residences on the street, entry from Beach boulevard is over what appears to be a private driveway onto windblown sand, and you may have driven by it for years without knowing it was an actual street.

I don't know which street in town qualifies as the oldest public right of way. My candidate is Sharp Park road, which I have found on a map of 1894 in approximately its present degree of curvaceousness, and which may trace back to 1876, if a deed of gift I have seen in the records refers to it rather than what is now Coast Highway.

**STEEPEST STREET** in town? There are so many candidates that the choice is difficult.

Manor drive is certainly high on the list, as is Dardenelle in Vallemar among shorter streets. Crespi drive in stretches, Barcelona drive for its entire distance, and most of Sheila lane are steep and uncompromising.

Perhaps the straightest steep street in town is Grand avenue on Pedro Point, which may have been laid out by someone who never looked where he was platting.

If you have any candidates for the most, the least, the best or the worst among Pacifica streets send them to "Reactor ups-and-downs," care of the Tribune.