



# the reactor

by Paul Azevedo

This isn't going to be a quiz, but you might try one question on for size. Where, within the city limits of Pacifica, is land available for park use that is (1) already designated as parkland? (2) publicly owned? (3) planted with mature trees? (4) underused for park and recreational purposes?

The answer sits square and accessible in the middle of Pacifica, but is owned by San Francisco. That gave it away. It is, of course, Sharp Park.

True enough, there is a golf course, a rifle range, and an archery range on the land. However, a substantial part of the property is not in active use. It is only open space.

OPEN SPACE is nice, but why don't we all do a bit of cooperative and creative thinking to transform this valuable and under-used resource, or a portion of it, into a picnic area and playground, while using great care to preserve its open character?

This property was given to San Francisco firmly designated for park and recreation purposes only. In the original gift from Samuel Murphey, it is clear that use of the land for any other purposes violates the terms of the deed.

I see nothing, however, that would stop the city of San Francisco from leasing a few acres to the city of Pacifica for, say \$10 a year. Pacifica could then install a few picnic tables, a barbecue pit or two, some playground equipment, and maintain the same for the benefit of all of us.

WHEN HONORA Sharp died, back in 1905, she did not know that her ranch would become a park.

Her plan, which was to be stymied by lawsuits, relatives and circumstances, was that a memorial gate would be built at the entrance to Golden Gate Park to honor her late husband George Sharp.

That never came about. Instead, the decision was made to designate the Sharp Ranch as parkland and donate it to San Francisco.

WHILE GOLFERS, gunners and archers have benefited, unless you happen to be one of these specialized users of recreation, Sharp Park is not of much use to you.

The golf course and ranges occupy only part of the property. Sharp Park itself extends all the way up the hill and to the city limit. It borders on Skyline college.

With some judicious planning, a system of hiking trails could be put in that would lead through the college properties, along the edges of the golf course, and down to the beach.

THE KIND of cooperative effort I have outlined would benefit everyone who would like to enjoy this valuable resource saved through the generosity of Honora Sharp and the foresight of Samuel Murphey. I am also grateful for the diligence of John McLaren. He saw to it that trees were planted to beautify these hills as long ago as 1916.

The land is there. It would take only a comparatively few dollars to gain a great deal of recreational value.

Ten or 15 well-chosen acres would do the job. How do we begin? A citizens committee, designated by the City Council, could start the ball rolling.